

Description of St. Peter's Partnership with the ADW Office of Social Concerns

This new partnership with the Catholic community, aims to educate the St. Peter's 6th and 7th grade students about the correlation between the green initiatives taking place at St. Peter's School and their obligation to the Catholic faith by being better stewards of our common home, Earth.

For our inaugural partnering session, a representative from the ADW's Office of Social Concerns visited the school to talk to the 6th graders about *Laudato Si'* (Pope Francis's call to all humankind to be better stewards of the earth and each other).

Prior to the visit, 6th and 7th grade students prepared by watching *The Letter*, a documentary explaining the Pope's call to care for the earth (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rps9bs85BI>).

During their visit and presentation of *Care for Creation by Working Together to End the Climate Crisis*, they discussed with the 6th grade classes what they learned by watching *The Letter* and ways that the students can help fulfill the Pope's call to action (the 7th graders unfortunately ended up not being able to make it).

The intent is to have the ADW visit every other year to talk with the 6th and 7th grade classes.



Margaret Giron <margaret.giron@gmail.com>

Some resources for young people on care for creation

1 message

Mitchell, Ian <Mitchelli@adw.org>
To: Margaret Giron <margaret.giron@gmail.com>

Thu, Oct 19, 2023 at 3:14 PM

Margaret,

The following may not be very helpful for your immediate task with the MD Green School Certification application, but I'm sending some resources in case helpful for other conversations you are in.

I've attached a compilation of links of resources around both Catholic teaching in the encyclical *Laudato Si'* and also about young people and ecology more generally. Some of these resources from a very reputable Catholic "think tank" called the Catholic Climate Covenant, which also recommends ecology resources for kids from a service called The Pastoral Center.

The compilation is from a volunteer at Holy Trinity Church in Georgetown – John Hisle. John and several parishioners at that parish have been working with their school and church religious education programs to better integrate ecological education and spirituality, including as taught by Pope Francis in *Laudato Si'*. In time, it may be worth thinking about connecting you and others at St. Peter's (perhaps the Scout leader you mentioned) with John and folks at Holy Trinity to see how this works best.

Finally, just for your own background, you can find both the text of Pope Francis' recent follow-up teaching to *Laudato Si'* linked on this page from the Vatican's Department of Integral Human Development, along with a helpful 3-minute summary video. An article from the *Washington Post* will provide a more main-stream view on this new shorter statement from Francis that builds on his more substantial 2015 teaching in *Laudato Si'*.

I look forward to being in touch next week on any other updates.

Ian



Ian Mitchell

Director, Office of Social Concerns

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington

Post Office Box 29260, Washington, DC 20017

301-853-4567 (Office) - mitchelli@adw.org



Margaret Giron <margaret.giron@gmail.com>

RE: St. Peter's - MD Green School certification

Mitchell, Ian <Mitchelli@adw.org>

Thu, Nov 2, 2023 at 4:37 PM

To: Margaret Giron <margaret.giron@gmail.com>

Cc: Nelson Abreu <nelson.abreu@stpetersolney.org>, Lauren DeZinno <Lauren.DeZinno@stpetersolney.org>

Hello Margaret,

I spoke with my colleague, and we concur with St. Peter's suggestion of speaking with the 6th and 7th graders during their morning classes. Both November 30th and December 7th could work for us, but we are inclined to go with **November 30th** to make sure we get this completed as soon as possible.

The person who will accompany me is a young woman named Emma Mitchell (no relation), a fairly recent graduate of Loyola University Chicago who also recently completed a year of service in D.C. with the Capuchin Volunteer Corps. Emma is employed at a Catholic social research center at Georgetown University, and is a fellow with the recently launched Common Home Corps – a young adult advocacy initiative of the Catholic Climate Covenant. I think her perspective as a young leader of faith active on the climate change crisis will add to the presentation.

One question – can the school confirm that there are no further requirements or permissions needed for outside speakers coming to the school. I just want to be prepared for any boxes speakers visiting the school need to check in advance.

Thanks for your summary relating to St. Peter's Green School Initiative. These points will be helpful for presentation planning by Emma and me.

I look forward to hearing if we are set for the morning of November 30th.

