**The Basilica of Saint Mary**

**Mass Times**
Saint Joseph Chapel
Monday - Friday: 7:00am and Noon

The Basilica
Saturday: 5:00pm
Sunday: 7:30, 9:30, 11:30am, and 4:30, and 6:30pm

**The Basilica of Saint Mary**
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Minneapolis, MN 55405
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**Location:** 16th Street and Hennepin Ave

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**Leave the World a Better Place for Future Generations**

**Biblical Stewardship**
A Way of Life
Ecological Stewardship Pledge

The St. Francis Pledge to the Care for Creation and the Poor

I pledge to:

- **PRAY** and reflect on my duty to care for God’s Creation and protect the poor and vulnerable.

- **LEARN** about and educate others about the causes and moral dimensions of climate change.

- **ASSESS** how I as an individual, my family, parish and school contribute to climate change by energy use, consumption, waste, etc.

- **ACT** to change my choices and behaviors by reducing my carbon footprint such as being a more energy conscious consumer and less wasteful in my use of limited resources.

- **ADVOCATE** for Catholic principles of solidarity and stewardship of God’s creation in climate change discussions and decisions, especially as they impact those who are poor and vulnerable.
Ecological Stewardship Reflection

The Beauty of Creation Bears Witness to God

Question the beauty of the earth, the beauty of the sea, the beauty of the wide air around you, the beauty of the sky;

Question the order of the stars, the sun whose brightness lights the days, the moon whose splendor softens the gloom of night;

Question the living creatures that move in the waters, that roam upon the earth, that fly through the air;

The spirit that lies hidden, the matter that is manifest; the visible things that are ruled, the invisible things that rule them; question all these.

They will answer you: "Behold and see, we are beautiful."

Their beauty is their confession to God.
Who made these beautiful changing things, if not one who is beautiful and changeth not?

Saint Augustine (354-430)

Opening Prayer

Maker of all things, Creator of heaven and earth, we thank you for the wonder and beauty of nature.

My we be ever vigilant and responsible with the world that you have given us, keeping mindful not only that we are your stewards, but also that your creation is a gift for all generations.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen
**Biblical Stewardship**

**Prayers of Petition**

O Lord, grant us the grace to grow deeper in our respect of and care for your creation.

R: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

O Lord, help us to recognize the sacredness all of your creatures as signs of your wondrous love.

S: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

O Lord, help us turn from the selfish consumption of resources meant for all and to see the impacts of our choices on the poor and vulnerable.

R: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

O Lord, spark our imagination so we might find new ways to live harmoniously with creation and new technologies to reverse the damage we have done to your Creation.

R: **Lord, hear our prayer**
**Blessing of Bicycles**
Saturday, May 18, 2013 at 3:00 PM
Gather on Plaza of Basilica of Saint Mary.

Blessing will include a procession into the Basilica, a blessing for safety while riding, and blessed bike oil.

There will be ice cream and popcorn following the Blessing. Visit vendors on site.

Adult and child ride following the Blessing.

This is a community event for all ages.

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**Our Lady Of Ghisalbo**

Medieval legend says that Count Ghisallo was travelling near the village of Magreglio when he was attached by highway bandits. Spotting an image of the virgin Mary in a roadside shrine, he broke away from his attackers and ran to it. There he took refuge, pled for Our Lady’s protection - and was miraculously saved from robbers.

As the Story spread, the Madonna del Ghisallo became known as patroness of local travelers. In ore recent times, cyclists would often stop to rest an pray at the chapel,. After World War II, Father Ermelindo Vigano, pastor at the shrine, proposed Ghisallo as the site of an Italian shrine by cyclists, and she was given as patroness of cyclists on 13 October 1949 by Pope Pius XII.

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**What is Ecological Stewardship?**

**Ecological Stewardship**
This year, we’re exploring ecological stewardship, through the lens of connectedness.

As you go about your daily life this spring, please take the time to ponder these questions: How are we connected to all of Creation? How are we connected to one another? How do choices I make affect those around me? What actions can we take, individually, and together, to leave the world a better place for future generations?

