

“Caring for Creation” Commitments

Five years ago, Pope Francis called all Catholics to “Care for Creation” in an encyclical called “Laudato Si” which means “Praise Be”. The title is Italian, based upon a canticle written by St. Francis of Assisi which praises all of God’s creation.

Pope Francis, who took his papal name from St. Francis, has called us to make our earthly home a better place. It is time for us finally to answer the call. Below are commitments you can make for the coming year to show you want to make a difference.

Each year, on the weekend nearest to St. Francis’ feast day, (October 3), we will dedicate our efforts to God with a special blessing for those, young and old, who have made at least one commitment. There will be a “Commitment to Care for Creation” Honor Roll on the parishes’ websites.

Choose one or more of these commitments; add a new one if you have a great idea!

CLEAN UP THE EARTH

- Reduce consumption, reuse and recycle more to lesson landfill refuse
- Use reusable bags at stores so fewer plastic bags can litter the earth and sea
- Use natural herbicides and pesticides to reduce poisoning water, earth and air
- Use paper over plastic because it quickly biodegrades and will reduce litter
- Use reusable water bottles. Plastic ones take 450 years to biodegrade.
- Use home water filtration systems instead of drinking water out of plastic bottles
- Encourage your favorite suppliers to package in cardboard or other biodegradable items

CONSERVE ENERGY

- Turn a/c a few degrees higher and heat a few degrees lower to use less energy
- Use fans more and less a/c because fans use much less energy
- Turn off unused lighting in my home
- Subscribe to your electric company’s green power program: [lge-ku.com/green energy](http://lge-ku.com/green%20energy)
- Place solar panels on your home if you can

FOOD AND GARDENING

- Buy more local food to reduce carbon use for transportation
- Buy more sustainably grown food to promote less energy intensive farms
- Buy more “fair trade” food to support small farms
- Buy more organic foods produced without poisoning the earth and water
- Plant pollinator gardens to sustain those insects so vital to the continued growth of some of our food sources such as fruits and nuts
- Plant rain gardens to help rain sink into the earth rather than run off into storm sewers, creeks and rivers to flood
- Plant butterfly gardens to sustain these beautiful and useful creatures for their lives and your joy
- Plant a community garden welcoming the hungry to share.

Other

(Please explain your personally designed commitment)

NAME _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

PHONE (best # to reach) _____

TEXT? YES _____ NO _____