Ian

**Ian Mitchell**

Director, Office of Social Concerns

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington

Post Office Box 29260, Washington, DC 20017

301-853-4567 (Office) - mitchelli@adw.org

From: Margaret Giron <margaret.giron@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2023 9:57 PM
To: Mitchell, Ian <MitchellI@adw.org>
Cc: Nelson Abreu <nelson.abreu@stpetersolney.org>; Lauren DeZinno <Lauren.DeZinno@stpetersolney.org>
Subject: Re: St. Peter's - MD Green School certification

Thanks, Ian. Were you able to pin down a date with your colleague?

Regarding our green initiative activities, I am working on trying to get these summarized on our Green Team's website:

<https://stpetershsb.membershiptoolkit.com/story/392295>

I just built the site a few weeks ago, and still have a lot of information to add such as a page all about Laudato Si' and a page that's all about our students' green projects. Below is a short summary of our student-driven projects that the 6th and 7th graders should be familiar with, if you want to reference them in your presentation. You don't have to go into a lot of detail, but it would be nice just to make the connection that part of the reason the school is trying to be more sustainable is because the Pope has asked people to do so.

- The middle school students and the Environmental Club have been planning to plant a rain Garden in the space next to the benches (Planting later this fall)
- The Environmental Club made and hung "Turn out the Lights" Signs for each classroom's light switches
- All students collected markers, pens and other plastic writing utensils at the end of last school year that were donated to Staples for recycling
- Each classroom has Recycling Bins for paper and commingled materials
- The students have asked for and are helping to establish and maintain our Outdoor Learning Spaces (picnic tables, benches). They are also encouraged to spend time outside as much as possible- eating lunch, praying, having class parties, science labs, DEAR (reading) time, etc.
- Last year, students created "No Idle Zone" posters that they displayed in the school parking lot to encourage parents to turn their cars off during dismissal
- We will be holding a Walk & Roll to School Week, November 6-9, where students are encouraged to find alternate ways to get to school like riding a bike, walking, carpooling, etc.
- We are just finishing up a reusable bag drive for the Olney Farmer's Market
- We have water bottle filling water fountains to reduce usage of single-use plastic bottles

Please let me know if you have any additional questions!

Thanks,

Margaret

On Mon, Oct 23, 2023 at 10:19 AM Mitchell, Ian <MitchellI@adw.org> wrote:

Margaret,

Thanks for your note and the conversation late last week.

I will check with my colleague about your proposal of November 30th or December 7th and hope to get back to you by mid-week. I spoke with her on Friday, and we agreed that speaking to smaller groups of 6th and 7th grade students in their classes would be a higher quality conversation if possible, so I am glad that the staff agree with this approach.

One quick question. You mention relating the Archdiocese's Laudato Si' Action Plan to St. Peter's School Green Initiative. I searched on the internet and can see placeholder pages for this on the school's website, but it looks like these have not yet been finished. If you have anything written up or outlined for the school's Green Initiative that would be helpful to see. I don't believe I have received anything along these lines yet.

I will be back in touch later this week to confirm if one of those two dates will work for us.

Ian



Ian Mitchell

Director, Office of Social Concerns

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington

Post Office Box 29260, Washington, DC 20017

301-853-4567 (Office) - mitchelli@adw.org

From: Margaret Giron <margaret.giron@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, October 22, 2023 5:30 PM

To: Mitchell, Ian <MitchellI@adw.org>

Cc: Nelson Abreu <nelson.abreu@stpetersolney.org>; Lauren DeZinno <Lauren.DeZinno@stpetersolney.org>

Subject: Re: St. Peter's - MD Green School certification

Ian,

I spoke with Mr. Abreu and our school librarian, Mrs. Cotter, this past Friday. Mrs. Cotter will try to show the video *The Letter* to her 6th & 7th grade classes over the next month; however, due to the current school/holiday schedule, she may not be able to fit the entire video in *prior* to your visit, but will finish it as the schedule permits.

We are hoping that you (and your colleague?) are available either November 30th or December 7th to come speak to the 6th & 7th graders in their library classes. That would be 4 different classes starting roughly at 8:45am and ending at 11:45am. Each class is 40 minutes long. Alternatively, we could try to combine 2 or maybe all 4 of the classes together for more of an assembly-style presentation, but the individual class discussion format is preferred by the school. Would that work for you?

Also, FYI, the phrase *Laudato Si'* will be new to most of our students. Our elementary and middle school religion class curriculum certainly teaches the students about the importance of being good stewards of God's creation, but the students have not necessarily been taught the specifics of *Laudato Si'* or the Dicastery's markers laid out in Cardinal Gregory's action plan. You had asked previously what should be accomplished in your first presentation; may I suggest you introduce *Laudato Si'* and the 7 markers, and get the students to discuss the importance of this initiative and how it relates to their participation in Saint Peter's own Green initiative.

