

RESURRECTION UNIVERSITY CATHOLIC PARISH Land Stewardship Committee

BLESS THEM ALL

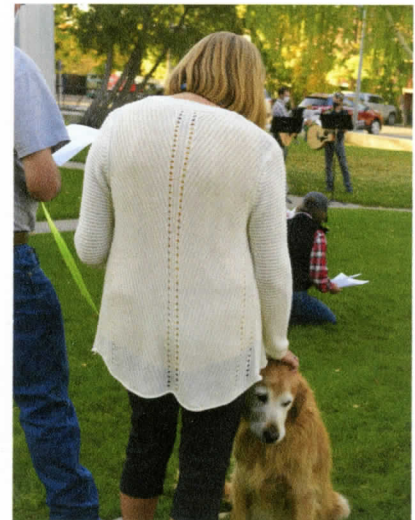
All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

The blessing event was not, however, without some controversy. There were some canine apostates, perhaps agnostics, in the crowd that turned their backs on Fr. Val's sermon.



Resurrection University Catholic Parish celebrated the Feast of St. Francis a day late but not a dollar short by any stretch of the imagination. The event was populated by a collection of animals, all canines. Fr. Val, to the accompaniment of a squad from the choir, serenaded the attendees and intoned the century old incantations calling for care and love for "all of God's creation—the long and the short and the tall."

All participants were spiritually enhanced—some a little more than others. If a blessing is good than drinking the Holy Water must be better. Eh?



And, typical of Catholics world wide, some prefer to sit in the back pew which engendered a lively debate as to just how far does a blessing reach? Thirty feet, 50 feet?

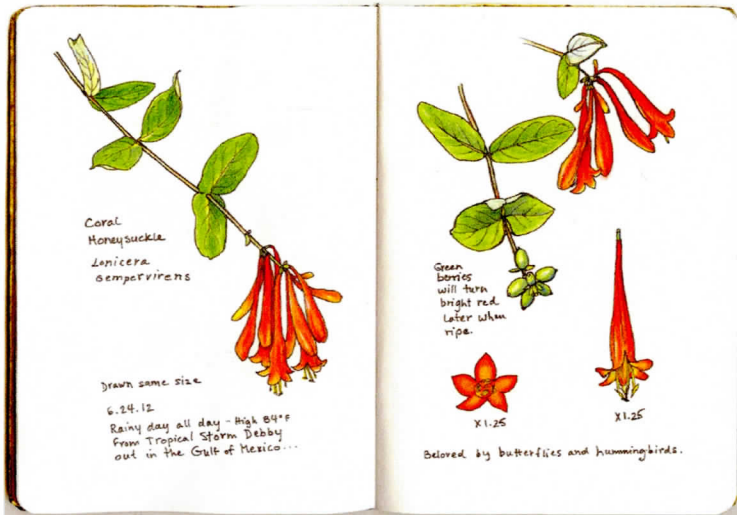


"As Catholics, we see creation in a sacramental way, whereby God's presence in creation evokes a desire to love the world he created for us."
Florida Catholic Conference,
Commentary October 1, 2006

A STORY TO TELL?

By Elizabeth Smith

The process of keeping a visual nature journal is a path. It's not about creating a finished product or a pretty picture. My journals are a reflection of curiosity and discovery.



Every time I sketch something, I deepen my relationship with my subject by experiencing it differently. I find myself asking questions and thinking more deeply. I get to know my subject on a personal level.

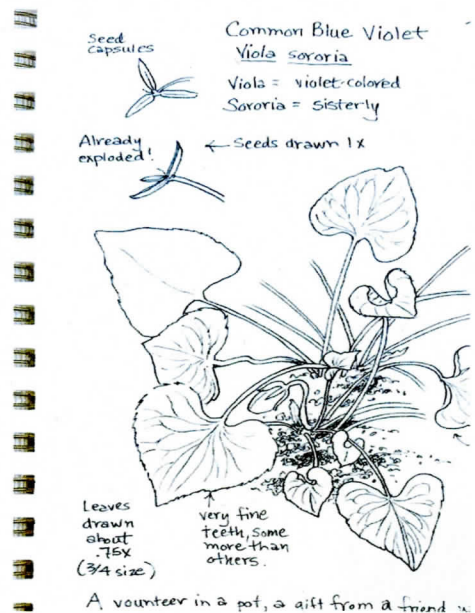
My journals might be filled with quick sketches, detailed studies, photos, maps, poetry, or notes on observations. We can record the progress of our garden, explorations of nearby habitats, or

emotional responses to the beauty and diversity of the natural world.

Here's what I've discovered that makes these journals valuable to me: my drawing and painting skills have sharpened, especially when I draw on a weekly basis. My observation has improved – I find myself specifically seeking out details in order to capture them on the fly or to write them down later. My knowledge base is more dimensional; not only have I learned more, my emotional connection to nature has become more specific, and I have a deeper sense of how individual parts fit into the whole.

