



RESURRECTION UNIVERSITY CATHOLIC PARISH LAND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

WE'VE COME A LONG WAY BABY

But still have miles to go before we sleep.

FIRST SPEAKER BUREAU PRESENTATION ANNOUNCED

The Land Stewardship Committee (LSC) was commissioned by the pastor in January of 2019. Since then it has published the Greenleaf Bulletin for six months, begun an inventory of the flora and fauna of the parish grounds, raised over \$4,000 dollars to further its work, launched a highly interactive webpage, arranged a speakers bureau to begin in the fall, begun the process of adding more native vegetation to the parish grounds, and started work on a parish library of books, graphics and videos centering on ecology, land stewardship, and spiritual direction related to nature.

The LSC announces that Mr. Oron Bass, former chief ornithologist for the Everglades National Park will come to RUCP in October for a presentation on his field work in China on Giant Panda Bear and Amur Tiger. We hear much about the trade embargos and military actions of China but virtually nothing about the extensive ecological research performed by a dedicated group of scientists which, in many cases, far exceeds the efforts of the U.S government in both scope and detail.

Mr. Bass just returned from a one month project at the special request of China to assist in trapping, radio collaring, and instructing Chinese students in the skills he learned working with the Florida Panther. His presentation should be an interesting evening (to be announced) for both parishioners as well as MSU students in science.

WHEW!

But what the LSC hasn't done is meet and greet the many members of the parish with the obvious intent of getting to know you and solicit volunteers. Watch for a MEET 'N GREET Saturday/Sunday in the near future. Can't wait? Call 587-2001.



(Hyalite Foothills June 2019)

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Land Stewardship—if you practice it they will come. Black bear walking through the subdivision in peace.

Thought For The Day Parish...

"...is not a place where...." but rather "a people who ...".





GET INTO THE HABIT:



Just who is the figure in the habit with cloak sitting by the small fire musing on paradoxes, parables and paradigms? Is this meant to be the pastor? Perhaps it's the deacon or dedicated members of the various ministries that serve Resurrection University Catholic Parish? Or, reverently spoken, the very presence of the Holy Spirit as presented to the eyes of man?

Actually, it seems, it is all but not one. It is one but not all. And therein lies the paradox.

Seems like playing with words, doesn't it? Well, why not? Lewis Carroll in his work *Alice Through the Looking Glass* (known to us as Walt Disney's *Alice In Wonderland*) highlighted the game in the dialogue between Alice and Humpty Dumpty.

"When I use a word," Humpty Dumpty said, in a rather scornful tone, "it means just what I choose it to mean, neither more nor less."

"The question is," said Alice, "whether you can make words mean so many different things?"

"The question is," said Humpty Dumpty, 'which is to be master – that's all?"

Many theologians and spiritual writers have long associated the Wisdom literature of the Old Testament with what the present day Christian refers to as the "Holy Spirit." This was evidenced by the readings from Proverbs the weekend of June 15/16 on Trinity Sunday. So, we have Holy Spirit, Wisdom, and the Word all referring to a part of the very nature of God who is inscrutable. And truly, if God is inscrutable, how is one to ever fully or maybe even partially understand *It-He-She* or describe it. As humans we are relegated to using words. And that takes us back to Alice and Humpty Dumpty. The question is which is to be master—the word or the user.

So our little friend by the fire muses in his own way about Resurrection University Catholic Parish and the beautiful grounds that surround it. It is in the process that we come straight up against the paradoxes, the paradigms and the parables of the situation. How is it, for an instance, that the two acres of parish campus that is lightly landscaped and heavily asphalted to speak of land stewardship. Can we build a parish here that models land stewardship. Are there people with vision beyond the horizon who could see all the makings of a church set in a wooded, verdant area, showing the deep belief in the environment and the potential for a strong statement that this diocese, this parish, these people could take the lead in the environmental parade.

The paradigm could become that "**parish is not a place where...**" but rather "**a people who ...**". In the process of developing building, and sacramental life, the message of the beauty of God's creation could slowly filter its way into most every fabric of the pulse of the parish. The very act of coming to Eucharist could be a journey through wooded land developed to enhance not just the utility and beauty but the functionality of the land that supports a rich diversity of flora and fauna with ample supply of seeds, berries, and nuts for migratory and resident denizens in fall, winter, spring, and summer.

And now comes the paradox. The effort of building a land stewardship parish could complement education, worship, and spirituality. How about that? The parish in helping itself, helps the neighborhood, the MSU campus, maybe even Montana?

And wherein lies the parable in all of this? In the end, the city and most of the residents speak of landscape while here at Resurrection University Catholic Parish we would talk in terms of land stewardship. Landscape is not land stewardship but land stewardship is landscape. To seal the deal, parishioners are invited to become part of the wisdom of the process. It is simple enough—just put on the habit. Come and see. Sit by the fire.