I hope this helps you in preparing for your visit! Again, thank you for your time on the phone last week, and please reach out with any further questions. Please let me know if either of those 2 dates will work for your presentation.

Thank you!

Margaret

On Tue, Oct 10, 2023 at 1:00 PM Mitchell, Ian <Mitchelli@adw.org> wrote:

Nelson and Margaret,

Thanks to you both for your notes.

I do think it will be important to arrange a Zoom meeting as soon as possible between myself, a teacher representative (science/religion), Margaret (to the extent coordinating application for state certification) and perhaps either Nelson or Ms. DeZinno. That will help us address a few important points:

- What needs to be accomplished in this 1st presentation?
- Is it preferable to limit the 1st presentation to a couple of grades or does it need to be wider? (Nelson's sharing that grades 6 & 7 alone will be 92 students makes me think this is preferable.)
- What current or recent studies or projects around ecology or Catholic social teaching and the environment have the students experienced?
- At least for grades 6 & 7, it would seem that watching the free Vatican produced documentary "The Letter" on YouTube in advance of a presentation would provide helpful context so students are not coming cold to a presentation relating to Pope Francis' teaching in *Laudato Si'* and our local Action Plan in the Archdiocese. (Simple free online registration is possible for group showings of "The Letter".)
- In this Zoom meeting we might briefly discuss the future outlook for the Archdiocese's support for St. Peter's MD Green School Certification. As Margaret says, we could follow up after I visit for more detailed planning about an annual Archdiocesan visit and the role it could play with other activities you might be considering. But it would be good to have a sense now of what we are trying to kick-off with this 1st presentation.

I should be able to work with you to schedule a visit/presentation in October or November, but **would love to get this Zoom planning meeting scheduled soon** so we don't run into challenges as Thanksgiving approaches, etc. **I can provide the Zoom link if the St. Peter's group can suggest to me 3 or 4 times you could all make.**

Ian



Ian Mitchell

Director, Office of Social Concerns

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington

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301-853-4567 (Office) - mitchelli@adw.org

From: Margaret Giron <margaret.giron@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 11:15 AM

To: Mitchell, Ian <Mitchelli@adw.org>

Cc: Lauren DeZinno <Lauren.DeZinno@stpetersolney.org>; Nelson Abreu <nelson.abreu@stpetersolney.org>
Subject: Re: St. Peter's - MD Green School certification

Thanks, Ian!

I can't speak to most of your questions, but can confirm that either October or November would be acceptable timeframes for the presentation.

Perhaps after the presentation is over, we all can discuss a plan for how we can establish this as an *ongoing* partnership for our subsequent recertifications. Maybe an annual or bi-annual presentation; and/or project? Concurrent or staggered. etc. We can discuss later for sure, but wanted to plant the seed now, as you're preparing your presentation, just in case it is helpful for you to know now that there will be the opportunity for future presentations.

Also, I am happy to zoom anytime as deemed appropriate by Mr. Abreu and Ms. DeZinno.

Thanks again!

Margaret

On Tue, Oct 10, 2023 at 10:56 AM Nelson Abreu <Nelson.Abreu@stpetersolney.org> wrote:

Thank you for your email.

There is no issue with restricting the presentation to our 6th and 7th graders. This would be 92 students in total.

I will check with the Science and Religion teachers regarding what they have already been taught about the subject. Once I know, I will be able to get something scheduled.

Thanks,

Nelson

Mr. Nelson Abreu

Vice Principal

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www.stpetersschoololney.org

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From: Mitchell, Ian <Mitchelli@adw.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 5:14 PM
To: Nelson Abreu <Nelson.Abreu@stpetersolney.org>
Cc: Margaret Giron <margaret.giron@gmail.com>; Lauren DeZinno <Lauren.DeZinno@stpetersolney.org>
Subject: RE: St. Peter's - MD Green School certification

Hi Mr. Abreu,

Good to speak with you on Monday. We will get an Archdiocesan visit to the school scheduled – thanks for the patience from you and the team.

