



“Everyone’s talents and involvement are needed”

Laudato Si, 14

Guide for Certified **LAUDATO SI’ ANIMATORS**

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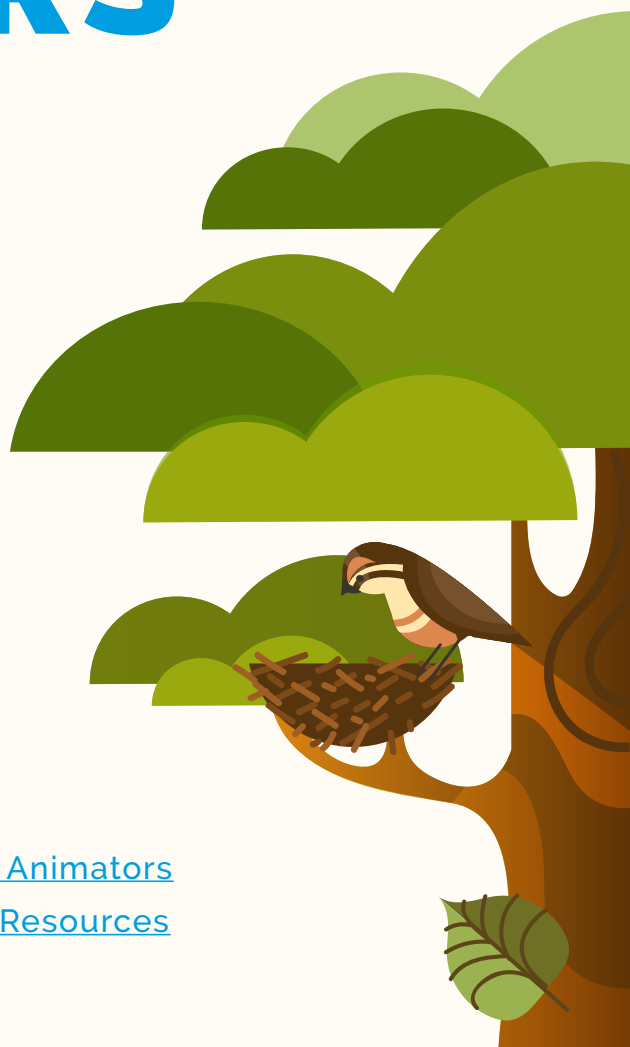
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Welcome!



Thank you for responding to *Pope Francis'* call to care for our common home! Thank you for your commitment to care for God's imperiled Creation, the poor and future generations.

The fact that you signed up to become a Laudato Si' Animator is a sign of hope in these times of mounting ecological crisis and climate emergency. You are warmly welcome to our global family, made of thousands of leaders like you who are leading the mission of the Global Catholic Climate Movement in their local communities all over the globe.

As Pope Francis wrote in the Laudato Si' encyclical, *"everyone's talents and involvement are needed to redress the damage caused by human abuse of God's Creation" (LS 14)*. So we are grateful for your decision to put your talents and involvement at the service of our movement and God's Creation, and we pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you in this journey.

LAUDATO SI' ANIMATORS ARE ALL ABOUT TWO MAIN THINGS:

- ☁ We "live Laudato Si'" *We strive to "live Laudato Si'" in our own lives. This is our motto, our guiding principle. Driven by "the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor" (LS 49), we strive to embody the Laudato Si' message and lead by example.*

- 🌱 We animate others to “live Laudato Si’” We animate our respective local communities or groups to live Laudato Si’ as well, walking together in this challenging but exciting journey of ecological conversion. Both because we need a community to support us in this demanding journey (it is too hard alone), and because the scale of the ecological crisis is so big that we need to recruit more people to join us and build a massive movement.

You may be wondering what's next, now that you've become an *official* Laudato Si' Animator. This guide provides resources and tips for continuing your journey to bring Laudato Si' to life.

We invite you to do what you can, where you can. We encourage you to live simply and work to build a world that cares for our precious planet and those experiencing poverty. To nourish your own ecological conversion, and to reflect on what you wrote when you took the Laudato Si Pledge during your course.

