



Catholic Charities
Diocese of Youngstown
Providing Help. Creating Hope.

2023-2024
First Step to Service Program

Our Common Home

March 2024:

Care for Creation
through Social Action
and Civic Love

"Planting Prayers"



TEACHER OPT-IN FORM

Submit Opt-In Form by: **December 15, 2023**

**TEACHER/CLASSROOM PARTICIPATION FORM
MUST BE COMPLETED & SUBMITTED TO CATHOLIC
CHARITIES TO RECEIVE ACTIVITY MATERIALS**

SCHOOL NAME _____

TEACHER NAME _____

GRADE LEVEL _____ / NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING STUDENTS _____

CONTACT PHONE/EMAIL _____

Once you opt-in, materials will be mailed to you on or about 2/15/2024

AGREEMENT:

I hereby agree to use all materials in the administration of this lesson and activity, and will submit all necessary responses to Catholic Charities, Diocese of Youngstown by the deadline posted.

OPT-IN Online



In order to receive grow kit materials for my classroom, I understand that all opt-in entry forms must be received at Catholic Charities by December 15, 2023.

*This request is necessary in order to satisfy grant funding guidelines and requirements.
Thank you!*

Signature _____ / Date _____



This program is made possible through grant funding issued by
The Subcommittee on Catholic Home Missions, USCCB.
If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Lucarelli
@ 330-744-8451 or jluarelli@youngstowndiocese.org.



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First Step to Service Program

STUDENT ENTRY FORM

Submit entry by: **March 31, 2024**

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SCHOOL NAME

TEACHER NAME/GRADE

----- / -----

STUDENT FIRST NAME

STUDENT LAST NAME
optional

STUDENT AGE

**Draw your seedling, and
tell us how you felt before,
during, and at the end of
this activity.**

My Seedling

**Mail completed forms to: Catholic Charities
144 West Wood St., Youngstown, Ohio 44503**



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TEACHER RESOURCE

Our Common Home

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Scripture Reference

Amen, I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." Matthew 17:20

Planting Day - Prayer

Gracious God, Creator of all living things, Bless this humble seed I plant today. May it grow strong and healthy, Nourished by the sun and watered by my hand. As I care for this seed, teach me to nurture and cultivate my faith, that I may also grow in love and grace. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Seeds Sprouting - Prayer

With gratitude in my heart, I come before you today, thanking you for the gift of life and growth. Your blessings have made our seeds sprout and flourish, A testament to Your abundant love and care. I marvel at the wonders of Your creation.

Thank you for the joy and sustenance it brings to my life, A reminder of Your providence and grace.

As I tend to this seedling, may I also tend to my soul, nurturing virtues of patience, kindness, and gratitude. May my heart be ever thankful for the gifts You bestow, and may my life bear the fruits of faith and love.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, I pray. Amen



If some seeds do not sprout, connect the lesson to God's plan: God has a plan for everything. God's plan may include allowing some seeds not to sprout for various reasons. It could be to teach us patience, remind us of our dependence on Him, or show us the beauty of diversity in nature.



Estimated Activity Time:

- Day 1: 15 Minutes
- Day 2-29: 5 Mins/per day
- Last Day: 15 Minutes

Deadline for Entries:

March 31, 2024

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GRADES K-6/8

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LESSON SUMMARY

Caring for God's creation means taking care of the beautiful world that God has made for us. God made the sky, the trees, the animals, and everything around us, and it is our responsibility to keep it clean and safe. Just like we take care of our toys or pets, we need to take care of nature too, so it stays healthy and happy.

Social action means helping others and doing kind things for people in need. Civic love is like being a good citizen. It means that we care about our community - the place where we live - **Our Common Home.**

In today's lesson, we are learning that when we care for God's creation, we are also being kind to the people and animals around us. We are showing love to our community by taking care of it and helping others. Remember, when we all work together to do good things, the world becomes a better and happier place for everyone!

DID YOU KNOW?

Sometimes when a client comes to Catholic Charities, we cannot help them in the way that they want. When that happens, we can still PRAY for them.

ACTIVITY

Day 1 - Today we will be planting seeds, and saying a prayer together as a class!

Day 2 through 30 - Nourish your sprouts during these crucial growing times. Pray for them. Water, feed, and nurture your plant as it becomes a seedling. Notice how some are growing faster than others. What else do you notice? How does it make you feel to see your seedling grow into a mature plant?

Last Day - On the last day of this activity, draw a picture of your seedling on the student participation form. Tell us what you learned about caring for God's creation during this activity. How could you share this information with your family, or the community? Write a prayer, poem or reflection about how you felt during this activity.



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