



# BECAUSE *we are* CATHOLIC

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN MARYLAND SERVES AND ADVOCATES FOR THE POOR, VULNERABLE AND THOSE IN NEED NOT BECAUSE THEY ARE CATHOLIC, BUT BECAUSE WE ARE CATHOLIC.

## Going Solar!

Yesterday, one of Pope Francis' first tweets was "Let us keep a place for Christ in our lives, let us care for one another and let us be loving custodians of creation." In keeping with his chosen name, Pope Francis has begun his pontificate by highlighting our relationship with God's green earth.

Here in Maryland, we could tweet back in reply "Catholic school on the Eastern Shore goes 100% solar!"

Mount Aviat Academy in Childs installed 3,750 solar panels on 1 acre of land last summer and now the school is completely powered by solar energy. What began simply as a search for a new water heater in 2010 blossomed into a quest for solar power.

It also piqued the interest of Mount Aviat's students. Principal Sister John Elizabeth said that "it has been an education for us ... And now the students want to learn more about green energy and teachers can use this curiosity to initiate new discussions in the classrooms and enhance existing lessons on the topic." And students have started an Environmental Club.

In just the first few months, Mount Aviat produced enough energy for a car to travel 53,744 miles or for two houses to be powered for a year (according to Greenlight Energy).

