



## *Love of God and love for each other*

inspires us to take better care of our planet. As a community of faith and as called by Pope Francis in 2015 *Laudato Si*, we are summoned to exemplify reverence for creation. St. Francis of Assisi was particularly concerned for God's creation and for the poor and outcast. In 2009 Bishop Ricken signed the St. Francis Pledge (below) that was created by the Catholic

Climate Covenant. In 2018, Stella Maris Parish leadership signed the St. Francis Pledge. In 2019, many Stella Maris committees signed the pledge. Now as parishioners on this feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, it is your opportunity to prayerfully commit yourself by signing the pledge to pray, learn, assess, act, and advocate for care of creation and the poor. Every step you take makes a difference. See the reverse side of this pledge for ideas on what you can do!

## **The St. Francis Pledge, Care for Creation and the Poor**

**We from Stella Maris Parish endorse and pledge enduring support for The St. Francis Pledge**, as a solemn commitment made by Catholic individuals, groups, and institutions to honor God's creation and serve poor people by doing the following:

- **PRAY** and reflect on the duty to care for God's creation and protect the poor and vulnerable.
- **LEARN** about and educate others on the causes and moral dimensions of climate change.
- **ASSESS** how each of us as individuals or within our families, workplaces or other organizations is contributing to climate change (i.e. consumption and conservation).
- **ACT** to change our choices and behaviors contributing to climate change.
- **ADVOCATE** for Catholic principles and priorities in climate change discussions and decisions, especially as they impact the poor and vulnerable.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_

My Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

The Catholic Climate Covenant created a list of possible actions you might consider taking as an individual and/or as a community this year. These actions can help lower your carbon footprint or make yourself and others aware of climate vulnerabilities. By taking some action, you can help the most vulnerable from the effects of climate change.

- Calculate my carbon footprint and commit to reduce it by at least 10% in 2021
- Refuse disposable plastic bottles, bags, straws, cutlery and cups! Say NO to single-use plastic.
- Walk, cycle, carpool, or use public transport
- Plant pollinator-friendly flowers and spread wildflower seeds
- Switch to renewable energy
- Go meatless on Mondays and/or Fridays (at least)
- Reuse, recycle, lower my consumption of resources
- Use less water; try measuring what you use now and lowering it
- Speak to my elected officials about climate change
- Fly less and offset travel when possible
- Plant at least two trees in 2021
- Wash clothes in cold water and hang-dry clothes
- Install a programmable thermostat
- Replace appliances with Energy Star-rated ones
- Replace incandescent and compact fluorescent lights with LED lights
- Reduce my food waste
- Compost leaves and food waste
- Support youth-led climate movements
- Support your local Green Tier Legacy community actions
- Begin conversations about climate change with family and friends
- Pray for our common home and all Earth protectors
- Participate in public witness events that lift up care for creation
- Join your Stella Maris Creation Care Mission team.

Source: [catholicclimatemovement.global](https://catholicclimatemovement.global) and [catholicclimatecovenant.org](https://catholicclimatecovenant.org)