

**GoGreen Committee
St John Vianney Parish
105 Vianney Lane
Prince Frederick, MD 20678**

**Study and Recommendations Whereby Our Parish
Can Act with Greater Respect and Love for God's
Gift of Nature**

(Revised 06/30/07)

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<<http://www.sjvc.us/GoGreen.pdf>>

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0. Charge

St. John Vianney Catholic Church GOGREEN COMMITTEE

February 10, 2007

Dr. Robert Ulanowicz
Port Republic, MD

Dear Dr. Ulanowicz:

Thank you for your willingness to chair our parish “Environmental Stewardship Committee”, otherwise known as our “green committee.”

At our last meeting the Pastoral Council recommended that we should form a “Green Committee” to review our environmental stewardship. Among the topics that we would like your committee to examine are the following.

- Ways to reduce our energy consumption and carbon “footprint”.
- Recycling of paper and other waste.
- Reduction of use of chemicals and fertilizer.
- Long term alterations to buildings to conserve energy.
- Land use, including forestry and wet lands conservation on our 100 acres.
- Ways that members of our community can be better environmental stewards in their own personal lives.

We are interested in both short term and long term actions that will address our stewardship of the environment.

Projects that would require a large expenditure of money are not beyond consideration, but would obviously take time to implement.

I would hope that we would have an initial report to our Pastoral Council by our May meeting. I would like to come to your first meeting to begin the work.

It may be necessary to establish a continuing “green committee” to implement some proposals and to come up with new ideas as we become aware of new technologies and problems.

I would recommend that your committee be small enough to work effectively. .

We hope that our parish can set an example in stewardship of the environment for our community and for the Church as a whole.

Being a “steward” means recognizing that we are not the “owners” of the environment, but hold it in trust for God only for a short period of time.

My thanks to you for your willingness to help with this important work.

Fr. Daly

I. Mission Statement:

We, the parishioners of the Church of St. John Vianney, Prince Frederick, MD express our fervent concern over the quality of life of our neighbors, including generations to come. As a Community of Worship, we seek to show our religious respect for the integrity of creation. We further recognize that our use of the mineral, vegetable and animal resources of the universe should never be divorced from our concern for moral imperatives.¹ We therefore seek to include a proper reverence for God's creation into our prayer lives and worship. It is also our desire to share our respect with other communities of faith in Southern Maryland and to join our efforts with theirs and with those of civic associations and governmental agencies dedicated to effective stewardship of our common natural providence.

Constantly aware that God is ever ready to sacrifice for our welfare, we intend to transform our own activities, buildings and grounds in whatever ways possible so as to minimize our impact on natural resources, in order that they can be shared with others and preserved for those to come. We intend to spare no effort in educating our children and ourselves about effective stewardship of the home into which God has placed us. We pray that by molding the lives of our families and our community in the image of St. Francis of Assisi, we may give abundant witness to others of how to harmonize faith with a way of living that treads gently upon God's green firmament.

II. Acknowledgements:

Members of the SJV GoGreen Committee wish to express out thanks and appreciation to all those who helped in putting this report together. Firstly, we are grateful for the guidance and encouragement extended to us by our pastor, Rev. Peter J. Daly. Numerous parishioners gave of their time and advice by consenting to be interviewed by members of the Committee. These include: Peter Daly, Mary DeRight, Larry Donnelly, Richard Hayes, Mike Lewnes, John McFadden, William & Janice Stanton, George Sullivan, and T.P. Voegtli. Dan Williams consulted with the Committee on recycling options. Finally, Parish secretary, Mrs. Mike Lewnes, was most helpful in arranging meeting facilities.

¹ Catechism of the Catholic Church, Paragraph 2514: "The seventh commandment enjoins respect for the integrity of creation. Animals, like plants and inanimate beings, are by nature destined for the common good of past, present, and future humanity. Use of the mineral, vegetable, and animal resources of the universe cannot be divorced from respect for moral imperatives. Man's dominion over inanimate and other living beings granted by the Creator is not absolute; it is limited by concern for the quality of life of his neighbor, including generations to come; it requires a religious respect for the integrity of creation."