YOUR REGIONAL *Contacts*

HispanoAmerica - animadores@catholicclimatemovement.global
Portuguese Speaking Countries - igor@catholicclimatemovement.global
Asia-Pacific & Oceania - cheryl@catholicclimatemovement.global
North America - angelica@catholicclimatemovement.global
Africa - benedict@catholicclimatemovement.global
Italy - antonio@catholicclimatemovement.global
Spain - a.garrido@catholicclimatemovement.global
Poland - piotr@catholicclimatemovement.global



A stylized illustration of a community. It features rolling green hills, a winding grey road with white dashed lines, and several houses in shades of orange and red. Some houses are simple rectangles, while others are more complex, like a multi-story building with many windows. The background is a light cream color with a few yellow clouds.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOUR *Community?*

We invite you to prayerfully discern where you want to go next to care for our common home. The questions below will help guide your reflection, either alone or with your group:

GOALS

- Think about GCCM's 3 strategic areas of ecological conversion, sustainability, and prophetic advocacy (see above). How would you most love to bring them to life in your community - and why? What calls you to this action? It's ok to start small!
- What does success look like? Really imagine it - draw a picture!

REALITY

- What is occurring now?

OPTIONS

- What are options for how you could advance these goals in your local context?
- What are major milestones along the way to achieving your goal?
- What are some of the first few actions you can take, and by when are you willing to take them?

- Which organizations and individuals can you partner with? Make a list and connect with them.
- How can you seek out resources? Or how might you do some of your big ideas with very few resources?
- What challenges do you anticipate, and how could you overcome them?
- Who might be able to mentor, encourage or support you in thinking through this plan and putting it into motion?
- How will you celebrate when you achieve the first few actions?

WILL

- How can you be reminded of your commitment to caring for creation when things don't go as planned?
- What will support you in being accountable to bringing your vision to life? A friend, family member, another Animator? Contact them and ask for support.
- On a scale of 1-10, how committed are you to this plan? What would take you to a 10?

How to FORM A LAUDATO SI' CIRCLE

[This page](#) has a comprehensive set of resources for Laudato Si' Circles. There is also [this handbook](#) for Circle leaders.

- Think about your vision for what you want to do in your parish. What does success look like? This could include local environmental issues you'd like to work on.
- Find at least 2-3 people who are willing to be a part of this team. You will need that support. Network with other people - you can use [this guide](#) to help structure your conversation.
- Connect with other LSAs near you - they can be a source of ideas/ resources/ inspiration/ partnership. Ask your regional lead if they will make an introduction if you're not already connected on WhatsApp or our online Groups.
- Learn how to form a creation care ministry - ask your church administrator if you can start a ministry. Some churches ask for a proposal others may be ok with you starting the group without being an "official" ministry. What type of commitment is the parish asking for? Are their hourly expectations?
- Connect with your Priest - they can be hard to get a hold of, they're quite busy. But if you can, to share your passion for bringing LS to life and your aims. If you gain their support, they can be speakers at events, which validates things for other people and grows your potential
- If your Diocese is active and supportive, you may be able to get a letter of support from the Diocese.
- Learn about outreach opportunities. For example, perhaps there is an upcoming ministry fair, or you could stand at a booth and talk to people after Mass.

Important note:

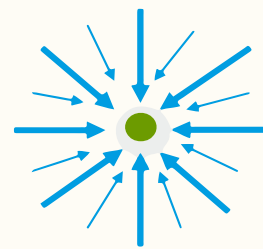
if you are not involved in your Parish, that is ok too. Many people form Circles outside of Parishes. For example, students can start one in their schools, professionals can start with friends/ colleagues, etc.



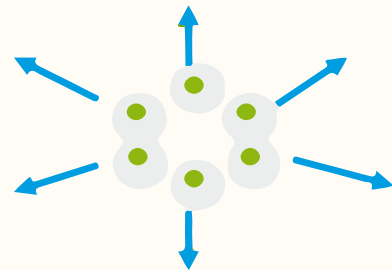
Ways to Structure **YOUR CIRCLE OR LOCAL GROUP**

This resource from expert organizer Marshall Ganz explains how we think of shared leadership:

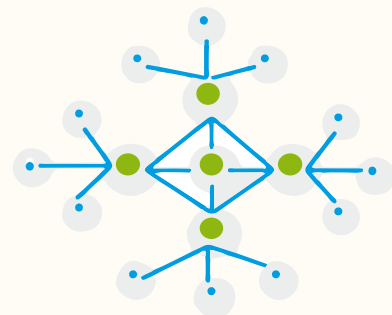
We also take a particular approach to structuring leadership, a structure that enables us to develop the leadership of others, even as we exercise our own. Sometimes we think leadership is about being the person that everyone goes to:



How does it feel to be the dot in the middle of all those arrows? How does it feel to be one of the arrows that can't even get through? And what happens if the "dot" in the middle should disappear? Sometimes we think we don't need leadership at all because "we're all leaders", but that looks like this:



Who's responsible for coordinating everyone? And who's responsible for focusing on the good of the whole, not just one particular part? With whom does the "buck stop"? Another way to practice leadership is like this "snowflake": leadership practices by developing other leaders who, in turn, develop other leaders, all the way "down". Although you may be the "dot" in the middle, your success depends on developing the leadership of others.





