



ROMAN CATHOLIC  
**DIOCESE**  
**OF CHARLESTON**

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

## **PRESS RELEASE** — *For Immediate Release*

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### **St. John Catholic School wins environmental award**

NORTH CHARLESTON – As the country celebrates World Environment Day June 5, the Diocese of Charleston proudly announces that [St. John Catholic School](#) will receive the [Green Steps School Award](#) in recognition of its commitment to environmental initiatives and teaching students about the importance of caring for God's creation. It is part of their "From Seeds to Shoreline" grant which was awarded through the [S.C. Sea Grant Consortium](#).

Incorporating environmental activities into daily life is part of St. John's curriculum. Its faculty wants students to experience as many hands-on opportunities as possible.

"You can give students a handout or show a picture, but the impact increases tremendously when they can physically participate in a task and know they are making a real difference," said Karen Durand, principal of St. John. "A teacher can bring a curriculum to life this way."

Some of the school's ecological curriculum includes a classroom hive through the Bee Cause Project, a raised bed vegetable garden, a butterfly garden, and homemade cleaning products. The school is also beginning the Trex Recycling Program, where students collect plastic bags and tie in math skills while helping the environment.

"Our students love our green initiatives," said Durand. "St. John may provide a student their first opportunity to plant a seed, care for a living creature, or positively impact the community through different earth-friendly lessons. Our children feel a sense of purpose in that."

By incorporating conservation into daily life and educational programs, St. John is living out its commitment to the Catholic principles of stewardship and social responsibility.

St. John Catholic School is located in North Charleston and serves 51 students.

#### **ABOUT THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON**

Founded in 1820, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston is comprised of 114 parishes and missions, 32 Catholic schools, and 350,000 people. It encompasses the state of South Carolina.

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