

Ecology Checklist for Parishes



Here is a check list parishes can use to measure their care for creation. Check the items you are already doing. You may want to use the other side of this sheet to record your comments. Send a copy to the Diocesan Ecological Working Group. The Ecological Working Group is willing to assist your efforts in making creation care a more prominent part of your parish life.

Liturgy

- The worship space is appointed carefully with live plants and appropriate natural elements; banners; and other art calling attention to God's creation.
- Caring for God's creation is highlighted on Sundays during the liturgical year when the readings are appropriate.
- Creation Sunday is celebrated on the third Sunday of April.
- A Blessing of the Animals is held annually.
- Earth-keeping confessions, intercessory prayers, hymns, and sermons are incorporated into weekly worship throughout the year.

Education

- Parishioners are aware of Catholic teaching on Caring for God's Creation.
- A class/forum/retreat is held annually to study the biblical, theological, and ethical resources in the Catholic faith for eco-justice ministry.
- Natural settings are used for parish meetings and functions when appropriate.
- Displays on creation care are incorporated into the church environment.
- Creation care is featured in the weekly bulletins.

Building and Grounds

- Conduct an audit of parish facilities.
- Upgrade light bulbs with energy efficient ones.
- Recycled paper is used for parish bulletin, newsletter and other parish mailings.
- Reusable cups and dishes are used at parish gatherings.
- A recycling program is in place and functioning.
- Church grounds are used as a community garden and/or sustainable demonstration site.

Discipleship

- Members are recruited to do an audit of their homes and/or work places.
- There is an opportunity for members to make a commitment to care for creation.
- A parish group is formed to support members in their personal efforts and to further the ecological goals of the parish.
- Consider the grounds of your parish as a sacramental commons where people, plants, animals, fish and birds live in the habitat they require.
- The parish is known as a "green" parish and seen as an example by the larger community.

Advocacy

- Members are notified with periodic action alerts about local, regional, and national environmental issues.
- The parish does a hands-on project in the area of the church: restoring a habitat, cleaning up trash, planting trees, or protesting pollution causing ill health.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Parish: _____

Please send a copy of this to:

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