

Chicagoland Christians United for the Care of Creation Declaration Installation


Saturday, May 18, 2024 | 7 p.m.
Holy Name Cathedral
735 North State Street
Chicago, IL 60654

Christianity calls all people of good will to care for, protect and preserve our common home. Now is the time for Christians and people of good will to unite in our care for God's creation.

You are cordially invited to Holy Name Cathedral to join local Christian judicatories and their representatives for an ecumenical service and reception celebrating the installation of the Chicagoland Christians United for the Care of Creation Declaration. The event is hosted by Ecumenism Metro Chicago as well as the Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs and the Office of Human Dignity and Solidarity within the Archdiocese of Chicago. Bishop Robert G. Casey, Vicar General, will give the homily.

At the reception following the service, copies of the Declaration will be gifted to attendees.

There will be free parking in the Holy Name Cathedral parking garage at One Chicago, located at 14 West Superior Street, Chicago, IL 60654. The vehicle entrance and exit are both on the north side of Superior Street, between Dearborn Street and State Street. To learn more about parking, visit holynamecathedral.org/contact-us/directionsandparking/.



Chicagoland Christians United
For the
Care of Creation

Declaration
August 17, 2023

The first revelation of God is creation. The Judeo-Christian story of creation begins with the Bible's first book of Genesis. "In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth... God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good." (Gen. 1:1, 31a) The Bible teaches us that we are made in God's image, and that we are to have dominion over the earth (Gen. 1:26, 28). In this unique role as human beings, we are called to care for God's creation (Gen. 2:15). We are a part of God's creation, and responsible for protecting and preserving what is the Creator's, for all of the earth is the Lord's. (Psalm 24:1)

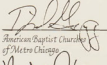

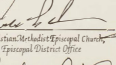
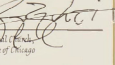
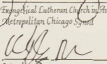
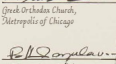
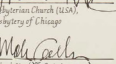
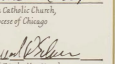

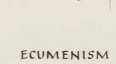
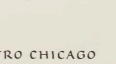
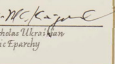
Jesus Christ commands, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind," and "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." (Matt. 22:37, 39-40)

To love God, we must honor all that God has created. To love our neighbor requires us as Christians to preserve and protect all that sustains life. The Earth, its air, land, and water, and everything derived from such, are precious gifts that sustain us all. All of these elements must be cared for, protected, and preserved, here and now, for the common good and for future generations.

Because we are made in the image of God, and because God loves and cares for creation (Matt. 6:25-34), we must also care for our common home. To do otherwise is sin. Our common home is now suffering because of human-induced climate change and our wanton exploitation of God's precious gift of creation. Taking decisive restorative action is a moral and religious imperative.

Confessing that we have sinned against God and neighbor by our misuse of God's good creation, we humbly and urgently call all people to address this spiritual, ecological and existential threat to our common home.

United in Prayer,

 Bishop Robert G. Casey Vicar General Archdiocese of Chicago	 Archbishop Salvatore Pappalardo Metropolitan of Chicago	 Bishop Genevieve D'Ercole Episcopal District Office Episcopal Diocese of Chicago	 Bishop Robert J. Finn Episcopal District Office Episcopal Diocese of Chicago
 Rev. Fr. John J. O'Connell Ecumenism Metro Chicago	 Rev. Fr. Thomas J. O'Connell Greek Orthodox Church Metropolitan of Chicago	 Rev. Fr. Michael J. O'Connell Presbytery of Chicago Methodist Church (USA)	 Rev. Fr. James J. O'Connell Women Catholic Church, Archdiocese of Chicago
 Rev. Fr. Joseph J. O'Connell Suburban Region North & Central Illinois Division	 Rev. Fr. William J. O'Connell Catholic Diocese of Chicago	 Rev. Fr. Daniel J. O'Connell United Synod of Christ, Illinois Conference	 Rev. Fr. Matthew J. O'Connell United Methodist Church, Northern Illinois Conference

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