**Care for Our Common Home — bulletin notices**

**Oct. 14, 2018**

Did you ever notice that the commandments and various Scripture exhortations deal with our relationship with God and with other humans, but rarely with anything beyond that? Some scholars note that humans’ awareness of their place in creation has developed over the centuries. Today we have grown to realize that our relationships include all of creation. Throughout *Laudato Si’*, Pope Francis emphasizes our interconnection with the world around us. He reminds us that we, like all life, came from the same dust and that “the book of nature is one and indivisible.” (par. 6) He urges us to change from thinking that humans are separate from and superior to the rest of creation: “We lack an awareness of our common origin, of our mutual belonging, and of a future to be shared with everyone.” (par. 202) (NCA Green Team)

**Oct. 21, 2018**

Jesus exhorts his followers to be servants of all, now understood to include all of creation, which is in dire need of assistance. Pope Francis laments: “The Earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth. In many parts of the planet … once beautiful landscapes are now covered with rubbish.” (par. 21) The Pope specified problems from industrial waste, chemical products, and consumer waste, but local areas also need to be kept clean. Please consider joining with members of the NCA Green Team (which includes anyone in the parish) for a post-Halloween neighborhood clean up on Saturday 11/3. This is an opportunity to make a visible difference locally. Email georgetully82@gmail.com for details. (NCA Green Team)

**Oct. 28, 2018**

Bartimaeus was wise enough to know he couldn’t see, and therefore he asked Jesus for sight. Sometimes we don’t realize we cannot see and thus never bother to ask for the sight we lack. Pope Francis, in *Laudato Si’,* reminds us of the importance of vision we might lack in quotes like the following: “It is good for humanity and the world at large when we believers better recognize the ecological commitments which stem from our convictions.” (par. 64). We need special sight to see “a mystical meaning … in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person’s face.” (par. 233) We invite you to join the NCA Green Team on Saturday, 11/3, to clean Loyola Beach so that its “mystical meaning” will become easier for all to recognize. Email georgetully82@gmail.com for details. (NCA Green Team)

**Nov. 4, 2018**

Instead of thinking that we must love God AND neighbor, we are becoming more aware that we love God IN neighbor, each of whom, like ourselves, incarnates the divine. Realizing the intercommunion of all being, we now extend the concept of neighbor to all of creation! Pope Francis emphasizes this throughout *Laudato Si’*. For example: “It would be a mistake to view other living beings as mere objects subjected to arbitrary human domination.…” (par. 82) “… there is a divine manifestation in the blaze of the sun and the fall of night.” (par.85) Keep this in mind when voting! The NCA Green Team, open to all, strives to deepen this awareness.

Email georgetully82@gmail.com for details. (NCA Green Team)

**Nov. 11, 2018**

Sadly, every age seems to have its scribes who parade their piety but ignore those who give from their poverty. Pope Francis notes: “Politics and the economy tend to blame each other when it comes to poverty and environmental degradation… While some are concerned only with financial gain, and others with holding on to or increasing their power, what we are left with [is leaders who are not] concerned about caring for the environment and protecting those who are most vulnerable.” (par.198) No matter which candidates won the recent election, all must be held accountable each day for their care for our common home. For information about the NCA Green Team, contact georgetully82@gmail.com.

**Nov. 18, 2018**

Approaching Advent, we read about the Hebrew’s expectations for the last days. Jesus would have shared these expectations; no one at that time would have understood “the naturally slow pace of biological evolution.” (par.18) What remains true is our call to remain vigilant, in Pope Francis’ words: “to dare to turn what is happening to the world into our own personal suffering and thus to discover what each of us can do about it.” (par.19) Chapter One of *Laudato Si’* discusses many of these things and how they affect each of us. As we celebrate St. Gertrude and anticipate Thanksgiving, let us give thanks for the gifts of creation, but also “take a frank look at the facts to see that our common home is falling into serious disrepair.” Let us remain hopeful “that we can always do something to solve our problems.” (par. 61) The NCA Green Team strives to do this! (NCA Green Team)

**Nov. 25, 2018**

The King we celebrate today “was able to invite others to be attentive to the beauty that there is in this world because he himself was in constant touch with nature, lending it an attention full of fondness and wonder.” (par.97) “The New Testament does not only tell us of the earthly Jesus and his tangible and loving relationship with the world. It also shows him risen and glorious, present throughout creation by his universal Lordship.” (par.100) For Advent, consider joining the NCA Green Team — which welcomes all. For information about it, contact georgetully82@gmail.com. (NCA Green Team)