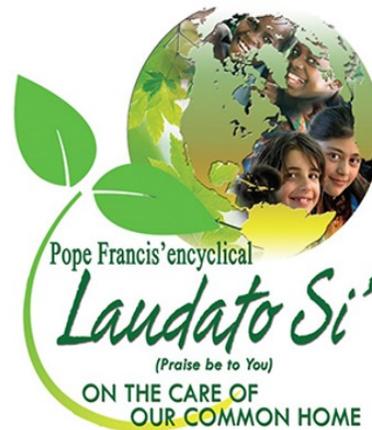


My Journey with *Laudato Si*, On the Care of Our Common Home

By Kit McGovern, OMC Parishioner



It all began when this virus, which caused a worldwide pandemic, forced a shutdown of my busy schedule of activities for the spring and summer. About a month into the quarantine, I received a poem from a local environmental center called “An Imagined Letter from Covid-19 to Humans.” Click [HERE](#) for Letter. It was a message I needed to hear, that everything, all our actions, all over the world are related.

Then came the invitation in the May 10th issue of the Parish Bulletin to participate virtually in Laudato Si Week, a worldwide celebration of the 5th anniversary of the release of the encyclical Laudato Si (On the Care of Our Common Home). With many lockdown hours to fill I thought that I would try it out. (<https://laudatosiweek.org>) At first, I wasn't sure how an at-home retreat would work for me.

Once I logged in to the Retreat hosted by the Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM), I was hooked. It was so exciting to be linked to people all over the world. There were thousands logged on from South Africa, to the Philippines, to Alaska, to Glenside PA. The retreat was beautifully planned and executed and the speakers for the workshops during the week were world-class experts. It was so exciting to be in their presence, if only through Zoom.

I wanted to do something to share my excitement and enthusiasm. I encouraged all my email buddies to share in the Global Day of Prayer on May 24; many did. Still I felt called to do more. Therefore, I want to share my enthusiasm with my fellow parishioners. I want to open to you the excitement of Laudato Si. I want to join my interfaith and ecumenical sisters and brothers on the Care of Our Common Home.

Sometime later I heard Sister Joan Chittister quote Teilhard de Chardin. He said “the only task worthy of our effort is to construct the future.” I had to act now.

I strongly feel that it is the perfect time for me to begin to construct a better future for my children and my grandchildren and all future generations. Please consider joining me on my journey as we prepare for the next big event in this yearlong celebration of the 5th anniversary of the release of Laudato Si. The GCCM (<https://catholicclimatemovement.global>) will be preparing programs to celebrate the Season of Creation, which runs from September 1, 2020 to October 4, 2020. They will have online programs and it would be great if a few OMC parishioners could join me in participating in the programs as well as planning our own special commemoration of this event. Please go online to register for a GCCM Season of Creation event and email me at laudatosiomc@gmail.com if you would like to take this journey together.

We will feature suggestions for reflection and action in a weekly Laudato Si notice in the parish bulletin.