



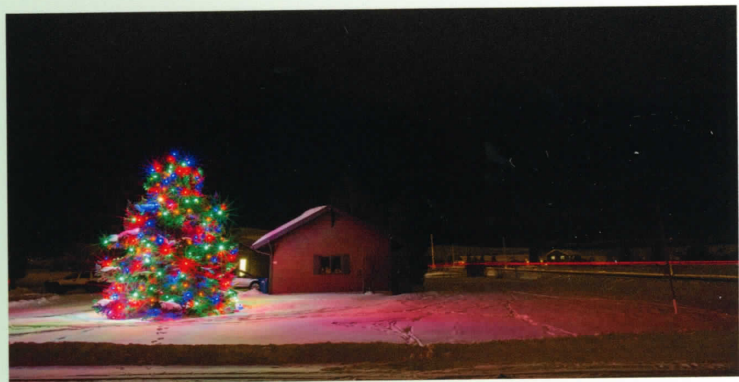
GREEN LEAF

RESURRECTION UNIVERSITY PARISH

Land Stewardship Committee

SO THIS IS CHRISTMAS

So this is Christmas. A rhetorical question by artist John Lenon? Or yet another voice joining the chorus calling for us to account for our successes as well as our failures in 2022.



The Creation Care Committee still has no leader for the coming year in 2023. This highly active and result-producing parish service showed great success under the leadership of Will Wright PhD. Sometimes inspired and charismatic leaders can be intimidating to successors, but the Catholic Faith recognizes, salutes, and prays for all of Her pilgrims and talent is a multi faceted diamond. Be not afraid for He goes before us. Give thought to becoming involved. Ponder the truth; There are no passengers on space ship earth—only crew.

The sister ministry, Land Stewardship, is also lacking in helping hands and willing workers. See the following pages for the 2023 active agenda for this program. Land Stewardship director, Paul Gore, reports that grant applications are pending and approval for funding of ecological programs for Resurrection Parish should be favorable in early 2023. As with Creation Care, workers are sparse.

Could it be that as a parish we don't see the forest for the trees?

“So this is Christmas
And what have you done?
Another year over
And a new one's just begun” John Lenon

NOWHERE TO HIDE

The gifted spiritual writer, Scott Stillman, struggled with the sheer beauty of creation, the wilderness, the deserts, plains, meadows and mountains. Through a series of books he touched upon the essence of wilderness and the invitation to “come and see.” In one of his best books, *Wilderness, The Gateway To The Soul: Spiritual Enlightenment Through Wilderness* (Nature Book Series) he wrote:

“There is nowhere to hide. My alertness borders on intoxication, my senses excruciating. I think I've found the heart. The living, beating heart of this place. Not a single thought passes through my mind for what seems like an eternity. If the Holy Grail exists, I have found it. My very reason for existence, and reason I've come. Reality jerks me back into itself. How long can I tolerate such beauty? Such bliss? Before it swallows me whole, devouring me until I become a part of it myself. I'm not sure I'm ready for that. Not yet.”



SHORT SHOTS

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK - A new study published in *Science* utilized a process called "full waveform inversion" to better understand the level of liquid magma in the Yellowstone super volcano, a key measurement to predict eruptions. The research revealed that there is more magma under the greater Yellowstone area than previously thought, though an imminent eruption is not thought to be any more likely. Source: [*Science Alert*](#)

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, - On November 29, a state district court judge declined to extend temporary restrictions on Montana's wolf hunting and trapping season. The lawsuit by WildEarth Guardians and Project Coyote against Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks alleged that their 2002 wolf management plan used outdated modeling, gave inadequate public review, and didn't give enough of a buffer around national parks. The judge wrote that the research used to create the management plan was sound and public-informed. All regulations passed by the state commission in August have now been restored. Source: [*Independent Record*](#)

3000 SEAT ROCK CONCERT STADIUM bid temporarily frustrated. County officials declined building and liquor permits for the construction program on Cottonwood just past the Hyalite foothill crest. The site was next to the Cottonwood K-5 school, very close to Cottonwood Creek and the solutions for how to accommodate those social interests fell short. YOU THINK?

GRIZZLY BEAR DEATHS in Montana have increased this year as the bruins have adopted some very anti-social behavior—as in threatening humans. One exhibited the startling behavior of walking down main street in Gardiner, Montana. That is some parade! Government officials tried several times to discourage the activity, but there are just two many crab apple trees in the town and the bear found its way back.

HIGH DENSITY SUBDIVISION denied County approval on a application location near the junction of 19th Ave. and Cottonwood. The application lacked adequate support for the feasibility study although it did pass the huge cash return for immediate gratification test. The plat approval was adjacent to Hyalite Foothills and just south of Green Hill Acres single family home sites. Access for cement trucks, cranes, and heavy equipment would be via Starling & Cougar Drive, Cottonwood Drive as well as 19th Ave. extension. Anyone that has driven Cottonwood from Huffine south to Hyalite Foothills knows that the road is really beat up pretty bad. The Cottonwood extension to Jackrabbit is problematical at best.

ALL GOD'S ANIMALS: A CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK FOR ANIMAL ETHICS, by Christopher Steck, SJ, was recently published by Georgetown University Press. The book is pricey at \$119.95 (hb); \$39.95 (pb). A very interesting book review by Eric Daryl Meyer, PhD of Carroll College, Helena, Montana was published in the December, 2022 issue of *Theological Studies*, Vol. 83, No. 4. Noteworthy is the fact that there are many theological writings coming out on the question of animal life — not just humans— being part of the redemption plan. Parishioners wanting more detail on this advancement in theology and ecology, contact the editor of Greenleaf, Paul Gore 406-587-2001, or see Ellie Weber at the parish office.