I do have a few questions to help me line up an appropriate presentation:

- An earlier suggestion of speaking with grades 4-8 was suggested to me. Honestly – that seems daunting to me, both in terms of number of students and knowing what age range and level of understanding to target the talk to.
 - How many students total would be in grades 4-8?
 - Is there a need for all of these grades to have a talk to meet the MD application guidelines? If so, might it make sense to do two smaller consecutive talks on the same day?
- Is there a staff contact person I could speak with? It would be very helpful to understand how informed the students are on the topic of Care for Creation. Has this been in their curriculum? Have they been doing activities?
 - If there has not been much prep yet, I wonder if any thought has been given to having the students watch the Vatican assisted movie “[The Letter](#)” available on YouTube (maybe better for the older grades – 6-8?). It does a great job of weaving actual stories with Pope Francis’ teaching from *Laudato Si’*. There is a website from the Vatican or *Laudato Si’* movement where groups/schools can do simple registration to show the movie to large groups.
- I understand you have time restrictions for your application process to the state. What is the timeline within which the presentation must be made. I am hoping we can line it up in October, but would it work at all if it needs to happen in early November.

Again, I think we may make progress most quickly if I could have a conversation with a someone on staff with knowledge of the student’s preparation or what might be possible with classes before the talk. Perhaps we can have a Zoom meeting with a teacher and maybe Ms. Giron too. I am looking for someone who might be able to join me in making a visit and offering a presentation. I have in mind a woman who works at another parish in Montgomery County and is very informed on environmental justice. If I can confirm that I would have her join the meeting too. We can then get a date on the calendar.

I look forward to hearing who may be best to join me in a planning Zoom meeting.

Thanks,

Ian

Ian Mitchell

Director, Office of Social Concerns

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington

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From: Nelson Abreu <Nelson.Abreu@stpetersolney.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 1:59 PM

To: Mitchell, Ian <Mitchell@adw.org>
Cc: Margaret Giron <margaret.giron@gmail.com>; Lauren DeZinno <Lauren.DeZinno@stpetersolney.org>
Subject: Re: St. Peter's - MD Green School certification

Mr. Mitchell,

Thank you for the phone call the other day. You mentioned you have some questions regarding the presentation for us. Please let me know what you need so we can get this on the calendar.

Thanks,

Nelson

Mr. Nelson Abreu

Vice Principal

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From: Nelson Abreu <Nelson.Abreu@stpetersolney.org>
Sent: Monday, October 2, 2023 2:15 PM
To: Mitchell, Ian <Mitchell@adw.org>
Cc: Margaret Giron <margaret.giron@gmail.com>; Lauren DeZinno <Lauren.DeZinno@stpetersolney.org>
Subject: Re: St. Peter's - MD Green School certification

Mr. Mitchell,

I am emailing again in hopes of being able to schedule a visit with our students. I left a voicemail with my cellphone number. We have a time constraint as we are establishing a partnership with the ADW and it is a component of our application to become a "Green School."

I look forward to hearing from you.

Cell: 301 346-2070

Nelson Abreu

Mr. Nelson Abreu

Vice Principal

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From: Nelson Abreu <Nelson.Abreu@stpetersolney.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 3:13 PM
To: Mitchell, Ian <MitchellI@adw.org>
Cc: Margaret Giron <margaret.giron@gmail.com>; Lauren DeZinno <Lauren.DeZinno@stpetersolney.org>
Subject: Re: St. Peter's - MD Green School certification

Mr. Mitchell,

I pray that you have had a great summer. I was hoping to confirm a date for your visit at St. Peter's School. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you,

Nelson Abreu

Mr. Nelson Abreu

Vice Principal

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From: Mitchell, Ian <MitchellI@adw.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 9:43 AM
To: Nelson Abreu <Nelson.Abreu@stpetersolney.org>
Cc: Margaret Giron <margaret.giron@gmail.com>; Lauren DeZinno <Lauren.DeZinno@stpetersolney.org>
Subject: RE: St. Peter's - MD Green School certification

Hello Nelson,

Thanks for your collaboration on planning. We can get a date for September confirmed soon. I'll plan to call your cell phone at 12:30 today just to check in briefly.

Ian

Ian Mitchell

Director, Office of Social Concerns

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington

Post Office Box 29260, Washington, DC 20017

301-853-4567 (Office) - mitchelli@adw.org

From: Nelson Abreu <Nelson.Abreu@stpetersolney.org>

Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 8:42 AM

To: Mitchell, Ian <Mitchelli@adw.org>

Cc: Margaret Giron <margaret.giron@gmail.com>; Lauren DeZinno <Lauren.DeZinno@stpetersolney.org>

Subject: Re: St. Peter's - MD Green School certification

We would love to get you on the schedule for September 1st for next school year. I spoke with Mrs. Giron and we would be okay with having the presentation next year. Let me know if you would still like to talk today at 12:30. My cellphone number is 301 346-2070.

