

Community Garden At St Thomas (CGST) Newsletter – May 2019

Welcome Gardeners

Thank you so much for your willingness to contribute to the gardening project. Catholic Charities reports it is making a difference. The produce improves food security and contributes positively to the health and well being of our friends and neighbors having a hard time making ends meet.

Status Report April 20: This year marks my fifth year working for the CGST, the third year serving as Gardener - Coordinator. As I write it is another damp cool morning and fogged in on Mossy Bank. CGST planning was presented to the steering committee in February and to all gardeners at a potluck March 1. Four of eleven tasks planned are complete or nearly finished. Due to a very cool wet spring planting CGST is three weeks behind the time-line envisioned. At this point all cool season crops should be in. I am sharing this to point out CGST is not where it needs to be at this time and to request your prayers and help.

Assignments & Plans

This year the garden beds will change minimally in terms of the signs. These are posted for each family or organization. Please plan to help with your bed and others as needed. What will be planted in each bed will change. I have set up a five year rotation cycle. I will share this with you as we work the garden together. Most of the cool season vegetables will be grown in beds 1 – 6. These include peas, lettuce, cole varieties, and root crops. Squash and cucumbers will be grown in beds 7-9, potatoes 10 -12, and tomatoes 13 – 15. Gardeners will not need to provide seeds, we obtained many of the seeds including seed potatoes and onions



CGST – Summertime: view from SE corner, chapel in background, many beans, tomatoes, and peppers.

Scheduling Work

I am proposing we change how we work from previous years feeling adjustment is needed to sustain our effort longterm. Work is scheduled for Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 11am to 2pm, and Saturday from 9 am to noon weather permitting. Changes will be posted and notification of changes will be e mailed. This schedule is posted under the Community Garden tab of the St. Thomas website. <http://stthomasbath.org/community-garden/> The goal is to shift from the model of a group of gardeners growing beds independently to one managed and worked together as a team. The objective is to grow community within our group. As our team is more established I think we will become more interdependent. It is my prayer that our community will be evident and demonstrate long term self sustainment as a result. As the host and the Gardener/Coordinator I am committed to volunteering 12 hours per week. I need about 24 additional work hours committed weekly to the gardens. Please coordinate within your organization for a two hour commitment each week in the above schedule. An e mail outlining this need will be sent to the Gardeners. Please e mail me <kfisher1952@yahoo.com> or call/text me at 315-882-8461 to reserve your time. I will be following up in May if I have not heard from you.

Ray Long