

Media Alert
Diocese of Orlando Implements Eco Friendly Construction

As Catholics we believe God calls us to be stewards and caregivers of our many gifts, including our fragile home – planet earth.

That is why the Diocese of Orlando is implementing comprehensive changes to how churches, schools and other diocesan properties are built now and in the future.

For example, St. Anthony Garden Courts, a low income senior housing project that is currently under construction in St. Cloud features a host of “green” design elements, appliances and fixtures. The wide range of eco-friendly features will save precious natural resources. Additionally, the residents who will live there will save money on electric and water bills for years to come.

St. Anthony Garden Courts features:

- Low energy high SEER rated air conditioning units
- Highly insulated walls, windows and roof
- Low flow water fixtures
- Energy Star appliances
- Xeriscaping (Landscaping using more species adapted to the local environment)
- No or Low Volatile Organic Components from selected materials
- Motion sensor light fixtures
- Construction materials from local manufacturing to reduce transportation emissions
- Pollution prevention construction site
- High efficiency glass

“We are called to be good stewards of our limited resources and to be a good example to others. Sustainability is a responsibility we have as good stewards of the limited natural resources God has given us,” said Antonio Aguerrevere, Senior Director, Diocese of Orlando Design and Construction Services. Aguerrevere became a LEED Accredited Professional (LEED AP) in 2008.

LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design and is administered by the U.S. Green Building Council. LEED and several other agencies have developed rating systems for construction projects and Aguerrevere incorporates many items that score highly in these rating systems into Diocese of Orlando construction projects.

These measures involve strategies to improve performance across all the metrics that matter most: energy savings, water efficiency, CO2 emissions reduction, improved indoor environmental quality, and stewardship of resources and sensitivity to their impacts.

“Factoring in the eco-friendly design and construction does cost more but we are doing it sensibly... balancing financial prudence with good stewardship,” said Aguerrevere. “The seniors at St. Anthony will benefit from lower energy costs and the environment will benefit too.”