
OUR PRESENCE



FSM Mission and Focus
Fall 2020 Quarterly Report

A meaningful Season of Creation

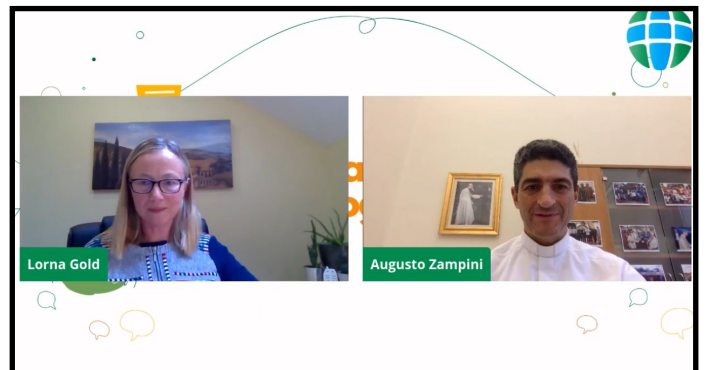
The Global Catholic Climate Movement has partnered with the Vatican and an ecumenical team to host a “Season of Creation” since 2016. During this time, which spanned from September 1 to October 4 this year, Christians around the world take part in care for creation, through education, prayer, action, and advocacy together.



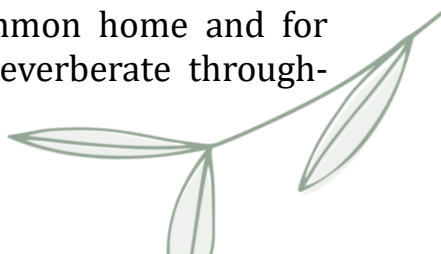
Despite the unique challenges of this year, the Season of Creation, which focused on “Jubilee for the Earth” was a marked success, including over 13,000 participants in official virtual events and over 1,300 events registered by grassroots organizers in their own communities around the world. One such event held in Nairobi, Kenya is pictured above. GCCM trained over 7,000 people around the world to be “Laudato Si’ Animators” leading creation care in their own communities. Season of Creation host organizations, ecumenical partner organizations, and the Pope himself shared informative and inspiring messages throughout the Season over social

media, leading to over 4 million people interacting with these messages in online settings.

The Pope concluded the Season on October 4th with the release of his new encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, which focuses on our connections to one another. GCCM hosted an impactful global webinar entitled “From *Laudato Si’* to *Fratelli Tutti*: Caring for Our Common Home as Brothers and Sisters” highlighting the inspiring and necessary linkages between these two encyclicals. This webinar (a moment from which is pictured below) featured Fr. Augusto Zampini, Adjunct Secretary of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, and Lorna Gold, Vice-Chair of the GCCM Board.



Congratulations to our collaborators at GCCM for a meaningful and engaging Season of Creation. These efforts to encourage care for our common home and for one another surely reverberate throughout the world.



HOSCO's North Sarah Food Hub continues to serve St. Louis throughout the pandemic

Gibron Jones and his team at HOSCO Foods were set to open the doors of the North Sarah Food Hub just as the coronavirus pandemic struck the St. Louis area. Despite the ensuing challenges, HOSCO ramped up their COVID-safe kitchen operations and has been working tirelessly to supply food to thousands of families this year. HOSCO partnered with chefs from the local Niche Food Group to develop nutritious, plant-



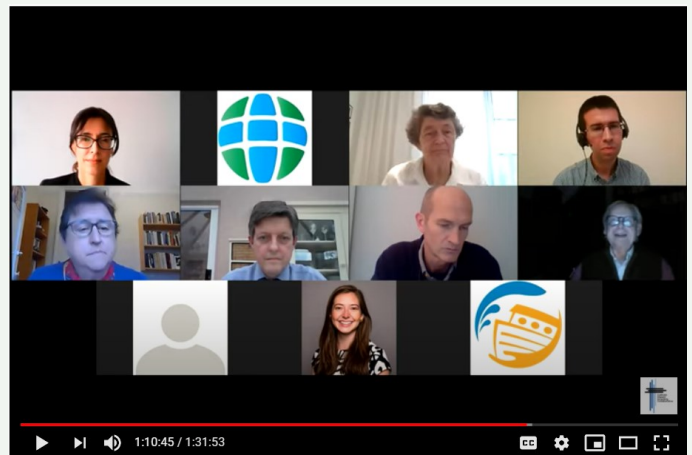
based meals (like those pictured left) that would not only be delicious but ideal for supporting immune health during this respiratory pandemic. Collaborating with around a dozen different local organizations, HOSCO distributes these nutritious meals as well as produce boxes. In early October, the HOSCO team surpassed the amazing marker of 140,000 meals and 300 tons of produce distributed to the community. While HOSCO plans to continue this needed operation through the pandemic, they've also launched an online grocery store and plan to expand their efforts to supply healthy food to the community through a storefront accepting SNAP and stocking local foods in the near future.

Catholic leaders take the divest-invest movement online

In-person conferences have long been important places for sharing information and building relationships for the community of Catholics who are working together to divest of fossil fuels and invest in climate solutions. Of course, the opportunity for in-person events all but disappeared in 2020, but that has not stopped those leading the discussion on Catholic climate action.

