



# RESURRECTION UNIVERSITY CATHOLIC PARISH

## Land Stewardship Committee

### *SUN CEREMONY*

**April 22, 2021**, or Earth Day, marked one full year of monitoring the performance of our new solar array and to mark the occasion Fr. Val Zdilla climbed onto the church roof and led a blessing ceremony (words below) over the system after each weekend mass.

Resurrection's Creation Care Team is pleased to share an update on the performance of our church's 50 kW solar array with the parish. The Parish Family has earned \$5,600 in utility savings from renewable energy production over the first year and have reduced our emissions by 25 tons of CO2--equivalent to planting 650 trees or taking 6,500 miles off the road. The expected lifespan of the solar array is 40 years for \$224,000 total in anticipated utility savings and a thousand-ton reduction of our carbon footprint.

The system was installed in November 2019 for \$90,000, of which 72% was covered by grants from Northwestern Energy, Catholic Extension, and the City of Bozeman. Many thanks to all who donated to the project to cover the remaining portion.



High five and cheers to a bright and sunny future!



(Above, Fr. Val Zdilla sprinkles holy water on the rooftop solar array, April 25, 2021. At left, the newly installed solar array, November 2019.)

### **Blessing Message**

"Holy God, may this simple act of harnessing Your eternal light help us escape the global warming that our generation is causing over Your creation."

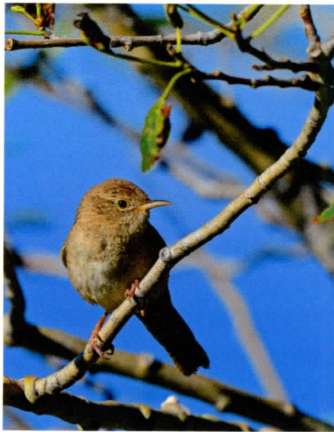
RESURRECTION





## About the Critters 'n Things...

During the month of May, 2021, the Land Stewardship Committee continued its survey of the critters 'n things located on the church campus. A surprise visit was



afforded by a house wren during a late May thunderstorm.

The rain-soaked bedraggled little creature was shivering on the front steps of the church building. A person would have to look very carefully to see this bird since its coloration is drab-brown with some striping.

## SHORT TWIGS

A beautifully filmed and scripted story of a Wyoming rancher that learned how to live with a herd of mule deer in Deadman Gulch, Wyoming. The film can be seen at:

[https://www.amazon.com/Nature-Touching-Living-Deadman-Gulch/dp/B00K1WJ36Y/ref=sr\\_1\\_12?dchild=1&keywords=wyoming+movie&qid=1622189659&sr=8-12](https://www.amazon.com/Nature-Touching-Living-Deadman-Gulch/dp/B00K1WJ36Y/ref=sr_1_12?dchild=1&keywords=wyoming+movie&qid=1622189659&sr=8-12)

The film is part of the *Nature: Touching the Wild* series from PBS and is 53 minutes in length. It explores Joe Hutto's remarkable ability to interact with wild creatures and was previously portrayed in the award-winning NATURE film, *My Life as a Turkey*. His new wild family is made up of mule deer living high in the mountains near his home in Wyoming. The extraordinary story of how he became one of them reflects back on the life of St. Francis who, tradition tells us, also had a Remarkable ability to communicate with animals.

## LAUDATO SI—NO, NOT JUST YET

Laudato si' (Praise Be to You) is the second encyclical of Pope Francis. The encyclical has the subtitle "on care for our common home". In it, the pope critiques consumerism and irresponsible development, laments environmental degradation and global warming, and calls all people of the world to take "swift and unified global action."

Involved with care of our common home at Resurrection parish, we admit to not having all the answers--and even making mistakes in our stewardship efforts. It is, after all a teaching church as well as a learning church.

Paul Gore, Director of the Land Stewardship ministry points out that "Poison was used this past month in order to protect the vegetable garden from certain pests. This has been a course of action long used by people globally when addressing the issue. However, after further discussion revealed this to be a deficient strategy, we will strive to avoid putting other life forms in jeopardy and use other means to protect our harvest."

Gore went on to say that, "The goal of Laudato Si is to learn from our mistakes, heal the world of its many environmental wounds, and save the diverse populations that we have threatened with extinction." As Gore pointed out the development of a habitat area just a few feet south of the vegetable garden is also in jeopardy of "mis-guided

volunteer clean ups" as that area will be dependant on detritus, boulders, logs, and ground cover that will be productive to the overall concept. Wildlife will be a key part of the plan. If you can't join our efforts physically, please contribute to, or pray for, our land care ministry that strives to inspire others to care for our common home."

