



ARCHDIOCESE
OF LOUISVILLE

Creation Care Network News

October 2026

“With Saint Francis, let us renew our commitment to living and promoting that universal fraternity which is inseparably bound to the task of caring for creation.”
Pope Leo XIV, 09/01/2026

CELEBRATING THE 2026 SEASON OF CREATION



Living Water
Season of Creation 2026

Immersion in Living Water
EZEKIEL 47:9, 12

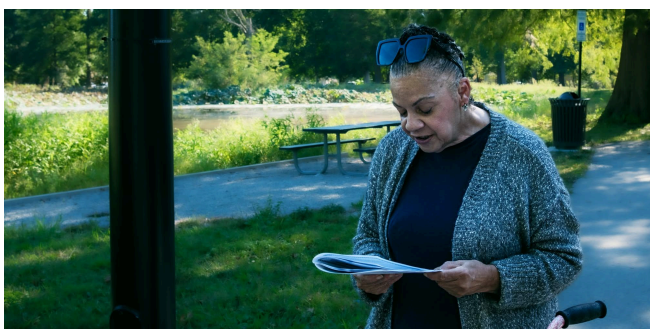
Many parishes in the Archdiocese celebrated the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi on Oct. 4th, with special blessings of animals. This year, Franciscans also observed the 800th anniversary of his “transitus” or passing into eternal life. St. Francis’ feast concluded the 2026 Season of Creation, a special time to focus on God’s gift of Creation and our place in it. Here we report on four ways the Season of Creation was celebrated in the Archdiocese this year.

PILGRIMAGE OF HOPE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND RACIAL JUSTICE

- The **Annual Pilgrimage of Hope for Environmental and Racial Justice** was held on Saturday, Sept. 26, as a collaboration between the Catholic Enrichment Center and Archdiocese of Louisville Creation Care Team. Pilgrims from several parishes gathered near the pond at Chickasaw Park for a prayer service before walking to the Catholic Enrichment Center (3146 W Broadway) for more prayer, lunch, and reflection focused on the Season of Creation theme of “Living Water”,



CEC Director, Janice Mulligan, led prayer at the Ohio River overlook.



Photos of Pilgrimage participants by Fr. Patrick Delahanty.

2026 GREEN MASS

- This year the **Third Annual Archdiocesan Green Mass** was celebrated at Epiphany Catholic Church on Wednesday, Sept. 30. This liturgy followed the special formulary of prayers and readings for a “Mass for Creation” issued by the Vatican last year. Fr. Jeff Shooner delivered the homily and concelebrated with Fr. Emmanuel-Garet Ifeakor and Fr. Bill Hammer. The deacon was Randy Perkins.



- The Mass was followed by a reception featuring presentations by students from five Catholic high schools in the Archdiocese. The students highlighted their projects demonstrating care for our common home.



Mercy students displayed two senior capstone projects.



This St. X student answers questions about his display.



Assumption students, Tegan Mohon and Kate Jarboe, display a summary of several projects



Trinity student, Matthew Craft, gave a presentation on problems and solutions for electronic waste.



Sacred Heart student, Vivan Cox, spoke about the community garden on their campus.



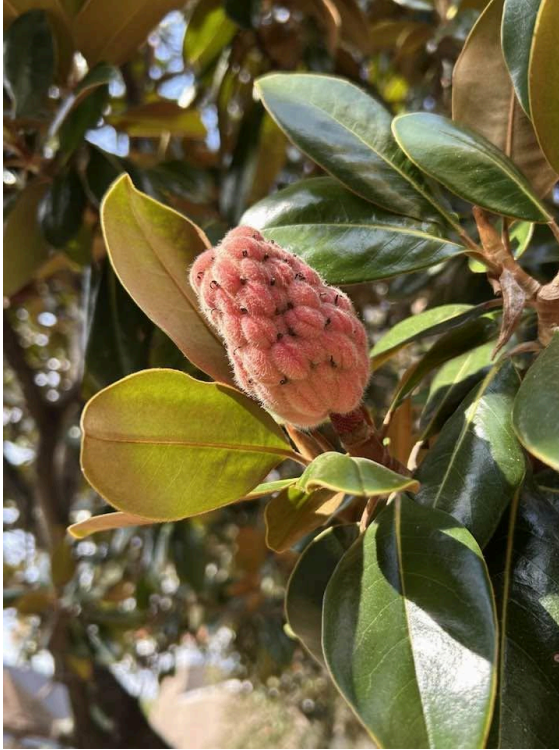
Trinity student, Christopher Kehdy, presented his research on problems of plastic packaging.

