Annual Atlanta Archdiocese Green Mass

Purpose: To honor and bless all those who care for and protect the environment. Since this is an Archdiocese wide event, I tried to involve people in the Mass from parishes working on creation care. It was also important to show diversity among those celebrating and participating in the Mass. Because Pope Francis has placed a high priority on Laudato Si', the bishop consecrates the annual Green Mass.

May 17, 2022, 6 pm was chosen for the Green Mass because it kicks off Laudato Si' week May 22-29. St. John Neumann was asked to host the Mass since my parish was the first to implement the Atlanta Laudato Si Action Plan. Susan Varlamoff and her Creation Care Team helped recruit people to say the prayers of the faithful and bring the gifts to the altar. They also sponsored a reception featuring organic and locally grown food. They commissioned a logo for the occasion using the parish logo as a base. The Mass was lived streamed. More than 100 attended in person.

Pre-Mass: Live instrumental music was played by pianist while a slide presentation of the Creation Care work done at the parish played. Just before Mass started, there was a short video of the campus gardens, stream and creation care programs. Knights of Columbus formed an honor guard for the Bishop, clergy and altar servers.

Mass – celebrants were American born Bishop Joel Konzen (US), Pastor Sunny Punnakuziyil (India), Father Dairo Rico (Columbia), Deacons Mike Hayward, Mike Bryne (US) and Deacon Master of Ceremonies, Altar Server Sirak Petros (8 years old Eritrea)

Vestments were white lighting up the sanctuary as the sun set.

Processional Hymn: *Canticle of the Sun*

First Reading: Acts 14:19-28 (used the daily reading) Archdiocese Sustainability Coordinator Leonard Robinson (African American), St. Thomas the Apostle

Gospel: Jn 14:27-31a

Homily: Discussion of our responsibility to care for creation …..

Prayers of the Faithful (two in Spanish):

1. For those who work to provide for a sustainable future for all inhabitants of creation. We pray to the Lord. Greg McMullen (African American), Christ our Hope
2 Que, a medida que viajamos juntos, trabajamos hacia la inclusión de todos y para amplificar las voces de todos los pobres y marginados en nuestras comunidades. Oremos al Señor. Aida Galarza (Cuba), St. John Neumann
3 For youth and young adults, who are the inheritors of creation, that they continue to speak out and to inspire all of us by their commitment to environmental justice. We pray to the Lord. Ethan Dawidowicz, University of Georgia Catholic Center

4 Que a medida que todos los hombres y mujeres decidan las cosas que comprarán, lleguen a comprender cómo estas compras afectan “la cultura del desecho” de nuestro mundo, roguemos al Señor. Candelario Martinez (Mexico), St. John Neumann
5 For an increased awareness of the relationships between all living beings and the planet, that we may seek to promote an integral ecology which addresses environmental, economic and social equity. We pray to the Lord. Brian Savoie, Archdiocese Sustainability Coordinator, St. Jude the Apostle
6 For an end to the desecration of the earth and the people of Ukraine. We pray to the Lord. Susan Varlamoff, St. John Neumann

Gift bearers:

Bread – Mary Martin, St. John Neumnn
Wine - Nikki VanDerGrinten, Immaculate Heart of Mary
Water – Lauren Galucki Hoade, St. Thomas More
Food Pantry Garden lettuce, Timothy Daly, St. John Neumann
Washington Farm strawberries, Karen Hanley, St. John Neumann
Sunflowers in solidarity with Ukraine, The Dantzer Family - Andrew, Shannon, Nathan, Alexis, Juliet, Aaron, Kristen, St. John Neumann

Offertory Hymn: *All Things Bright and Beautiful*
Communion Mediation: *Indescribable*

Blessing for people who care for creation

Recessional Hymn: *How Great thou Art*

Music: cantor, Euphonium, piano

Reception: Organic and locally sourced food as recommended in the Laudato Si Action Plan. Strawberries from a nearby farm, pecans from S. Georgia, honey from Savannah, cheeses from a S. Georgia Sweetgrass Diary, lettuce from the pantry garden used to feed the poor, pecan deserts from Stuckey’s, a local business, cupcakes for a bakery staffed by special needs adults. Publix grocery store prepared wraps with chicken, ham and cheese and croissant sandwiches with tuna, chicken salad and cheese. NO beef – too land intensive to produce. Organic vegetable platters.

Since there is a policy of washing dishes for receptions under 100 people to reduce waste, glass dishes and porcelain cups and saucers, and stainless-steel silverware were used. Approximately 75 people attended the reception. Pastor Father Sunny gave the blessing. Native flowers from the sustainable landscape were used in the arrangements as well as sunflowers to show solidarity with Ukraine.

Very little leftover food. All given to the dishwashers.