

St. Monica-St. George Parish Newman Center-Living the St. Francis Pledge

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SM-SG (St. Monica-St. George)

2008: Energy assessment of the Catholic Center (our 98 year old school building) by Sr. Paula Gonzalez, SC.

SM-SG continues to sell Fair Trade products on the first and third Sundays of each month. Fair Trade coffee is used at parish events.

2009: SM-SG joined Ohio Interfaith Power and Light.

2009: Replacement of some of the old single pane windows in the Catholic Center with double pane -moveable windows. (Recommended under the Energy Assessment)

2009: SM-SG Entered the COOL CONGREGATIONS contest sponsored by Ohio Interfaith Power and Light. 7 families entered and reduced their carbon footprints by over 80,000 pounds and the facility reduced its footprint by over 260 acres. Contestants used the *Low Carbon Diet* by David Gershon and saved hundreds of dollars on heating, cooling, gasoline consumption and more. Contestants also reduced their waste- saving 3/4 ton of trash from the landfill which translated to saving an energy equivalent of 10 Million BTU's or 80.65 gallons of gasoline or powering a home for 36.5 days. 2010 Grand Prize Winner for SW Ohio/ a \$1000 award was used to help pay for the 2011 lighting project. 100 trees were donated thru the IPL project in Cameroon to reforest and educate locals as part of donating some of the parishioner savings to the poor and vulnerable.

2009: SM-SG wins a \$500 grant from Operation Rice Bowl to purchase the *Low Carbon Diet* by David Gershon. 2010: *Low Carbon Diet* Small Group meets at SM-SG. 2012: *Low Carbon Diet* group led at the Community of Good Shepherd with 10-15 participants.

September, 2009: Morning of Reflection at Gorman Heritage Farm by the Peace, Justice, Care for Creation Team and the St. Francis Pledge Team. We walked in beauty among the sunflowers.

September, 2009: St. Francis Pledge calligraphed by Maggi Yocis. It hangs in the church vestibule under a thermostat.

2009-2012: Logo of the St. Francis Pledge created by Fr. Joe Folzenlogen, S. J. is used as a coloring page which was shared with Children's Liturgy of the Word, children, and high school students. Logo also used in displays and advocacy visits.

October 4, 2009: SM-SG signs onto the St. Francis Pledge as a parish and as parishioners at all masses. Pledges were available in church pews. 344 Pledges were signed representing 671 people. In 2010 St. Francis's Feast Day celebrated at all the masses. 2012 Total-713 people.

October, 2009: Advocacy visit to the local office of Senator George Voinovich.

October, 2009: St. Francis Pledge Presentation to Corryville Catholic School-kindergarten thru 8th grade.

2009-2012: Prayer Services on August 11, Feast Day of St. Clare.

2009: Installed a used bike rack. April of 2010, we held a Walk, Bike, Carpool to Mass to encourage more earth friendly transportation. In the following weeks a couple rode a bicycle built for two to church to demonstrate their care of creation. Our Parish web page-smsgparishonline.com encourages people to walk, bike, carpool or take the bus to SM-SG.

2009-2012: Books about Care for Creation for adults and children donated to the Parish Library. Books can be checked out at the back of church. Care for Creation Section created in the Parish Library.

2009-2012: Quarterly MEEC Congregational Environmental Liaison Meetings in Dayton. Reports written for each meeting

2009-2012: SM-SG St. Francis Pledge team are members of the Cincinnati Archdiocese Climate Change Task Force-meetings and reports.

St. Francis Garden - a nationally registered way-station for Monarch butterflies. The garden features native plants that conserve water and promote biodiversity.

2009-2011: Canticle of the Creatures sung periodically at masses. 2011- Spring musical of Agape performed by SM-SG choir .

2009-2010: St. Francis Pledge weekly church bulletin pieces. 2011-2012: Bi monthly bulletin pieces.

2009-2012: SM-SG Peace, Justice, Care for Creation web page updated monthly. Check for local events and resources. smsgparishonline.com/peacejustice

2009-2012: Petitions for Prayers of the Faithful written and submitted.

2009-2012: Caps for St. Francis. We recycled over 152,040 plastic caps through the Aveda Company - that is equivalent to saving about 23MM BTUs or 185 gallons of gasoline. (Caps are not recycled by Rumpke so this also reduces material going to landfill) Over 1,000 pounds of plastic were kept out of the landfill. *Little Blue Me* -an original "book" about plastic caps was written and available for children to illustrate. The parish also recycles batteries, pharmaceutical pill vials, ink jet cartridges ,plastic bottles, glass jars, aluminum cans used in the Catholic Center and paper used in the office. The sacristan team one year recycled all of the left over candle wax and shared it with an artist and sold the metal parts from the candles to a scrap dealer.

January, 2010: For Epiphany Sunday, the St. Francis Pledge team collected over 100 CFL light bulbs for St. George Food Pantry clients.

April, 2010: Designed, built and installed a mug rack so coffee mugs would be readily available to discourage the use of Styrofoam cups (On the original Energy Assessment). SM-SG has also increased the number of times real plates and utensils are used instead of paper plates and plastic utensils. Food scraps have been composted at events by volunteers taking them home. At Peace, Justice, Care for Creation Events and meetings cloth napkins are used to reduce waste.

September, 2010: St. Francis Team toured the Rumpke Recycling Center. (Practices to Awaken the Heart-a list of "field trips") relating to Caring for Creation.

