

***Laudato Si'*: Its Message for Care for Creation and Energy Conservation in Ohio**
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August 5, 2015

Comments

Good morning. As the Archbishop expressed, we are taking great strides to promote and implement energy efficiency efforts in the Archdiocese. From the Archdiocese of Cincinnati property management perspective, we advocate that our parishes complete construction projects as energy efficiently as possible. LED lighting, for example, is a must for new construction and for renovations. Some of the notable projects that our parishes and schools have completed include a complete lighting and boiler upgrade at Archbishop Carroll High School in Dayton. All lights in the school were updated, saving not only significant dollars but also considerably enhancing the quality of light in the school. The aging 60% efficient boiler was replaced by a 94% efficient unit. Local utility rebates accounted for 14% of the funding mechanism and were the push needed to make the project financially feasible. Around 20% savings in electricity and gas resulted from the upgrade. Because electricity in our area largely comes from burning CO₂ emitting coal, this energy savings means less climate changing gases being emitted into our atmosphere. It also means less of the pollutants emitted by power plants that cause health-related illnesses in the surrounding, often poor, communities.

St. Martin of Tours in Cincinnati undertook an extensive LED retrofit and converted their church sanctuary and school gym to the highly efficient lighting. The upgrade provided substantially better lighting in the spaces as well as energy cost savings. Also, the maintenance and safety issues associated with changing lights high up in the ceiling of the church have been virtually eliminated for the next several decades due to the extremely long life of LED bulbs.

The Chapel at Wright State University, although only 2 years old, is slated for an LED lighting upgrade. The cost of the project is about \$5,000, but \$2,000 in local utility rebates will make payback of this project less than three years.

In our own headquarters offices, we have completed and are planning significant energy efficiency projects. Our Dayton office replaced lighting and furnaces and air conditioning, added programmable thermostats and motion sensors, and turned off unnecessary heating units. The result was an immediate 50% savings in electrical costs and 30% savings in natural gas costs. The project has just over a 6 year payback.

Also ready for renovation is the 9th floor of our Cincinnati headquarters. Significant effort has been made to incorporate energy efficiency into the design. Improvements include new efficient windows with triple low e film, foam and batt wall insulation, foam ceiling insulation, new HVAC and lighting control systems, occupancy control sensors, LED lighting throughout, low flow water fixtures, and natural daylight design. These efforts are anticipated to create at least a 30% energy usage reduction for the floor.

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The aforementioned are just some of the efforts made in our organization. There are a wide variety of faith-based organizations and supportive businesses here which can illustrate just how much is possible.

While all of our energy efficiency projects help promote stewardship for the earth, they are also financially responsible, providing short payback periods with significant energy cost savings. Understandably, energy efficiency projects can take upfront capital to implement; however, it is worth noting that many of the upgrades the Archdiocese has employed are no cost or low cost options. Installing programmable thermostats, turning off unnecessary equipment, and replacing light bulbs with LED's are a few examples that don't take much money but can produce significant savings.

Besides including low/no cost efficiency upgrades to reduce upfront capital expenses, all of these projects also used utility incentives, which were critical in helping to commit the upfront costs. The incentives also help illustrate why we think some form of state level incentives can go a long ways towards improving Ohio's energy efficiency targets.

Thank you for your time, and I'd like to now ask Fr. Al Hirt to come forward and share some of the care for creation efforts at St. Monica/St. George. Thank you.