**Why Ecological Stewardship**

Bernard Evans, Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology at St. John’s School of Theology-Seminary suggested some reasons at a lecture he gave at here at the Basilica several years ago.

1. **Because it is God’s**
   a. "The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world and those who live in it” - Psalm 24:1
   b. "The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine; with me you are but aliens and tenants." - Leviticus 25:23

2. **Because it is good**
   a. "And God saw that it was good." - Genesis 1:25
   b. "The whole universe is God's dwelling. Through the created gifts of nature, men and women encounter their Creator." (The universe is sacramental) - U.S. Catholic Bishops, *Renewing the Earth*, p. 6
   c. “Respect for life and for the dignity the human person extends also to the rest of creation, which is called to join man in praising God (ct. Ps. 148 and 96):” - Pope John Paul II, *Peace with God the Creator, Peace with All of Creation*, 16

3. **Because God asks us to care for creation**
   a. Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." - Genesis 1:26
   b. "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to till it and keep it." - Genesis 2:15

4. **Because we need it.**
   a. "God intended the earth and all that it contains for the use of every human being and people." Vatican II, *Church in the Modern World*, 69
   b. "... we cannot interfere in one area of the ecosystem without paying due attention both to the consequences of such interference in other areas and to the well-being of future generations." - Peace with God the Creator, Peace with All of Creation,
We Walk on Holy Ground

“Can you remember the moments in your life when you felt especially connected to God? Where were you? Certainly places of worship will come to mind for many people. But so also will hikes in the woods or mountains, or canoe trips across a quiet lake. Perhaps even planting a garden might be a God-connected moment for some. The natural world can draw us to peace, serenity and holiness. Then do we not have a responsibility to protect those moments and those places for our children and for God?

In fact this is a key message of Catholic social teaching. And one that was emphasized by Pope Francis during his recent inaugural homily:

Quote

“The vocation of being a “protector”, however, is not just something involving us Christians alone; it also has a prior dimension which is simply human, involving everyone. It means protecting all creation, the beauty of the created world, as the Book of Genesis tells us and as Saint Francis of Assisi showed us. It means respecting each of God’s creatures and respecting the environment in which we live. It means protecting people, showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about. It means caring for one another in our families: husbands and wives first protect one another, and then, as parents, they care for their children, and children themselves, in time, protect their parents. It means building sincere friendships in which we protect one another in trust, respect, and goodness. In the end, everything has been entrusted to our protection, and all of us are responsible for it. Be protectors of God’s gifts!”

- Pope Francis, March 2013

Sources

- www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2013/03/19/full-text-of-pope-franciss-inauguration-homily/
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- Grazer, Walter E., Catholics Going Green, Notre Dame: Ave Marie Press, 2009
- catholicclimatecovenant.org/
- conservation.catholic.org/
- www.ahappyplanet.com
Monsignor Charles Murphy, a theologian from the diocese of Portland, Maine, is the former rector of the North American College in Rome and author of several books on environmental theology.

“Consumer choices and consumer demands are moral and cultural expressions of how we conceive of life. Is life all about working and spending and working more to have more to spend? Could not it rather be all about contemplation, what the pope (John Paul II) calls a ‘disinterested, unselfish and aesthetic attitude that is born of wonder in the presence of being and of beauty which enables one to see in visible things the message of the invisible God who created them? (Centesimus Annus, #37)”

Thomas Merton (1915-1968) was a Trappist monk of the Abbey of Gethsemani in Kentucky. Merton was an author, poet, social activist, and a student of comparative religions. Discussing community, he says:

“Community is not built by man, it is built by God. It is God’s work and the basis of community is not just sociability but faith. This is what we need to see very clearly, because it is very important.

