



Care for Our Common Home

Each year on April 22nd we celebrate Earth Day. Pope Francis has increased the dialogue within the Church about caring for the environment since his publication of the encyclical *Laudato Si*. Over this past year at the ERC, we took some steps toward stewardship of the environment through more energy efficient lighting and composting efforts. I'm grateful to Kay Magadance for her work on our composting efforts and for sharing the following reflection.

Peace
Fr. Dan

Kay's Reflection

When I began serving as the coordinator for Newman's meal ministry program, I asked team members for suggestions to improve the Monday night student dinner program. The very first suggestion was to quit using styrofoam plates. At the time there was little available for compostable dinnerware, but this began our desire to switch to more

environmentally-friendly products.

This past year a number of elements came together and we made a significant transition to do more composting and recycling and send less to the landfill.



Pope Francis issued his encyclical, *On Care for Our Common Home (Laudato Si)* addressed to "every person living on this planet," for an inclusive dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. Newman Parish's Peace and Justice Committee provided encouragement as they explored efforts already underway at the ERC in response to *Laudato Si's* call for saving energy and the earth's resources. A number of community experts who are leaders in recycling and composting shared their advice and experiences about what's worked best. A Newman parishioner put us in touch

with their son's employer: a company manufacturing reasonably-priced, compostable dinnerware. We also learned of two vendors in the community running composting operations.

During the summer of 2016 we transitioned our meal ministry to a more sustainable operation, not just with the student dinners, but with all functions occurring at the ERC. We ordered compostable dinnerware products; purchased receptacles for recycle, compost and landfill; added signage that is color coordinated and includes artwork, graphics and text for proper disposal of our waste; and we retained the services of one of the composting vendors. Our efforts are still a work in process, and we continue to learn as well as educate each other, but we are pleased with the change. We are particularly grateful for the cooperation and support of our parishioners and students and for their commitment to be more environment-tally responsible. Many have shared some very positive comments on the change.

Kay Magadance

Pack a Pantry Party!

Many of you enjoyed the fun and good food at the annual Pack a Pantry Mardi Gras party. Because of your generosity we have \$4,675.00 to give to St Francis, UWEC Campus Harvest and CVTC Food Pantries! Food donations were presented to St Francis Food Pantry by the kindergarten and first grade students for their Work of Mercy, *Feed the Hungry*.



Century Club Giving

A request for donations to the ERC Century Club was sent to all parishioners recently. Thank you to all who have contributed. If you haven't had a chance to donate yet, please consider making a contribution. Simply write a check to the Ecumenical Religious Center earmarked "Century Club."

Juan Ana Coffee Orders

Email eileenmunger62@gmail.com by April 17 to order Juan Ana Coffee for this month's delivery. The cost is \$9 for a 1-pound bag of medium (whole bean or ground) or dark (whole bean only) roast coffee. Proceeds help the programs of San Lucas Mission in Guatemala.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Father Tom Krieg and other priests from Wisconsin will be leading a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in a little less than two years from now. The dates are February 15-28, 2019. The pilgrimage will begin in Jordan with an all-day visit to Petra, one of the "New Seven Wonders of the World," along with Sunday Mass on the east bank of the Jordan River where Jesus was baptized, and visits to other holy sites. We will then cross over into Israel/Palestine, spending three nights on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, one night in Jericho, and four nights in Jerusalem. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity! Final cost has not been set, but will be about \$4,450. It features the best accommodations, a comfortable coach, and the finest local guides. More information will be forthcoming.

Holy Week

April 13-16, 2017

-Holy Thursday

8:00 p.m. at the ERC

-Good Friday

12:00 p.m. at the ERC

-Easter

Easter Vigil Mass- 8:00 p.m. at the ERC

Easter Morning Masses—9:30 a.m. at SHHC, 11:30 a.m. at ERC

Good Friday Parking

Parking for Good Friday is available in the UWEC HSS Lot and the Water Street Lot from 11 am to 2 pm. Both lots are across the river from the ERC. You may park in any space except the metered spaces.

Pray For Us

Please keep the following students in your prayers as they make their final preparations to celebrate First Eucharist on Sunday, April 30 at 11:30 am: *William Auth, James Banich, Lila Bauer, Logan Dunbar, Kilian Graser, Keegan Luedtke, Clara Noe, and Ben Strobe.*



Newman April Events

Student Dinner

April 10, Monday, 6 pm, ERC

No 5:30 pm Mass

Easter Sunday, April 16

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

April 25, Tuesday, 6 pm, ERC

2nd Graders Celebrate First Eucharist

April 30, Sunday, 11:30 am Mass, ERC

Good Friday Collection

Equal portions of this year's special Good Friday collection will be shared among The Community Table and the St. Francis Food Pantry. As we remember God's mercy for us, may we show mercy to our neighbors in need. To make a donation, please make checks payable to Newman Parish.

Pastoral Council Elections

Parish Pastoral Council Elections will be held in May. The Council assists the pastor with the needs of the parish and offers advice and counsel. Newman's Pastoral Council consists of 9 members: 7 sustaining and 2 students. Positions are for a two-year term. Three sustaining member positions will be up for election this spring. If you are interested in being considered for the Pastoral Council or would like to suggest someone, please contact Fr. Dan.

Community Connections

Please join presenters Dr. Katherine Schneider, Dave Kruse, Katie Kroll, and a panel comprised of people from the Eau Claire Police Department, the Wellness Shack, and the National Alliance on Mental Illness to learn more about depression. "**Depression-Breaking the Stigma**" will be held on four Thursdays, April 20-May 11, beginning at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall at Lake Street United Methodist Church. This event is free and refreshments will be served. Please email annakroll2016@gmail.com to register and let them know of your accessibility needs.

The **ERC Book Club** will meet on Thursday, April 27, at 7:00 pm at the ERC. The book to be discussed is Louise Erdrich's *The Roundhouse*. Come and enjoy a lively discussion, good camaraderie, and refreshments.

Easter Celebration

Everyone is invited to stay immediately after the Easter Vigil to share in the joy of Easter with one another and to congratulate Aaron Rosenblum, Monique Morales-Briand and Ryan Bridges on their confirmation at the Easter Vigil. There will be plenty of delicious treats for everyone!