

February 4, 2026

## Dooming the Scotch Broom

*A faith-based and community engagement effort on Whidbey Island*

The St. Hubert Green Team wants to grow its small 'scotch broom removal' pilot into a larger community commitment. This year, we are pleased to be able to do it under the umbrella of the Laudato Si Movement Washington Chapter as a pilot project. This way, we can align our faith-filled work with outreach in our community, bringing together people of various backgrounds and with concern for all creation.

This faith formed effort to engage the larger community in common purpose seems beautifully aligned with Laudato Si – both the encyclical and the movement.

Last year, we undertook a project to remove broom (overly abundant in our area) and worked with two non-parish groups. We learned a great deal. This year, we plan to expand both the area we cover and the community gathered to do this work. We have already begun to develop a schedule of work parties and outreach efforts to include other potential partners. As we are working still on a smaller scale, we believe that we can refine a structure and process of broom eradication and larger community engagement that might be replicable in other parishes and communities.

We are grateful for the opportunity to do this under the formal banner of the LSM. This helps focus our efforts on the two-fold goal of building community as we help repair our small corner of earth. We've chosen the name Broomdoomers. Under that name, we plan to have a web presence centralizing process and lessons learned. If this effort proves effective, perhaps others may want to use what we learn.

In this way, we can bring more people together with concern for earth and one another.

Blessings and thanks for your prayers and support.

Elizabeth Guss

St. Hubert Green Team