…What really starting fighting is possessions. And people get into fights by preferring things to people. This is well developed in Christian theology, and therefore, for us, the importance of detachment from things, the importance of poverty, is that we are supposed to be free from things we might prefer to people. You can extend that to any limits you like—wherever things become more important than people we are in trouble. That is the crux of the whole matter.” The Alaska Journals and Letters, 1989, p97

Did You Know?

- In the 1860s 90% of Americans were farmers, today only 2% are. Americans spend $11 billion/year on bottled water. It takes 1.5 million barrels of oil enough to fuel 100,000 cars for a year - to make the plastic bottles.
- Recycling reduces greenhouse gases. In one year, recycling in Minnesota reduce emissions equal to taking 1.2 million cars off the road.
- Minnesota has 90,000 miles off shore-line. That’s more than California, Florida and Hawaii combined.

Action Options

- Reduce the resources we consume. For example by driving less or repairing, rather than buying new products.
- Reduce the waste we send back to the landfill. For example by recycling or composting.
- Shrink our high impact lawns with beautiful native plants and gardens.
- Learn about the environmental issues in our neighborhoods. Visit http://www.epa.gov/myenvironment
- Spend time in nature connecting with our friends and family, and connecting with God.

Local Connections

- Minneapolis Recycle Run, Sunday April 21st, 8:45am at Lake Harriet; 5k Race and free Kids Run. http://www.minneapolisparks.org/default.asp?PageID=1016
- Minneapolis Earth Day Cleanup, April 20th http://www.minneapolisparks.org/

Questions for Reflection

- How does seeing the world as “holy ground” change my actions and perspective?
- By connecting more with nature, what other relationships do I build?
We Honor the Dignity of the Human Person

Have you ever walked through the woods on a sunny day in autumn and watched sunlight dance through the trees? Have you ever noticed spring crocuses peeking through the snow declaring the arrival of spring or have you ever watched the first snowfall in winter as snowflakes fall softly and silently to create the blanket of winter? As we experience the seasons we are reminded of the gifts of our creator. These gifts of nature should ignite within each of us a greater respect for our brothers and sisters everywhere.

From the beginning man and nature have been intertwined. In the book of Genesis God created man and woman in a beautiful garden. After the flood God sent a rainbow as a symbol of his loving providence. What is our responsibility to all of God’s creatures?

Pope Benedict XVI reminds us in the ‘Caritas in Veritate’

“The environment is God’s gift to everyone, and in our use of it we have a responsibility towards the poor, towards future generations and towards humanity as a whole.”

Did You Know?

- Nearly 1.1 billion—roughly 20% of the world’s population lack access to safe drinking water.
- The current rate of deforestation is 160,000 kilometers per year which equates to approximately 1% of forests per year.
- More that 50% of the wetlands in the US have been destroyed in the last 200 years.
- There are currently 3079 animals and 2655 plants classified as Endangered worldwide, compared with 1998 levels of 1102 and 1197, respectively.
- 20% of The global population consumes 80% of the earth’s resources.

http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ind_calculator.htm

Action Options

1. Join The Basilica Green Team and help building understanding and acceptance of environmental risks and challenges.
2. Find out more about the three Rs of environmentalism: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Take a week or two to consider your home and lifestyle. Then, make at least one small change in each of the three categories.
3. Stop or cut down on the use of disposable products like paper plates, napkins, and plastic utensils and cups at home or work.
4. Buy locally grown produce.
5. Sponsor or join a day of prayer for environmental justice in your church and community.

Questions for Reflection

- What changes—large and small—are you personally considering for the sake of environmental justice? Will you encourage others to do the same?
- How will the communities you belong to support your commitment to environmental justice?

Recycling Zone Tour

5:00pm, Friday, April 19, 2013

Join a group of Basilica parishioner on a tour of a Recycling plant in Eagan, Minnesota!

Basilica parishioners will be guided through the inside workings of Recycling Zone. We will learn, firsthand the ins and outs—strengths and weaknesses—of recycling in our community.

