



Left: Dan's 4-year-old helps to plant their milk jug native plant garden. Right: Milk jug gardens planted and situated along the pavement. (Photos courtesy of Dan Masterton)

by Dan Masterton

[View Author Profile](#)

[**Join the Conversation**](#)

Send your thoughts to *Letters to the Editor*. [Learn more](#)

March 26, 2022

[Share on Facebook](#)[Share on Twitter](#)[Email to a friend](#)[Print](#)



Dan with his children (Courtesy of Dan Masterton)

I manage social media as part of my job for a religious community. One day, I received a direct message (DM) from the [St. Kateri Conservation Center](#) and learned about its great Catholic ecological ministry — including its amazing [online Catholic Ecology Library](#), [St. Kateri Habitats and Parks](#) initiative and awesome [social media](#) accounts, which I now follow both for work and personally.

Since then, the religious community that I work for has registered its grounds as a St. Kateri Habitat. A young adult volunteered with us to research better stewardship and leaned on the St. Kateri Conservation Center for expertise. And now I've brought

their tips home, too!

My 4-year-old and I collected empty milk jugs and ordered local-ecology seeds. By cutting the jugs open, drilling holes in the bottoms and planting some soil and seeds inside before taping them shut, our milk jug native plant garden [could get a head start on spring](#). Now it joins our compost barrel as our first small steps toward better backyard stewardship.

We're grateful to Kat from the Kateri Center for being a proactive evangelist for creation and a generous friend!

[Dan Masterton is a part-time pastoral minister and freelance writer, spending most of his time as a stay-at-home dad with his two kids and his wife in Bolingbrook, Illinois.]

Advertisement

This story appears in the **Small Earth Stories** feature series. [View the full series](#).