



## Catholic Social Teaching

-As Catholics view the world and all of its needs, we can look to seven key principles recognized by the Church to guide us in responding to those around us. In previous Social Actions Newsletters, we examined the first five principles. In this edition, we'll examine the last two.

### **SOLIDARITY**

We hear about injustice, poverty, war and suffering all over the world. Although these things may be happening in distant locations, we are called to help those who are experiencing hardship. The suffering of our fellow humans is a concern for all of us. How can we help? Contributions to Catholic Relief Services, keeping informed about the plight of others, speaking up for justice, teaching those around us about problems experienced in the world, and prayer for the suffering are ways that we can express our solidarity.

### **CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION**

We hear so much about global warming, extinction, pollution, and other buzzwords that sometimes we think there is nothing that can be done to fix the problems. In Genesis God commanded that we take care of the Earth.

. Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of society." (Pope Francis, *On Care for Our Common Home* [[Laudato Si'](#)], nos. 49, 91)

We are called to protect people and the Earth living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. (USCCB)

We will examine ways to apply these seven principles in subsequent newsletters.

*Jeanne Duell*

## REMEMBERING OUR HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS



Changes are being made in our spirit bag ministry. If you would like to receive a phone call from a caring parishioner just to chat and check on you, we would like your phone number. As we age, more and more people are losing friends and family and may be by themselves. If you know of someone who is alone or if you would like to receive a call, please call Pat Banaszak at 937-849-9140. She will put you on a list to receive periodic calls and cards so that the homebound parishioners know how important they are and that they know that the church and fellow parishioners care about them.

If you would like to help in this calling effort, please call 937-849-9140. We will give you a few people to call every week or two to let them know that we care.

*Pat Banaszak*



## SOLAR SITING AND MICRO-GRIDS



The sun is the source of all living creatures. Without the sun, none of us would be reading this. Today most of us are using limited natural resources to heat our homes and to power our vehicles and electronic devices. The power of the sun is virtually unlimited. But are we using its potential?

Power from solar panels is becoming increasingly competitive with fossil fuel, even without government subsidies. Where should solar panels be located? Too often finding locations for them becomes difficult and confusing.

“Corporate solar” requires large acreage, often farm (food) land, and close proximity to regional electrical grids. Neighbors of such projects often oppose their construction and operation. In contrast, small-scale “Community solar” uses roof tops, parking lots, and vacant fields of modest size. In many cases, this alternative has a cooperative funding structure that avoids the unintended consequences of the corporate process.

Recently Pope Francis published *Laudato Deum*, an apostolic exhortation subtitled “To all People of Good Will on the Climate Crisis.” Note that the intended audience is not just Catholics. This exhortation is a follow-on to *Laudato Si* that Pope Francis published eight years ago. In *Laudato Deum* he explicitly challenges the climate deniers and exhorts us all to do something to reverse the trend of increasing global temperature and extreme events.

In a related turn, an article in the recent “*Christians for the Mountains*” newsletter encourages Christian churches to consider forming a “micro-grid” using solar cells and batteries. Such churches could serve as a place of refuge for neighbors during a loss of power - a place of heat in the winter, cool in the summer – and to even provide charging plugs for electronics. As a significant fringe benefit, the micro-grid can reduce the church’s dependence on fossil fuels and save money over time.

What a neat way to make Pope Francis happy – not to mention all of our future generations.

*Jim Byrd*

