



Today is “**Climate in the Pulpits**” weekend. St Matthew and 60+ other congregations are this day focusing on the spiritual and moral basis of caring for our common home, the Good Earth, all its living inhabitants, and all God’s incredible Creation.

For Catholics, the moral call to act toward sustaining a livable climate is powerfully expressed by Pope Francis in his encyclical *Laudato Si’*, portions of which have informed our prayers during this Season of Creation. Today we act in a practical manner – as Pope Francis encourages us to do - by building support for the *Maryland Clean Energy Jobs Initiative*. The Initiative seeks to have Maryland commit that 50% of our state’s energy will come from clean, renewable sources by 2030. It will also fund clean energy workforce development and provide grants to businesses owned by women and people of color, especially in areas most affected by pollution, to ensure that our lower-income neighbors prosper in the clean energy economy. It will stop the practice of Maryland paying for dirty trash incineration and stop counting it as a renewable energy source.

The sign-on petition that we each received today has more details. Today is our chance to endorse the Initiative and let our lawmakers know that we support it as people of faith.

PLEASE BE SURE TO SIGN AND BRING THE PETITION UP WITH YOUR OFFERING, or after Mass. Pens are available at the altar rail if you need one.

Our **Creation Collage** continues today. Everyone is asked to bring something that gives you joy, or helps you feel grateful about God’s Creation, and place it on the altar. You can bring a new item each week and watch our collage grow!

From *Laudato Si’* today, we pray about these teachings of Pope Francis:

- 5) **Ecology is grounded in the Bible and church tradition.** The call to care for creation extends back to the Book of Genesis, when humankind was called to “till and keep” the earth. Humans have done too much tilling, and not enough keeping. Jesus appreciated the natural world. In Gospel passages he praises creation. Pope Francis recalls the insights of the saints, most especially St. Francis of Assisi, who is the spiritual lodestar of *Laudato Si.’*
- 6) **Everything is connected—including the economy.** Pope Francis links us to Creation: “We are part of nature, included in it, and thus in constant interaction with it” Our decisions about production and consumption have an inevitable effect on the environment. St. Francis of Assisi shows us how “inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society and interior peace” “Profit cannot be the sole criterion” of our decisions.