

# St. Mary's Human Concerns Brings Hope to Others

## Earth Day, Every Day



Earth Day is on April 22<sup>nd</sup> every year. Earth Day is a day to pledge to remember to take care of our planet, Earth. We can take care of our planet by keeping it clean.

We can keep Earth clean by following the rule of “reduce, reuse, recycle”. *Reduce* means *use less*. We can reduce our use of resources like water or gasoline. *Reuse* means *use again*, rather than throw things away. We can *reuse* many things, such as jars, plastic bags and boxes. *Recycle* means to make something new from something old. We can keep Earth clean by *recycling* materials such as aluminum, paper and plastic. When we take these materials to a recycling center, they can be used again in a different way.

On Earth Day, we remind ourselves and everyone on Earth that we must do these things. We must do these things every day, not just on Earth Day. We must all do our part, and we can make a difference. On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, remind everyone you know that Earth Day is every day!

The Human Concerns Committee asked the students to make suggestions on how they and the rest of the parish can “reduce, reuse and recycle” to help eliminate waste and protect our environment. Look on the reverse side for some very helpful suggestions from them to help our beautiful Earth stay beautiful.



**Here are some great ways we can REDUCE, REUSE AND RECYCLE to eliminate waste and protect our environment:**

- \*Plant windbreaks along property to prevent erosion and also purify the air
  - \*Planting trees removes CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere, increases shade so you don't need to use the air conditioner as much
  - \*Pull weeds rather than using weed killer
  - \*Use cardboard egg cartons to plant seedlings indoors
  - \*Put magnets on the back of CD cases and use as a photo display on the refrigerator
  - \*Refill water bottles rather than buying disposable single serving water bottles
  - \*Junk mail coupons are usually blank on the other side, use as scrap and note paper
  - \*Take computers and electronics to Goodwill stores
  - \*Old tires can be used to resurface parking lots and playgrounds – so can old tennis shoes
  - \*Take shorter showers, turn water off while brushing your teeth
  - \*Turn lights off when not using them
  - \*Buy recycled products - use reusable, not disposable things
  - \*Use cloth towels instead of paper towels
  - \*Use a paper bag as a book cover
  - \*Make a birdfeeder from a milk jug, reuse water bottles or aluminum cans for craft projects
  - \*Recycle plastic, paper, cardboard, scrap metal, cans and anything else with the recyclable symbol
  - \*Keep numerous recycling bins around the house
  - \*Ride your bike or walk to work, carpool, take a train or a bus, buy a battery powered car
  - \*Pass books, toys and clothes to siblings, friends, Goodwill or to the poor
  - \*Use both sides of paper
  - \*Use old clothes as rags
  - \*Recycle cardboard holders from paper towel and toilet paper
  - \*Reuse paper and plastic bags from the store; bring a canvas bag when shopping for groceries
  - \*Reuse laundry bottles and buy refills
  - \*Recycle ink cartridges and old eyeglasses
  - \*Recycle paper to make more paper
  - \*Make your own juice instead of buying in jugs
  - \*If someone in your family has a Girl Scout and she's done with her vest, you can give it to another girl
  - \*Recycle instead of littering
  - \*Don't throw away your Halloween pumpkin – break it up and put in the compost bin.
- Compost your garbage instead of filling up the landfill
- \*When you mow the lawn, you can let the grass clippings go back into the grass instead of bagging them and taking to the dump
  - \*Construction debris can be reused to help build new buildings
  - \*Take tree branches to the recycling center for mulch
  - \*Use glass plates and cups instead of paper or Styrofoam
  - \*Read the newspaper on line
  - \*Have a rummage sale with old things you don't want anymore
  - \*When you are camping or on a picnic, take reusable products
  - \*Buy food that's loose and not pre-packaged; put in reusable tubs. Use containers instead of Ziploc bags for lunches
  - \*Pick up trash around your neighborhood and put it in the right place, keep lakes and rivers clean
  - \*Reuse Styrofoam cups for painting projects
  - \*Fix things instead of throwing them away
  - \*Hang clothes on the wash line to save electricity
  - \*Reuse lunch boxes
  - \*Have a parish clean-up and pick up litter day