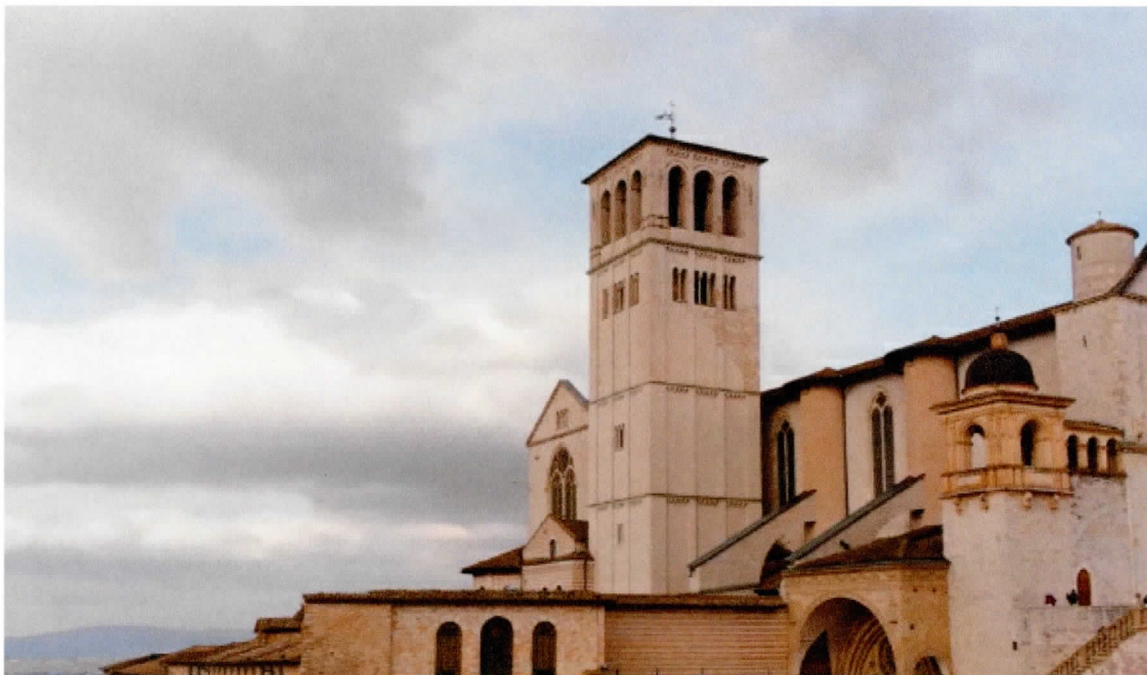
Keep in mind the process, and don't get over-involved with the outcome of each page. As you practice, you'll find your skills improving in every area! Don't be discouraged if you start and then stop. When you're ready, you'll pick up your journal again, and the words and pictures will flow onto the page. Remember that it all "begins at the beginning" with that first step. This is *your* exploration of the natural world around you! This is *your* story to tell!

For more information on Nature Sketching and Journaling see <https://natureartjournal.blogspot.com/>



Basilica of Saint Francis

In what looks to be a castle straight out of the hit series Game of Thrones, this sight can be seen in person in Umbria, Italy – but only by drone. And it's not actually a castle but a church known as Basilica of Saint Francis of Assisi. Construction of the impressive basilica started way back in 1228.



The complex is comprised of two churches built into a hillside along with a crypt where the remains of Saint Francis lie. Saint Francis lived and died in the town of Assisi. The location is one of the most important Christian pilgrimage sites within Italy. The basilica has been a UNESCO World Heritage site since 2000.

SOLAR PANEL STATS

A review of the solar panels monitoring from April 22 to October 5, 2020 shows that, indeed, it has been a good investment for the Parish.

Total Utility Savings: \$4,000 (about \$725 per month)

Total CO2 Emissions Reduction: 18 tons (equivalent to 75,000 car miles off the road or planting 470 trees)

All these can be viewed on the church's monitoring profile under the "solar panel stats" button at: <http://www.resurrectionbozeman.org/environmental-stewardship.html>

Will Wright also reports that the Garden is closed for the winter season. There were still a few onions left. Help yourself. The critters certainly do! Plans for the meditation Garden on the western boundary are on the upcoming agenda of Creation Care. Call Ellie Weber for further details: 954-609-5612

ANOTHER VIEW OF THE GARDEN

By Ellie Weber

A garden is usually thought of as a quiet, meditative place where we go to find peace and for many with the intention to become closer to our Lord. A garden as expressed in Ralph Waldo Emerson's words is a place to also vent and to use that garden to expend the negative energy that comes from our reactions to what is happening this year.

"But my garden is nearer, and my good hoe, as it bites the ground revenges my wrongs and I have less lust to bite my enemies. I confess I work at first with a little venom, lay to a little unnecessary strength. But by smoothing the rough hillocks, I smooth my temper, by extracting the long roots of the piper grass, I draw out my own splinters; and in a short time I can hear the Bobolink's song and see the blessed deluge of light and color that rolls around me."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Emerson's passage gave me pause and for me summarized what is going on in the world this year; the discontent, the injustices old and new, the anger, the destruction caused both by humans and nature and the fight to defeat a new enemy --- unseen but deadly.

The garden should be a place where people can start digging deep into their thoughts and begin to explore the why for the problems and form solutions that one can do to start the process of healing. A garden does not need to be physical dirt, plants and weeds but can also be in our minds and the mind gardens need as much weeding as the physical garden.

For me the starting place is obvious and that is with Jesus' teachings and to take those teachings and really live them. A kind word or action to someone in need can go a long way.

GREEN LEAF STAFF

PAUL A GORE EDITOR 587-2001
ELLIE WEBER, CO-EDITOR 954-609-5612



Resurrection University Catholic Parish 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 can spell. 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!

LAND STEWARDSHIP: SPIRITUALITY FROM THE GROUND UP.