

Care for Creation Ministry – As a ministry we hope to raise awareness, educate, and inspire action. We hope to build a community that cherishes, protects, advocates and acts for our earth.

### *Care for Creation Actions from 2023*

**Wrote apx. 28 articles for the bulletin.** Pope Francis ‘Encyclical, Laudato Si’ and his apostolic exhortation, Laudate Deum inspire these articles. The articles are meant to raise awareness, inspire, educate and encourage prayerful action in care for our common home. Embedded within articles are links to a variety of resources. For example: opportunities for community participation in Helena and Montana.

**Lenten Care for Creation Calendar** – Daily ‘Lenten Care for Creation Calendars’ made available after each mass and also in the bulletin.

**Earth Day (April 22)** – Provided a bulletin link to 52 ways to “Invest in our Planet” through the earthday.org website.

**May 20-21, Saint Mary’s Catholic Community joined the universal church in celebrating the 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Laudato Si’.** The Sunday liturgy centered on the Laudato Si Anniversary. After the 4:30 Mass, Larry McEvoy, Jr., MD spoke – *The Climate Crisis: New Ideas, New Hope* (available on SMCC website). Care for Creation books and materials were available for parishioners. It is inspiring and heartening to unite our celebration with the rest of the universal church.

**Working together** with other parish ministries to further inform and educate our parishioners about the concerns and challenges of climate change.

**SMCC participated** in Alternative Energy Resources Organization (AERO) community tour. The Jubilee Garden and the Care for Creation ministry shared their insights with thirty enthusiastic participants on Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>. The presentation was titled, *Nourished by the Soil, Powered by the Sun: Solar Energy and Community Gardens*.

**Pope Francis’ Apostolic Exhortation - Laudate Deum (Oct. 4) made available** - A summary of the exhortation was provided in the bulletin article along with a link to access Laudate Deum (PDF). A more visible link was offered on the same email as the SMCC bulletin. Thirty printed copies were passed out to those interested at each mass. Also, had a table set up where parishioners could ask questions and access materials.

**Advent Resources** – Laudato Si’ Movement’s *An Advent Calendar (Advent in Action for our Common Home)* made available as a link in the bulletin. Also, a link of tips to care for our common home this Christmas season

**Care for Creation Web Page available on SMCC website:** This is an avenue for sharing inspiration and information about loving, protecting, and caring for our common