



## **Creation Care Teams Session**

# *Inspiration and Resources for the work of Creation Care Teams*

**Supporting Each Other in this Holy Work of Creation Care**

**Catherine Wright, Session Co-team Lead**

**Ecotheologian and Director of CCG at Wingate University**







A Special Message for  
Creation Care Teams...

[LINK](#)

*With great  love, Catholic Youth*





*Everyone's talents and involvement are needed to redress the damage caused by human abuse of creation and those most vulnerable.*

**Pope Francis, Laudato Si', para. 14**

# Challenges for CCTs

There are 460 Catholic Creation Care Teams registered with the Catholic Climate Covenant in the US. Many indicate that they encounter challenges as they do climate and creation care work in the Catholic Church ...

QR Code Link to  
Survey  
(Use your phone  
camera to access) or  
use this [LINK](#)



*Please share your thoughts and ideas with us! If you did not do the Pre-session survey, take a moment to do it now*





**This holy work is gaining momentum..**

**This is an opportunity to serve God, earth and the vulnerable**

**This is an invitation for dialogue and action**

**There are investments of time, talent and funding that can make a difference**

**Our hope is for universal implementation of LS across the US**

**We are asking bishops and diocesan leaders for public moral support -- to use your voice, talent and power so more Catholic laity can do the holy work to care for our common home**

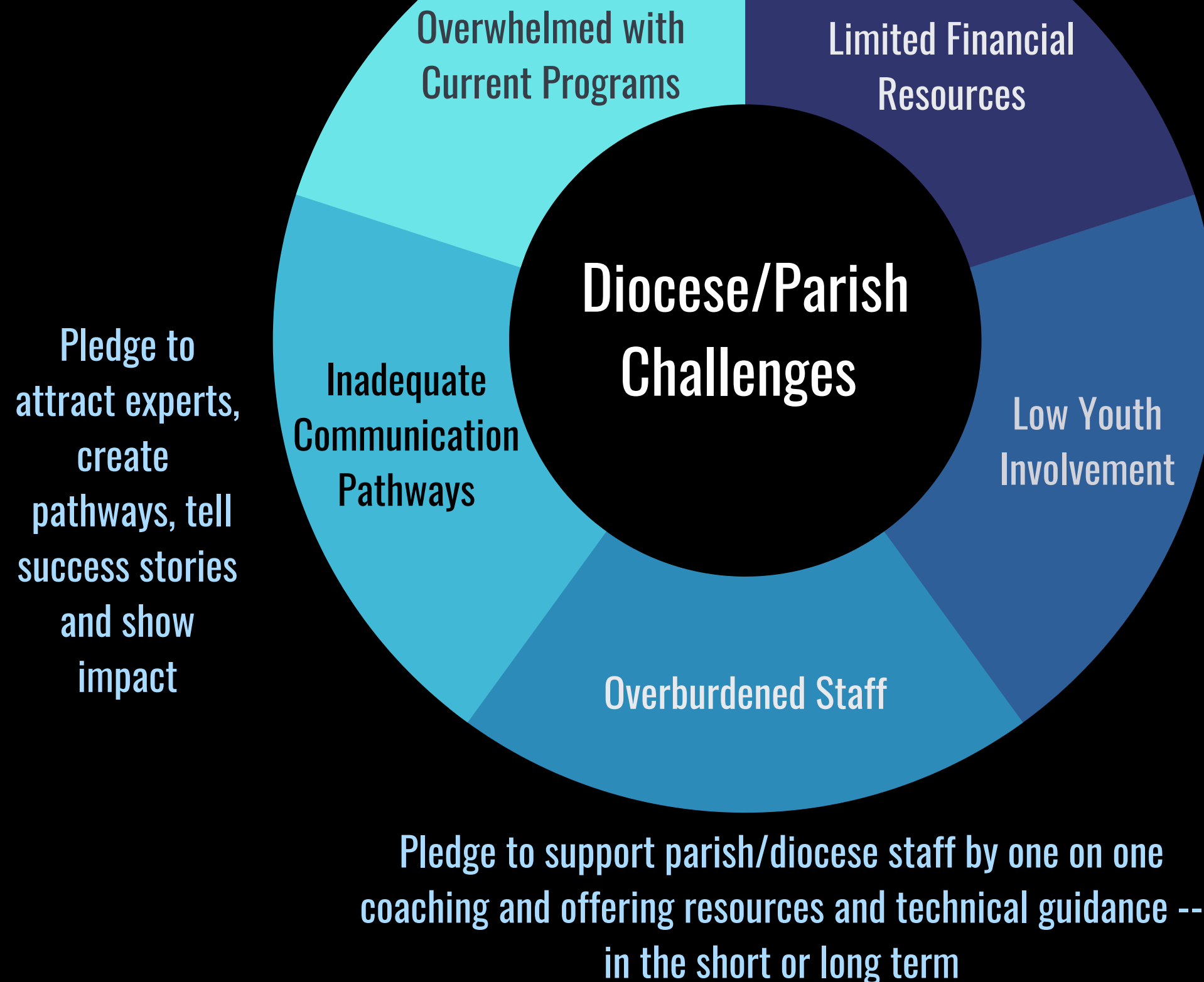
**"The Christian faithful are free to make known to the pastors of the Church their needs, especially spiritual ones, and their desires. According to the knowledge, competence, and prestige which they possess, they have the right and even at times the duty to manifest to the sacred pastors their opinion on matters which pertain to the good of the Church and to make their opinion known to the rest of the Christian faithful, without prejudice to the integrity of faith and morals, with reverence toward their pastors, and attentive to common advantage and the dignity of persons.**

