



RESURRECTION UNIVERSITY PARISH Land Stewardship Committee

DEO GRATIAS

As we celebrate Thanksgiving this month, let us reflect on for what we are thankful. There is so much for which to be thankful. Look out your windows. What do you see? The sun, the moon in the evening and perhaps a deer crossing your yard. Living in Bozeman we get to see so many of the gifts that God has given us. Being outside, whether it is walking through the woods, along a beach, or around a lake can be healing and calming. When stressed, a walk outside can be relaxing. When tired, breathing deeply of fresh air is refreshing. When life feels overwhelming and out of control, a long walk in the woods, listening to the birds and the wind blowing through the trees can be calming. As we slow down on our walks, textures, layers, colors and small details of His creativity start to jump out to us, elements of our surroundings that we would never notice when we are in a hurry.

Nature reveals to us God's beauty, glory, power, wisdom, presence, creativity, and, most of all, his loving care. This is why we're drawn to spend time in the beauty of nature and to enjoy what he has provided for us such as trees for giving out oxygen. Water is essential for every living organism. Plants provide us with essential minerals, nutrients, natural medicine, as well as food sources. The sun makes things grow and keep the earth from freezing over.

Precious Father, thank You for allowing us to benefit from the beauty of all that Your hand has created. Thank You for our seas, forests, and skies. Thank You for all the beautiful and fragrant plants, and for the power and wonder of every animal. Thank You for the seasons and the rains that keep our earth reproducing We can help others to realize the many gifts in nature that God has given us.

Vatican Council II instructed us that Holy mother Church is a teaching church as well as a learning Church. Imagine that! We can be teachers! Not just in RCIA, Campus Ministry, Baptism instruction, pre-marriage classes but in the equally important aspects of living day to day, walking the land, stewardship, seeing with eyes that properly place us within the "All Creation". Come join the Land Stewardship Committee and be a part of a team that makes people and parish appreciate the need to help God in caring for the beauty He has given us. That is the true biblical meaning of *STEWARDSHIP*. For information call Paul Gore at (406) 587-2001.

SLOW DOWN, YOU'RE GOING TOO FAST

*"Slow down, you move too fast
You got to make the morning last.
Just kicking down the cobblestones
Looking for fun and feelin' groovy
Ba da da da da da da, feelin' groovy"*

GREEN LEAF

WISDOM

The early Puritan settlers in America discovered not only a new land but a new way to see the world. Thanksgiving, the annual family celebration that is fast slipping into the weed filled parking lots of the American mind taught them how to use the land in a way that assured plenty of food and an annual surplus. Now, alas, it means more to Army-Navy football games and other athletic feats of proweress than sitting down and sharing a meal. No cell phones, no

hurry to run to the television, no anxiety about making the early curfew for hunting turkey, elk, or deer, Just sitting down with family, and enjoying friends and family and celebrating the relationships.



The sign of *Ah Tah Thi Ki* comes from the Seminole Indian Nation of South Florida. The interpretation as best derived across language and centuries is not “smart”, or “clever”. It actually means house of elders, those that have walked the land, maybe even, those that have “fought the good fight” as remarked by St. Paul. The council house where the elders would gather at a time for decision making was populated by the elders as respected by the tribe or council. There is a another example of that in the movie Last of the Mohicans. The hero, Hawkeye, walks into the camp safe in the knowledge that as long as he comes in peace and exhibits the “wampum” or sacred necklace, which is actually a string of cowerie shells, that he will have safe passage. One of the impetuous warriors bops Hawkeye on the head with his clubs and surprisingly is attacked verbally by the women at the camp who see this breach of etiquette as offense and not in keeping with the standards of THE PEOPLE. The elder wisdom leader or Medicine Man is brought to Hawkeye supported by two old women as he is old and can not walk so well. The problem presented to him by Hawkeye seems a conundrum. But the Medicine Man solves it swiftly. (Sorry, can’t divulge the solution. See the movie). Slide over, now, to the movie *Dances With Wolves*. John Dunbar, the army lieutenant, is permitted by the gods to see the long absent bison herd and he dashes to his new friends the people of the Indian Tribe to reveal what he has witnessed. He too, almost gets bopped on the head by Wind In His hair and other impetuous braves eager to count coup. But they are chastised and stopped by Kicking Bird who listens dutifully, recognizing that wisdom, insights, and visions can come to white as well as Redman. (Again, sorry, see the movie for this important part of the movie script.)

Roman Catholics, Muslims, Jews, Protestants similarly have their house of wisdom and throughout all time and peoples the ritual and sanctity of wisdom is displayed, touted, recommended and saluted as basic to good living. In the Old Testament the Jewish dialogue centers on Lady Wisdom spreading a feast on a long table and inviting all to dine.

*“Does not wisdom call out? Does not understanding raise her voice?
On the heights along the way, where the paths meet, she takes her stand;
beside the gates leading into the city; at the entrances, she cries aloud...”
Proverbs 8:1-3*



In the Old Testament book of Proverbs, God’s infinite wisdom is personified as a woman. The association of divine wisdom with the feminine is not accidental. Social relationships in Israel reflected spiritual relationships between Israel and Yahweh. As a result of this basic analogy between the earthly realm and the heavenly realm, one can look to the feminine images of Hebrew scriptures to better understand personified wisdom. The Law and the Prophets provided the writer(s) of Proverbs with many feminine images (including home-maker, counselor, wise woman, and lover) that influenced their use of female imagery for divine wisdom. By better understanding the images of women portrayed in the Old Testament, one can gain insight into the nature of God’s wisdom.