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## St. Monica Green Team

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[www.stmonica.net/greenteam](http://www.stmonica.net/greenteam)



# Rethink Spring Cleaning

By Angela Iadavaia

The weather is changing, and summer is on the horizon. What comes to mind? Tidying Up? Cleaning out your closets and drawers? Shopping?

The Green Team offers you three perspectives to consider first:

## 1. Put clothing and things you don't want to good use.

If everyone in the U.S. kept their clothing and textiles out of the landfill for one year, it would save the equivalent of nearly 31 million metric tons of carbon emissions. That's the same as taking all the cars in Los Angeles off the road for a year.

The good news is there are many places for donating and recycling clothing and household goods you don't want.

**St. Francis Center** is in need of specific items to help the homeless and extremely low income individuals and families whom they serve. They are currently looking for:

- 2 Queen Mattresses**
- Female hygiene kits:** toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap bars, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, shave gel, razors, deodorant, combs, lip balm, cloths, bandages, hand sanitizer, tissues, nail clippers, hair ties, feminine hygiene products
- Home items:** bed linens, kitchen and cleaning supplies, towels, dishes, curtains
- Men's Clothing (L):** pants, shirts, underwear, socks, shoes
- Kids' items:** coloring pages, small toys, books, clothing, car seats, strollers

A note from St. Francis: "We will be grateful for anything we receive! All the items are okay to be used besides the hygiene items, socks, and underwear."

Address: 1835 S. Hope St. (Los Angeles)

Phone: (213) 747-5347

Email: [info@sfcla.org](mailto:info@sfcla.org)

Other local centers are open or are in the process of reopening. Be sure to call to confirm hours and their current needs for donation.

**Chrysalis** accepts clothing for people seeking jobs.

Address: 1853 Lincoln Blvd. (Santa Monica)

Phone: (310) 401-9400

The **American Cancer Discovery Shop** accepts donations by appointment for clothing and household goods. Funds from their sales go to cancer research and patient care.

Address: 920 Wilshire Blvd. (Santa Monica)

Phone: (310) 458-4490

For **more** donation sites as well as stores that will take back used clothing for reuse and recycling, click [here](#).

## 2. Think before you buy: do you really need it?

See a reflection from the Greening Congregation of Whidbey Island [here](#) or under our Prayer and Reflection section.

## 3. Get Involved. Let Laudato Si' Be Your Guide!

What does Pope Francis's encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, have in common with spring cleaning? The clothes we wear have more of an impact on our common home than you think.

Consider this. The way we currently make clothing leads to more than just sweatshops. It is coloring whole rivers in Bangladesh and China—a deadly rainbow of next season's trendiest hues. A [Quantis study in 2018](#) estimates that 8% of total global greenhouse gas emissions come from the apparel and footwear sectors.

Learn more about the fashion industry impact on our planet and what you can do. Go to [Earthbeat](#) and the [Human Thread](#).