

Table Discussion: Creation Care (Living into Eucharistic Prayer C)

Our discussion focused on two areas:

What is going on in different parishes?

How might we implement the Trinity Institute programs in our deanery?

The recent Trinity Institute explored the issues related to water justice. More on this below.

Creation Care initiatives

What are some examples of things we are doing, have done, or things we would like to do:

- Carpooling to church services and events
- Recycling – paper
- Recycling printer ink cartridges
- Upgrading heating systems
- Upgrading parish kitchen with energy efficient appliances
- Installing solar panels on our buildings
- Encouraging our parishioners to have home energy audits through MassSave
- Using recyclables instead of Styrofoam/paper plates and cups at parish events

One of our parishes is rebuilding their sustainability/environmental/creation care efforts as the lay leader who was instrumental in their efforts recently passed away. This led to a discussion about the importance of succession planning in parishes creation care efforts.

Involving children and teens in creation care efforts: The younger generation is forward-looking and thinks about the shape the environment will be in once they are older. Working with youth doesn't have to only be kids in our own parish; we can reach out to the community. A few years ago, the deanery high school youth prepared carbon budgets for their homes.

Participating in Coastal Cleanups with the community – if every one of our parishes participated, we would be on beaches across the deanery!

The topic Trinity Institute explored this year was water justice. Although most of us were unable to attend the local webcasts or the actual event in NYC, we are hoping to get DVDs of some of the presentations to share in the deanery. Our group thinks this is a great way to partner (or 'twin') with a nearby deanery parish to watch the presentations together and then have time for discussion. To 'prime the pump' for discussions, we think it would be great to include some scriptural passages and to create some discussion questions to distribute with the DVDs similar to the book club types of questions at the back of books. Ideally, we think it important to include a 'Next Steps' handout with websites and local and beyond resources/information.

We concluded our discussion with a review of Eucharistic Prayer C. One of our areas of discussion was the idea of being stewards as opposed to being 'rulers'.