

Laudato Si' Project

Newsletter



Restoring Our Natural Connection

Mission: To restore humanity's connection to the natural world through faith, education, stewardship and recreation.

Winter 2020



Radio Interview with Archbishop ListECKi

It was such an honor to be on the "Living Our Faith" radio program with Archbishop ListECKi and Lydia LoCoco. We discussed the beginnings of Laudato Si' Project, the call for all Catholics to be stewards of creation and the Catholic Ecology Center.

It is wonderful to work with the Archdiocese in this way and share this message with all Catholics that are striving for a life of virtue. The show will air in late March in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee on Relevant Radio.

Blessings to you this Lent!



*Joe Meyer,
Executive Director*



Radio interview with Archbishop ListECKi and Lydia LoCoco for "Living Our Faith."
See Page 6 for details.

Laudato Si' Project

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March for Life- Washington D.C.

There can be no ecology without an adequate anthropology. The human environment and the natural environment deteriorate together.

-Pope Francis



The March for Life in Washington D.C. was this January 23 and 24. Parishes, schools and organizations from all over the country converge on our nation's capital to stand for a united cause; the dignity of all human life. The environmental community is gravely misunderstood when thinking that how we treat our fellow human beings has no impact on how we treat the rest of the natural world. In fact, we see that the evils that disintegrate the family and discard life are the same as the ones that degrade the environment.

Seeing 30,000 people, many under the age of 18, participate in the *Mass for Life* was very moving. Being amidst hundreds of thousands and hearing speeches from pro-life groups, the president and abortion survivors make this March for Life a truly memorable one. We pray for the end to abortion and a greater love and respect for all people, especially the most vulnerable.



Winter Speaking



CATHOLIC
COMMUNITY
of WAUKESHA
a collaboration of four parishes
St. John Neumann • St. Joseph • St. Mary • St. William



We were able to continue our partnership with two parishes this winter; Waukesha Catholic and St. Leonard. We also began a new partnership with St. Sebastian in Milwaukee.

Over 100 Waukesha Catholic Confirmation students gathered to hear our message of integrating our faith with an ethic to steward creation. This included Catholic Social Teaching, lives of the Saints and the encyclical *Laudato Si'*. At St. Leonard in Muskego, we ran an evening session for families in the parish focusing on "Saint and Stewards." At St. Sebastian, we took a "Deep Dive into *Laudato Si'*."

We greatly appreciated these opportunities to connect with so many people of all ages from parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. This call to greater holiness, growth in our faith and greater stewardship of our common home is both a tremendous challenge and a rewarding ministry.



Food, Faith and Farming Network



Last fall, we had the opportunity to speak with the great folks working with the Food, Faith and Farming Network. They work to foster rural and urban relationships and promote earth stewardship, community, economic justice and more. This is done primarily through healthy food and sustainable farming practices.

One of the tangible programs seen throughout Southeast Wisconsin is the Winter Farmer's Market. Catholic churches that participate include Good Shepard, Our Lady of Good Hope, St. Sebastian and St. Catherine of Alexandria. For more information visit foodfaithandfarmingnetwork.org

Winter Recreation

Winter can be a wonderful time to get out and explore, especially those areas that are too wet or too buggy in the summers. We brought MUHS students to Heiliger Huegel Ski Hill to explore their property and the neighboring Schoofs Preserve. Also, as part of the MUHS faculty retreat, Joe Meyer facilitated a faith-based ecology hike to connect the beautiful surroundings of Schoenstatt Retreat Center with our call to care for creation.



Catholic Ecology Center News



Our fundraising efforts have continued to bear much fruit. We have reached **\$300,000** for land acquisition. The total need for our 25 acres is \$385,000 with an anticipated closing date of June 15 of this year. Our 25 acres would be part of a 130 acre preserve complex near Wales that will enable us to dramatically increase our mission. **Please consider helping us ensure that this vision becomes a reality. Thank you!**

In December, several volunteers came to help with buckthorn removal on the future Catholic Ecology Center land. Our main objective was to clear buckthorn away from a giant 4.5 foot diameter bur oak tree, likely over 250 years old. We also removed buckthorn from the border of 500 feet of crystal clear creek and one of the moraines on the property. Over 40 volunteer hours made this a reality!



Upcoming Events

Get up to date information by going to our Facebook page.

Sat., March 14, 9am: Living Laudato Si' all-day retreat at the Siena Retreat Center. Register on their website.

Fri., March 27, 9am: Listen to Relevant Radio 100.1 FM or 1640 AM to hear Archbishop ListECKi and Lydia LoCoco interview Joe Meyer about the Catholic Ecology Center.

Sat., May 2, 6:30pm: Live Owls and Owl Prowl presented by Laudato Si' Project and Tall Pines Conservancy. Registration required and sells out quickly. Visit tallpinesconservancy.org in March for registration.



LSP Board of Directors

Nathan Lasnoski *Chairman*

Ryan Grusenski *Secretary*

Andy Schoofs *Treasurer*

Matt Vogel

Tom Mlada



By The Numbers: Winter Care for Our Common Home

Education

Laudato Si' Project has conducted **12 hours** of presentations, educational programs and retreats.

Stewardship

Laudato Si' Project has contributed **45 volunteer hours** in stewardship projects to better the ecological value of our world's outdoor places.

Recreation

Laudato Si' Project has sponsored **7 hours** of recreational outings to visit, explore and learn about our natural world.

Laudato Si' Project is a 501(c)3 tax deductible organization that depends on membership and donations to continue its vital mission. Thank You!