<u>EarthBeat</u>

<u>Justice</u>



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)

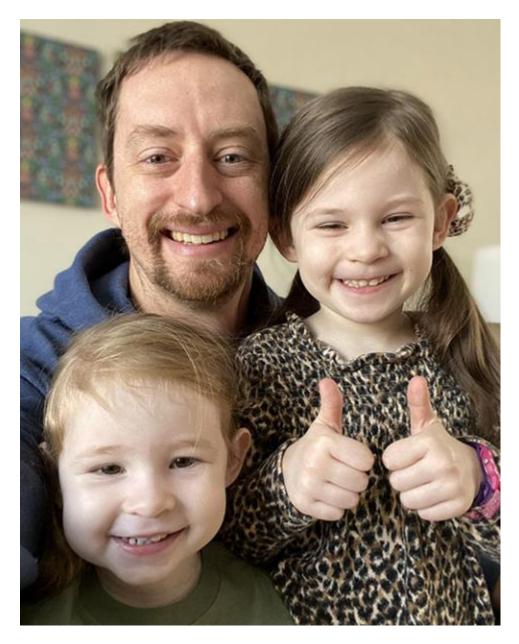
by Dan Masterton

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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 <u>St. Kateri Conservation Center</u> and learned about its great Catholic ecological ministry — including its amazing <u>online Catholic</u> <u>Ecology Library</u>, <u>St. Kateri Habitats and Parks</u> initiative and awesome <u>social media</u> 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 <u>could get a head</u> <u>start on spring</u>. 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.]

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