**(THE OBLIGATIONS AND RIGHTS OF ALL THE CHRISTIAN FAITHFUL Canon 212, para 2, 3 @ vatican.va)**



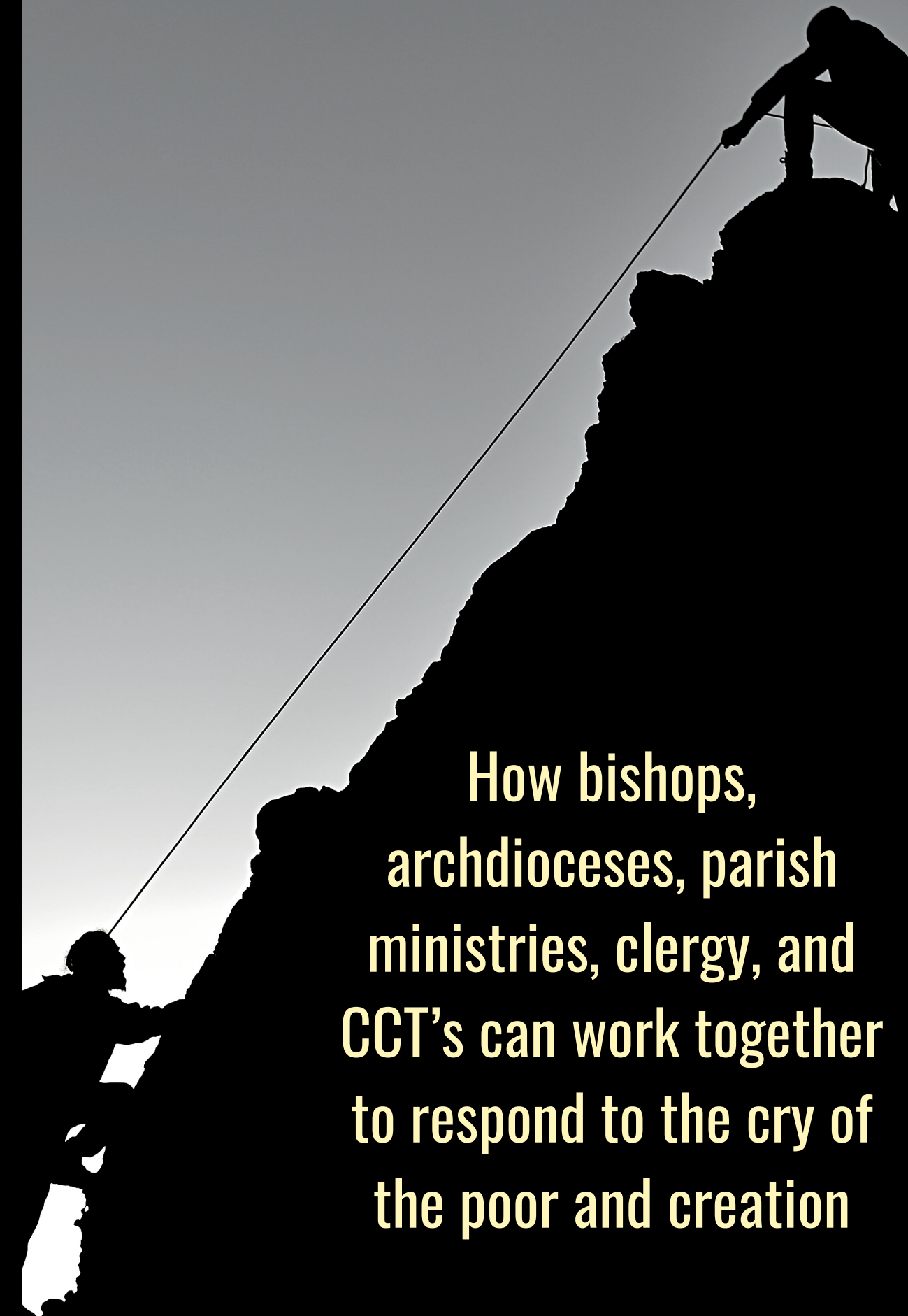
Pledge to listen, provide resources and guidance, and share stories of success

Pledge to identify and provide money saving avenues by reducing costs (electricity, water and sewage, waste collection, recycling)



Pledge to actively engage youth as leaders - listening sessions inform priorities, investment and action.

**How bishops, archdioceses, parish ministries, clergy, and CCT's can work together to respond to the cry of the poor and creation**





**Creation Care Teams are groups of passionate, knowledgeable, and committed members of the laity and many religious orders who are the 'leaven' that animates the US Catholic Church and leads efforts to care for our common home**

