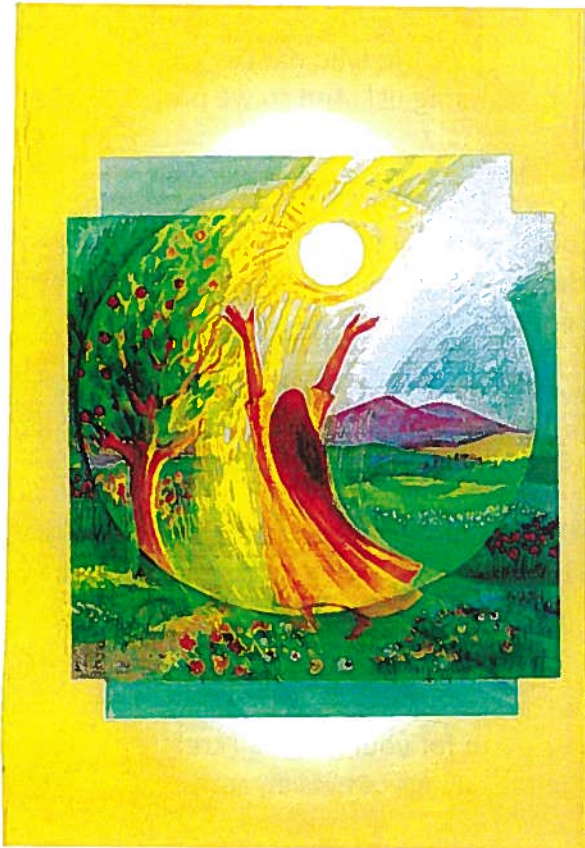


Solar Panel Blessing

Sacred Heart
Friday, March 16, 2018



Graphic by Mary Southard
from "The Circle of Life" by Joyce Rupp & Macrina Wiederkehr

INTRODUCTION

Today we welcome the Sun into our community. It is through Brother Sun that our congregation is committed to a sustainable future for the whole planet.

We celebrate as we bless the addition of Solar Panels to this roof. We promote sustainable alternative energy sources like Solar Power and we invite the community to join us as we continue to make changes, small and large, toward caring for God's gifts in our lives.

In the name of the Creator, the source of light; in the name of Christ, the light of the world, who on Easter morning rose with the dawn; and in the name of the Spirit, who dances with the sun. May the sun's presence rise among us! And so we pray . . .

OPENING PRAYER

ALL: God of Light and Life, you have accompanied generations around the globe, through bright times of generosity and dark times of waste. Today walk with us as we move into a future that honors our environment and cares for the next generation. Amen.

REFLECTION

The sun is the source of life and warmth, seasons and food. In recent decades, however, the reality of global warming has made us realize that our behaviors can alter the impact of the sun on our planet. We rejoice today that this new solar array will reduce our carbon footprint as a congregation, caring more effectively for God's good creation, the work of our generous and gracious God.

RESPONSE

SIDE 1: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You made the whole earth for your glory; all creation praises you. We lift our voices to join the songs of heaven and earth, of things seen and unseen.

SIDE 2: We give you thanks, O God, as we dedicate this solar power array to your glory and praise. We celebrate the sun you have made, the source of light, warmth, and energy. Help us to discern how we are connected with all living creatures under the sun—all dependent on the sun for life.

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SONG

At the Dawn of Your Creation



The School Sisters of St. Francis thank our partners who helped to make this solar project possible. These partners include:

- Arch Electric, Plymouth, WI
- Legacy Solar Co-Op, Madison, WI
- General Capital, Fox Point, WI
- Seraphim Solar USA Manufacturing, Jackson, MS
- Great Lakes Community Conservation Corp of Southeast WI

This solar energy project will enable us to lessen our energy consumption and to invest in our care of the Earth. The solar project is designed to offset more than 12% of the electricity consumed at Sacred Heart, or 480,000 kilowatt-hours, and save the community many tens of thousands of dollars in annual operation costs.

Over a 25-year period, the province will save \$1.5 million from its \$450,000 investment. Just as importantly, savings to the environment will include 15.9 million pounds of carbon dioxide, 6 million trees, 193 million gallons of water, and over 300,000 pounds of greenhouse gases.

At the Dawn of Your Creation

Verse 1

At the dawn of your creation, God, you spoke: "Let there be light!"
You divided earth from heaven, you created day and night.
You made sunbeams dance with shadows, you created energy!
Peaceful evenings, bright tomorrows, all began with "Let there be!"

Verse 2

By your word, you formed creation: dry land, water, ocean breeze.
Soon there burst forth vegetation: plants with fruit, majestic trees,
Rain and snow and changing seasons, creatures filling land and sea.
God, your very good creation all began with "Let there be!"

Verse 3

When you made us as your children, sending us throughout your lands,
You commanded, "Have dominion, care for earth; it's in your hands."
Yet we hurt this world you've given; we harm earth and sky and sea.
We forget it's your creation, you, who once said, "Let there be!"

Verse 4

At his joyful celebration, may we hear your word anew:
May we care for your creation, knowing it's a trust from you.
Just as daily there's a dawning, bringing light to all we see,
So we daily hear your calling, you, who once said, "Let there be!"