2010-2011: World Famous Ecoliscious Rummage Sales to help people simplify their lives and to allow other people to reuse what is surplus for others. Reuse crafts sold and displayed. Included selling green plants that were donated by members. Street signs/posters reused. Raised \$846 and used funds to reduce the footprint of SM-SG.

September, 2010: 100 Mile Parish Picnic- parishioners were asked to bring dishes that included ingredients from within 100 miles of Cincinnati. Local Central Ohio River Valley food guides were available.

October, 2010: Presentation on Interfaith Panel on Caring for Creation at Bioneers Conference at Xavier University.

October, 2010: Article written and published in the OHIPL Electronic Newsletter. The article was also published December, 2010 by the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change.

2010-2011: 3 of our parishioners completed the Hamilton County Master Recycler program. This is an ongoing program and there is also a Master Composter Program. The St. Francis Pledge Team networks with Hamilton County Solid Waste District. 2012: A member of the St. Francis Pledge Team has been approved for the new Hamilton County Zero Waste Committee. 2012: Five members take the composting class offered thru out the city.

Lent 2010-2011: Fair Trade Palms were used for Palm Sunday.

2011: Created Franciscan Lenten Energy Fast Calendar-Based on the Canticle of the Creatures which was linked to Father Tom's Lenten Program for parishioners. Food items were donated to the St. George Food Pantry. Pastoral Council pledged to remove one light bulb from their homes and stop drinking out of plastic bottles.

April, 2011: St. Francis Pledge Team participates in Caring for Creation Panel Discussion Presentation at Catholic Climate Covenant Round 2 at EarthConnection.

April 2011: Lighting Project. \$18,500 project to replace energy inefficient bulbs/fixtures with efficient bulbs and fixtures, including LED Exit Signs (primarily in the Catholic Center and parish office with some in the sanctuary). We partnered with the Greater Cincinnati Energy Alliance. The project was designed and executed by Eco Engineering. We received over \$4,600 in grants from GCEA, a \$3,000 Gift from Congregation of St. Joseph, \$846 was raised by the World Famous Ecoliscious Rummage Sale, \$500 Duke Energy rebate, \$1,000 from OHIPL Contest, and a donor were used to pay for the project. The new lights use 60% less electricity than the old ones. The project will help to strengthen, heal and renew the face of the Earth by preventing 37, 287 pounds of carbon dioxide annually. It is equivalent to planting 4 acres of trees annually. It is equivalent to removing 3 cars from the road annually or saving 1,922 gallons of gasoline every year. It is helping SM-SG to achieve our mission, vision statements, the Catholic Social Teachings, the St. Francis Pledge and helping our Parish to live the Canticle of the Creatures by St. Francis of Assisi. It also gave workers the dignity of work, and the workers expressed their gratitude to SM-SG. Parishioners and staff originally toured the facilities to look at lighting opportunities. This began in Nov. 2010.

May 2011: Bread for the World Letter Writing Sunday. We used forestry friendly notebook paper, "green" US stamps, and recycled leftover letters.

2011: Sixty Five St. Francis Pledge hand fans made and put in the church.

July 2011: St. Francis Pledge presentation to 20-30 Club at SM-SG. We loaned Care for Creation DVD's to the group.

July, 2011: St. Francis Pledge presentation to Archdiocese Climate Change Task Force and Ohio Environmental Council.

2011: In the summer, we held a St. Francis Pledge/Heifer International Children's Summer Reading Program. Over \$370 was raised towards our Heifer Ark Goal. We had a name the Heifer drawing. Mary, age 7, named the Heifer, Francis, because St. Francis loved animals. Children from 9 months old to 15 years of age participated. Ei Ei O.

2011: Cindy and Daniel Lewis entered the Green Your Home contest with the Greater Cincinnati Energy Alliance-they were first round winners and won a free home energy audit.

August, 2011: Pastor presented at Archdiocese Climate Change Task Force with Representative Peter Stautberg-Chair of the House Public Utilities Commission.

August, 2011: 5 SM-SG volunteers assist Sr. Paula Gonzalez S.C. at a rummage sale to help rebuild homes in New Orleans. 3 parishioners attend.

September, 2011: SM-SG reaches the Heifer Ark Goal of \$5,000.

September, 2011: Tour of the Melink Corporation's Net Zero Energy Open House. 5 parishioners went with Archdiocesan Climate Change Task Force.

October, 2011: Entered National Contest Sponsored by Interfaith Power and Light-The Cool Congregations Challenge in the Energy Efficiency Category.

2011: Xavier University's Sustainability Program with speaker from San Francisco regarding Net Zero Waste-3 members attended.

November, 2011: Archdiocese Climate Change Task Force-Legislative Team presented to Sherri Carbo(Governor's Local Liaison) and Craig Butler of Ohio Energy Dept. at Melink Corporation(SM-SG gave part of the presentation).

February, 2012: St. Francis Pledge team holds a Reuse Craft class-19 participants. Special guest Dyah Miller.

March, 2012: Earthkeeping Summit cosponsored by OHIPL in Columbus. SM-SG-presents Caring for Creation in the afternoon breakout sessions.

April, 2012: Brown Up Morning at SM-SG in honor of St. Francis and Earth Day Weekend-

We have partnered with or made requests to the following groups at SM-SG. Finance Team, Pastoral Team, Pastoral Council, St. George Food Pantry, Corryville Catholic School, Mom's Group, 20-30 Group, Community Life Committee, Worship Commission, Music Ministry, Children's Liturgy of the Word, Religious Education, IHN, Fair Trade Life Ministry, Peace, Justice, Care for Creation Team, Abolition of the Death Penalty Team.