Here's how this might look for your local group. This can be used for Circles, Chapters, or Parish Creation Care Teams:

- ☁ Circle Lead - responsible for coordinating the other leaders and looking out for the whole team. Connects with the GCCM staff and other Circle Leads for support, guidance and information.
- ☁ Outreach Lead - responsible for identifying and pursuing new ways to reach more and more people, and engaging the whole team in doing so
- ☁ Communications Lead - responsible for social media and communication to the whole Circle group
- ☁ Advocacy Lead - identifying GCCM advocacy opportunities, building relationships with climate justice organizations, and finding ways your group can support those efforts.
- ☁ Spirituality Lead - leads prayers, connects with the monthly GCCM spiritual resources, and finds other ways to support the group in deepening their ecological conversion.



Connect with GCCM



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL!

 [Facebook](#)

 [Twitter](#)

 [Instagram](#)



☁ **Make sure you're receiving our emails** - mark them as safe or trusted contacts so that you don't miss any timely updates

☁ **Join your regional/national WhatsApp group** - your regional lead can re-invite you if needed

☁ **Periodic Zoom calls** with your regional lead - look out for emails about these, they offer resources and support for upcoming projects and events that you can bring to life in your community.

☁ **Mark your calendar** for our annual global moments: Earth Day (April 22nd) Laudato Si' Week (May 16 - 23) and Season of Creation (Sept 1 - Oct 4).

☁ **Share your celebrations** with GCCM leaders and staff - your inspiring story may be just the thing to lift someone else's spirits. We love hearing about your success, and from time to time, feature these stories in emails, blogs, and social media posts.

☁ **Join our monthly prayer service/ monthly reflection** - details on the Laudato Si' Circles [page](#).

Ways to Deepen YOUR INVOLVEMENT

Form or strengthen your Laudato Si' Circle -

This is an excellent next place for Animator graduates, we strongly recommend building a team around you. Circle [resources here](#), and a powerpoint from a recent webinar about starting a Circle is [here](#). Monthly guides are released every month with prayers and actions.

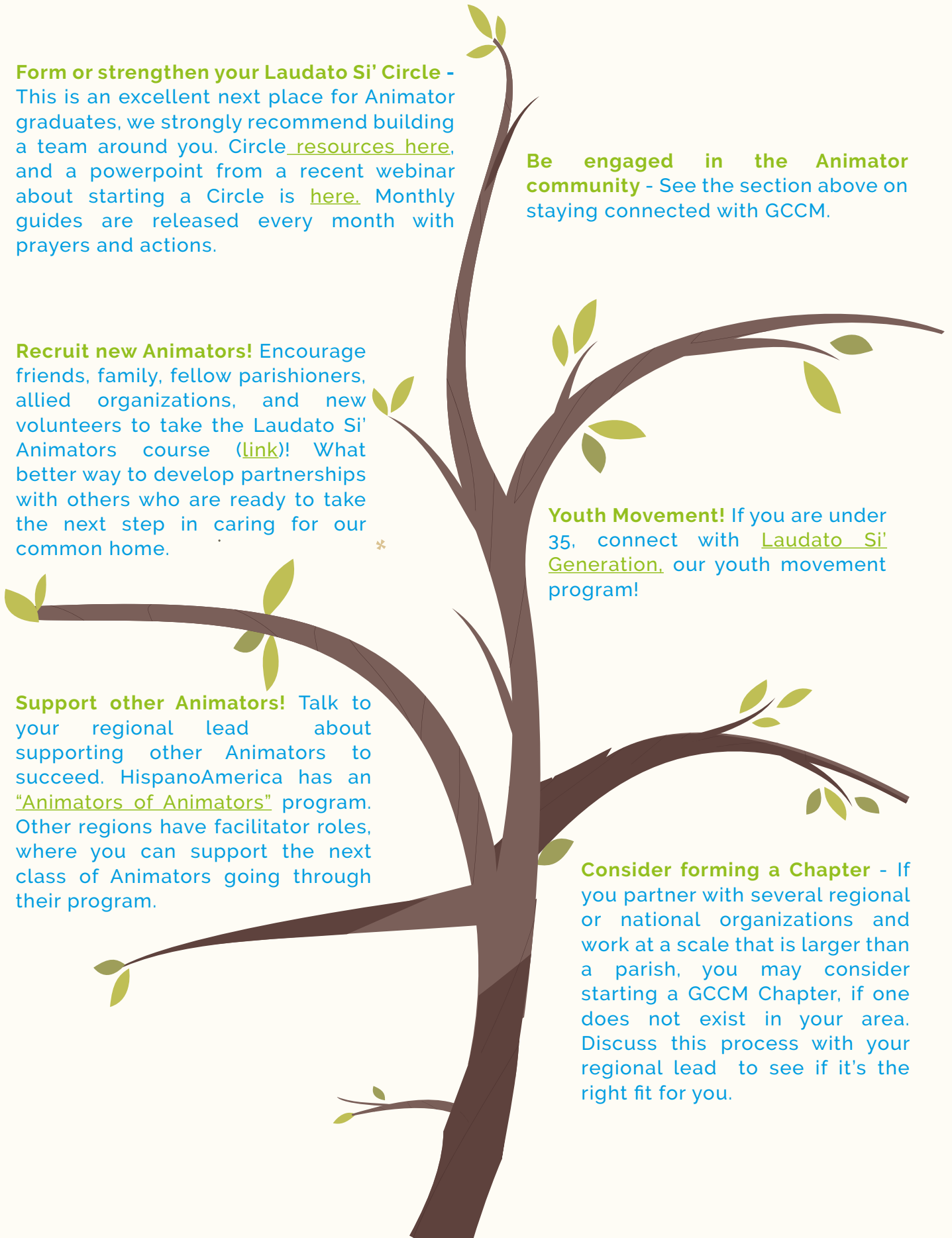
Be engaged in the Animator community - See the section above on staying connected with GCCM.

