



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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St. Joseph the Worker; 1st congregation to be Petal Certified

Dubuque, IA (April 20, 2015) – The Petal Project is proud to announce that St. Joseph the Worker has earned Petal Certification by meeting the requirements of all five petals – Energy Conservation, Waste Reduction, Pollution Prevention, Staff Education, and Water Conservation –and is the first fully-certified congregation in Dubuque and the 16th Petal Certified business.

To celebrate their Petal Certification, St. Joseph the Worker will be recognized after Mass on Sunday, May 3rd, 2015; at Martin Hall around 9:30 am; where a ribbon cutting ceremony will take place.

As part of the Petal Project, St. Joseph the Worker incorporated a number of green practices into their daily operations and facility management. Some examples include the following:

- Installed low-flow water aerators on faucets throughout their facilities as an appreciable way to reduce water consumption.
- Strives for Zero-Waste events.
- Replaced lighting with energy-efficient fixtures.
- Developed a recycling program in order to reduce waste, including collection of glass from parishioners.

Petal Certification affirms St. Joseph's the Worker's long-term commitment to environmental sustainability. Pete Bellaver of St. Joseph's the Worker stated, "The idea to apply for entry into the Petal Project and ultimately become Petal Certified arose from the St. Joseph the Worker Parish Stewardship Committee. What better way to show stewardship and to become good stewards is there than to make a commitment to environmental sustainability. From the standpoint of our religion, we need to protect and sustain what God has so graciously given us."

Additional information on the Petal Project certification program can be found at www.Petal-Project.com.

For more information, or to schedule an interview, please call Holly Kueter at 563.690.5738 or email her at hkueter@ecia.org.

The Petal Project is a regional green business certification program designed to encourage organizations in the Dubuque area to adopt environmentally friendly business practices. The program provides businesses with a simple framework for saving money and resources while establishing a community-wide definition of a green business for consumers wishing to shop based on their values.

The Petal Project is divided into five categories: pollution prevention, water conservation, waste reduction, energy conservation, and staff education. Within each category, a business must complete all of the mandatory and a specified number of optional criteria to earn that petal. Once a business has earned all five petals, it is "Petal Certified."