



PARISH LAWN CONVERSION PROJECT REPORT

February, 2021

St. Nicholas and St. William Parish lawn conversion project for the strip of grass at the St. William campus along El Monte Avenue was completed between October and December, 2020

The unused yet thirsty lawn was removed and the whole frontage has been planted with lovely, drought-tolerant, low maintenance, multi-colored plants to save money and create a waterwise welcoming view to our beautiful church property for many years to come.

The project was inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si'* (2015) and the pastoral letter of the California bishops', *God Calls Us to Care For Our Common Home* (2019). Both remind us of the beauty of the earth, our role as caretakers, the precious gift of water, and our responsibility to use it prudently.

The project was accomplished in 6 phases:

- Phase 1: Landscape design, with schematic of plant choices and placement. Completed for \$1,400.
- Phase 2: Fundraising by volunteers. On-going.
- Phase 3: Removal and disposal of the grass area. The existing shrubs, plants, and small trees will remain in place. Completed for \$3,800.
- Phase 4: Drip irrigation installed to existing watering system. Almost completed for \$4,200.
- Phase 5: New trees, plants purchased for \$4,040. Planting and soil amendment. Completed for \$7,465.
- Phase 6: Final layer of mulch. Est. cost \$4,600.

This project was conceived by the Parish Green Team and endorsed by pastor, Fr. John Poncini, and staff.

- The design was conducted by Furuichi Design.
- Orozco Brothers Landscaping, Inc. was the contractor.

The estimate for the project was \$25,505 and the final cost was \$25,493. Donations totaled \$25,843.

In the initial silent campaign we suggested some stewardship giving levels:

- Steward of our Land – \$20,000
- Sustainer of our Grounds- \$10,000 - \$19,999
- Conserver of the Gift of Water - \$5,000 - \$9,999
- Planter of Beauty - \$3,000 - \$4,999
- Sower of the Garden - \$1,000 - \$2,999
- Grower of Gratitude – up to \$999

We are most grateful to one Sustainer Gift, one Conserver Gift, one Sower Gift, and fifty Grower of Gratitude Gifts that ranged between \$25 and \$500. The average Grower Gift was \$150. Several were made in memory of or in honor of family and friends. We also received one tree donation.



The Green Team welcomes new members. Their mission is to implement the vision of Pope Francis and the California bishops to care for our common home through

- projects,
- education
- and prayer.

They were instrumental in reducing the amount of waste going to landfill with the introduction of the organic bins and the purchase of compostable items. Every September they prepare information and prayer resources for the **Season of Creation**.

Questions: Please contact Karen Shea-Daley at K.shea.daley@mindspring.com
St. Nicholas and St. William Parish, 473 Lincoln Avenue, Los Altos, CA 94022
650 948-2158 stnicholasandstwilliam.org