



Franciscan Action Network

Transforming the World in the Spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare

P.O. Box 29053 • Washington, DC 20017 • 202-527-7575 • 1-888-364-3388 (toll free) • 202-527-7576 (fax)

ST. MARY CHURCH – POMPTON LAKES, NJ

I. Franciscan Care for Creation-Elementary CCD Program Submitted by Alma Banta, DRE

Grade 1

Resource: Bible Story of Creation

How used: 1. Children made posters of “Things God Made”
2. Each child made T-shirts: “Thank You God for Making All Things.” Children added to the shirts drawings of things in nature for which they were thankful.

How it was useful: Made children aware of sacredness and importance of God’s Creation.

Grade 4

Resource: Life of St. Francis

How Used: Each child wrote a “Peace Prayer” of his/her hope for 2010. Many wrote about caring for the earth better.

How it was useful: Allowed the children to express their ideas of how we should be caring for our world.

Grade 5

Resource: Life of St. Francis

How Used: Children attend a 5-day Peace Camp in which the values and ideals of St. Francis are stressed. The spend time at a food bank helping to sort and salvage discarded food for the poor.

How it is Useful: It helps the children be aware of how we waste the fruits of God’s creation.

II. Adolescent Faith Formation

Submitted by Anne Silversey, Director of Youth Ministry

Grades 6, 7, and 8

Resource: Personal experience of High School students in Youth Ministry Program

How it was accomplished:

1. Presentation (personal account/music/slide show) to large group by students that traveled to Nazareth Farm, Salem, West Virginia. Nazareth Farm is a Catholic community that transforms lives and attitudes through service-retreat experience. The four cornerstones of Nazareth Farm are simplicity, prayer, community, service.

2. All students were asked to make environmentally friendly donations to Nazareth Farm.

How it was useful:

Adolescents were made keenly aware by their peers how important it was to serve other while respecting the earth. One of the key concepts learned by presenters and students listening was how easy it was to bring the simplicity aspect to our everyday. Small things such as conserving water, energy, not wasting paper goods, etc can make a big impact without major sacrifice.

III. Senior High Youth Ministry (High School Students)
Submitted by Anne Silversey, Director of Youth Ministry

Resource: Greenfaith (Interfaith Partners for the Environment)

How it was accomplished:

1. The parish youth group conducted a waste audit that was featured on a CBS special highlighting Greenfaith and St. Mary's Parish. High school students involved in youth ministry volunteered to go through the garbage collected from the school cafeteria and parish staff offices. Garbage was examined and categorized according to type.
2. Results were shared with Parish Staff/School involved.

How it was useful:

It raised awareness of Parish Staff/School and community. A plan was created and implemented to reduce waste, and become better stewards of the earth at school and work.