## **HOW?**

**Building personal relationships with Catholic leaders -- recognizing barriers and imagining solutions**

**Mobilizing bishops, diocesan leadership, pastors and laity for the holy work of creation care**

**Cultivating fertile partnerships and networks of support among CCTs in the US**

**Conversion of bishops, dioceses, clergy, ministries, parishes and laity**







Pre-Session Road Map &  
Resources file

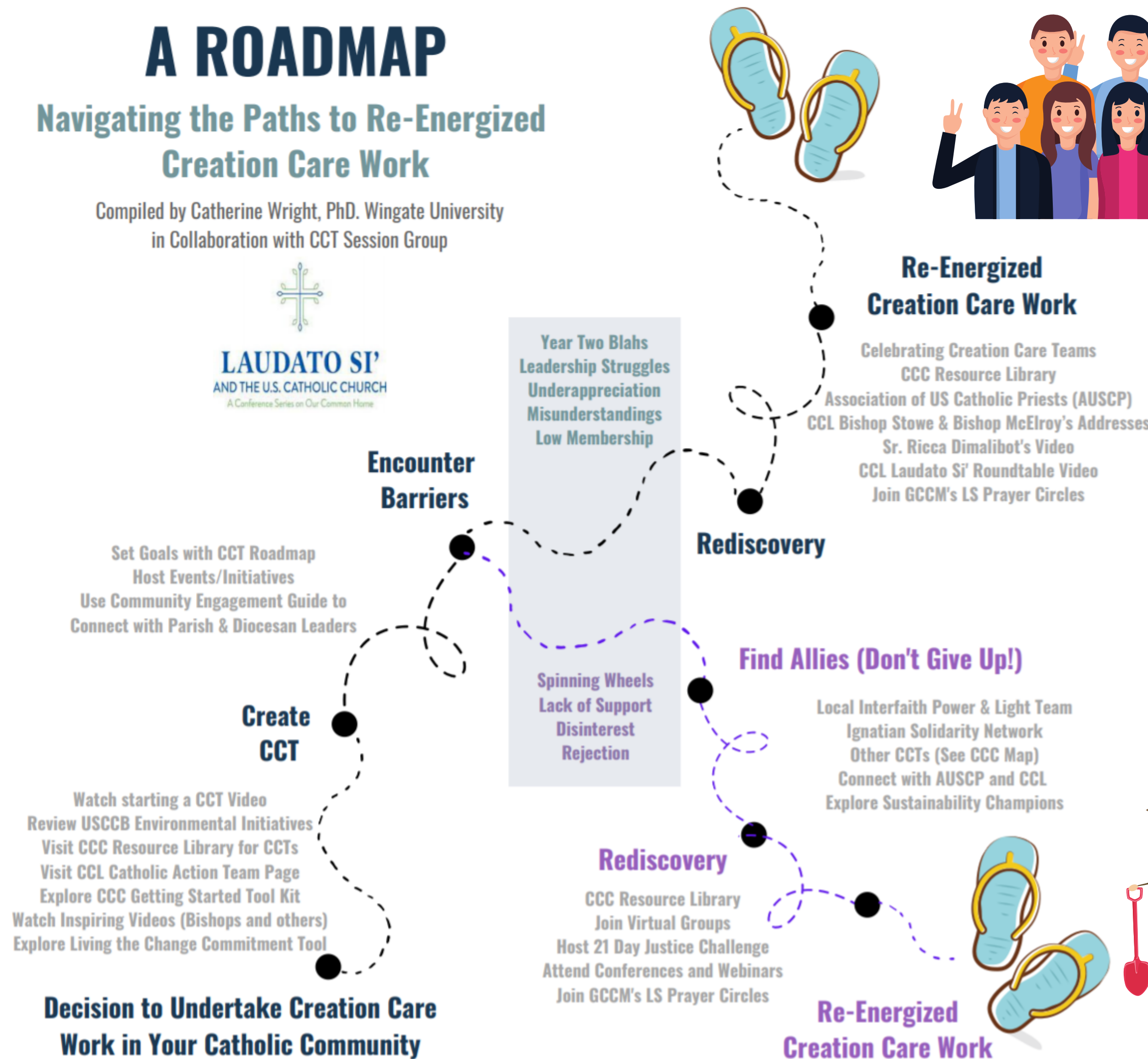
# A ROADMAP

## Navigating the Paths to Re-Energized Creation Care Work

Compiled by Catherine Wright, PhD. Wingate University  
in Collaboration with CCT Session Group



**LAUDATO SI'**  
AND THE U.S. CATHOLIC CHURCH  
A Conference Series on Our Common Home



Creation Care  
teams (CCTs)  
enable  
committed  
Catholics to lead  
the charge to  
help address  
climate change





# Successfully Navigating Barriers to Creation Care Work - Grassroots Approach

Sometimes the work of Creation Care is more challenging in some locations, parishes, and dioceses. After surveying CCTs in several areas, we found that they had similar problems... so we thought up some helpful ideas / tools to share from our team to yours. Please share your ideas in the chat feature or during the Q and A -- and we will add them!

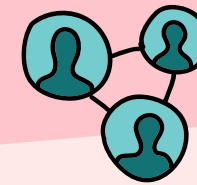
## Partnering with bishops & dioceses staff

Share the work of AUSCP, Catholic Action Team of Citizen Climate Lobby (CCL), Bishop Barron, and Catholic Climate Covenant (CCC). Review USCCB Environmental Initiatives Site. Get prepared for a great conversation that will lead to events and programs

An invaluable link for any presentation or dialogue: [USCCB and Creation Care](#)

*Chicago Diocese*

Get to know your diocese staff, youth ministries directors, Catholic Charities organizer and CST/social justice advocates -- find a diocese contact list and introduce yourself and work with them to bring CC alive in many ways  
VIDEO



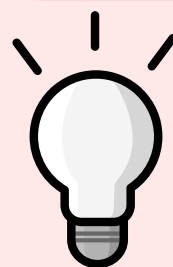
Have your CCT members watch and reflect on the presentation by Sr. Ricca Dimalibot CCVI, MD on Climate Advocacy in Religious Communities. Then make a meeting to talk to your bishop about it.