III. Summary Recommendations:

- **Perform full environmental audit on Parish Center**

As one of the older buildings on campus, the Parish Center is in need of environmental upgrading. A thorough energy audit should be procured, with attention paid to electrical consumption, sensor switches, heat leakage out windows, pipe wrapping, inline water heaters, switching to fluorescent lighting, summer window shading, etc.

- **Upgrade recycling across Parish campus**

Conspicuous bins for recycling of paper, cans and plastic are needed in each building. The volume thereby generated will likely place strains on existing storage space, therefore a volunteer “green corps” will have to be solicited to empty the bins at least twice weekly and transport material to County Waste Transfer Station. Procurement of a crusher/compactor is advisable.

- **Institute “Green Liturgies” on semi-annual basis**

Daily Mass on two days of the year could highlight Stewardship of God’s gifts via creation. These liturgies should be prominently announced and other Parish events could be scheduled to coincide with the celebrations (cleanup activities, plantings, etc.) Possible days might be Earth Day (April 20) and the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of ecology (October 4.)

- **Pursue County “Bay Wise” certification**

The Calvert County Master Gardner program offers certification that grounds are being maintained in “Bay Wise” fashion and providing “Backyard Habitat” for local wildlife. Certified properties are given a yard sign and a certificate. Topics include: wise fertilization, watering, mowing, runoff control, wildlife-friendly plantings, etc. Parish grounds are close to standards already, and a small increment in practices will qualify for certification.

- **Convey conservation properties to custody of ACLT or other appropriate organization**

Two parcels of Parish land totaling approximately 16 acres are zoned either “Conservation” or “Rural Protected”. They are unavailable for development, so that title, liability and taxes should be transferred via sale to the American Chestnut Land Trust, or other appropriate non-profit or governmental organization. The Parish should also cooperate with the ACLT in providing easement for a walking trail across Parish property to connect with the ACLT Bay trail now being created.

- **Create a GoGreen Bulletin Board**

Space should be created, preferably in the Festival Hall or adjacent vestibule, for a bulletin board that would feature Parish environmental activities. Parishioners could use the board to sign up for Car/Van pools, volunteer for recycling or trail maintenance, etc. Green tips could be posted and rotated regularly.

- **Initiate planting of native species**

The areas on the hillside adjacent to the Rectory and the area around the stormwater pond could be planted to native species.

- **Formulate management plan for undeveloped land**

Much of the Parish property will remain undeveloped into the foreseeable future. A plan should be drawn up with guidance from the Calvert County Rural Legacy Program to address such topics as erosion control, invasive species, native plantings, education, trails, and recreation.

- **Eliminate Styrofoam from Parish activities**

Techniques have been developed to recycle most materials, but Styrofoam remains a recalcitrant problem. Paper or other plastic substitutes should be provided at all Parish activities. If Starbucks can avoid Styrofoam and still please customers, SJV can do likewise.

- **Develop and distribute SJV “green” shopping bags**

Local food stores now provide reusable mesh or canvas alternatives to the usual plastic bags that so litter our surroundings. These usually carry the logo of the chain. An SJV logo could be designed and reusable bags could be ordered for use by parishioners. Besides helping the environment, use of the bags would demonstrate the commitment of the Parish to environmental concerns. It would also make the merchants aware of patronage by parishioners, which could be helpful when seeking their support for parish activities.

(N.b. What follows in this “full narrative” is the entire set of recommendations, intended to be implemented over the coming ten years or so. The format is different from the preceding Key Recommendations section in that the narrative comes first, followed by the specific recommendations.)

