



BENEFITS OF NATIVE POLLINATOR GARDENS

- Offset threats to the monarch butterfly migration
- Assure pollinators a diverse food source throughout the season
- Provide herbicide-free nectar for a variety of pollinators



FROM POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL LAUDATO SI: ON THE CARE OF OUR COMMON HOME

On the Loss of Biodiversity

Each year sees the disappearance of thousands of plant and animal species which we will never know, which our children will never see, because they have been lost forever.

The great majority become extinct for reasons related to human activity.

Because of us, thousands of species will no longer give glory to God by their very existence, nor convey their message to us. We have no such right.

(Par. 33)



POLLINATOR GARDEN LA VISTA

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Evolution of a Garden in the "Bowl"

Aware of the demise of local pollinators, especially bees and Monarch butterflies, in 2014 we decided that a large pollinator garden would not only reintroduce life to the "Bowl" but also be an educational / meditational area for the Novitiate property.



The area was chosen because at one time it was a formal garden that was filled with non-local flowers, pumped with fertilizers and water, and tended by both the brothers and novices in the hot humid heat of the Midwest.



From the Missionary Oblates Land Ethic :

"Our sense of mission impels us to live in a way that testifies to the integrity and sacredness of all creation. We are called to relearn our place in the Universe and be enlightened by a worldview in which land once again is seen as sacred."



Contributing to the Integrity of Creation

Pollinators are responsible for every third bite of food we eat, and because their disappearance creates a hole in the ecosystem, we consider this effort important in contributing to the integrity of creation.

"It's taken the Monarch to convince me of the value of the holistic approach of the Oblates and other religious communities to Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation."

Without those phenomena which speak to us of the majesty and mystery of God – a tiny butterfly traveling thousands of miles, the view of millions of stars in the night sky, the whisper of pines in the forest, we can't be whole enough to address the suffering we encounter.

It is only by marveling at the complexity and beauty of the universe that I can work with any hope for a gentler society, one that respects the needs of people and of butterflies to cross borders freely."

- Virginia Nesmith, National Farm Worker Ministry and initiator of the Pollinator Garden along with her husband, Charlie.