Write a letter to your Bishop asking for support -- tell both success stories and the urgency of doing this work. Make a strong case for support at the diocese level (e.g., be specific about what you want and why)

*Patrick*

Survey parishioners and create a report with these findings -- show diocese staff that climate change and creation care matters to parishioners



## Check these out

**USCCB Environmental Initiatives Website**  
**AUSCP: Catholics and Climate Change**  
**CCL Conference Keynote - Bishop Stowe Video**  
**CCC Resource Library Website**  
**Sr. Ricca Dimalibot's Video**  
**Connect with GCCM LS Animators**

*Kayla*

Create ways (e.g., bus trip to state Capital; monthly meetings across Archdiocese) for networking between parishes & dioceses



Make time to meet with diocese staff members -- be prepared with data about thriving dioceses doing creation care (make sure you address potential costs; resources available; and evangelization potential). Show how laity are doing this work and need public moral support

Check out action plans for different diocese (e.g., Archdiocese of [San Diego](#); [Atlanta](#); [Washington](#)) and then talk about what could be done in your diocese



## Partnering with your pastor and parish leadership team

Choose your favorite idea, video or program from this session and bring it to your pastor with a plan of how your parish could do this. Show easy it is to do creation care work -- and who else is doing this work

Support your youth ministries and mobilize them to do this work in your parish

Start a weekly article in the bulletin to keep parishes informed -- Check out what St John the Evangelist parish does or blogs by knowledgeable parishioners

Buy a block of advertising at the back of the bulletin (from publisher) -- if you cannot get approval from parish to put it into the bulletin

Bring your pastor materials from Association for US Catholic Priests (AUSCP) on Climate Change

Gather and review stories of why creation care is important and part of CST (e.g., USCCB Round Table; Young Catholics Climate Action Message) -- and bring them to the attention of your parish leaders

Take your pastor for coffee and bring attention to creation care as part of Catholic Social Teaching (for ideas check out CCC Webinar: Environmental Justice Part I)

Find a speaker at a Senior Ministries event -- mobilize grandparents to get parish more involved ... partner with youth ministries for an event

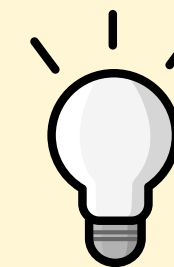
Offer a short, organized proposal for starting or continuing a CCT -- use other CCT plans and activities as a guide

Use CCC Resources to get creation oriented petitions offered at Mass once a month

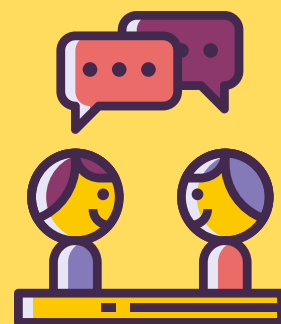
Use bulletin boards at the parish to post CCC materials and leave items into the vestibule for people to look at

Start a regional group (find allies)-- then go back to your parish with materials and ideas

Watch Citizen's Climate Lobby - Catholic Action Team's 2021 Conference Keynote (Bishop Stowe). Then talk to your priest about his message



Pray on and Use Laudato Si para. 217, 117, 237, 214



Partner with other LS animators, parish ministries or groups (social justice teams; Kof C; Youth and CST ministries, etc...). Bring creation care ideas to them and then have a conversation with the pastor or leadership team about how to foster more collaborations and partnerships

*Julian*

VIDEO

## Check these out

### CCC LINK for

- **Community Engagement Guide**
- **Communications 101**
- **Courageous Conversations**
- **Homily Helpers & Bulletin Blurbs**
- **Getting Started Tool Kit & Roadmap**

**CCL & Bishop Stowe Video**

**USCCB Bishop LS Roundtable Video**

**AUSCP: Catholics and Climate Change**

**Young Catholics Climate Action Message**

**Watch Fr. Grace's Video about Water**

**CCC Video - Environmental Justice (CST)**

**NCR Earthbeat Weekly Newsletter**

**Weekly Bulletin Article (St John)**

**Blog (St. Matthew Parishioner)**



## Lack of Finances

Find out how financial decisions are made in your parish -- then position yourself to be in this leadership position. Find out how much your parish can save by going green (See SEEK Project; IPL) and bring this to the financial team at your parish

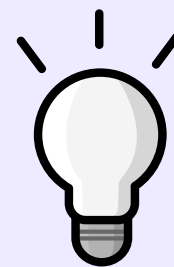
Advocacy is free (e.g., parish letter campaign to Congress) – so is prayerful reflection with others on Laudato Si' Chp.

5 Section IV  
[VIDEO](#)

*St Elizabeth Seton*

Check these out

Check Out Catholic Energies. This group works to expand access to solar energy (and savings) for Catholic facilities



**Living the Change Website**  
**Ignatian Ecological Examen Website**  
**Ignatian 21 Day Challenge**  
**CCC Prayers and Worship**  
**GCCM Prayer Resources**  
**CCC Catholic Energies**  
**SEEK Project**  
**Interfaith Power and Light (IPL)**  
**Diocese of Richmond Press Release (2020)**  
**Archdiocese of Cincinnati Article (2016)**

Build bridges with community sustainability groups (businesses; solar projects; non profits...) who advocate for creation care



Be innovative! Host an event (e.g., used book sale) that both teaches about sustainable practices AND helps to fund other creation care activities

*Kayla*

Create a diocesan rotating Green Fund. Those parishes that benefit from solar savings contribute to the fund so that less affluent parishes/dioceses can also have access to solar savings

*Fr. Emmet*

Start small (e.g., meatless Mondays [LINK](#)) and partner with (and 'green') other ministries. Also look for ways for one CC initiative can impact another (e.g., recycling program funding community garden)



Start with prayer. Promote an ecological spirituality to prepare for creation care work (e.g., start prayer groups, go on guided nature walks or try a 21 day virtual challenge). Also check out CCC prayer and worship resources & Global Catholic Climate Movement's (GCCM) prayer resources

[PICTURES](#)

*Frane*



Plan and take field trips (with decision makers in the parish) to find local businesses and groups who are caring for creation and financially thriving

Tell your story and track your savings ... the Diocese of Richmond and Archdiocese of Cincinnati did ... they both spoke of this as saving the parish money, reducing their carbon footprint and an act deeply rooted in faith



## Partnering with parishioners and families



Use the Narthex to present materials after Masses -- more visibility equals more membership and more advocacy/education  
VIDEO

*St. Dennis Parish*

Offer personal invitations & outreach to parishioners to join CCT and participate in activities