Recruit new Animators! Encourage friends, family, fellow parishioners, allied organizations, and new volunteers to take the Laudato Si' Animators course ([link](#))! What better way to develop partnerships with others who are ready to take the next step in caring for our common home.

Youth Movement! If you are under 35, connect with [Laudato Si' Generation](#), our youth movement program!

Support other Animators! Talk to your regional lead about supporting other Animators to succeed. HispanoAmerica has an ["Animators of Animators"](#) program. Other regions have facilitator roles, where you can support the next class of Animators going through their program.

Consider forming a Chapter - If you partner with several regional or national organizations and work at a scale that is larger than a parish, you may consider starting a GCCM Chapter, if one does not exist in your area. Discuss this process with your regional lead to see if it's the right fit for you.



Connect with OTHER LAUDATO SI' ANIMATORS



☀️ **Fall 2020: Join our Online Groups!**

Fall 2020 we are building a groups tool on our website. The groups operate similar to Facebook groups (without Facebook). They're a way for you to create your own local group to work with AND for you to connect with other Laudato Si' Animators in your region or language. We very much hope you will use these and will be providing more resources for using the groups feature in the months to come.



☀️ **Regional WhatsApp** Be sure to join and participate in your regional WhatsApp group, reach out to your regional lead if you need an invitation re-sent



☀️ **Animator Newsletter** We're sending periodic email newsletters about and for Animators. This will be a great source of inspiration and connection. Let us know if you have inspiring stories or photos you'd like to share!

ECOLOGICAL CONVERSION

Resources



The resources below from your Animators training can be used again and again - personally and in community.

☀️ We encourage you to lead others through these practices - it's a wonderful way to build community, connection, and deepen our commitment to caring for creation.

☀️ In addition, the Laudato Si' Circles [page](#) has many great resources that are updated monthly.

LECTIO DIVINA WITH *Creation*



☁ Spend a minimum of 10 minutes outdoors daily, ideally in a silent natural setting praying with creation using this process of **lectio divina**:

☁ **Read** Take time to “read” creation by walking or looking around slowly taking in with all of your senses what is around you.

☁ **Meditate** Notice if something attracts your attention and allow yourself to be fully present to this creature using all of your senses and reflecting on God's presence in this element of creation.

☁ **Pray** Enter into dialogue with God or this creature and listen to what God might be saying to you through creation.

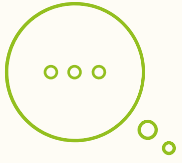
☁ **Contemplate** Allow yourself to just rest in God's presence through creation.

☁ See the full instructions [here](#)

☁ If you are unable to go outside, you can use [this meditation](#) to pray with creation through the imagination.

☁ **Reflect:** What do you notice as you do this prayer practice? What insights emerge - about God as Creator, creation, or yourself?

