



Catholic Charities

ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

Inspiring Hope, Building Futures.

Dear Teachers,

Catholic Charities D.C., in partnership with Maryland and D.C. Catholics for Our Common Home, would like to invite you and your school to participate in a student-led prayer service focused on climate justice and intergenerational solidarity in safeguarding our common home. The event will take place on **Friday September 20th at 9:30am at St. Patrick's Church** in downtown Washington D.C. between Metro Center and Gallery Place.

Pope Francis designated September 1 through October 4, 2019 as the Season of Creation. In his 2015 encyclical "Laudato Si'" he encourages people to take action to support the care of our common home: "All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents" (14). During this Season of Creation, we ask students, teachers, families, and friends to take stand of solidarity by participating with us in the global climate strike immediately following the prayer service at St. Patrick's on September 20th. **After the prayer service concludes we will walk together to Lafayette Square and from there march to Capitol Hill with the Global Climate Strike.**

The Global Climate Strike (<https://strikewithus.org/#about>) is a youth-led initiative inspired by 16-year-old Swedish girl Greta Thunberg who challenged world leaders to take action on climate justice. The Laudato Si' Generation, an initiative of the Global Catholic Climate Movement, has promoted the strike. At a recent meeting with Greta Thunberg in Vatican, Pope Francis congratulated and encouraged her to continue her important prophetic efforts to seek climate justice and intergenerational solidarity.

In "Laudato Si'", Pope Francis further urges the Church to promote ecological education aimed at creating "ecological citizenship" (211). The Holy Father reminds us that, "Love, which is also civic and political, along with the commitment to the common good are outstanding expressions of a charity." (Laudato Si' #231). We hope that our students' involvement in this initiative will be a powerful instance of a truly holistic and Catholic education that will inspire them to pursue a "civilization of love" and a "culture of care." (Laudato Si' #231).

If you plan to bring a group from your school to join us on September 20th please rsvp to claire.sanfilippo@cc-dc.org by Wednesday, September 11th.

In Peace,

Claire Sanfilippo
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