

# OUR PRESENCE

FSM Mission and Focus  
Winter 2019 Quarterly Report

## Growing relationships for global impact

Over the past few months, momentum has been growing in the Catholic impact investing community, especially in Europe. In October, John made appearances at key events in Amsterdam and London to share about faith-based investing, the FSM story, and the growing Catholic Impact Investing Collaborative (CIIC). In the same week, CIIC hosted its first European gathering at the House of Lords in London, launched a Catholic Impact Investing Pledge, and announced plans to host a Summit in September 2020. The CIIC Pledge, which signifies Catholic investors commit to take meaningful and accountable steps to incorporate impact investment into their portfolios, now has six signatories representing over \$40 billion in assets and another six signatories to be announced in early 2020. Due to growing interest in CIIC among key partners and Church leaders, John returned to Europe in November. This time spending a week in Rome, John continued strengthening key relationships at the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. We're grateful for these growing collaborations in promoting faith-based investing in the Church and other institutions. 2020 promises to be another exciting year of growth for CIIC and the international attention on impact investing!



*John speaks at the Global Impact Investing Network Forum in Amsterdam.*

*John at the Vatican, outside the Dicastery for Integral Human Development.*



*Jake Barnett and John await their guests at the House of Lords in London.*

## FSM celebrates with MCE on their 50th anniversary



On November 2, several from the FSM family attended the **Missouri Coalition for the Environment's** 50th anniversary "Uprising Gala" at the Missouri Botanical Gardens' Ridgway Center—the very place where MCE began. The night featured many friendly faces, food, music and a special photo opportunity—on the left, see Sisters Sherri and Judy in the Mississippi River canoe "the Junebug". Jean Ponzi emceed for the evening and Executive Director Heather Navarro walked us through

the significant history of MCE. Special time was taken to honor some of MCE's most distinguished partners: former MO Department of Natural Resources leader Stephen Mahfood, and environmental champions Kay Drey and her late husband Leo.

## LVEJO recognized as finalist for the Chicago Prize

Residents of Little Village have long dreamed and planned for the creation of a hub for the countless food entrepreneurs and family businesses in their community. In partnership with the Delta Institute, another Chicago-based environmental nonprofit, LVEJO has drafted plans to renovate an old fire station and turn it into a community-owned cooperative hub, including a commercial kitchen, retail storefront and space for the many neighborhood food-cart businesses to grow. As a finalist, LVEJO has been awarded \$100,000 and remains in the running for the \$10M prize, to be awarded in Spring 2020. LVEJO Executive Director Kim Wasserman is quoted in a PRNewswire article:

*"We want a fighting chance to show what a local economy looks like—a community hub and food-cart cooperative that supports economic empowerment and food access in Little Village. We do not want an extractive economy that fuels gentrification and displacement."*

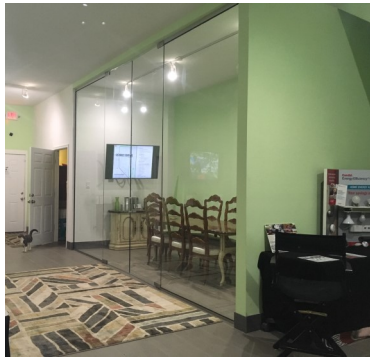
Please keep the LVEJO team and this blossoming community project in your prayers.



*The vacant Chicago Fire Station, 2358 S. Whipple.*



## The Green Living Room opens for business



On October 1, the Green Living Room opened its doors in West Woodlawn - a primarily black neighborhood in Chicago. Opening the Green Living Room is the latest project of one of FSM's newer Chicago collaborators: Blacks In Green, an organization led by innovator Naomi Davis. Blacks in Green exists to educate, inspire and equip African-Americans to build green, self-sustaining, self-owned and walkable communities. The Green Living Room, in the heart of the neighborhoods they serve, features a conference room, set of community computers, relaxed gathering space, a panelist stage, a cafe and a pollinator garden. It is the ideal spot for collaborators to gather, share information, dream, and do business together.

## *Live Laudato Si'* reaches more Irish congregations

Our collaborators at Trocaire, the Irish Bishops' development organization, continue to spread the message of care for creation throughout Ireland. Leaders of Trocaire's *Live Laudato Si'* campaign, Lorna Gold and Jane Meffett held over 30 events and engaged 11 Irish dioceses during the Season of Creation. Jane even delivered a guest message on Laudato Si' to over 10,000 parishioners at a Novena gathering in October. The Trocaire team continues to help equip congregations as they divest from fossil fuels and engage with the call of to care for creation. Six dioceses, including the Diocese of Dublin, have pledged to divest so far and interest continues to grow.

## Catholic Energies completes a 5,000-panel project

This year has been a milestone for Catholic Energies—the project of Catholic Climate Covenant which allows Catholic institutions to access solar energy at no cost. Growing from about two dozen to nearly 100 projects on their docket over the course of the year, Catholic Energies is rightfully drawing attention from the Church and numerous Catholic organizations across the country. Their team just completed a 5,000-panel project outside Washington D.C. in partnership with Catholic Charities, pictured right.



## Double Up Food Bucks by the numbers

As our four-year collaboration on the Double Up Food Bucks program comes to a close, we reflect on its significant impact. DUFB provided incentives to SNAP recipients for purchasing fresh fruits and vegetables in the Kansas City and St. Louis regions. The DUFB team initially faced challenges getting the word out, but through perseverance and collaboration with community-based organizers and local partners, the program ultimately reached thousands of families in our region.



*65 farmers markets participated from 2016 to 2019*

*96 grocery stores participated from 2016 to 2019*

*\$75,000 in incentives spent at farmers markets in 2019*

*\$26,000 in incentives spent at small retailers in 2019*

*90,000 Missouri SNAP households contacted*

*An estimated \$2.1 million in total economic impact*

## Looking for more ways to engage?

**Prayer Request:** Please continue to pray for progress at the Westlake Landfill as the EPA enters a new phase of groundwater testing. Please pray for key community leaders, Dawn Chapman and Karen Nickel, as they pursue thorough and expedient clean up.

**Place to Visit:** Our collaborators at City Greens Market sell healthy, local foods year-round in the Forest Park Southeast neighborhood. They are located at 4260 Manchester Avenue, 63110 and are open weekly Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Sunday from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

**Upcoming Event:** Community Agriculture Conference hosted by Gateway Greening. February 23rd at the International Institute St. Louis (3401 Arsenal Street, 63118). Tickets \$15. Contact Katie for more information.

Read the new **2019 St. Louis Regional Food Study**, just released by the Missouri Coalition for the Environment. Find the updated report at [moenvironment.org](http://moenvironment.org)

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