The tour will be one hour long, and is provided at no cost by Dakota County. We need to be present 10 minutes before our scheduled time. This is a working site, and part of the tour may take place outdoors—so dress accordingly. There will be carpools leaving The Basilica at 4:00 pm.

If you are interested in participating in this fun and informative tour, contact Karen at 651-308-0507 or karen_donohoo@yahoo.com. Registration is required.
Most of us probably don’t think of caring for creation as evangelization—of spreading the Good News of God’s love and salvation. But this present historical moment offers us a profound insight: some of our own actions cause environmental degradation. Accepting and understanding this insight means that we are carefully reading the signs of the times. We have the opportunity to make a personal change, and to encourage others to change too. We are called to accept our own environmental responsibilities (this includes admitting our failings toward the earth and asking for God’s forgiveness), and we hear the call to proclaim God’s merciful love to others. We become ideal evangelists for spreading the powerful truth of creation—God cares deeply for us and all of Creation, including the natural world.

**Quote**

“Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature.” Mark 16:15

**Did You Know?**

- About 6,800 gallons of water is needed to grow a day’s worth of food for a family of four?
- Twenty percent of all CO2 emissions produced in the United States are the result of driving, and half of those emissions come from cars?

**Action Options**

- Celebrate spring! Plant a native tree.
- Learn about climate change and what you can do about it.
- Walk and bike more, support public transportation.
We Share the Goods of the Earth

Take a moment to think about your morning. You woke up, perhaps climbing out of bedding made of Egyptian cotton sheets and a comforter filled with goose down provided by geese raised in Canada. Did you open a bottle of water sourced from a spring in Fiji, or grab a cup of coffee brewed from fair-trade coffee beans grown in Costa Rica? Perhaps you checked messages on your cell phone, which likely contains minerals like gold, tantalum and tungsten that were mined in the eastern Congo then hopped in your car and remembered you needed to stop for gas that originated in….

We are so blessed to live in this time and place, and to have such access to the abundance of God’s creation and the benefits of modern science, technology and human ingenuity that can enhance nature’s bounty. Not everyone is so fortunate. The social doctrine of the Church reminds us that the goods of the earth were created by God to be used wisely by all. They must be shared equitably, in accordance with justice and charity. Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church #481. How does our use of natural resources affect others? What can we do to ensure that we leave the world a better place for future generations?

Did You Know?

- People in developing countries are more than 20 times as likely to be affected by climate-related disasters as those in the developed world.
- 3 million people are killed each year by outdoor air pollution that is attributed to vehicle and industrial emissions.
- 850 million trees are consumed each year just by Americans’ paper use.
- 40,000 children die each day from preventable diseases.
- 50 to 100 plant and animal species become extinct each year because we destroy their habitats.

Questions for Reflection

In recent years, new nations have entered enthusiastically into industrial production, thereby increasing energy needs. This has led to an unprecedented race for available resources. Meanwhile, some parts of the planet remain backward and developmentally blocked, partly because of the rise in energy prices.

- What will happen to these peoples?
- What kind of development, or non-development, will be imposed on them by the scarcity of energy supplies?
- What injustices and conflicts will be provoked by the race for energy sources?
- What will be the reaction of those excluded from this race?

These questions show how respect for nature is closely linked to the need to establish, between individuals and between nations, relationships that are attentive to the dignity of the person and capable of satisfying his or her authentic needs.

Action Options

- Consider organizing or supporting local community gardens to help supply fresh and nutritious vegetables to those who cannot afford them. www.mnproject.org/food-FruitsOfTheCity.html
- Participate in Earth Day Clean-up projects around Minneapolis www.minneapolisparks.org/default.asp?PageID=987
- Make a gift to the St. Vincent de Paul ministries at the Basilica Donate to the St. Vincent de Paul thrift store www.svdpmpls.org/how_thriftstoredonations.html
- Support local farmers www3.mda.state.mn.us/mngrown/ www.twincitiesfarmersmarkets.com/
- Recycle old electronics www.techdump.org/