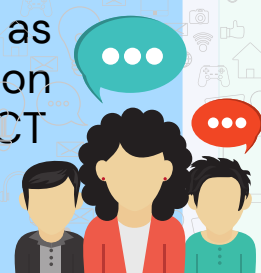
Tell the 'Why' and 'How' of creation care creatively -- e.g., a Care of Creation Fair with posters and a Caring for Creation Tree or set up easy to understand display  
PICTURES (Fair)  
PICTURES (Displays)



Check Out free eResources (e.g., Anne Neuberger's Problem Solvers: Creation Care Kids Learning Resource)

Collaborate with the Youth Ministry Teams and Senior Ministries -- host events or initiatives together! Fund young adults as communication interns for CCT

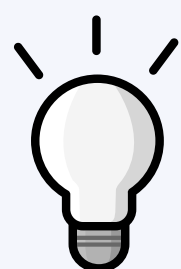
*Fr. Emmet*



Provide easy lists of things families can do to make a difference -- maybe a corner in the bulletin or on the parish social media

Find out what is important to the families in your parish (Survey)

### Check these out



**CCC Community Engagement Guide**

**CCC Recruitment Tool Kit**

**Creation Care and Kids Website**

**Google Forms allow you to create surveys easily**

**Article with Bishop Robert E Barron - Bringing Back the Youth That Left**

## Partnering with teachers and schools



Offer workshops or bring in speakers so teachers can collaborate across grade levels or between schools to learn how to do creation care (or expand what they are doing)

Host listening sessions with youth and teachers -- and let them set the priorities and plan action and events  
VIDEO

*Julia Rising HS Senior*

Make sure teachers and school staff (front line people with influence!) are invited to be CCT leaders

Have coffee With the principal and chat about creation care, CST, and how to get youth involved

Volunteer in classes to help teachers with implementing creation care activities across the Catholic curriculum

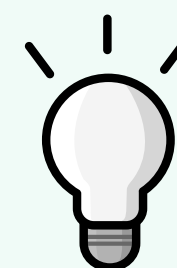


Support art and creative contests or offer small grants/prizes for classes or students in Catholic Schools to promote creation care. Ask students for feedback to help your CCT to involve more youth and young adults  
VIDEO

*St Joseph Parish*

Connect with parents group (PTO) -- and see how you could work together to do creation care

### Check these out



**Teaching Kids to Care for God's Creation by Sr. Mary Elizabeth Clark, SSJ**  
**Look at this bibliography for ideas about CST and kids LINK**  
**Support Catholic publishers who promote creation care materials**



# Creation Care in Challenging Contexts - More Tools to Advocate Effectively

## Dealing with Political Silos & Division or Conflict

## Dealing with the Economics of Climate Change

Look up Brene Brown's work on Leadership (e.g., Dare to Lead book or podcast is a good start). Also watch her Ted Talk on the Power of Vulnerability

*Kayla*  
Creation care work can be the common ground that brings people together (e.g., CC work as a way for republicans and democrats to connect)

Study what (and who) makes your parish run well -- there are many ways to the same end ... find allies and do what you can

Be organized, factual and always lead with love (Mark 10:21) Jesus looked at the young man -- he loved him before telling him what he lacked

Great work is never easy! Don't give up



Read "How to talk to skeptics" article and learn skills to deal with difficult people at work or anywhere in your life

Know that you might have to Knock the dust off your sandals and walk away to find allies

Research how to respond to challenges -- it is not the first time (nor will it be the last). Prep for the discussion!

Explore circle economies -- check out the Ellen MacArthur Foundation

Check out the Caritas Internationalis Organization and their address to G7 Leaders (2021) about debt relief

Listen to Harvard University's Podcast "Environmental Insights" with Gina McCarthy on Climate Change, Public Health and Economy

Understand the intentions and fears of the other 'side'. Learn what is at stake for them

Check Out "The Story of Stuff" Video below and their many parts to their project

Read, reflect and pray over the economic aspects of Laudato Si'

### Check these out



**How to talk to Climate Skeptics Article**  
**Dealing with Difficult People at Work Article**  
**Brene Brown Podcast**  
**Brene Brown Ted Talk**

### Check these out



**Caritas Organization Information LINK**  
**Caritas's Address to G7 Leaders Article LINK**  
**Story of Stuff Video (there are many good ones!)**  
**Harvard Podcast: LINK**  
**Circle Economies Video**  
**Example of technology (phones) as part of a circle economy: Article**



# Creation Care in Challenging Contexts - More Tools to Advocate Effectively

## Dealing with Scientific Misinformation

EPA guides for Congregations are great starting points

Are there many skeptics in your parish? Explore climate scientist and Christian (from evangelical denomination) Dr. Katharine Hayhoe's video "The most important thing you can do to fight climate change"

Inviting a scientist or meteorologist to talk to the parish -- someone who is knowledgeable about climate science, biodiversity and other natural sciences and has a full understanding of the Catholic faith. Be sure to include decision makers in the planning of the event

IPCC has Synthesis Reports, presentations and summaries can help people understand what is happening to our world -- so can other engaging sites (NOAA & National Science Assessment)

Watch Climate Solution video and then share information

Read, reflect and pray over the science presented in Laudato Si'

### Check these out

#### EPA Guides for Congregations about:

- Energy Star
- Green Storm Water Solutions
- Food Stewardship
- Climate Change Indicators

Pontifical Academy of Sciences: [LINK](#)

Dr. Hayhoe's Video

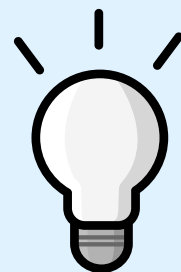
IPCC AR5 (2014) Synthesis Report [LINK](#)

Engaging with Skepticism: [LINK](#)

Climate Solution Videos

National Science Assessment

NOAA Climate State Summaries



## Passing on CC Information for New Pastors, Staff or Parishioners

Have a creation care binder or shared Google drive (or another online tool) for Staff (e.g., Purchasing Guides). Make it easy to continue this work

Keep websites and other online platforms up to date (and easy to access). Maybe even start a creation care library in your parish

Make materials easy to find, read and access (maybe even fun to look at)

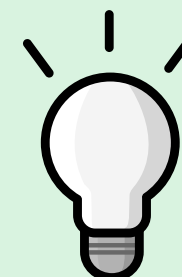
Have annual workshops -- make them fun (even for those who know the information). Make this an event people look forward to!