Pivoting plans and meetings to virtual settings, many of our collaborators have continued fostering fruitful conversations. In September, several organizations, including FSM's collaborators at the Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM), Operation Noah, and Trocaire, joined together to host a webinar session discussing Catholic organizations' opportunities to divest from fossil fuels

and support the recovery from COVID-19. "Part Two" of this webinar series was hosted in October by FSM's collaborators at the Catholic Impact Investing Collaborative, featuring a robust discussion on Catholic impact investing, and it was attended by over 230 guests from around the world. A screenshot of this virtual session is pictured below.



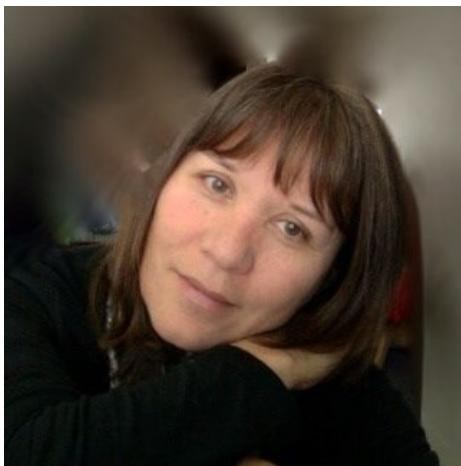
Great Rivers Environmental Law Center continues to support environmental justice in St. Louis

Our friends at Great Rivers Environmental Law Center haven't skipped a beat during these tumultuous times. Through their Environmental Justice program, Great Rivers works alongside communities of color and low-income communities to reduce the unfair burdens of environmental harm so often placed in their neighborhoods. Great Rivers partners with community representatives to advocate for the well-being of all, especially through monitoring permits and advocating for more inclusive permitting processes where the community voices are truly heard. A recent example of this work is a complaint GRELC filed in early September on behalf of Dutchtown South Community Corporation, the NAACP Missouri State Conference and the NAACP St. Louis City Branch about the continued permitting of pollution in St. Louis neighbor-

hoods without community input. (Pictured below is one such permitted polluter, the Kinder Morgan Transmix facility, a gas and diesel fuel company located in South STL.) Another aspect of GRELC's EJ Program is collaborating on educational opportunities for the STL community. GRELC plans to host a virtual screening and discussion on the movie Atomic Homefront early in the new year – stay tuned for more info.



Dr. Cecilia Martinez named to TIME's list of the 100 Most Influential People of 2020



We were thrilled to see our friend Dr. Cecilia Martinez named to TIME Magazine's list of The 100 Most Influential People of 2020. Dr. Cecilia Martinez is the co-founder and Executive Director of the Center for Earth, Energy, and Democracy and a leader of the Midwest Environmental Justice Network. In her TIME profile, New Jersey Senator Cory Booker describes Dr. Martinez's "indispensable work on behalf of communities that have long suffered from the burden of pollution" as part of "a movement for human dignity and for our collective future." Dr. Martinez's leadership was critical in the collaborative effort which

brought environmental justice leaders and national environmental advocates together to develop and promote the Equitable and Just National Climate Platform, a set of bold and equitable national climate policy goals. Dr. Martinez was also named as one of six members of the Biden campaign's Climate Advisory Council.

Environmental Racism in St. Louis Virtual Event Series

Last year, with the support of the Washington University Interdisciplinary Environmental Clinic, community leaders from Arch City Defenders, Action STL, Sierra Club, and Dutchtown South Community Corporation worked together to release the first-ever Environmental Racism in St. Louis report. This report synthesized how issues like air pollution, illegal dumping, mold, lead poisoning, and more affect different communities in St. Louis, largely showing that the brunt of environmental burdens is shouldered by the Black community. See this coalition's new website for the report's findings and information on the "Environmental Justice Solution Series" virtual events. The public is invited to a virtual community meeting series, which will center stories and input from the community. This series will culminate in a virtual summit on Saturday, No-

vember 14th. See the website for more information at:

www.environmentalracismstl.com



St. Louis Named #1 in Community Gardening

In a recent study which can be found at lawnstarter.com, St. Louis was ranked #1 in community gardening activity per capita and #8 overall in best cities for urban gardening. Congratulations to the many community members, organizations, and collaborations who contributed to this national recognition!

Be present with us

Prayer Request: Please pray for all those who continue to be impacted by COVID-19. Please pray for our collaborators who continue caring for Creation and all those working tirelessly for peace and health in their communities despite challenging circumstances.

"Economy of Francesco" virtual event, November 20th, 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.:

Virtually join the Catholic Impact Investing Collaborative to learn about ways of building a new economy rooted in solidarity and care for our common home. Go to catholicimpact.org/events to find more information and the event registration form.

Prayer Request: Please continue to pray for the full cleanup of radioactive material at the West Lake Landfill and for the protection of the surrounding communities. In August, officials began work to mitigate storm water runoff and collect additional data. Actual removal of the radioactive material is not expected to begin for over a year.

If you have questions or comments about this report, please contact Katie Mangum, Program Associate at (314) 768-1650 or kmangum@fsmonline.org