IV. Activities

A. Education

1. CCD: Students who attend the Christian Beginnings and CCD Programs at SJV could be involved in various activities that promote environmental awareness. In the course of the plan, students would receive background information and be involved in "hands-on" activities to demonstrate that children can make a difference. This will motivate the students to become active in the various components of the Project. Additionally, the spiritual aspects of environmental stewardship could be emphasized while learning about keeping their community clean and green. Students would learn about:
 - a. Simple explanations of the issues, from the greenhouse effect to our vanishing forest lands and the Bay, and how we misuse energy.
 - b. Amazing facts to keep on the green track.
 - c. A Green Audit: a step-by-step checklist of all the ways you can be environmentally aware in your home, your school, and your community.
 - d. A guide to the four R's: REDUCE, REUSE, and RECYCLE as much as you can, and REFUSE to buy environmentally unsafe products.
 - e. An A-to-Z list of ideas of things you can do to protect our planet.
 - f. Tips on getting involved from the home front to across the country with a guide to local and national environmental organizations.
- **Introduce environmental awareness as part of the Christian Beginnings and CCD programs.**
2. Nature Trail: One nature trail behind the Family Life Center has already been surveyed. The loop would start at stormwater pond and end at pavilion and run roughly along two streams. Others are contemplated. For example, a connection with the Bay Trail could run off middle of the

current loop and connect to BOCC property. The Bay Trail would require 2 stream crossing.ⁱ

- **Create nature trails on Parish property.**
 3. These nature trails could be interwoven with spiritual points of contact. For example, a trail might emphasize the lives of Saints who were associated with ecology, environment, agriculture and other related fields. Another might form a Rosary Walk involving all of the mysteries. Etc.
- **Integrate spiritual themes into Parish nature trails.**
 4. Family Night, “Environmental Evening”. On an annual or semi-annual basis, hold a family “Environmental Evening” in the Parish Life Center. Meeting would involve all scout units and the Youth Program. It would feature what has been accomplished during the past year to make the SJV Community better stewards of the environment. It would include a push to sign up volunteers for the various environmental ministries. Might be held in connection with an “environmental” saint, such as St Isidore.
- **Establish an annual “Environmental Evening at the Family Life Center.**
 5. Educate for enforcement. As parishioners take part in activities throughout Calvert County, they often encounter violations of local, State or Federal environmental laws. Everyone needs to know how he/she can bring these violations to the attention of the appropriate authorities.
- **Include information into all educational programs on how to alert enforcement agencies about violations of environmental laws.**
 6. “GoGreen Tips”: A green tip could be offered after Mass to encourage parishioners to go green.
- **Post GoGreen tips in a conspicuous place for all to see. Update frequently.**
 7. Adult Participation: In addition to calling on the youth groups in the parish we could also call on the many adult organizations to help further our cause. Many groups are looking for speakers and ideas for activities.
- **Announce availability of GoGreen Committee members to speak at Parish functions, where requested.**
 - B. Liturgy: Under the area of Liturgy, Masses could be celebrated at various times during the Liturgical year that would coincide with the seasons and environmental events such as Patron Saints who were associated with environmentalism.

1. Earth Day Mass: St George's Feast Day could be celebrated around Earth Day due to his memorial day of April 23rd. He is a patron saint for agriculture.
 2. A Mass for animals and pets could be celebrated in conjunction with an October feast day of St. Francis of Assisi (October 4), the Patron Saint of animals.
 3. Mass honoring St. Kateri Tekakwitha (July 14) could be held in the summer promoting ecology and the environment as she is the patron saint for both.
 4. An example of a Patron Saint's Mass could be for St. Notburga, a patron saint of farmers, which would be held at the harvest season for farmers due to the memorial date of her feast day in September.
 5. Some Mass in December could be celebrated with reference to the earliest sunset (Dec 11) or the solstice (Dec 21.) St. Dominic of Silos (Dec. 20), for example, spent much of his youth in solitude in the fields.
- **Schedule at least two masses throughout the year to feature community commitment to the stewardship of God's natural gifts.**