When training greeters (and hospitality folks) have a list of all creation care items the CCT does. Help them understand how creation care is part of your parish's faith story. These greeters will then tell this story as part of the tour for new parishioners.

### Check these out

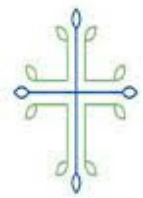
There are some great (and free) resources to aid with communication:

- Canva Website (Handouts, Presentations, etc...)
- Smore Website (Newsletters)
- Adobe Spark Website (Short videos)
- Audacity Website (Podcasting)





# CCT Session Anchor: Successful CCTs



**LAUDATO SI'**  
AND THE U.S. CATHOLIC CHURCH  
A Conference Series on Our Common Home



## Discussions with Successful CCT's

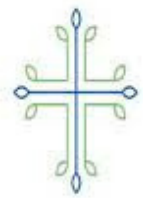
- How do you stay relevant ?
- What types of events do you do ?
- What are key success factors ?
- What is your relationship with the Diocese ?





# Creation Care Teams: the How and What

## CCT Session Anchor: Successful CCTs



**LAUDATO SI'**  
AND THE U.S. CATHOLIC CHURCH  
A Conference Series on Our Common Home



### Success Factors

- Pastor's support
- Networking within
  - K of C
  - Scouts
  - School
  - Bldg. & Maint
- Maintaining visibility
- Making it fun
- Committee structure
- Freedom to pursue areas of member interest



### Advocacy Action

- Laudato Si'
- Creation Care
- Legislation
  - Local
  - State
  - National
- Climate
- Environmental Justice
- Water Quality
- Waste Reduction
- Interfaith Collaboration



### Education / Engagement

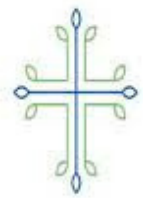
- Narthex Displays
- Movies
- Marches
- Film Festivals
- Lectures/Presentations
- Demo Carbon Footprints
- Network w/ other CCTs
- Homily Helps
- Religious Ed Participation
- Congressional letter writing campaigns
- Pledge Events
- Art Contests
- Prayer Sessions

**Stay engaged with:  
your pastor, parish staff, other ministries... and keep visible**



# Creation Care Teams: the How and What

## CCT Session Anchor: Successful CCTs



**LAUDATO SI'**  
AND THE U.S. CATHOLIC CHURCH  
A Conference Series on Our Common Home



**Catholic Climate Covenant**<sup>sm</sup>  
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.



### Communications

- Social Media
- Websites
- Email Newsletters
- Zoom
- Mass Announcements
- Interns
- Parish Bulletins
- Monthly Meetings



### Earth/People Care

- *Laudato Si'* Gardens
- Meditation Walks
- Vegetable gardens
  - Food Pantries
- Fair Trade sales
- Drought-tolerant Landscaping
- Pollinator gardens
- Stream Clean-up
- Street Clean-up



### Waste redux/sustainability

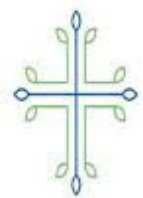
- Recycling/Composting
  - Systems in place
  - Event support
- Dish washing at events
- Plastic bans
- Staff alliances
- Renewable Energy
  - Solar Collectors
  - Community Solar
- Energy saving initiatives
  - Lighting
  - Insulation
  - Motion Sensors
- Green cleaning products

**Empower Creation Care team members:  
letting them lead in the areas of their interest. Make it fun!**



# CCT Session Anchor: Successful CCTs

- Don't Forget Diocese Engagement
- Creation Care website & newsletter visibility
- Event co-promotion opportunities:
  - Earth day
  - Anniversary of *Laudato Si'*
  - Season of Creation
- Statements of support for legislation advocacy
- Resources for energy savings initiatives



