

# **Our Bench from Recycled Plastic Bottle Caps**

**2016**

**Plastic bottle caps are not recycled through our local or regional recycling centers so when we heard about Green Tree Plastics in Evansville IN creating benches, picnic tables, etc from them we decided to start collecting caps and see if we could get a bench for the preschool playground.**

**Bottle caps were collected in plastic totes in the back of church as well as in Flaget Hall. The drop off locations were convenient and the caps began pouring in.**

**Caps needed to be clean and free from food and other contaminants so sometimes that meant washing and drying them before sorting them.**



**Once clean, the bottle caps had to be sorted, boxed and weighed.  
It took 400 pounds of plastic caps to make our 6 foot bench!**







**800 pounds of plastic caps are boxed and ready to take to Green Tree Plastics in Evansville, IN. It took a total of 55 boxes to hold the 800 pounds of caps. Because of the generosity of our parishioners, their families, friends and co-workers we were able to have enough caps for TWO benches. We shared the rest of our caps with the 4-H members who are getting a bench for the Nazareth Motherhouse and with the Marion County Public Library.**





**At Green Tree Plastics our boxes of caps were emptied into one giant container to be weighed.**

**800 pounds of plastic caps saved from the local landfill!**





**Our recycled benches were loaded into the trailer.**









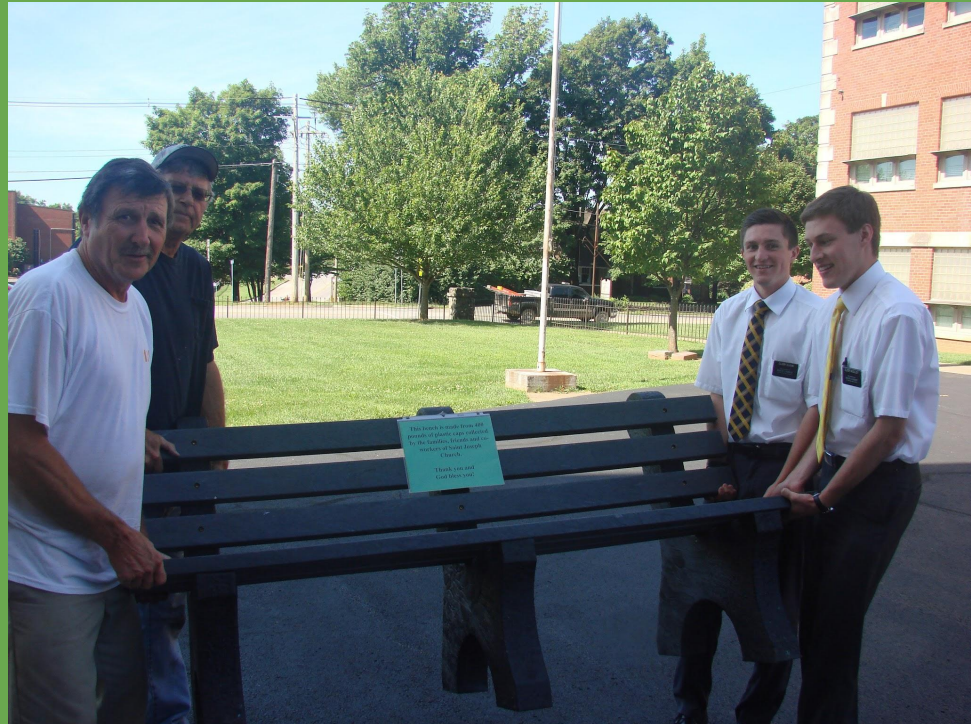
**Benches were put on the front porch of the church so people could see the results of their efforts to save so many plastic caps.**

**Nothing but positive comments were heard as people marveled that our 400 pounds of caps could become such a sturdy and attractive bench.**

**This bench is made from 400  
pounds of plastic caps collected  
by the families, friends and co-  
workers of Saint Joseph  
Church.**

**Thank you and  
God bless you!**

**One bench was moved to the side of the Adoration Chapel and the other one to the preschool playground.**





**The children were waiting that morning and tried out their new bench! See all the smiling faces!**

Thanks and God bless you!

A little more than a year ago, Pope Francis issued “Laudato Si”, his encyclical on our common home and our care for the earth. As a part of our parish response to this encyclical, we invited our parishioners, their relatives, friends and co-workers to help us save enough plastic bottle caps for a bench made by recycling these caps. That was shortly after Christmas. The response was so great that we collected more than 800 pounds of caps and we were able to get TWO benches. We also shared plastic caps with the 4-H group who are getting a bench to place at the Nazareth Motherhouse and we are now sharing with the Marion County Library so they can get their bench. So keep those caps coming in!

I particularly want to thank Dr. Chris and Debbie Jones for storing our boxes of sorted caps until we reached our goal, Shannon Satterly for driving our caps to Evansville IN and bringing back our benches and Felix Boone, David Beaven and the Morman Elders for helping to unload the benches when we returned last Friday evening.

The earth belongs to the Lord and we are its caretakers! Will you help us be responsible caregivers and continue to save your caps to help others get their recycled plastic benches? Questions?? Contact Marie Seaman SFCC at 348-3126