

Holy Family's Tree of Care was a fun and informative way to share what our own families are doing at home to Hope and Act with Creation. In September, approximately 180 leaves were filled out and hung on a tree in the Narthex. The leaves have been tallied in groups according to topics: Recycle (65), Conserve (36), Gardens, Plants and Trees (34), Transportation (9), Waste (5), and Litter and Garbage (26).

Many shared multiple ideas on a single leaf. Examples include: "Bring your own 'to go' box for leftovers at restaurants," "Run your dishwasher on a timer at late night," "Feed the bees with flowers. Yum!" "Plan car trips and errands for more efficient use of time, mileage and gas," "Look for products with minimal packaging," "I pick up trash at the playground," and "Thank God and Mary."

Here is a list of the responses received on the leaves, by category (duplicates have been consolidated):

#### RECYCLE!

- Recycle everything possible.
- Avid recycler!
- I take aluminum cans to a pet shelter so I recycle and they make money for their shelter. A win-win!
- Recycle at home and work.
- Reduce, reuse, and recycle.
- I recycle. I reuse. I thrift shop.
- We recycle and compost at the retreat house.
- We compost food scraps, clean recycled items, and cut plastic films off plastic bottles.
- I found a place that recycles Styrofoam and recycled a full bag.
- Pay attention to water usage.
- To not waste but to create something out of scratch.
- I will try to recycle more plastic items.
- Plastic cutting boards replaced with bamboo.
- Use reusable Tupperware instead of single-use plastic.
- Bring your own "to go" box for leftovers at restaurants
- I bring my own travel mug to the coffee shop.
- We use washable water bottles.
- Reusing items I currently have at home.
- Get and use reusable fabric produce bags.
- Sell at garage sales to recycle household items and clothing.

#### CONSERVE!

- During storms, do not add extra water to the sewer system. (Do not do laundry, run a dishwasher or shower.)
- Run your dishwasher on a timer at late night!
- Turn off the lights you are not using!
- Turn off fans.
- Pay attention to water usage.
- Do not leave H2O running.
- Be mindful of how much water we are using.
- Turn off faucets.
- I take fast showers.
- Do not pollute.
- Save water – drink beer!
- We have solar powered deck lights.
- Installed an on-demand water heater.
- Not using too much paper.
- Buy recycled paper and print on both sides.
- I limit my screen time.
- Changed ComEd bill to NEXAMP Community Solar.
- Changed my ComEd provider to Clean Choice Energy.

### GARDENS, PLANTS AND TREES!

- Include indigenous plants in your garden.
- Encourage pollinators.
- Feed the bees with flowers. Yum!
- Plant a butterfly garden.
- I have a small organic garden.
- Grow vegetables at home.
- I only eat plants. Production of animal foods contributes to greenhouse gas emissions whereas growing and harvesting plants has less impact. (NutritionFacts.org)
- Take care of my garden – weed and water plants.
- Caring for my pets, garden, special needs adults and my neighborhood!
- Plant colorful fun plants in the ground.
- Instead of giving flowers, giving a donation to replant our forests.
- I enjoy my new Maple tree!
- Planting 3 Bald Cypress trees in a wetland.
- Save trees – use cloth napkins.
- Use fewer chemicals to clean and scrub harder.
- We compost.

### WASTE, LITTER AND GARBAGE!

- Produce less waste.
- Look for products with minimal packaging.
- Buy from companies that value and prioritize
- sustainability and conservation.

- Use leftover food wisely.
- Do not be a litterbug.
- Do not litter because animals can get hurt.
- Pick up trash for animal safety.
- Clean up after myself.
- I picked up my brother's garbage.
- Pick up trash in outdoor spaces.
- Throw garbage away.

### TRANSPORTATION!

- Plan car trips and errands for more efficient use
- of time, mileage and gas.
- Drive a hybrid car.
- Ride my bike to do errands.
- Do NOT drive.
- Walk more, drive less.
- Ride public transportation or carpool to work.

And some general entries that didn't fit in the categories but are well worth sharing:

- Teach children about nature, recycling, and God's beautiful earth given to us.
- Model environmentally friendly behaviors.
- Be mindful and pray while in nature.
- Be respectful of God's creation!!
- Be kind to the world.
- We recycle to show our love.
- Thank God and Mary.
- KEEP TRYING!!!