C. Outreach

1. Calvert Interfaith Committee: The Calvert Interfaith Community (C.I.C.) would provide an excellent venue for exchange of ideas and information among a diverse group of people. A first step toward this goal would be to send a Go Green representative to the meetings held by C.I.C. to inform this group of our existence and to request a partnership with them toward the common goal of environmental responsibility. An outcome of this effort could be linkages with other organizations.
- **Invite members of CIC to establish GoGreen Committees in their faith communities.**
2. Contacts should be made through various government agencies as well as private environmental groups. Parishioners who are members or have contacts with the following groups are encouraged to inform them of SJV GoGreen activities. Agencies might include:
 - a. Calvert County Government Division of Solid Wasteⁱⁱ.
 - b. Maryland Department of the Environmentⁱⁱⁱ.

- c. American Forest and Paper Association^{iv}.
 - d. Project Learning Tree^v.
 - e. Alcan Corporation^{vi}.
- **Proselytize GoGreen activities among established environmental organizations.**
 - 3. SJV Green bags?: St. John Vianney green bags could be made in the same style as the current Giant mesh shopping bags. Our bags would have our name imprinted on the sides and would encourage parishioners to use them in lieu of plastic or paper bags. Our group could negotiate with local stores to honor our bags at their businesses. Consultation with the store manager at the Upper Marlboro Giant resulted in the fact that Giant would honor the use of our bags and still give the rebate associated with the use of the bags.
- **Initiate a St. John Vianney “Green Shopping Bag” program.**
 - 4. Sponsor a road for cleanup: Participation in the “Adopt a Road” program would be a good way to clean up the roads of Calvert County. To remove the eyesore of trash and garbage along our roadways would not only beautify our county but would also eliminate some of the causes of contaminants running into our waterways. The Boy Scouts of America have made this a positive activity for their organization. This activity would be ideal for the young adult population of our parish. A Saturday morning work session followed by a social gathering in a local restaurant would be a way to serve the community and for members of this group to get to know one another.
- **Encourage more Parish organizations to take part in the County “Adopt a Road” campaign.**
 - 5. Complementary Currencies: Various communities around the nation are creating local currencies to encourage the performance of beneficial services to the needy or the environment and to bring marginalized individuals into the local economy. Examples are the “Ithaca Dollars” in Ithaca, NY and Time Dollars in nearby Washington, DC^{vii,viii}.
- **Create a local currency (Vianney Dollars) to encourage beneficial local economic activities.**
 - 6. Sponsor plantings elsewhere: The Committee could identify other areas in the community that are in need of plantings for wildlife habitat, erosion control, and shade and provide the materials and labor for this effort.

Gardens established in these areas could be identified as having been created by the Green Committee from St. John Vianney.

- **Promulgate the GoGreen spirit in the manner of Johnny Appleseed.**
 7. This report and the current activities and projects should be listed on the SJV Parish website for all the world to see and emulate. GoGreen representatives should solicit links to this page from the websites of Calvert County, the Washington Archdiocese and those of neighboring parishes.
- **Establish links to the SJV GoGreen page on outside websites.**

D. Travel

1. Vehicle audit: Saint John Vianney has two vehicles—a 1993 Ford Ranger truck and a 1995 bus. These vehicles should be well maintained with appropriate tune-ups to keep them in the best running order. As for our parishioners a bulletin board with green tips could be created.
- **Acquire and maintain Parish vehicles for green operation.**
 2. Travel audit: Parishioners could be encouraged to cut back on unnecessary trips as much as possible and take time to plan outings so as to incorporate as many errands as possible into one trip. Carpooling and the use of busses for church activities would also be promoted. Eventually, facilities for video conferencing could be acquired to help cut down on travel needs.
 - **Encourage all Parish organizations and operations to cut back on unnecessary travel.**
 3. Car pooling and busses for events: Information on carpooling, county transportation as well as inter-county travel could be provided.
 - **Consolidate most parish travel into busses or car pools.**

- V. **Property/Land:** St John Vianney parish is blessed with both developed and undeveloped lands. For those properties containing parish facilities we will charter a course of wise stewardship and environmentally sensitive maintenance, recognizing the volunteer foundation of most upkeep activities. For our natural areas we will focus on preservation and minimum impact utilization to further parish and community objectives.