**LAUDATO SI'**  
AND THE U.S. CATHOLIC CHURCH  
A Conference Series on Our Common Home



**Catholic Climate Covenant<sup>sm</sup>**  
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

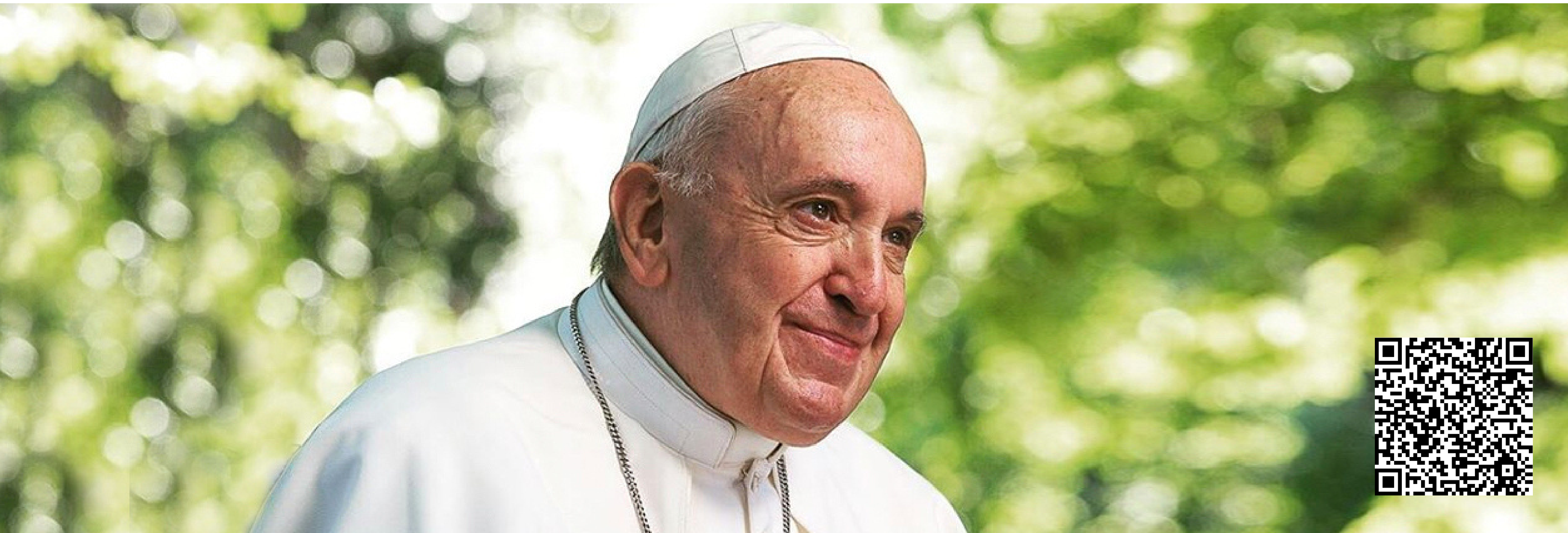




## Creation Care Teams Session

# *Questions and Answers*

Please place your questions, comments or concerns in the chat and we will field them as they come in  
Want Link to the Roadmap and Resources File sent out prior to this session? [Click Here](#) or use the below QR code







# **PRAYER IN THE FOUR DIRECTIONS**

**Leader: The indigenous peoples of North America honor an ancient ritual of praying while facing in different directions.**

**With them, let us unite in prayer, facing each of the directions as indicated**

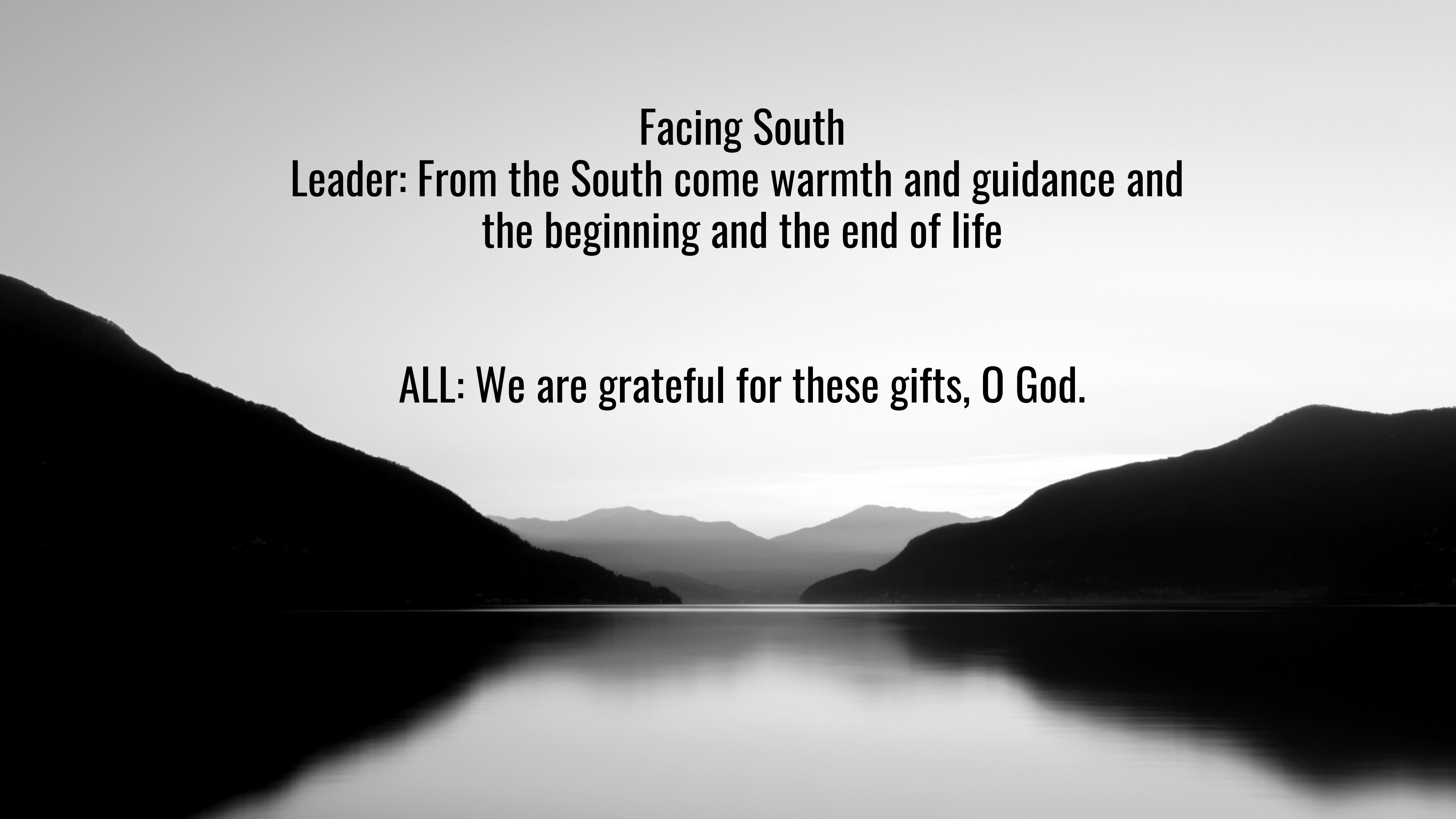


A bright sun rising over a horizon, with thin, dry grass stalks in the foreground.