Mr. Nelson Abreu

Interim Principal

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From: Mitchell, Ian <Mitchelli@adw.org>

Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 5:05 PM

To: Nelson Abreu <Nelson.Abreu@stpetersolney.org>

Subject: RE: St. Peter's - MD Green School certification

Hi Nelson,

Thanks for the follow-up, and sorry I was not able to get back to you last week.

If possible, it will be great if you and I can plan a time to speak this week and we can chart a way forward.

Here are some times this week that could work for me. Please suggest one or two of these that would be good for you.

- Tomorrow, Tuesday, 4/25 after 12:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, 4/26 at 4:00 p.m.
- Friday, 4/28 before 11:00 a.m. or after 3:00 p.m.
- Monday, 5/1 anytime

I'm sure your days are busy, but if we can get on the phone for 15 minutes or so we can probably get closer to a plan. One question I would be grateful if you can look into before-hand. Is a presentation this school year absolutely necessary to the MD Green School application? If not, I would suggest we could plan more effectively for programming during the church's Season of Creation from Sept. 1 (World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation) and October 4 (Feast of St. Francis of Assisi).

I look forward to speaking with you soon.

Thanks,

Ian

Ian Mitchell

Director, Office of Social Concerns

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington

Post Office Box 29260, Washington, DC 20017

301-853-4567 (Office) - mitchelli@adw.org

From: Nelson Abreu <Nelson.Abreu@stpetersolney.org>

Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 11:29 AM

To: Mitchell, Ian <MitchellI@adw.org>

Subject: Re: St. Peter's - MD Green School certification

Hope you had a great weekend. We have flexibility in our schedule with the meeting but am worried about waiting too long as the end of the year will come quickly. Please let me know if there is a time which will work for you.

Thank you!

Nelson

Mr. Nelson Abreu

Interim Principal

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From: Nelson Abreu <Nelson.Abreu@stpetersolney.org>

Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 10:01 AM

To: Mitchell, Ian <MitchellI@adw.org>
Subject: Re: St. Peter's - MD Green School certification

Hello, Ian,

I pray you had a blessed Easter.

I am circling back to see if we could get something on our calendar. I was hoping you could speak with students in grades 4-8. We can accommodate any Wednesday or Thursday morning.

Please let me know and thank you in advance!

Nelson

Mr. Nelson Abreu

Interim Principal

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From: Mitchell, Ian <MitchellI@adw.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 2:19 PM
To: Nelson Abreu <Nelson.Abreu@stpetersolney.org>
Cc: Margaret Giron <margaret.giron@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: St. Peter's - MD Green School certification

Hello Nelson,

I am happy to think with you and the team at St. Peter's about the best shape and timing of a presentation related to our Catholic mission and care for creation.

In terms of timing, I can be reasonably flexible to what works for the school community. My office is on Eastern Avenue between DC and Hyattsville, but I live in Alexandria, VA. I am usually in the office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Of those days, Tuesday mornings or afternoons and Thursday mornings might present the most convenient time to visit your school. But I could also work out to be with you on a Wednesday afternoon or Friday morning or afternoon if that presented a particular advantage. **It is worth keeping in mind that Earth Day is Saturday, April 22 (so a Friday gathering could make sense), and Catholics are increasingly marking the Season of Creation from September 1 – October 4 (the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi).** The following Tuesdays or Thursdays might work, and would avoid Holy Week.

- Tuesday 3/14 a.m. or p.m.
- Thursday 3/16 a.m.

- Tuesday 3/21 a.m. or p.m.

- Thursday 3/23 a.m.

- Tuesday 3/28 a.m. or p.m.
- Thursday 3/30 a.m.

- Thursday 4/13 a.m.

- Tuesday 4/18 a.m. or p.m.
- Thursday 4/20 a.m.
- Friday 4/21 (day before Earth Day)

Before pinning down a date firmly, it might also be good to think more about the audience – perhaps speaking with Margaret Giron and/or a teacher on staff interested in ecology, theology, earth science in general and care for creation about which school programs might relate most closely to the topic and which groups/grades of students might be most receptive. Off the top of my head, I am wondering if this is possibly more a topic for older grades – perhaps 6-8 – or maybe some subset of students like an environmental club.

