

Healing the Earth – Our Common Home
A Call to Action – Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day
St. Francis Center for Renewal, 395 Bridle Path Rd., Bethlehem

Energy efficiency, sustainability, single-use plastics, stormwater runoff, water quality. Legitimate concerns or fear mongering? With limited time, staff, and funds are there benefits for your faith community in addressing these topics? Yes, for you, your faith community, and, as it turns out, for Earth and its poor and vulnerable communities.

This workshop will dive into practical and cost-effective solutions for everyone. Have you heard about regulations requiring your place of worship to address stormwater runoff from your buildings and communities? Many municipalities are initiating stormwater fees and non-profits are not exempt. Leaky and drafty buildings can affect your heating and cooling budgets and contribute to greenhouse gases. Reducing waste from your daily activities, worship services, and special events **saves money and resources**. Free programs such as Project Learning Tree address some of these concerns and are available for students in your schools.

Millennials, teens, and school-age children are knowledgeable about the above issues and are involved in solutions for their homes and schools. This is an opportunity to bring that knowledge and energy to your faith community and encourage them to be active members in initiating solutions.

The workshop will be offered twice on April 20, 2020; 9:30 – 11:30am OR 7:00 – 9:00pm and is for pastors, faith leaders, advisory council members, teachers, school administrators, teen leaders, and interested members of your community. Attendees can choose the time that works best for them. Contact the St. Francis Center for Renewal at 610 867-8890 to register. Contact Marie North, Laudato Si' Animator, CSBA (Certified Sustainable Building Advisor) at mnorcsba@ptd.net or 610 769-0780 with questions about the workshop sessions. Freewill offerings gratefully accepted.

“The gravity of the ecological crisis demands that we all look to the common good, embarking on a path of dialogue which demands patience, self-discipline and generosity, always keeping in mind that “realities are greater than ideas.” Pope Francis, Encyclical Letter Laudato Si’ of The Holy Father Francis On Care for Our Common Home, Chapter 5, Lines of Approach and Action, pg. 145, #201