

Care for Creation Accomplishments

The Care for Creation Ministry was formed in April 2013 from a JustFaith adult formation class that focuses on social justice issues. When challenged with what we would do going forward as a team, the 6 participants chose to focus on caring for creation by supporting the sustainability efforts of the Casa, and educating the community on ways to be better stewards of God's creation. They met with Facilities Staff to establish priorities for action, and then conducted an informal energy audit of the lodging and meeting rooms on campus to determine next steps.

2016

- Offered an adult formation program, *Faith Encounters the Ecological Crisis*, from JustFaith Ministries during Lent.
- Provided a C4C representative on AZIPL's standing Congregational Relations Committee, to assist in growing AZIPL's membership base.



- Received AZIPL's SAGE (Spirited Activists Greening the Earth) Award, for our steadfast support of their mission to mobilize people of faith in Arizona to reduce the causes of climate change. The award was so designated to signify both wisdom and the healing aspect of the sage plant used in Native American ceremonies.

- Created Care for Creation Easter Calendar with daily EcoTips and quotes from Pope Francis, published on the Casa's Facebook page for the 50 days of the Easter Season beginning on Easter Day. Paper

copies also available in the Lobby.

- The Care for Creation Ministry was named Runner Up in Interfaith Power & Light's 2015 Cool Congregations Challenge in the Inspiration Category.
- Participated in the Ministry Fair at the April 2016 Casa Coffee House, along with 10 other Faith in Action Ministries. Promoted the C4C team, and sold Laudato Si Note Cards to raise additional funds for the Monarch Butterfly Waystation at the Casa.
- Hosted the April 2106 Creation Connection Movie Night at the Casa in partnership with Waste Not, a local food rescue organization. Seventy-seven guests joined us for dinner, the movie *Just Eat It*, and discussion.



Comments were overwhelmingly positive and appreciative of the opportunity to learn about food waste in our country and ways to combat it.

1	A	B	C
2	Sen. McConnell, Sen. Reid, Rep. Ryan and Rep. Pataki.		
3	As a person of faith, I am heartened by the steps taken at the December Paris climate negotiations known as COP21. As a result of the agreement reached there, the United States has a critical role to play in preserving our common home and sustainable people.		
4	Pope Francis has spoken about the need to fulfill the commitment we made at Paris, saying, "I exhort the whole international community to proceed on the path undertaken in the name of an ever more effective solidarity." The U.S. Senators have written to the U.S. Congress about the importance of embracing "the difficult truth and the necessary changes that need to be made in order to be good stewards of the gifts that God has given all of us."		
5	I urge you to lead Congress in heeding the moral calls of Pope Francis and the U.S. Bishops. Follow through on the commitments we've made. Specifically, I urge you to support the Green Climate Fund and renege efforts to cut back EPA rules on carbon emissions. I encourage you to provide the courageous leadership that is needed to protect all life on our common home.		
6	PLEASE PRINT		
7	Name	Address	E-Mail Address
8	Nancy Dubner	5519 N. Marion Way	sdubner@ya-hoc.com
9	Joan Faust	7633 E. Thompson Ave. Scottsdale, AZ 85251	JoanFaust@cox.net
10	Richard D. ...	14418 N. Central Expressway, Suite 250, Scottsdale, AZ 85253	RichardD@central.com
11	Francis ...	5416 E. Palo Verde Dr. Peoria, AZ 85131	Francis@stmc.com
12	Michelle ...	8525 E. Camelback Rd., Suite 111, AZ 85031	Michelle@camel.com
13	Robert ...	12025 N. 80th Pl., Phoenix, AZ 85028	rob@stmc.com
14	George ...	12040 N. 12th Street, Scottsdale, AZ 85259	george@stmc.com
15	John ...	8332 E. Sage Ave., Scottsdale, AZ 85251	john@stmc.com
16	Kristie ...	7740 N. 9th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85021	kristie@stmc.com

- Hosted an Earth Day table in Hospitality after all of the Masses. Provided opportunity for the community to sign a petition to Congressional Leaders urging them to ensure the U.S. keeps the promises made in the Paris Agreement. Educated on plastics recycling, local Farmer's Market schedules, and the ongoing Sustainability efforts at the Casa. Discussed the excellent power output

results from the Assisi Lodge solar panels, and encouraged members to sign up to receive information on future renewable energy opportunities.

- On the 1st Anniversary of Laudato Si in June, hosted a table in Hospitality to provide information on the Encyclical, including Fr. Thomas Reese's excellent Reading Guide, and handouts on Catholic Social Teaching related to Care for Creation.
- AZIPL welcomed one of our C4C members to their Board of Directors to represent the Casa in AZIPL's mission to help people of faith put their faith into action and reduce the effects of global warming.
- Worked with the FRC's Architect to research LEED Silver certification for the new Our Lady of the Angels Church, and produced a series of articles for the bulletin to educate the community on the steps being taken to achieve exceptional environmental benefits and performance.
- Hosted a table in Hospitality in October just prior to the Presidential Election to hand out Interfaith Power & Light's (IPL) Voting Guide and encourage community members to exercise their right to vote responsibly.



