Laudato Reflection

Bill and Susan Kelly

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Bill and I are retired with three independent, contributing-to-society adult children who live in three different US time zones. Our seven grandchildren are spread across the continent. We are blessed! Sustaining strong relationships with our children and grandchildren, in spite of the distances, is a top priority. How their future will be negatively impacted by the systemic flaws of our society, coupled with our Catholic faith, has driven our personal engagement in social justice advocacy. Joining Care For Our Common Home efforts is a natural outgrowth of that advocacy.

“Natural” may not be the right word. Pope Francis’ *Laudato si* reasonates with us; but it also strongly intimidates us. A review of the seven goals made it clear there is so much we don’t know. So much to learn. Where do we start? How much can we commit? Is it enough? Can we change together? We have pondered these points for weeks, approaching the topic and then procrastinating to take even a first step. Now, with humility and faith, we are beginning this journey!

We will make extensive use of the Laudato Action Platform resources and pay attention to the Laudato Newsletter content. Our 2025 Action Plan will be deliberately modest with the hope to grow in knowledge, motivation, and urgency. Most importantly, we will rely upon the shared insights of members of the Saint John Neumann Care for Our Common Home Ministry to guide our first steps, increase our enthusiasm, and strengthen our sense of community. We will do the same for others!