The grounds around our buildings need to be maintained so as to provide a welcoming campus atmosphere while minimizing adverse downstream impacts. Resources should be made available to guide all of the above mentioned activities associated with our property. Persons with an interest in any particular area need to be matched with each other and with the resource list to implement action plans.

A. Stewardship

1. Land preservation: Probably our greatest challenge with regard to our undeveloped property is to find the best way to preserve it, while exercising low impact utilization consistent with parish objectives. The idea of constructive partnerships with the County, adjacent landowners or land conservation organizations is an exciting possibility. One potential partner through whom the Parish could work is the American Chestnut Land Trust (ACLT), which was established to maintain as much open land within the Parkers Creek Watershed as possible. ACLT may be willing to purchase and manage those parts of Parish property in the Conservation and Rural classifications, or the organization might be willing to help the Parish in dealing with easements and Transfer Rights.
- **Partner with ACLT to preserve the parcels of Parish property zoned conservation and rural.**
2. Establish camping site: Nature provides many with a place for quiet spiritual contemplation. Our undeveloped lands can also add to the richness of parish activities such as camp sites for scout troops, nature trails, a rosary walk and others. There is plenty of room for a primitive camping site. If a portable bathroom is desired, the campsite might need to be placed near road access. Perhaps Tobacco Ridge Road? It would be a challenging hike from the Family Life Center, but would still enable equipment to be dropped off near the camp site and for emergency vehicle access if needed. Clearing or grading over 5,000 feet will require a grading permit.
- **Create a campsite on SJV property for use by any Parish organization.**

3. Forest management plan: A professionally drafted forest management plan will inventory species and optimize maintenance of those most desirable.
- **Establish a forest management plan for SJV properties.**
- B. Plantings: Our parish plantings need to be selected and tended carefully.
1. Shade/Wind: Plantings should be made in the proximity of new and existing buildings so as to provide shade and wind barriers to mitigate the climate within the buildings. All buildings & grounds should be evaluated for tree sites to reduce energy demands of heating & cooling buildings. Evergreens planted to the north (or where ever prevailing winter winds come from) will cut cold winter winds and reduce heating costs. Deciduous trees on the eastern and western sides of buildings can provide sunshine in winter for passive heating, while blocking sun heating during summer months. Where space is limited trellises with vines may also be considered. Given the buildings' sizes, locations & available planting room, we may not be able to significantly impact energy costs. We will need to evaluate the grounds.
- **Make new plantings on Parish grounds with an eye towards shading and wind protection.**
2. Erosion inventory: Parish grounds should be inspected for any signs of erosion. Areas with visible erosion should be replanted with vegetation designed to hold the soil, slow water velocity, increase evapotranspiration and improve water penetration into the ground. Forests can absorb approximately 7 inches of rain an hour. An ideal lawn with ideal soil can absorb about 4 inches per hour. Most lawns are so compacted that they absorb closer to 1 inch per hour. Tree plantings should be maximized, and rain gardens considered (see below).
- **Inspect Parish grounds for signs of soil erosion and treat with appropriate plantings.**
3. Native plantings/ invasive species control: In making plantings for shade and erosion control, efforts should be made to use native species wherever possible. Preference should be given to species that provide food and cover for wild life. Native plants usually thrive with little watering and few if any chemical applications. Once established a native landscape will require less time and energy (human and fossil fuel) to maintain than conventional lawns and gardens. Some reference materials to add to an environmental garden may be handy^{ix}. Invasive species (e.g., bamboo) should be avoided on Parish grounds. Invasive species are the second leading threat to biodiversity and wildlife habitat. (The first is

development.) The grounds should be walked and assessed for invasive species. Once identified, an eradication plan should be adopted^x.