- Welcomed nearly 40 community members and guests to dinner and a showing of *Racing Extinction*, a film that exposes the issues of endangered species and mass extinction. A lively discussion followed.

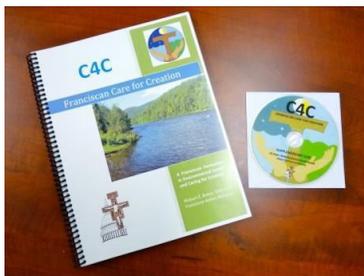
- Participated in the Fair Trade Sale at the Casa on December 4, selling Laudato Si Note Cards to raise funds for the Monarch Butterfly Waystation.
- Attended a Public Hearing of the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) on rooftop solar programs in the state.

- The Recycling Sub-committee continued research on improving recycling efforts at the Casa, and supported Staff's efforts to replace all non-recyclable containers with products that are recyclable. Worked with Staff to create and display improved signage to educate our community and guests on proper recycling habits.



2015

- Completed weather-stripping on more than 50 lodging rooms; began work to replace all door sweeps. Supplies totaling \$1400 were donated by area businesses, and volunteers did all of the work.
- Visited JustFaith and RCIA classes to describe C4C and the projects we work on to inspire the participants to identify their own calling to serve others.



- Offered an adult formation program, *Franciscan Care for Creation*, from the Franciscan Action Network.
- Worked in conjunction with other local groups, such as Arizona Interfaith Power & Light (AZIPL) and the Earth Care Commission (ECC), on common issues around the environment.
- At AZIPL's Solar Forum, provided a speaker on the Casa's solar project with advice for other faith communities considering installing solar.
- Participated in a documentary produced by graduate students in ASU's School of Sustainability about AZIPL's environmental mission and actions taken by faith communities, including the Casa's solar installation.
- Provided list of Eco-Tips to the Communications Staff for inclusion in the bulletin periodically.
- Worked with Staff in creating web page for ministry.
- Hosted Creation Connection Movie Nights, as well as the screening of a 9 part documentary, *Years of Living Dangerously*, including discussion.





- Participated in rally and public meeting at SRP headquarters to protest pending rate increases to solar customers.

- Hosted Earth Day events with the Franciscan Action Circle, including opportunity for community members to sign the Paris Pledge and postcards to Senators urging them to support the EPA's pollution standards.

- Created a Recycling Subcommittee to research opportunities for improvement at the Casa. Introduced a replacement cup, which is made from recycled materials and is also recyclable, for styrofoam coffee cups. A year's supply was donated.

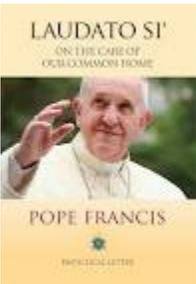


- Established a Solar Subcommittee to research expanding the use of renewable energy for the purpose of reducing our dependence on nonsustainable energy sources. Installed solar panels on the 32 room Assisi Lodge, powering Assisi and 3 nearby buildings, providing 10% of the electricity the Casa uses each year, and preventing substantial CO2 emissions into the atmosphere. The expense was covered with a generous donation.



- Hosted a Solar Dedication and Blessing for the community to celebrate this outward sign of our Franciscan commitment to environmental stewardship.

- Upon release of Pope Francis' Encyclical, *Laudato Si, On Care for our Common Home*, the Care for Creation Ministry and the Franciscan Action Circle launched a series of offerings aimed at education and empowerment. These included:



- Lectures on the document by Fr. Bill Cieslak exploring major themes, and subsequent Community Conversations for further discussion;
- *Pope Francis Speaks* event to watch and discuss his addresses to Congress and the United Nations;
- Hospitality Table events to educate members on meaningful individual actions, including free reusable bags and CFL bulbs donated by local businesses;
- Prayer Praise Photo collage set to St. Francis' *Canticle of the Creatures*;
- Sale to community members of milkweed plants, which attract Monarch Butterflies;

- Laudato Si Art Project to create and sell Note Cards to raise funds for a Monarch Butterfly Waystation at the Casa;
- Collecting signatures on climate petitions;
- Act on Climate Change AZ event in downtown Phoenix to amplify the Pope's call for decisive action at the Paris Climate Talks.
- Added 10 new members to the C4C team.
- Accumulated 888 volunteer hours for the year.



2014

- Encouraged our Casa community to take the “St. Francis Pledge” to care for creation and the poor.
- Provided information at numerous Hospitality Table events regarding reducing our carbon footprint and promoting conservation and sustainability.
- Hosted Creation Connection Movie Nights and Discussion to explore ecological issues and share ways we can better care for creation together.
- Researched power consumption of 13 meeting room refrigerators and replaced 9 of them with Energy Star rated models resulting in a 78% decrease in energy usage, and annual savings of \$1200. The \$5000 expense was covered with a generous donation.
- Began work, with volunteer help, to install weather-stripping on all lodging rooms.
- Accumulated 400 volunteer hours for the year.

