



Church and School to Dedicate Saint Kateri Habitat November 18

With the release of *Laudato Si* in 2015, Pope Francis challenged the faithful to actions that protect Earth, our common home. As part of a broad parish commitment to conservation and care for creation, St. Francis of Assisi Church and Elementary School are together designating our lands a Saint Kateri Habitat. **St. Francis Pathways for Justice** invites parishioners to join students and faculty in a brief dedication ceremony in the school garden Monday morning, November 18, following the school prayer service in the church at 8 a.m.

Catholic properties with this designation provide:

- Food, water, cover and space for wildlife and people
- Native trees, shrubs and wildflowers to promote biodiversity
- Ecosystem support for pollination and carbon storage
- Use of clean energy and sustainable gardening practices
- Sacred spaces for prayer and contemplation

Our church and parish center perimeters, the gardens in the schoolyard, friary and parish center, and our beautiful church together make up our St. Kateri Habitat. Saint Kateri Habitats are named for St. Kateri Tekakwitha, the 17th century Algonquin–Mohawk woman who is patron of indigenous peoples and integral ecology.

Saint Kateri Habitats are registered with the Saint Kateri Conservation Center, a Catholic faith community encouraging religious expression in the stewardship of creation, “in the footsteps of St. Kateri Tekakwitha and St. Francis of Assisi.” The Center addresses the religious and moral dimensions of ecology and the environment, working toward “a faithful, loving home on Earth sustaining all people and the whole of God’s creation.” Your yard, garden or farm can also be designated a St. Kateri Habitat. You can learn more at <https://www.kateri.org>.