

*For Immediate Release*

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

CONTACT: ELLEN KANE, [ekane@vermontcatholic.org](mailto:ekane@vermontcatholic.org) or (802) 846-5837

### **Vermont Catholic Schools Care for Creation**

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington has announced that there will be a diocesan-wide Year of Creation focused on Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment, "Laudato Si', On Care for Our Common Home." The Roman Catholic Diocese is comprised of 73 parishes, 13 schools and approximately 118,000 Catholics. Various events, initiatives and resources are available to parishes and schools to better educate on and encourage the embracing of Pope's Francis' message: "caring for creation is a moral imperative of faith that cannot be ignored."

On April 12, 2017, many of the 13 Catholic Schools around Vermont are planning Care for Creation events. Events include: a fashion show of recycled clothing and materials; planting flowers and vegetables for school gardens and local elderly home; cleaning up trash at the local park; planting trees on local trail; visiting composting facility; walking, biking and carpooling to school; adopting composting in the school lunch room; etc. Below is a list of planned events for April 12, along with the contacts at the school for further information.

"Care for creation is a matter of social justice because the ones who are most affected by pollution and climate change are the poor of the world," says Bishop Coyne. "I hope many Catholics will take advantage of the opportunities being offered throughout the diocese to celebrate this Year of Creation." For information on events, workshops and energy saving initiatives planned around the state throughout the year visit: <http://vermontcatholic.org/yearofcreation/>

### **April 12, 2017, Catholic School Events (Additional schools may be added to the list)**

#### **St. Monica-St. Michael Catholic School (Barre)**

- Preparatory Recycling: Students will collect, recycle and bring to school suggested material to create hats and other articles of clothing. They will also use these recyclable materials to create markers for the school garden to label the garden plants.
- 4/10, 10:30 am: Students will have a fashion show demonstrating what they created for apparel from recyclable material.
- 4/12 (and ongoing): Students will plant seeds in recyclable milk cartons. These seedlings may later be planted into our school garden. The varieties will be chosen in consultation with our volunteer gardener. This is a great way for all to see how we use God's earth to produce food that will then be used by families to sustain our bodies. Once the snow melts, the school community will help to prepare the soil, green up the banks around our school and when the danger of frost is over, the students will plant the garden and care for it until the last day of school. Over the summer and in the fall, volunteer students and families may help our volunteer gardener to care for the garden and harvest the vegetables.

Contact: Brenda S. Buzzell, Principal, 802-476-5015 [bbuzzell@stmonica-stmichael.org](mailto:bbuzzell@stmonica-stmichael.org)

#### **School of Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales (Bennington)**

- Students will recycle newspaper to make flowerpots and then plant flowers to give to the elderly.

Contact: David Estes, Principal, 802-442-2446 [david.estes@sacredheartbennington.org](mailto:david.estes@sacredheartbennington.org)

### **St. Michael Catholic School (Brattleboro)**

- All School
  - Walking, biking, carpool to school
  - Waste reduction and thinking more consciously about our trash/consumption
  - All grades are utilizing the website Catholic Climate Covenant in preparation for Catholic Schools Care for Creation Day.
- Grade pre-K: Students will plant bulbs around the school and church.
- Grades K/1: Students will take a field trip to Windham County Solid Waste Recycling Center
- Grades 2/3: Students will clean out and replant the school's four garden boxes with perennials and some early annuals.
- Grades 4/5: Students will create an awareness bulletin board for the school and its visitors.
- Grades 6/7: Students will revisit the school's current composting program and implement a more sanitary and efficient system at lunch each day.
- Grade 8: Students will create green terrariums and will be donated them to a local nursing home, The Bradley House, an Adult Day Care Facility, Brigid's Soup Kitchen, and the Rectory.
- Grades 9/10: Students will go out in town for a Green-Up style walk and collect trash (Main St., Walnut St., and the Common).

Contact: Elaine Beam, Principal, 802-254-6320 [elainebeam@smsvt.info](mailto:elainebeam@smsvt.info)

### **Christ the King School (Rutland)**

- 4/12: Students in the Middle School will lead the rest of the school in a prayer service designed to educate and spread the word about the Year of Creation. The prayer service will also help the students by teaching them how they can contribute to ecological justice.
- Other April projects
  - Students will create a collage that depicts ways for them to keep the earth healthy.
  - Students will make "seed bombs" to give to families and parishioners. These seed bombs are made to dissolve but will leave a plant or flower where they were.
  - Students will grow flowers and plants in classrooms that will be planted around the school when the weather is warm in order to help beautify our surroundings.
- Other 2017 projects
  - the graduating class will plant trees in a local hiking park.
  - CKS will be working with Marble Valley Grows to plant a garden and participate in tastings to promote the Farm to School programs.
  - We are working on a composting program for the lunch room.

Contact: Lila Millard, Principal, 802-773-0500 [lmillard@cksrutland.org](mailto:lmillard@cksrutland.org)

### **Christ the King (Burlington)**

Students will clean up Callahan Park.

Contact: Angela C. Pohlen, Principal, (802) 862-6696

### **Mount St. Joseph Academy (Rutland)**

- Students will participate in an area litter pick-up.

Contact: Diane Graves, administrative office manager, 802-775-0151 [dgraves@msjvermont.org](mailto:dgraves@msjvermont.org)

**Good Shepherd Catholic School (St. Johnsbury)**

- This year we received a grant which will allow us to start construction on an outdoor nature classroom. Inspired by the prospect of our new outdoor space, we have decided to focus our Care for Creation day on the theme “Let it Grow.”
- Students will “green-up” the various parks in our town (assuming the snow has melted). Each class will be assigned a neighborhood park where the children will go and clean up the litter that has accumulated over the winter.
- The whole school will reconvene in the gym to plant seeds. Later this spring we will give some of our flower seedlings to the residents of our local nursing home. Some of our vegetable seedlings will be donated to the community garden in town. We will also reserve some of our seedlings to plant in our outdoor nature classroom, construction of which will hopefully be completed by then!

Contact: Lynn Cartularo, principal, 802-751-8223 [lcartularo@goodshepherdschoolvt.org](mailto:lcartularo@goodshepherdschoolvt.org)

**Rice Memorial High School (South Burlington)**

- 4/12: Students will clean up a trail near the high school that has endangered plants.

Contact: Sr. Laura della Santa, Principal, 802-862-6521 [dellasanta@rmhsvt.org](mailto:dellasanta@rmhsvt.org)

###