As to timing, I know long presentations are often challenging for young people, and would be happy to be guided by the school staff. I might check with a couple of allied Catholic environmental organizations in the area and see if I can find a staff person who might provide some balance/variety to me as a presenter and who could join me as a co-presenter to break things up a bit.

I wonder if the best idea is for you or Margaret to think about a staff person who may be the best partner in this process, and then for us to arrange a planning Zoom meeting – maybe later next week or after that.

Happy to hear your thoughts.

Ian

Ian Mitchell

Director, Office of Social Concerns

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From: Nelson Abreu <Nelson.Abreu@stpetersolney.org>

Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 11:19 AM

To: Margaret Giron <margaret.giron@gmail.com>; Mitchell, Ian <MitchellI@adw.org>

Subject: Re: St. Peter's School and MD Green School certification

Thank you, Ian! This is great news. I am sorry I missed your call back.

Let us know a couple days/times of availability and we will work around your schedule. If you could also let us know how long you would like to talk and if you have a preference on which grades participate.

We appreciate your help.

Nelson Abreu

Mr. Nelson Abreu

Interim Principal

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From: Margaret Giron <margaret.giron@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2023 5:31 PM
To: Mitchell, Ian <MitchellI@adw.org>
Cc: Nelson Abreu <Nelson.Abreu@stpetersolney.org>
Subject: Re: St. Peter's School and MD Green School certification

Ian, this is excellent news!! Thank you! And I appreciate the information on the Baltimore area Green Schools. I will definitely let you know if I have any questions or need further information.

Let me discuss with Mr. Abreu a good date for you to come speak at St. Peter's. Do you have any days/times limitations?

Regarding documentation of our partnership, I plan to use our email conversations to describe the partnership goals, and will take photos during your presentation. I think that should suffice.

Again, thank you for your help in this matter; we will get back to you soon with some viable dates for us.

Margaret

On Mon, Feb 27, 2023 at 4:23 PM Mitchell, Ian <MitchellI@adw.org> wrote:

Hello Margaret,

My sincere apologies for the delay in responding to you on this matter of St. Peter's and MD Green School Certification.

When we were in touch early in the winter, it took me longer than I had hoped to connect with our Office of Catholic Schools (I was still relatively new, and they are administratively quite separate from our other offices). Then, unfortunately, when you wrote in late January I was heading into a conference for several days and simply missed your message.

However, I have good news. I understand from our Catholic Schools Office that there should be no problem with St. Peter's School applying for the certification. I was in touch with Denise Ball, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, and she is familiar with the Green Schools certification program. She was formerly on staff with the schools of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, and indicates that several schools in that network successfully participated, and might even serve as models or mentors as you go along if needed. The schools she mentioned are listed below.

- Archbishop Spalding High School
- [Resurrection St. Paul Catholic School](#)
- [St. John the Evangelist, Severna Park](#)
- [St. Mary's Catholic School, Annapolis](#)

I would also be happy to visit St. Peter's School to offer a presentation on Pope Francis' teaching on Care for Creation in Laudato 'Si, and how students can help us implement the archdiocese's Laudato 'Si Action Plan. We can certainly work on scheduling that in coming weeks/months. Just let me know if you need other documentation of my agreement to that for the purposes of your application and I can prepare a short note of agreement on letterhead and email that over to you.

Let me know if a call with you and/or Principal Abreu would help. Also let me know if you need further information from Denise Ball in the Catholic Schools Office and I can connect you to her, as I am sure Principal Abreu can too.

I look forward to hearing how we can proceed.

Best regards,

Ian

Ian Mitchell

Director, Office of Social Concerns

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington

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301-853-4567 (Office) - mitchelli@adw.org

From: Margaret Giron <margaret.giron@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2023 2:14 PM
To: Mitchell, Ian <Mitchell@adw.org>
Cc: Nelson Abreu <nelson.abreu@stpetersolney.org>
Subject: Re: St. Peter's School and MD Green School certification

Ian, any word from the Office of Catholic Schools yet?? St Peter's needs to get our partnership (with the 'higher school system') established asap, so if this is not something that the ADW can do with us, I need to know so that we can develop something different. If there is someone else I should be contacting about this, please let me know!

