

Saint Pius X Creation Care Team

Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

Quick Tips from Saint Pius X Creation Care Team

Picnic Recycling:

1. Work closely and have good communication with maintenance staff and picnic organizers.
2. Know your facilities recycling rules and practices.
 - a. What do you do with plastic bottle caps?
 - b. Is it single stream (can trash be mixed in)?
 - c. Do cans/cups need to be rinsed?
3. Use clearly marked and strategically placed containers. Label with signs that designate what can be recycled.
 - a. We had multiple recycle bins placed near the trash containers so picnickers would not have to look for them.
 - b. We used the same cardboard boxes that were used for trash. We labeled them clearly. We then recycled the boxes at the end of the picnic.
 - c. Despite having clearly marked containers people will still make mistakes.
 - i. We had several volunteers stand near the bins to help people put items in the correct containers.
 - ii. Volunteers would check trash containers and put recyclables in the correct bins.
4. We had volunteers collect and haul the recycle bags and boxes to the large recycle bins. We didn't want to overwhelm the facilities staff who were already very busy.
5. Don't forget about large aluminum serving trays. If your recycling facility takes them plan for rinsing and collection.

Tree Planting:

1. We purchased very inexpensive saplings from a state sponsored program.
2. Reached out to teachers and students in our school. The students came out during a class period to plant trees and we had an educational component discussing how trees trap carbon.
3. We engaged a local Boy Scout troop. Troops are often looking for community activities to earn badges. With their help we were able to get many more trees planted.
4. Provided tags for families and students to mark the trees they planted so they could come back and monitor their growth.
5. Notified a local TV station and we were featured as part of their story on community Earth Day Events.

LED Demonstration

1. We built a display with one incandescent bulb and three LED bulbs rated for three different temperatures in degrees Kelvin—a soft white (2700K), a bright white (4000K), and a cool daylight (5000K). A fifth bulb was on a dimmer switch.
2. Provided a hands-on opportunity to measure energy lost to heat using an infrared heat thermometer (like one used for cooking).
 - a. Both kids and adults really seemed to enjoy seeing the striking difference between the bulbs.
3. Craft for the kids- color paper light bulbs or write out their ideas for energy saving tips.
4. We were set up in the common area after all the Masses that day.

Earth Day Fair

1. Provided hands-on activities for all ages
 - a. Painting for younger children
 - b. Educational cartoon video for kids
 - c. Solar graph making station for older kids and adults
 - d. Station to learn more about carbon emissions and to view electric vehicles
2. Engaged teachers and students to participate
3. Held the event after a Saturday evening Mass
4. Served ice cream and promoted it as a social event