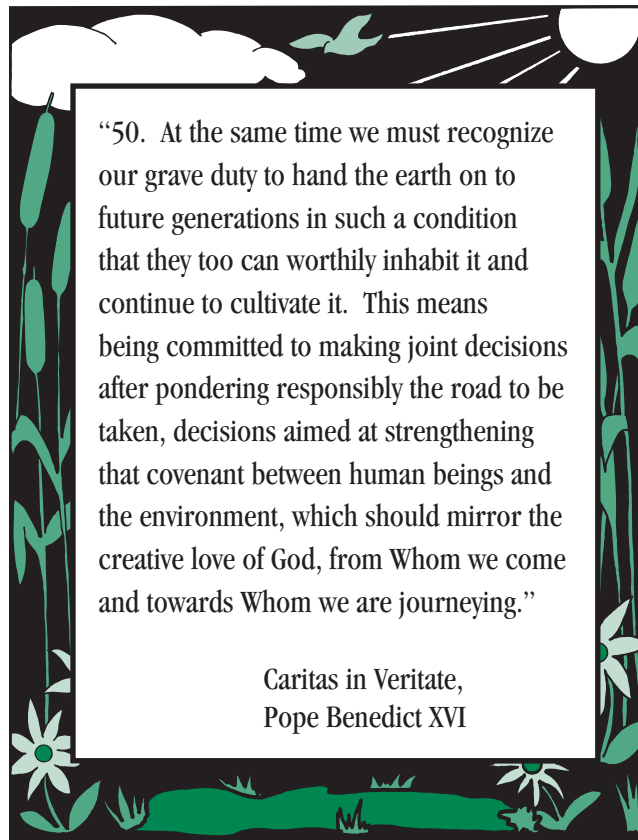## For more information:

www.gardenguides.com/how-to/tipstechniques/planning/compost.asp

This website contains valuable ideas on composting and other gardening tips.

www.lavistacsa.org – website for the community-supported garden sponsored by the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

www.smartgardening.com – sponsored by Los Angeles County Dept. of Public Works – has many good ideas that anyone, anywhere can use.

www.wateruseitwisely.com – Started by Arizona cities to promote needed water conservation, this campaign is now one of the largest conservation educational outreach programs in the world. The site has an excellent list of resources that includes other websites, many of which deal with gardening and water use.

"50. At the same time we must recognize our grave duty to hand the earth on to future generations in such a condition that they too can worthily inhabit it and continue to cultivate it. This means being committed to making joint decisions after pondering responsibly the road to be taken, decisions aimed at strengthening that covenant between human beings and the environment, which should mirror the creative love of God, from Whom we come and towards Whom we are journeying."

Caritas in Veritate,
Pope Benedict XVI

Updated in 2009 by:
Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Office
U.S. Province
The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate
391 Michigan Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20017
202-529-4505
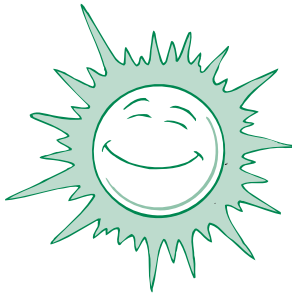To download for distribution go to:
www.omiusajpic.org

Hints for Saving Water in Your Yard

Water is becoming an increasingly scarce commodity around the world, and landscaping accounts for 20-50% of residential water use. Changes in the way yards are watered and planted can make a huge difference in home water use.
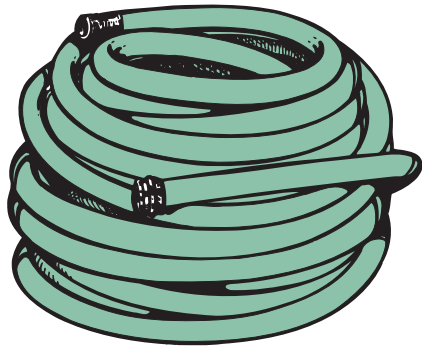
Watering

- Water before 8:00 a.m. or after 6:00 p.m., since as much as 30% of water evaporates when yards are watered during the heat of the day.

- Water in short sessions of ten minutes each rather than for thirty straight minutes. This enables water to be absorbed into the soil better with less runoff.

- Water rarely, and only enough for water to soak into the ground. Less water allows plants to develop longer, healthier roots so they resist disease and drought. Over-watering promotes shallow root growth and causes plants to grow too fast, resulting in mo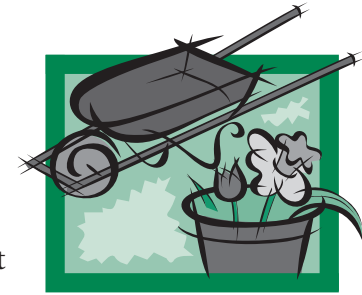re frequent lawn mowing and weeding throughout the garden. Weeds tend to have shorter roots and may die before the grass does.

- Install moisture sensors in each area (sunny, shady, etc.).

- Collect rainwater in a barrel and use it to water the garden.

- Consider use of Drip Irrigation or a Soaker Hose which provide a slow, steady trickle of water to plants at their roots where it is needed and causes less evaporation.

- Avoid Sprinkler Systems – Homes with in-ground sprinkler systems use 35% more water than those without them. However, to use less water with one, it is good to keep the following information in mind:

  - Check sprinkler system valves periodically for leaks and keep the heads in good repair.

  - Adjust the timers on automatic sprinklers for seasonal water demands.

  - Install a rain shut-off device.

  - Place it only where the garden needs water and not on walkways or driveways.

  - Avoid sprinklers that spray a fine mist since this increases evaporation.

Planting

Lawns: Reduce the size of lawns, and plant grass only where it will serve a useful function, such as for recre-ation. Do not plant grass in areas that are hard to water like steep inclines. Maintain grass height of 2 ½ to 3 inches to protect the roots. Do not throw away the grass cuttings; leave them on the lawn or compost them. Aerate clay soils once a year to help soil retain moisture.

When planting things other than lawns:

- Choose smaller plants because they take less water to become established.

- Group plants that need similar amounts of water together.

- Use drought-resistant or native plants.

- Plant in spring and fall when watering needs are lower.

Other Hints for Saving Water

- Use mulch around trees and shrubs.

- Make compost from garden clippings, household food scraps and for use in soil.

- Use porous material for walkways.