Thank you,

Margaret

On Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 8:07 PM Margaret Giron <margaret.giron@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Ian and Happy New Year! I hope you had a wonderful holiday break.

Now that things are back in full swing, I just need to check in on the status of our request, as we need to get things moving along.

Thanks,

Margaret

On Fri, Dec 2, 2022 at 9:44 AM Margaret Giron <margaret.giron@gmail.com> wrote:

Thank you, Ian, for your attention to this request! Looking forward to hearing back from you.

Margaret

On Tue, Nov 29, 2022 at 3:13 PM Mitchell, Ian <Mitchell@adw.org> wrote:

Hello Margaret,

I am just following up to let you know that I haven't forgotten your question about St. Peter's and MD Green School Certification. I contacted the archdiocese's Office of Catholic Schools and with some staff travel didn't hear back for a few days. Staff closest to the topics of both curriculum and Maryland government relations are considering the matter and will be getting back to me on the possibilities for collaboration.

Thanks for your patience as we look into this matter. I will make a note to check back in with you in a week or so if not before.

Best regards,

Ian

Ian Mitchell

Director of the Office of Social Concerns

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From: Mitchell, Ian

Sent: Friday, November 18, 2022 3:24 PM

To: Margaret Giron <margaret.giron@gmail.com>

Cc: Nelson Abreu <nelson.abreu@stpetersolney.org>; McDonald, Deborah <McDonaldD@adw.org>

Subject: RE: Potential "Green" Partnership between St. Peter's School and the Office of Social Concerns

Hello Margaret,

Thanks very much for being in touch with us in Pastoral Ministries and Social Concerns. You have indeed reached a good place of contact for consideration of this topic. I apologize that it has taken some time for us to get back to you. Your question does require me to contact our schools office, since if this was something we were able to support it would need to happen with that collaboration. Since I am new to my position as of the beginning of September, I am also wondering whether this has come up yet at other Catholic schools.

The program as you describe it sounds interesting. I will initiate an inquiry with our Catholic Schools office and hope to reconnect with you and Principal Abreu soon after Thanksgiving if not before.

Best regards,

Ian

Ian Mitchell

Director of the Office of Social Concerns

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From: Margaret Giron <margaret.giron@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2022 10:35 AM
To: McDonald, Deborah <McDonaldD@adw.org>; Mitchell, Ian <MitchellI@adw.org>
Cc: Nelson Abreu <nelson.abreu@stpetersolney.org>
Subject: Re: Potential "Green" Partnership between St. Peter's School and the Office of Social Concerns

Ian and Deborah, just wondering if you've had the chance to read my email below? If there is someone else that I should direct my request to, please let me know.

Thanks,

Margaret

On Tue, Nov 1, 2022 at 10:57 AM Margaret Giron <margaret.giron@gmail.com> wrote:

Good Morning Ian and Deborah,

I hope this finds you well! I am emailing you as a parent and Green Team Chair at Saint Peter's School in Olney, MD. Our Principal, Nelson Abreu is cc'd.

We are contacting you with interest in establishing a partnership with the Office of Social Concerns as a part of our Maryland Green School Program certification (<https://maeoe.org/green-schools-and-green-centers/green-schools-program>). In addition to 8 student-driven sustainable practices, the certification requirements include multiple adult-led partnerships & behavior changes, and environmental instruction implementation in each classroom.

To meet our requirement 1.3.2 (highlighted below), we are hoping to establish and document a partnership with your office, specifically regarding Cardinal Gregory's *Laudato Si' Action Plan*.

In reading the *Laudato Si' Action Plan*, Saint Peter's has accomplished, or is planning to accomplish, many of the suggested actions as part of our Green Initiative, so I believe our partnership actually already exists; we just need to make it 'official' with some additional documentable actions 😊

We are thinking that this may look something like:

1. Someone from your office comes to Saint Peter's to present the *Laudato Si'* concepts, goals, etc, to the students during a school-wide assembly.
2. In return, our students will pledge to work towards including as many of the suggested sustainable practices as they can at home and at school.
3. Our student council Green Chairs can lead prayers on the morning show, such as the Prayer to Care for our Common Home, and similar.
4. Periodic discussions of the action plan's 7 Markers, and prayers for the earth, could take place during religion classes.

Please let me know if this partnership is something you are interested in and able to establish with us! And also whether someone from your office would be available to come speak to our students sometime in the next few months.

Thanks in advance for your consideration!

Margaret Giron

240-476-2943