

St. Augustine Parish Community Lenten Program in conjunction with Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment *Laudato Si'* (On Care for our Common Home)

As part of our Parish Community's Lenten program centering on Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment, "Care for Our Common Home" (*Laudato Si'*), please see below how many of our parishioners indicated last weekend what they would do during Lent:

A) Sustainability

- 51 Purchase locally produced and/or fair traded food items
- 6 Join a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) program
- 2 Help out in a local garden (or donate money, tools, etc.)
- 57 Add another meatless day during each week in Lent
- 4 Help create a "Central Kitchen" in Philadelphia similar to other cities
- 71 Be mindful of what I do with leftover food from eating out or cooking

B) Energy Conservation

- 27 Complete a home energy audit
(cf. <https://energy.gov/energysaver/do-it-yourself-home-energy-audits>)
- 21 Switch to more renewable sources of energy
- 38 Become more informed about social justice coalitions and faith based environment groups focused on renewable energy in Philadelphia. e.g., POWER, The Earth Quaker Action Team, and Green Justice Philly

C) Energy Efficiency

- 89 Turn off lights as I leave a room
- 51 Use efficient light bulbs and appliances
- 41 Reduce the idling of my car
- 60 Walk, bike, and/or use public transportation
- 14 Install high efficiency faucet aerators and shower heads

D) Management of Natural Resources

- 56 Not flush prescription medications, etc. down the toilet
- 10 Use the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) guidelines when purchasing fish and seafood
- 21 Be aware of the materials used in furniture and flooring
- 69 Reduce my items of clothing, then recycle or donate them to appropriate charities, etc.
- 69 Use refillable water bottles
- 42 Use coffee thermoses

E) Safeguarding Drinking Water

- 78 Not waste water in the faucet, shower, tub, garden, etc.
- 34 Use cleaners with the "Safer Choice/US EPA" label. (List on EPA website)
- 74 Be mindful of how I dispose of litter (even chewing gum)

F) Lenten Observances

- 31 Donate money saved from any of the above to an appropriate environmental cause
- 28 Call and/or write your congressional representatives to insist that the Environmental Protection Agency's emphasis on the global warming crisis be maintained
- 27 Inform the parish what I am doing in order to "Care for our Common Home" and allow it to be communicated to the entire parish

Quotes from Pope Francis' Encyclical "On Care for Our Common Home"

Paragraph 211

"A person who could afford to spend and consume more but regularly uses less heating and wears warmer clothes, shows the kind of convictions and attitudes which help to protect the environment."

"Education in environmental responsibility can encourage ways of acting which directly and significantly affect the world around us, such as avoiding the use of plastic and paper, reducing water consumption, spreading refuse, cooking only what can reasonably be consumed, showing care for other living beings, using public transport or car-pooling, planting trees, turning off unnecessary lights, or any number of other practices."

Paragraph 217

"It must be said that some committed and prayerful Christians, with the excuse of realism and pragmatism, tend to ridicule expressions of concern for the environment, others are passive; they choose not to change their habits and thus become inconsistent."

"Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience."

Paragraph 231

"Love, overflowing with small gestures of mutual care, is also civic and political, and it makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world."

For more information on how you can become more informed and/or involved visit any of the following websites:

Complete a do it yourself energy audit <https://energy.gov/energysaver/do-it-yourself-home-energy-audits>

Or, ask PECO to do an energy assessment and install energy saving devices Go to www.peco.com. Then go to "ways to save" then "save your home" then "energy assessment."

Switch to renewable sources of energy www.papowerswitch.com

Become more informed about social justice coalitions and faith based environmental groups:

POWER (Philadelphians Organized to Witness Empower and Rebuild), a coalition of 50 Christian, Jewish and Moslem Congregations www.powerinterfaith.org

Earth Quaker Action Team www.eqat.org

Green Justice Philly, a coalition. www.greenjusticephilly.org

Install High efficiency shower heads and aerators (one source is the non-profit Energy Federation Institute, <https://energyfederation.org>)

Use cleaners with the EPA Safer Choice label: www.epa.gov/saferchoice