- **Undertake plantings of native species on hill next to Rectory and around FLC parking storage pond.**
 4. Demonstration gardens: One or more specialty gardens would all advance county or religious and cultural traditions while adding beauty to our “wild places.”
 - a. Biblical or Mary Garden: A thematic garden devoted to biblical topics or events from the life of Mary
 - b. Cutting garden for altar: Flowers grown specifically for decorating the altar.
 - c. Rain garden – would be designed to absorb runoff from either the parking lot or one of the buildings. A depression would be dug and the soil amended to improve drainage and include organic matter. Native plants that can tolerate flooding & periods of drought would help with water absorption.
 - d. Habitat garden – would be designed to provide wildlife habitat. Garden could be designed for birds & small mammals or butterflies & beneficial insects. Feeders & a water source could be included if a group could be identified to maintain them. Either garden could be expanded to include a meditation seat.
- **Establish one or more specialty gardens.**
 5. Walking Path: Walking paths to connect Parish Center and Church buildings should be considered. CCD students should be able to safely walk from the Parish Center to mass in the church without having to compete for space on Vianney Lane. Parents should then be encouraged to park in one spot and walk to pick up their child. Consider a similar path to connect Family Life Center with the Church.
- **Create walking paths to allow pedestrians to avoid vehicular traffic.**
 6. We should offer to plant memorial trees for a donation to offset the costs of some environmental projects.
- **Establish a program of memorial plantings.**

C. Maintenance

1. Fertilizer use: Fertilizers for grass, shrubs and trees should use only that necessary to keep plantings healthy. Products should be acquired with due respect for run off and longer term effects. Currently fertilizer use is restricted to the small area of the front lawn. This seems reasonable since this is such a high visibility area for the church. Fertilizer amounts should continue to follow state guidelines. Do not expand areas of fertilization, except perhaps for the establishment period (2 or 3 years) for the new ball fields.
- **Minimize the application of fertilizers to Parish grounds.**
2. Pesticide/Herbicide use: Ample concern should be exercised for pest management. The chemicals we add to the ground or air should be obtained with full recognition of their possible effect on those volunteers who apply them and on what happens to them after their immediate purpose has been served. MRW, the contractor that tends to the lawn in front of the church, appears to be following IPM (Integrated Pest Management) recommendations. The rest of the lawn areas do not have pesticides or herbicides applied to them. Bagworms continue to plague bushes. We may want to have BT applied professionally for a couple years to control infestation. A manual program to pick off caterpillars is also needed -- perhaps an Earth Day project for the Parish youth?
- **Minimize pesticides; use organic controls when possible. Eliminate use of herbicides.**
3. Water conservation: Water is a precious commodity. Inside we bless ourselves with holy water. Outside we need to consider water wholly.
 - a. Rain barrels – Could be used to capture runoff & water foundation plantings. Probably need to attach to soaker hoses for zero to low maintenance. Buildings would need to be evaluated to see where they are appropriate. The barrels would be especially useful for educational purposes. Children of the Parish could decorate them.
- **Provide rain barrels to capture water for irrigation of plantings.**
- b. Gray water/rain water reuse – There is no reason to use potable water to flush toilets. Consider reusing gray or rain water where possible – especially appropriate for new construction or if any major plumbing needs to be redone. Likewise, consideration should be given to the reuse of boiler effluent and the disposal of hot water residues.
- **Implement reuse of gray water.**

c. Rain gardens – Try to capture water from impervious surfaces with rain gardens. This will give the rain water a chance to soak into the ground instead of becoming polluted storm water runoff. The nearby streams on our property are the sensitive headwaters for Parker’s Creek.