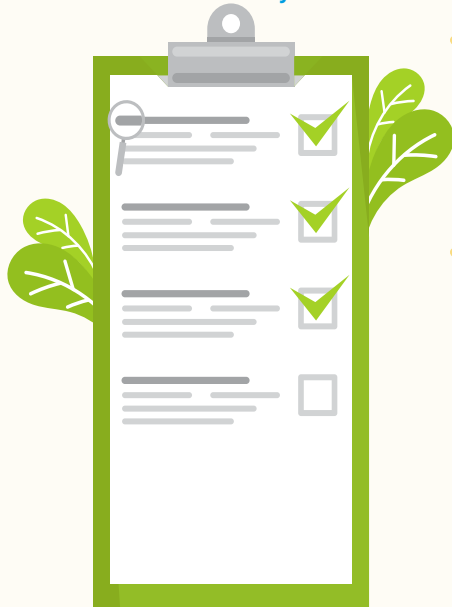
PRAY THE LAUDATO SI' *Chaplet*



✦ The Laudato Si' Chaplet is a simple prayer technique to pray with creation inspired by the Canticum of the Creatures. You can watch this 11 minute video explanation of the LS Chaplet or see these instructions to learn more. **Share your experience of praying the Chaplet with others.**

CONDUCT AN ECOLOGICAL *Examen*

✦ This Ecological Examen (<http://www.ecologicalexamen.org/>) invites you to consider your own relationship with creation.



✦ The Examen is a traditional Christian technique to reflect on where God's presence is in our lives, and how we can better respond.

✦ After praying with the Examen, **we invite you to write a reflection** on your experience, using these questions as guidance:

✦ What did you notice about doing the Examen? Did anything surprise you? Which part was the most challenging for you? Is there one change you can commit to making as a result of the examen?

WRITE AND SHARE YOUR ECOLOGICAL

Conversion

Writing about your own story of ecological conversion can serve as a reminder of what you have learned through this process. It is also a powerful testimony of the ways that the Holy Spirit has worked in your life. And stories inspire and move people into action - so preparing and sharing this story is a fantastic way to invite others into our movement.



Additional Background **ON GCCM AND LAUDATO SI' ANIMATORS**

This booklet provides a more comprehensive look at the story of GCCM, what it means to be an Animator, our message, why we Animate others, the slow and fast paradox, GCCM's values, and a more in depth look at our three strategic areas of ecospirituality, sustainability and advocacy.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH RESOURCES & FUTURE GCCM RESOURCES

The majority of resources listed below are in English. The Chrome browser can be used to translate from English into your own language, or this free app to copy and paste sections of articles. We will be compiling resources in other languages and hope to be able to translate some of these as well.

Training for Change has tons of free resources for community organizing. Some available in Spanish. Here are a few highlights:

[How to have a 1-on-1 meeting](#) - foundational method for bringing in new leaders

[Meeting Facilitation](#) - how to prepare for and run meetings, and this for [leading online meetings](#)

[Free e-book for leading groups online](#)

[Ecoparishes Guide](#) - spanish - University of Alcalá de Henares

[Educational resources](#) - spanish - Escuelas Católicas

Greenpeace USA also has free online resources [here](#), and 350.org does as well [here](#).

Marshall Ganz is an expert organizer and trainer who teaches at Harvard and worked with Cesar Chavez on farmworker justice. A few highlights:

[The power of personal storytelling, and how to craft your own story](#)

[Comprehensive workbook training on grassroots organizing](#)

[Article about Leadership, Organizing, and Social Change](#)

FUTURE GCCM *Resources*

Advanced Animator Trainings - these in-depth sessions you can join, either taking all the trainings or just one by one.

- ☀ Planned topics: Building Relationships, Working within the Church Structure, Supporting Others to Lead, Advocating for Change, Partnering with Youth, Catholic Social Teaching and Climate Change, Climate Change and Health
- ☀ Let your regional lead know if you are especially interested in particular topics above, or want to see something else included. If you have expertise in these areas and would love to help lead a workshop or training - let us know!

Animator Connection Calls

- ☀ In 2021, we aim to have more regularly scheduled Zoom “connection calls” with our Animators. It’s a chance for you to talk in small groups with others in your area, share challenges and solutions with each other, and hear

updates about key projects you can participate in locally.

Animators Page on GCCM Website

We are building a special page for our Certified Animators, with links to resources and ways to connect with other Animators.

Connection by issue interest

In some regions, we are connecting Animators together who have similar interests, for example, interests in arts/ music, youth education, advocacy, etc. Ask your regional lead if this exists or if you can help start one!

