



Go Green!

with the Sisters of Divine Providence

A Yearly Update

May 2014

*“The protection of Earth’s vitality,
diversity, and beauty is a sacred trust.”*

–The Earth Charter



Celebrating Creation



With Creation as our theme for this year's Earth Day, Providence Heights held small celebrations each Tuesday throughout the month of April. On April 8, SAGE baked sugar cookies and decorated them with chocolate and white icing to depict the first day of Creation—*day and night*; on April 15, peat pots were distributed to celebrate the third day of Creation—*seed-bearing trees and plants*; on April 22, bags of Goldfish® crackers and small packs of gummy bears candy were distributed to celebrate the fifth and sixth days of Creation—*fish of the sea/creatures of the land*; and on April 29, we celebrated our Earth Day prayer

service in Mother of Divine Providence Chapel.

Special thanks go out to the following: the Alpha School students for their depiction of each day of the Creation story and the teachers who prepared them so well; Rebekah Hill, our liturgist and director of music, for accompanying us on piano and leading us in song; SAGE, for baking delicious cookies; the Office of Mission Advancement for designing the program and for decorating the Sisters' dining room; all who donated to the Earth Day gift baskets (this year's winners were Joelene Bombik, second-

floor nurse, and Nathan Kramm, Alpha School phys-ed teacher); and to the Green Team Committee (Sisters Roseann DeNardis, Diane Dunn, and Betty Sundry, Jean Dennison*, Pam Greer, Lisa Mosser, Sue Smith, Suzin Sunseri, and Karyn Zaffuto) for organizing our Earth Day celebration and for keeping us *green* at Providence Heights!

*Jean was a member of the committee through March 28 and came up with this year's Creation theme.



Earth Day Prayer service



To view all the photos from the prayer service, click the Flickr icon on our website.

CAMPUS CLEANUP

Despite the rain, on Monday, April 28, the Alpha School students participated in a campus cleanup. The kindergarten students cleaned around Kearns Spirituality Center; first grade planted a tree along the nature trail; second grade cleaned the track and field; third grade swept the sidewalks from the school to the Ketteler Center and all around the playground; fourth grade raked leaves and picked up debris; fifth grade raked and cleaned up the front entrance to the school and around St. Anne's Park, as well as cleaned debris from the cemetery; sixth grade cleaned in front of the motherhouse; seventh grade cleaned the gym, locker rooms, and bathrooms, as well as the Stations of the Cross driveway and Ketteler Grove; and eighth grade put down mulch in St. Anne's Park, as well as around the bushes near the side door and the front of the building.



Greening at Providence Heights

At Providence Heights, we continue to recycle batteries, plastic, paper, glass, aluminum, and tin. An additional hand dryer might be installed later this year, but no definite date has been set.

La Posada Celebrates Earth Day

The weather was perfect in South Texas for an Earth Day celebration outdoors. Clients, staff, and volunteers gathered under a shady tree for a prayer service titled “Today is Earth Day; We Give Thanks for Our Planet Earth, Our Home.”

When the prayer service ended, clients worked on the shelter’s garden, digging around the trees, watering the plants, and spreading fertilized soil around the roots of the trees. In addition to the lawn care, Sister Thérèse Cunningham, client mentor, conducted a presentation on composting and its benefits. During the presentation, the clients gathered around the composting barrels to aerate and add more material, such as leaves.

Sister Margaret Mertens, volunteer coordinator, also provided interactive demonstrations. She showed clients the proper way to plant, weed, and water the vegetable garden. These efforts ensure that La Posada can continue to enjoy fresh produce from its own gardens and reap the benefits from rich compost for years to come.

[Source: Tuesdays in Texas]



La Posada clients, staff, and volunteers gather for a prayer service to celebrate Earth Day on April 22.



A La Posada client harvests the bounty of the shelter’s garden.



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