



## ECO-STEWARDSHIP TIPS AND QUOTATIONS JUNE, 2008

*Quotations compiled by Marta Edgar, Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish  
Tips adapted from treehugger.com by Michael Subasic, St. Bonaventure Parish.*

### **Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (June 1)**

*Then the Lord looked upon the earth and filled it with his good things.*  
—Sirach, 16.29

Harvest your rainwater: Put a rain barrel on your downspouts and use this water for irrigation. Rain cisterns come in all shapes and sizes ranging from larger underground systems to smaller, freestanding ones. Some even glow! Another option is to trench in weeping tile on a bed of rocks and direct the downspout water past a couple of trees. This provides direct water to the trees roots, and still accomplishes the goal of moving water away from your house.

### **Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (June 8)**

*Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature.*  
—The Rio Declaration, United Nations, 1992

Go beyond the lawn: Make it natural by using locally appropriate plants that are hardy and don't need a lot of water. If you have to water, do it during the coolest part of the day or at night to minimize evaporation. Program sprinkler systems accordingly; it's a great way to lower your water bill too. Xeriscaping is a method of landscaping that utilizes only native and low water plants. It is an especially appropriate approach for states like California and Arizona where people often plant lawns like they live in Florida despite living in the desert, and since we live in a semi-arid desert, we too can take advantage of these types of plants.

### **Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (June 15)**

*All praise be yours... through Sister Water  
So useful, lowly, precious and pure.*  
—St. Francis of Assisi

Time to wash your car . . . : Car washes are often more efficient than home washing and treat their water rather than letting it straight into the sewer system. But check to make sure that they clean and recycle the water. Better yet, try the waterless car wash. When you wash your vehicle in your driveway all that soapy water goes directly into the river. If you've ever been to BC you will see a fish painted beside every sewer grate as a reminder of exactly where this water goes. Sewers are for rain water run off, not soap-water.

**Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time (June 22)**

*I believe a leaf of grass is no less than the journey-work of the stars,  
And the pismire is equally perfect, and a grain of sand, and the egg of the wren,  
And the tree-toad is a chef-d'oeuvre for the highest,  
And the running blackberry would adorn the parlors of heaven.*

– Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass*

Keep your eyes open: Report broken pipes, open hydrants, and excessive waste. Don't be shy about pointing out leaks to your friends and family members, either. They might have tuned out the dripping sound a long time ago.

**Solemnity of St. Peter and St. Paul (June 29)**

*May every creature abound in well-being and peace.*

– A Buddhist prayer

Don't spike the punch: Water sources have to be protected. In many closed loop systems like those in cities around the Great Lakes, waste water is returned to the lake from which the fresh water comes. Don't pour chemicals down drains, or flush drugs down toilets; these pollutants could come back in diluted form in your water.