- **Plant gardens to receive rainwater from impervious surfaces.**

4. Soil Test: A soil test is overdue and recommended. Last soil test for the front lawn was in 2004. MRW can take sample & send to lab. It will enable them to adjust their treatment accordingly. A soil test may also be appropriate for the new ball field since we will be trying to establish turf there.

- **Have soils from all parish grounds tested.**

5. Baywise Certification: Bay Wise certification and Backyard Habitat certification programs can guide our stewardship of the land. Certification is obtained through the Calvert County Master Gardener program. A property gets points (inches) for each Bay friendly technique they employ according to the Bay Wise Yardstick. Properties with 36 inches or more are certified. Topics covered include: fertilizing wisely, water efficiently, mow properly, control stormwater runoff, mulch appropriately, recycle yard wastes, manage yard pests with IPM, plant wisely, encourage wildlife, and protect the waterfront. The Parish will receive a yard sign and a certificate. (Betsy Spitzler & Veronica Cristo are Master Gardeners and can assist with certification when the parish is ready.)

- **Pursue County “Bay Wise” Certification.**

6. Chemicals: Road salts & ice melt are needed for safety. However products should be selected for minimum damage to Bay, concrete, bricks, metal & plants. See “Melting Ice Safely” Cooperative Extension Fact Sheet. Ice melting products are most effective if spread in a thin, even layer over pavement prior to ice formation. Sand can be used to enhance traction.

- **Consider alternative materials to melt ice on roads and walkways.**

7. Use of recycled paper: Dry newsprint commands a decent price on the recycle market. It may be worthwhile to create an outside bin where parishioners can drop off their old newspapers. These could be sold to provide a small subsidy for parish environmental activities.

- **Collect newsprint for resale.**

8. Currently most wastes are already kept out of the landfills & left on Church grounds, but management of vegetative wastes generated onsite and in the yards of parishioners can be put to good use.
 - a. Compost bin or pile: Currently grass clippings are left in place, leaves are allowed to blow into wooded areas. Small compost bins may be appropriate to handle remaining waste – pulled weeds, kitchen vegetables etc. Perhaps one near the Family Life Center and one near the Parish Center.
- **Create one or more composting areas.**
 - b. Shred leaves for mulch in garden beds: Shredded leaves are ideal compost for the garden beds. Consider using them instead of purchased mulch in most beds. Uniform, store brought mulch may be more appropriate for high visibility areas like the front of the Church.
 - **Shred leaves collected on campus for mulching Parish plantings.**
 - c. Create brush pile for branches: Brush pile provide important wildlife habitat. Consider creating a brush pile in an out of sight corner.
 - **Create brush piles for wildlife habitat.**

VI. Buildings

A. Older Buildings

The older buildings on campus (Old part of church, Rectory, and Parish Center) are in need of environmental upgrading. A thorough energy audit should be procured for each one.

- **Perform full environmental audit on older buildings.**

1. Audit should begin with Parish Center:

- **Replace HVAC units for Vianney Room with SEER 13 efficiency units.**
- **Set all thermostats at 83/76F. (83F when not in use; 76F when in use.) Move control box in entrance way back into hallway.**
- **Replace all windows in Vianney Room with double-paned, insulated units. Blow insulation into VR ceiling to R38 value.**
- **Replace all fluorescent lighting with T2 or T4 lights and ballasts. Post requests for parishioners to turn off lights after use.**
- **Replace hot water tanks for lavatories with on-demand heaters. Cut back operating temperature to 120F.**
- **Reduce power-saver cycles on printers and copiers.**

2. Several items in old section of church must be addressed:

- **Reroute and insulate hot water pipes in kitchen crawl space.**
- **Insulate altar server's vesting room and tower ceiling.**

3. One item in Family Life Center needs immediate attention:

- **Relocate HVAC control panel from stage loft to manager's office.**

B. Recycling (Paper, plastic, metals)

Conspicuous bins for recycling of paper, cans and plastic are needed in each building. The volume thereby generated will likely place strains on existing storage space, therefore a volunteer "green corps" will have to be solicited to empty the bins at least twice weekly and transport material to County Waste Transfer Station. Procurement of a crusher/compactor is advisable.

