



THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY

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Welcome

The Basilica of Saint Mary is on the threshold of making a huge difference in our community. We are on the verge of doing something great. Working together, we have an opportunity to effectively put our faith into action—leaving the world a better place for future generations.

What are we doing? What is so grand and effectual? Beginning in early May, when you throw away garbage at The Basilica, you will have three options: Is it recycling? Is it organics? Is it trash? Your choice to sort waste accurately will help change the culture of The Basilica, and save our world. This simple choice can speak boldly and prophetically to our community.

Is this hyperbole? Well, perhaps. But I suggest that this very simple gesture, multiplied

impact of our collective actions, working together as the Body of Christ, advocating and acting on behalf of the most vulnerable. All it takes is a desire to engage—a willingness to care and act.

Currently, The Basilica sends at least two-thirds of our waste stream into trash, with less than a third recycled. Over and over we put materials that have value into the trash—adding to landfills or incinerator use. Hennepin County is considering enlarging the incinerator just north of The Basilica due to over use. However, a large proportion of what is being burned has value. As we all help to sort our waste, we can drastically reduce what The Basilica puts into the landfills and incinerators. The goal for The Basilica is to move to 10 percent trash.

create methane gas, which is 70 times worse a greenhouse gas than carbon-dioxide. If we divert even 15 percent of the organics from our landfills, we would realize a reduction of methane gas equal to taking over 23,500 cars off the road. We can make a huge difference. All it takes is a choice: place all organics into the correct waste bin.

Recycling:
Recycling can seem mundane or old-school. Yet, when we choose recycling, we allow our waste to be reconstituted and reused. Some things, like aluminum cans and glass bottles/jars, have no limit on the number of times they can be recycled. They don't lose their quality when recycled over and over

Materials like paper do not have an infinite life. The number of times paper can get recycled into new paper is limited. Normal copy paper can go through the recycling process five to seven times. After that, the paper fibers will become too short. Newspaper is already of lower quality. It can be turned into egg cartons.

Our habits are often ingrained in our culture and can easily be dismissed. We are a society that measures our productivity by how much we purchase. We often clear out by throwing

Organics: One big change for The Basilica is to begin to collect organics that can be easily composted into rich soil. Did you know that 40 percent of the waste stream created by each of us every day is organics? Food waste, non-recyclable paper, flowers and plant waste, and other organic items add up to almost half of our garbage. When organics are placed in a landfill, they



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away. Our faith calls us to calibrate our lives and actions differently. Our invitation is to take these choices seriously.

The exciting part of this initiative is that it involves each of us. We will have success if we all do our part. Yet, the hard part of this initiative is that success depends on each one of us. Let us, together, find ways to energize our imaginations and engage.

Look for new bins, in sets of three, all around The Basilica campus. Help us be successful in our work to leave the world in a better place for future generations. To get involved, contact Donna at rdkrisch@gmail.com or Dennis at dennis.dillon@msn.com.

"Your choice to sort waste accurately will help change the culture of The Basilica, and save our world."

over and over every day, can indeed change our world. This focused attention to the waste stream we create, individually and collectively as a parish community, can make a significant difference in our world.

We can too easily minimize the impact of small, individual efforts in a big world. Yet, we are invited to consider the

OUR VISION:

Seek the well-being of the city to which I have sent you. Pray for it to the Lord. For in seeking its well-being, you shall find your own.

— Jeremiah 29:7