



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE

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OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

June 23, 2015

Dear Fathers, Pastoral Life Directors, and Principals,

The Pope's recent encyclical on the environment was a wonderful reminder of our important obligation to responsibly care for our common home. To that end, the Archdiocese of Baltimore has entered into an agreement with Baltimore Tree Trust, whose mission is to make Baltimore a healthier city by restoring the 30 percent tree canopy loss of the last 50 years.

Under this agreement, the Baltimore Tree Trust will plant, water and maintain trees at our churches and schools for two years at no cost. The need for proactive environmental stewardship is more important than ever—especially in our urban areas. We have a great opportunity to take meaningful steps in support of making our city a more healthy and sustainable environment for everyone by actively preserving and enhancing green spaces on our properties.

To that end, we have engaged the Baltimore Tree Trust, which will provide their expertise, resources, and most importantly new trees to all of our parishes and properties in Baltimore City. The Trust has been reforesting disadvantaged communities of East Baltimore since 2009. Enclosed you will find a summary of Baltimore Tree Trust activities and impacts that will familiarize you with this organization with which the Archdiocese has partnered for this important project.

After initial contact, the Tree Trust will survey each location and present a planting plan and proposed schedule. Once the trees are planted, the Tree Trust is committed to 2 years of watering and general maintenance at no cost. This is a wonderful opportunity to play our part in mitigating climate change, reducing storm water runoff, and reforesting Baltimore's urban tree canopy for the health and well-being of all.

You may expect to hear from Dan Millender, Executive Director, or Cassie Caleo, Associate Director of the Baltimore Tree Trust, about this exciting initiative. You may also wish to reach out to the Tree Trust via email to Cassie@baltimoretreetrust.org to schedule a site survey. I hope every location will participate in this initiative and am excited to start seeing the fruits of environmental stewardship throughout our Archdiocese.

Faithfully in Christ,

Most Reverend William E. Lori
Archbishop of Baltimore

Enclosure