- **Upgrade recycling across Parish campus.**

C. Styrofoam:

Techniques have been developed to recycle most materials, but Styrofoam remains a recalcitrant problem. Paper or other plastic substitutes should be provided at all Parish activities. If Starbucks was able to eliminate Styrofoam, SJV certainly should be able to follow suite.

- **Eliminate Styrofoam from Parish activities.**

D. Water conservation:

Check existing plumbing for leaks and corrosion. Sign up for SMECO Hot water/AC “economizer” plan. Consider replacing hot water tanks with inline heaters.

- **Enroll in SMECO HW/AC “Economizer” plan.**
- **Replace hot water tanks with inline heaters.**

E. Hazardous Waste Disposal:

Although no known parish activities generate hazardous wastes, a number of potentially hazardous materials may be present on the grounds, and especially in storage lockers. Common items include: paint thinner, mineral spirits, trichloroethylene (cleaning fluid), freon, paint sludge and strippers.

4. All hazardous materials need to be kept in separate lockers and separated from the normal trash, rather than simply thrown into the dumpster. The County Office of Solid Wastes should be contacted for advice on the disposal of these materials.
 5. Flammable materials should be stored in a separate flammable locker engineered for proper venting and fire containment.
- **Store hazardous and flammable materials in separate lockers.**
 - 6. All electrical transformers should be inspected for signs of leakage. If any leaks are detected, they should be analyzed for Polychlorobiphenols (PCB’s) which would have to be removed and disposed of professionally.
 - **Inspect all transformers on campus for leaks.**

F. Asbestos inventory:

Asbestos was probably not used in the construction of either the New Church or the Family Life Center, but the utilities in the older structures, like the Parish Center, Rectory and especially the Old Church should be inspected for the presence of asbestos.

1. If any asbestos is discovered in these buildings, and especially if the sources pose an ongoing hazard, then professional help should be engaged for the proper removal of this dangerous material

- **Inspect older buildings for shedding asbestos.**

G. When planning for future buildings and parking lots should involve the active participation of the Go Green Committee to ensure that new additions are built to be as “green” as financial resources will allow.

- **Design new buildings and parking lots to be as “green” as possible.**

VII. Follow-on Action

The GoGreen Committee is encouraged to make an annual report to the Parish Council at the latter's April or May meeting. In preparation for this report, this plan should be revised to cull finished tasks and to add new needs as they arise.. A new set of Feature Recommendations should be drafted for each year's meeting to set environmental priorities for the following year.

- **Update SJV GoGreen Plan on a scheduled annual basis.**

ⁱ Stream crossings would require permission from MDE & a grading exemption from Soil Conservation. Preliminary conversations with P&Z have indicated that permits may not be needed for the path if path is merely a mulch walking path. Permanent structures (stairs/boardwalks) or tree removal may require permits.

ⁱⁱ www.co.cal.md.us

ⁱⁱⁱ www.mde.state.md.us

^{iv} www.afandpa.org

^v www.plt.org

^{vi} www.recycle.alcan.com

^{vii} Lietaer, Bernard A. 2001. *The Future of Money : A New Way to Create Wealth, Work and a Wiser World*. Century, London. 371p.

^{viii} Cahn, Edgar S. 1992. *Time Dollars : The New Currency That Enables Americans to Turn Their Hidden Resource-Time-into Personal Security & Community Renewal*. St. Martin's Press, New York. 272p.

^{ix} The US Fish & Wildlife Service's *Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping: Chesapeake Bay Watershed* is an excellent source for information on native plants in our region and is available online.

^x Some invasive species are present, but the grounds appear to be in better shape than many of the surrounding properties.