**Facing East**  
**Leader: From the East come peace and light and wisdom and knowledge**

**ALL: We are grateful for these gifts, O God.**



A black and white photograph of a calm lake reflecting the surrounding mountains and a bright sky. The mountains are silhouetted against the light sky, and their reflection is clearly visible in the still water. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

**Facing South**  
**Leader: From the South come warmth and guidance and  
the beginning and the end of life**

**ALL: We are grateful for these gifts, O God.**

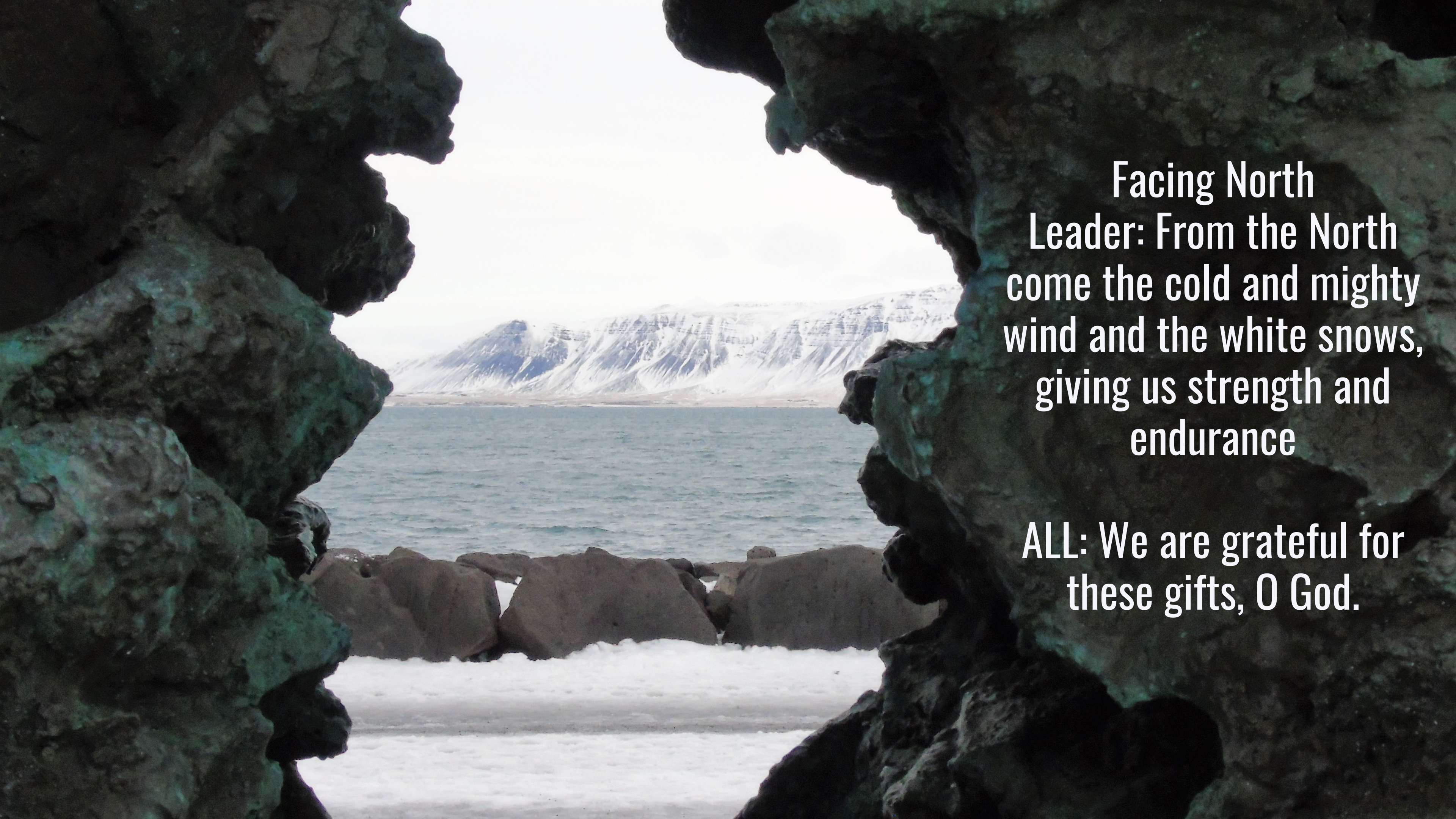


**Facing West**  
**Leader: From the West comes the rain,**  
**purifying water, to sustain all living**  
**things**

**ALL: We are grateful for these gifts,**  
**O God.**





A photograph taken from inside a dark, rocky cave, looking out through a jagged opening. The view is framed by the dark, textured rock walls of the cave. Outside, a calm blue-grey sea stretches towards a distant, snow-covered mountain range under a pale, overcast sky. In the foreground, just outside the cave, a line of dark rocks sits on a sandy beach, with white foam from waves visible at the bottom of the frame.

Facing North  
Leader: From the North  
come the cold and mighty  
wind and the white snows,  
giving us strength and  
endurance

ALL: We are grateful for  
these gifts, O God.



Leader: May we walk  
good paths, blessed God,  
living on this earth as  
brothers and sisters  
should;  
rejoicing in one another's  
blessing,  
sympathizing in one  
another's sorrows,  
and together with you, in  
the name of Jesus,  
and with the Spirit's  
awakening breath,  
renewing the face of the  
earth



ALL:  
Amen