



RESURRECTION UNIVERSITY PARISH

Land Stewardship Committee

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT

Been there, done that, read the book, saw the movie, bought the CD, waiting for the sequel. How familiar is that? Things seem to go around and around as it says in the Old Testament book of Sirach. There is nothing new under the sun. "Vanity, vanity, vanity all of men's pursuits are vanity." How easy it is to think we are the first to say, see, experience something. For instance, it is often said about Saint Francis that he is the birdbath Saint. If you have ever read the biography of Saint Francis, you would know there is much more to

that man than just birdbaths. The same could be said about how people talk about the concept of Land Stewardship. Land Stewardship is not just birds and bees. It is wild life, land, cattle, crops, rivers, reservoirs, and most importantly it is populations and how they treat one another and the environment.

If you take a trip to Yellowstone National Park, you will observe at the main corner of the city in Gardiner a place where several buildings burned to the ground. Luckily, it was a very precise burn otherwise the whole city could have gone up in flames. Now the property is being advertised promoting the "view". It is touted as being an excellent site for motel/hotel and various other uses. In other words, multi-story condominium or apartments would possibly obstruct the view of everybody to the north. That would be about 99% of the people that live in Gardiner. Gardiner is an unincorporated city so most anything goes.

Land Stewardship suggests the use of the land not just for profit but for the enjoyment use of people in a manner that respects the rights of all the people. There are many examples of "newbies" coming into Gardiner and using "their land" with no consideration for wildlife or neighbors.

Before we see the mote in the other person's eye, perhaps we should look to the plank in ours. Building subdivisions is out of control in Bozeman. Just look at the Gallatin Gateway entrance to Bozeman—that is if you can see past the scores of billboards along the highway. One subdivision after another, all impeding the migration route of the elk. Who cares? There is money to be made. Even Isaiah (5:8) had trouble with greed and using up all the land. "*Woe unto them that join house to house, that lay field to field, till there be no place, that they may be placed alone in the midst of the earth!*"

Cont'd next page



THOUGHT FOR THE SEASON

PRESENT THE PRESENT OF YOUR PRESENCE

Reach out in prayer and community to family and the *anawim*. The sick, homeless, lonely and poor in spirit

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GREEN LEAF



Been There, cont'd

To “*join house to house,*” to “*lay field to field,*” is qualified by “*till there be no place.*” In other words, they have crammed into one plot of land as much as they possibly can. Think of massive apartment complexes or merged estates that have no vacant spaces between them. Avarice—extreme greed—has consumed the nations Israel and Judah. They are so materialistic and selfish that their purpose or intent in packing the land is “*that they may be placed alone in the midst of the earth!*” They do not want neighbors; they want God’s land all for themselves.

For more on this aspect of responsible land use and growth see Lee Nellis, in Mountain Journal, August 2021 (Subscribe or view on line at <https://mountainjournal.org/is-opposition-to-planning-and-zoning-around-yellowstone-destroying-character-of-towns-and-nature> .

CREATION CARE MOVES TO CONSOLIDATE

In a recent meeting, the members of the Creation Care Committee and the Land Stewardship Committee an accord was reached to merge the two parish groups under the proposed heading of *Grounds Committee*. The work projects of each often traffic in both time and place upon one another bringing about some confusion and inefficiencies. The template for process, procedure and responsibilities will be presented to the pastor shortly. Both Committees have members presently sitting upon the Pastoral Counsel and Finance Committee so communication lines are in place. Some parishioners, not a formal part of either Committee but still doing works in the area of grounds and maintenance, were included in the meeting and subsequent communications.

It is hoped that following the Christmas—New Year holidays that Fr. Joe will have time to review and approve the consolidation plans so that the preparation for the year 2022 can begin.

For further information see members of the Land Stewardship Committee or the Creation Care Committee.

SHORT TWIGS



Whoa, partner! Don’t put down this Green Leaf until you made note of the webpage, hoechoka.com, the phone number (406-587-2001), and decide how soon you can join the parishioners and advisors in this monthly publication—the only one of its kind in a Catholic parish in Montana. As author and poet Marshal McLuhan points out: “*There are no passengers on spaceship earth. We are all crew.*”

The same could be said for the Resurrection University Parish. So the question still stands. What can you, as a member of Resurrection University Parish (RUP), do to become crew? See and read the Green Leaf issues or call Paul Gore or Ellie Weber at 406-587-2001.

TAKE...CAPTURE...SHOOT

Artist and author Christine Valters Paintner suggests we might reconsider traditional approaches to photography. Instead of “taking” pictures, she asks us to “receive” images similar to how we might welcome the presence of God in contemplation.

“Contemplative practice is a receptive practice. We make ourselves available for grace to break in; we open ourselves to listen and ponder. We often use the word “take” to describe our relationship with photography. Our culture emphasizes taking time, taking what’s mine, and taking a break. What we are endeavoring to do in this process, however, is to *receive* (rather than *take*) the gifts around us, to be present enough so that, when the photographic moment arrives, we are able to receive it fully, with our whole hearts.”

“Taking photos” is a common phrase, and changing that perception and process (especially if you use a smartphone, Lomo, or other disposable camera) may be hard to break, but I gently invite you to consider what reframing this process might be like for you and what it evokes in you. I invite you to bring a new awareness to how words and phrases can shape our experience and practices.

“Rather than “taking” photos or “shooting” them or even “making” photos, practice “receiving” images as gift. The traditional words for photography are possessive and aggressive. Yet the actual mechanism of photography is that light is reflected off of a subject and *received* by the camera through the lens opening. We can create conditions for a “good” photo, but ultimately we must stand in a posture of receiving and see what actually shows up in the image.”

Christine Valters Paintner, *Eyes of the Heart: Photography as a Christian Contemplative Practice* (Sorin Books: 2013), 29–31.



AUTUMN SOLILOQUAY—LET IT BE

One of the many top hits from the group Beatles was an inspirational song by the title of *Let It Be*. The phrase Mother Mary appears and many people mistakenly took it for the blessed Virgin. The song refers to the mother of John Lennon. However, the philosophy behind the song is sound. And now, with deep respect, we present a parody of that tune calling upon good land stewards; don't throw the leaves away. They provide food sources for many of God's creatures too small to see and also provide great mulch and soil enhancement.



*"When I find myself in times of trouble
Mother Mary comes to me
Speaking words of wisdom
Let it be"*

When the winds of Autumn
Come blowing over me
I hear these words of wisdom
Let it be

Do not throw away
burn or trash the many leaves
take these words of wisdom
let them be

Let them be, let them be,
raked, piled upon the ground
neatly beneath the trees
let them be, let them be

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Resurrection University Land Stewardship Committee (LSC) is looking for parishioners for volunteer work on the LSC. Nothing outstanding; just simple folk that like nature, want to become involved, have some spare time and want a parish commitment that has clear goals, short term time demands (as in one year) and want to work with others of similar intent. Librarian skills, botanical skills are helpful as are writing, photography, bird watching, planting, art work and caring for flower beds. It is basically spirituality from the ground up. Old, young, men or women, singles or couples—makes no difference. Grant writers are needed especially if they *kan spelt*. MSU students are greatly welcomed as are high school students that have courses in or interest in journalism The LSC believes that we are all part of a learning and teaching church. So please, come teach as well as learn! Beat the crowd, come early!

Behold the Beauty of the Lord



**How beautiful are all his works!
Even to the spark and the fleeting
vision!**

**The universe lives and abides forever:
to meet each need, each creature is preserved.
All of them differ, one from another,
yet none of them has he made in vain,
For each in turn as it comes, is good;
Can one ever see enough of their splendor?**