
OUR PRESENCE



FSM Mission and Focus

Summer 2020 Quarterly Report

United People Market opens their doors

On July 14, United People Market opened their new, brick-and-mortar storefront in the Wells Goodfellow neighborhood in North St. Louis. We celebrate this milestone as their team continues to bring local, nutritious food to their community—even and especially during the coronavirus pandemic.

To the right, Rev. Audrey Hollis of UP (center) is pictured outside the storefront on opening day with partners from HOSCO. HOSCO is another organization championing local food businesses. FSM

is proud to support both UP and HOSCO as they make St. Louis a better place to live and eat!

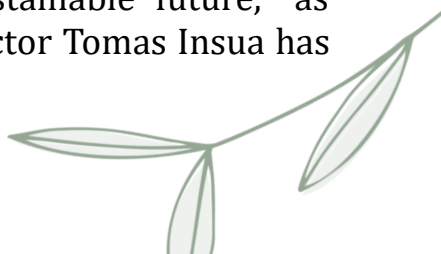


The Vatican calls for divestment from fossil fuels

On June 18, the Vatican released a comprehensive, 225-page document including environmental guidelines for church leaders. Marking the five-year anniversary of the release of the Pope's encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, the document urges the Church to care for our common home in a variety of ways. Most notably, the Vatican calls, for the first time, for Catholic institutions to divest from fossil fuel companies, stating that they are harmful to the environment.

FSM and our collaborators celebrate these definitive calls to action from the Vatican. We especially congratulate our collaborators at the Global Catholic Climate Move-

ment (GCCM), who have worked closely with the Vatican to help shape these guidelines. This formal document was released just a month after a joint announcement of fossil fuel divestment by 42 faith institutions from 14 different countries. This historic effort was a collaboration between GCCM, Operation Noah (another FSM collaborator based in the UK) and several other champions for divestment. We continue to celebrate those "taking prophetic action to light the way towards a more just and sustainable future," as GCCM Executive Director Tomas Insua has said.



Catholics investing for impact

Since its founding in 2014, the Catholic Impact Investing Collaborative (CIIC) has made huge strides creating a community for shared-learning and collaboration in impact investing. Despite the challenges of 2020, it has already been a year of great growth for CIIC.

This year, CIIC established its first-ever full-time staff team. Program Manager Maggie Stohler (below left) and Director of Membership and Partnerships Victoria Carrion (below right) now drive CIIC's efforts forward alongside the Steering Committee.



In April, CIIC announced 15 new signatories to the CIIC Pledge, which represents a commitment to taking meaningful steps toward impact investing in alignment with Catholic Social Teaching. The Pledge now includes a total of 26 signatories from 4 countries and over \$40B in assets.

On May 18, our own John O'Shaughnessy represented CIIC at the JLens Jewish Impact Investing Summit, sharing with their community about Pope Francis' call to an inclusive and equitable economy.

In June, a group of 16 congregations of Dominican sisters, including CIIC pledge signatories the Adrian Dominicans, announced a new \$46M fund initiative focused on climate justice solutions in partnership with Morgan Stanley.

Environmental injustice in the Metro East

Residents of Centreville, IL have long faced the effects of a neglected sewer system, having to clean up contaminated flood waters in and around their homes for decades. Attorneys Kalila Jackson from the Metropolitan Equal Housing and Opportunity Council (EHOC) and Nicole Nelson from Equity Legal Services (ELS) are working tirelessly alongside the Centreville residents committee—the Centreville Citizens for Change—to strategically advocate for the renovation of the sewer system and justice for the community. On June 5, their team filed the first legal case and on July 17, their first informal complaint. In addition, a full-time community organizer has joined the team to assist with the residents' organizing and emergency response efforts. On July 16, the residents and attorney team met, while masked and socially-distanced, with Senator Tami Duckworth to share their experiences and complaints (pictured right). We continue to support the residents' ongoing efforts toward achieving justice for their community.



Chicago Environmental Justice Emergency Fund



In these challenging times, environmental justice leaders in Chicago have been showing us exactly what community looks like—neighbors caring for neighbors despite the most difficult of circumstances. At the start of the pandemic, LVEJO and the Chicago EJ Network launched an Emergency Fund, with the goal of raising \$1 million this year. Through the Fund, they are rapidly supplying resources to the community as well as supporting EJ leaders to continue the important work of organizing and advocating in their communities. The same neighborhoods, such as Little Village, which are the most affected by industrial air pollution and other environmental justice issues are currently being heavily impacted by COVID-19. FSM continues to support this amazing coalition of grassroots leaders, their mutual aid efforts, and their EJ campaigns. Artwork by Josémanuel Hernández Canchola.

Solidarity in South STL

During the pandemic, Dutchtown South Community Corporation's staff has been working remotely but hasn't slowed down at all in their important efforts connecting residents to especially-needed resources, holding community cleanups and organizing for tenants' rights. While the pandemic and recent unemployment has meant more threats of eviction in the neighborhood, DSCC staff member Myisha Johnson has been organizing community members to raise concerns to the attention of local officials and helping residents navigate their housing challenges. In June, DSCC participated in a family march for Black lives, pictured below:



Nourish STL launches a local product line

The pilot launch of the Nourish STL product line in July marked a significant step forward in long-term plans for the STL Food Hub, which seeks to strengthen St. Louis' local food ecosystem by connecting local farmers to institutional buyers.



Rhonda Smythe leads this initiative.

Rhonda partnered with Chef Colleen Clawson of Milque Toast Bar to create an initial line of soups and stews, utilizing local ingredients, under the Nourish STL brand, now available at City Greens Market and Old North Provisions. In our current time of crisis, Nourish STL provides an important new sales outlet for growers as well as an accessible local option for consumers.

FSM Just Culture Fund

We believe that all nonprofit workers should have access to fair compensation and benefits, pathways for shared decision making, opportunities to grow professionally, and the ability to work in a safe, welcoming, and healthy environment – what we call a “Just Culture”. With direct input from our grantees and other partners, we are taking steps to prioritize Just Culture support in our grantmaking. One of those steps was piloting a small grants fund dedicated to individual or organizational health needs among some of our grantees. Over the past three months, FSM awarded 13 small grants to a pilot group of grantees, who designated their own priorities for promoting a Just Culture in their organization. Grantees allocated their funds toward a variety of important efforts such as: leadership coaching, mental health resources for staff, professional development, racial equity training, remote working technology, and HR policy development.



STL Mutual Aid Fund

At the onset of the pandemic, Solidarity Economy St. Louis launched a mutual aid fund to serve those in need in the St. Louis area. Through a network of volunteers and donors, the fund has since redistributed over \$380,000 and other resources such as transportation and mental health support to over 660 people. This is just one example of the ways the Solidarity Economy network, comprised of local businesses and grassroots organizations, seeks to build a more equitable, inclusive economy for St. Louis. Pictured above is mutual aid leader Jacqui Rogers on FOX 2 News in May.

Be present with us

Prayer Request: Please continue to pray for all those impacted by COVID-19. Please also pray for our collaborators who seek to continue caring for Creation under new and extra challenging circumstances. Remember—even during this time apart, we are all connected.

Check out the new Midwest Environmental Justice Network (MWEJN) website: You can now visit our collaborators’ website at www.mwejn.org for more information on their work supporting environmental justice in the region.

Season of Creation: Each year, the Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM) helps plan the ecumenical celebration of the Season of Creation, which will be recognized worldwide from September 1st to October 4th. Find virtual events and more information at www.seasonofcreation.org. See attached for the 2020 Season of Creation Prayer.

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