



Care for the Earth, Care for the Poor

Sample Letter

This Resource is adapted from Catholics Confront Global Poverty:
<https://www.crs.org/sites/default/files/usops-resources/tips-for-writing-effective-letters-for-your-letters-of-congress.pdf>

Father _____
Parish Leadership Team
_____ Parish
Full Street Address
City, State, Zip

Dear Father _____,

My name is _____, and I am a member of _____ Parish. I am deeply concerned about climate change and care for God's creation. I recently attended Care for the Earth, Care for the Poor: A Laudato Si' Summit, which was sponsored by the Archdiocese of Seattle Missions Office and other Catholic organizations. It began with a very special blessing by Archbishop Sartain. I am inspired by the message of Laudato Si', Pope Francis' encyclical on the call to care both for God's creation and for all of God's people, especially the poor and vulnerable who are most affected by climate change and environmental destruction.

I am very grateful for the support you have shown for the poor and the vulnerable. I would be interested in meeting with you to discuss some of the ideas I learned at the Summit and how we could commit to creation care in the spirit of Laudato Si'. I would also like to ask you how _____ Parish can develop its role as a leader in cultivating creation care in our community.

Thank you for your attention to these issues. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,
Sign your name
Mailing address and other contact information



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Tips for an Effective Letter

Writing a Letter to Your Parish

STEP ONE: RELAX

- You don't have to be an expert on the issue. The fact that you care about the issue and the people affected by it is enough.

STEP TWO: LOCATE YOURSELF

- First and foremost, state that you are a parishioner.
- List any organization that you represent or are a member of: for example, parish council, Social Concerns Committee, etc.
- Let them know you attended the Laudato Si' Summit.

STEP THREE: KEEP IT SHORT

- Be concise and limit your letter to one page if possible.
- After identifying yourself as a parishioner, identify the issue you're concerned about. Consider including something you learned at the Summit.

STEP FOUR; JUST BE YOURSELF

- Be sure to state why this issue matters to you, and how your faith is calling you to respond to climate change. What did you learn or discern at the Summit? Do you have a personal story that moves you to act? Including a personal story makes your letter more compelling.

STEP FIVE: THE ASK

- What do you want your parish leaders to do? Be clear and specific – for example, “begin a creation care ministry” OR “offer consistent preaching and programming related to creation care.”
- Offer to meet with your pastoral leadership and become a leader in this initiative and share your enthusiasm. As a member of you parish, you can become a leader in your community!

OTHER HELPFUL TIPS

- Check to see what is already being done on creation care, and thank parish leadership for their efforts.
- Use the appropriate address and salutation.
- Be polite. Place the best possible interpretation on others. Do not attack anyone.
- Write legibly if you are handwriting your letter.
- Be sure to proofread your letter for any mistakes or typos.
- Schedule a time to follow up if you do not receive a response.