

**ST. THOMAS à BECKET CHURCH**  
**Care for Our Common Home Ministry**  
**June 22nd, 2023, summer solstice potluck lunch**  
**and informal meeting**

**Present: Carol Even, Helen Dickey, Lauren Smith, Bebee Stroik, Barbara Ewalt, Liz Eckl, Betty Sullivan, Mary Beth Collins, Annemarie Scalea, Patti Kaiser**

**Together we joined in a prayer of Grace before Meals.**

**As a welcome gift to our new pastor, Fr. John Dyer, Helen has silk-screened a T-shirt with our logo for him.**

**Carol has attended the Diocesan Creation Care Network meetings for six years and this month has especially good news. Our Bishop Burbidge is very supportive of Laudato Si. Fr. Cilinski, the head of the Peace and Justice Commission, will be sending letters to all pastors, including Fr. Dyer, about the importance of caring for and protecting all life through the care for creation. He is asking pastors to start new Creation Care teams. Locally, fewer than half of the parishes in the Diocese have a team such as ours. We look forward to meeting with Fr. Dyer about what we are doing and can do.**

**We need to be aware of Gov. Youngkin's efforts to remove Virginia from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and take further action when appropriate to support environmental groups in opposition. At the present time, the withdrawal is slated to be complete by the end of the year.**

**Our Tailgate Give-away was a modest success and we will be holding another Tailgate-Giveaway on August 12<sup>th</sup>, before school starts. The head of the Green Team of the Hebrew Congregation would like our teams to hold such events together, but the Saturday morning timing was not good. We hope to collaborate with these good neighbors in future events.**

**Composting is a big deal at Reston Farmers Market. In May, they collected seven tons of compost! At our parish, we have a new garden compost bin made by a parishioner for an Eagle Scout project.**

**Thanks to all who helped with the showing of "The Pope, In His Own Words" on March 12<sup>th</sup>, including Mike Olson and Caz Stroik. Saint John Neumann Parish (SJN) has a program that regularly offers movies in their hall. Apart from movies, we are encouraged by the Diocesan Network to team together and share activities. Carol sends notices of their activities to our members, and our notices to their Team.**

**Thus far, members of our mailing list have indicated that they would like to continue receiving event emails.**

**A recent letter to the editor of the Washington Post about confusing guidelines for recycling pointed up some ongoing problems. It used to be that #5 plastic had to be separated from regular recycling. Now people have been told only to recycle #1 or #2 plastic. At the Parish, we have Republic Services and they say #s 1-7 can be put into the recycling container. This includes jugs, bottles and jars, rigid plastic, and salad clamshells. Fortunately, Charlie Forbes from the County offered some facts at a recent 350 Fairfax meeting. He suggests that it is best to avoid buying anything in questionable plastic containers but he said that lacking clear guidelines we should put anything in the recycling bins and let them figure it out.**

**Barb Ewalt reminded us that our group recently donated to the Arbor Day Foundation for the planting of a tree in memory of Dee Ruedisueli.**

**Carol read the closing poem, by Carolyn Marie Rodgers: "Such Beauty from Ashes"**