BELLARMINE TREE PILGRIMAGE

- Bellarmine University's Campus Ministry and Department of Environmental Studies hosted their **5th Annual Bellarmine Tree Pilgrimage** on October 1st. The pilgrimage began in the Thomas Merton Center on the 2nd floor of Bellarmine's library with reflections on the writings of Thomas Merton and Wendell Berry. Participants walked through the campus, stopping at nine trees for prayers, poetry and short reflections by several guest speakers.



Dr. David Robinson pointed out the unique leaf shape of a Tulip Poplar tree



This Southern Magnolia was the first tree on the pilgrimage.



Dr. Kate Bulinski read one of the reflections.



Pilgrims gather in the shade of the historic Bur Oak tree in front of the Centro Building.

SEASON OF CREATION STUDENT POSTER CONTEST

- The **4th Annual Season of Creation Student Poster Contest** was open to students in grades K through 8 from all Catholic schools and parishes throughout the Archdiocese. For their posters, students illustrated the 2026 Season of Creation theme, “Living Water”.

Over 100 entries from eight different schools were submitted by the deadline on Oct. 5. At three schools, 100% of their students participated by creating posters. Those three schools were St. Ann Catholic School in Howardstown, KY and St. Francis of Assisi and St. Michael Catholic Schools in Louisville. The individual student contest winners will be announced later in October.

NEXT CREATION CARE NETWORK MEETING - NOV. 9, 2026

The 2027 fish fry and parish picnic season may still be months away, but this is the best time to begin your planning to reduce waste at your special parish events. Several parishes have already taken steps to eliminate disposable plastics and to increase recycling and composting of other waste materials. Our goal is to encourage more parishes to follow their example.



We invite volunteers and staff who plan and coordinate fish fries or other parish events where food or drinks are served, to attend this online meeting on Monday, Nov. 9, at 7:00 pm. You will hear a representative from the Metro Solid Waste kNOw Waste Louisville team talk about ways that Reducing, Reusing, and Recycling can help cut your waste. You will also get tips from experienced parish volunteers on ways to control costs while boosting your “sustainability score”.

Please plan to join us on Nov. 9 at 7 pm and use this link to register for our online meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9tJfzeu6VvSYunJhz5pHWAQpQ>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

GRANT OPPORTUNITY

The [Hope in Action Grant](#) is designed to support sustainability efforts by Kentucky congregations and other faith-based non-profits. [Kentucky Interfaith Power & Light](#) will award up to \$1,000 to support environmental projects or programming. [Click here to apply](#) for this grant for your faith community. Deadline for applications is November 15, 2026.

PAST MEETINGS

If you missed any of our past ArchLou Creation Care Network meetings, you can use these links to watch the recordings.

February 2025 - [Samples of Creation Care Action in different parishes](#)

May 2025 - [Respond to the Cry of the Earth by protecting biodiversity - Dr. Kate Bulinski](#)

August 2025 - [Ecological Education for Young People - Ashley Davenport](#)

November 2025 - [The “Laudato Si’ Action Platform” - Dr. Kate Bulinski](#)

February 2026 - [The Catholic Conference of KY Legislative Update - Scott Porter \(presentation slides\)](#)

April 2026 - [“How Does Your Native Garden Grow?” - Julia Gerwe-Nicholson](#)

CREATION CARE NETWORK DIRECTORY

Have you added your contact information to the **Creation Care Network Directory** yet? The Directory is a voluntary listing for any Network members who would like to connect directly with others and ask questions or share information about particular efforts (school projects, pollinator gardens, energy efficiency, etc.) [You can view the directory with this link.](#) The more contacts we have, the more useful this listing will be.

If you are willing to include your contact information (Name, email, and parish or school) in this directory. [please use this link to complete a brief survey](#)