

ST. THOMAS à BECKET CHURCH
Care for Our Common Home Ministry
October 2, 2023
1:00pm – Parish Room 5

PRESENT:

Lori Brady-Neuman, Marybeth Collins, Helen Dickey, Carol Even, Barb Ewalt, Patti Kaiser

RECENT EVENTS:

We reviewed our recent events from the Season of Creation. The VDOT roadside clean-up took place on September 26th with participation by Helen Dickey, Carol Even, Harriet Hanlon, and Patti Kaiser. The St. Thomas à Becket Parish Picnic was held on October 1st, with several of our members participating in activities and clean-up.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

October 14th-15th after all Masses - The Parish Ministry Fair is an opportunity to share our mission and tell parishioners what we do. Carol recruited members to staff our information table after each Mass, beginning with the 5:00pm Mass on Saturday. Carol will prepare the table display.

October 22nd after the Sunday Masses - Betsy Coffey is leaving her position as Director of Religious Education and there will be opportunities after every Mass to express our appreciation and good wishes to Betsy who has served over thirty years in the Parish.

At the Ministry Fair, we will have an informational table. We also hope to introduce the collection of empty pill bottles for Matthew 25 Ministries. Helen will make a poster and Patti will make an information sheet to describe how to prepare the plastic bottles and remove labels. Carol would like to ask the Knights of Columbus if we could combine our pill bottle drives with their twice monthly Donut Sundays. This would prevent the unfortunate problem of pill bottles left in the vestibule being scattered by unsupervised children. For the same reason, we decided that a box with a deposit hole in top would provide a safe container for the bottles collection.

November 4th in the afternoon - We plan to hold a Winter Items Tailgate Give-Away. Winter clothes, decorations, etc. will be the main items to bring to this event. This will need to be in the bulletin at least two weeks before the event.

NEWS TO USE:

Fairfax County is once again teaming up with the US Drug Enforcement Administration to promote National RX Take Back on Saturday, October 28th from 10am to 2pm. They are accepting prescription drugs at Reston Hospital Center 1850 Town Center Parkway Reston, VA 20190 Outside Pavilion 1, across from Parking Garage B. Additionally, there are drug drop-off boxes inside the Reston District Police Station and outside the Town of Herndon Police Station. These are available 24/7 and have a wider range of acceptable items. For more details, see <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/community-services-board/sites/community-services-board/files/assets/documents/pdf/drug-take-back-day-flyer-2023-10-28-en.pdf>.

IDEAS FOR FUTURE:

To help parishioners understand the Pope's crucial focus on caring for our planet and for the poor, we would do well to study the explanation at <https://godsplanet.us/> **We're All Part of God's Plan(et)**

We're All Part of God's Plan(et) is a national Laudato Si' awareness and engagement campaign for U.S. Catholics to care for creation and participate in the Vatican's [Laudato Si' Action Platform](#). *Learn what the Church is doing in these seven sectors and how you can be a part of God's plan, since we are all part of God's planet.*

Seniors à Becket meetings might be interested in inviting other Parish groups to do an informational presentation. We would appreciate such an opportunity to share our mission and our works.

A Gardening group focused on growing native and pollinator plants might attract members who want to learn or practice good sustainable gardening techniques. We might speak with people who have taken responsibility for plantings around the grounds in the past.

LAUDATE DEUM:

Since this new Apostolic Exhortation will be released on Wednesday, October 4th, a number of organizations offered webinars to help the laity understand what this new addition to Laudato Sì means and how we can respond to it with the fullness of our faith. A recording of the webinar from the Laudato Sì Movement is available online at: [Presentation of the Apostolic Exhortation: "Laudate Deum" - YouTube](#) , and the Catholic Climate Covenant will provide a recording of their webinar but only to those who registered (perhaps we can share this at a future date).

URGENT ACTION:

COP28 is scheduled to be held in Dubai in November. The CEO of the United Arab Emirates national oil company, Dr. Sultan Al Jaber, is slated to lead the negotiations. Members of Congress and of the European Parliament sent a letter to President Biden and to Ursula von der Leyden, President of the European Commission pointing out this clear conflict of interest. Please go to <https://www.climaterealityproject.org/act/cop-28-leader> and add your name to a letter to President Biden asking him to respond with diplomatic action to remove the oil magnate Sultan Jaber and replace him with a COP28 president who has care for creation and care for the poor as motives for action.

CLOSING POEM:

“Such Beauty From Ashes” by Carolyn Marie Rodgers

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, November 7th at 1:30pm