



RESURRECTION UNIVERSITY CATHOLIC PARISH

Land Stewardship Committee

WISDOM HAS SPREAD HER TABLE

IN PROVERBS there is beautiful imagery of Lady Wisdom setting forth a banquet and inviting all to come and partake; *Wisdom has built her house, she has set up her seven columns; She has dressed her meat, mixed her wine. Yes, she has spread her table...Come and eat of my food, and drink of the wine I have mixed.*

In the depths of his conscience, man has always detected a law that he does not impose upon himself but which somehow holds him to obedience. Proverbs enunciates this law. Wisdom proclaims it. Sirach sees it in the beauty of creation. Song of Songs sees it in the love between man and woman. Ecclesiastes laments the "vanity" of doing otherwise and, as death stands upon his very door, Job senses that it is there and refuses to speak badly about the source of life that lets both good and evil work. Many times we have heard the words of the evangelist John speak of it as the **Word**—"In the beginning was the Word; the Word was in God's presence." All of Biblical Wisdom literature shouts of Wisdom and traces it back to God. Yet each writer struggles to adequately portray it. Even the modern poets such as T.S. Eliot ask, "Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge?"

Wisdom has truly spread her table before the people of Resurrection University Catholic Parish. She speaks of it in the fall migration, the changing of the seasons, the coming of snow, the arrival of lower humidity and falling temperatures. She is present in the yellowing of the leaves of the aspen trees, the appearance of Venus, the morning star and the scudding clouds in advance of the cold front. She speaks to us in the faint peep of the chickadees, the sounds of the night-traveling robins, the beauty of Mars beckoning in the sky, and the monthly travels of the moon. Saints Augustine, Benedict and Francis taught and lived with the same fervor that Wisdom is to be learned from nature. The trees. The stones. Brother sun. Sister moon.

Wisdom never ages and that is her eternal message to young and old. And that is the singularly unique message that should make her important to us

at Resurrection University Catholic Parish. Wisdom is timeless, always present. Her teachings are spread upon the table, upon the land. Come walk with Wisdom. Make her part of your religion, your prayer life, and your contemplation.



Message From the Editor:

*Where is the Life we have lost in living?
Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge?
Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?...*
T.S. Eliot, *Chorus From the Rock*

FRESH LEAF



About the Critters 'n Things...



People who visit the Yellowstone environs are generally drawn to wolves, bison, and antelope. Rarely do they drop to the ground to study the lives of the small and inconspicuous insects. I don't mean the showy, graceful and much adored butterflies and dragonflies, but the beetles, ants, weevils and others like them the ones that elicit the comment "EEEUW, A BUG step on it when we encounter them.

A very close friend and member of the editorial staff told me one time "One group of insects has a special place in my heart, not only because they are incredibly beautiful and industrious, but because they taught me to become better at observing and learning from nature. On a lonely country road in the late autumn, I was driving along very slowly, looking for birds and other wildlife. Suddenly, I saw what appeared to be a small crayfish crossing the road. Surprised that such a creature was in the upland area, far from its preferred habitat, I brought the car to an abrupt halt and got out to investigate. What I saw there was not a crayfish, but a hardworking beetle pushing a dung ball across the road with its hind legs. The combination of the beetle and its sizable treasure appeared at first to be a much larger animal."

The insect she was watching that day was a member of the family Scarabaeidae, which includes the scarab beetles and dung beetles. These industrious harvesters are significant, because they utilize the waste products of cows, elk, bison and other large animals in such useful ways. Most eat dung. WHAT! Some scavenge carcasses or feed in decomposing plant material and fungi. Several species shape a brood ball of dung, with the warm and nutritious orb of food surrounding the hungry larva. They roll this, hind legs first, into a burrow, where the larva complete development. Some of the larger dung beetles are incredibly strong and move balls of dung up to 50 times their own weight.

One of the most colorful scarab beetles (like the one in the photo shown here) has been observed in southern Florida feasting in large numbers on road kills such as opossums and raccoons. Dung beetles and scarabs have caught the attention of mankind for a long time, and in ancient Egypt they both became important religious symbols. In some Indian tribes from South America, a dung beetle named Aksak is supposed to have modeled the first man and woman from clay.

My friend's experience on the country road that day taught me an important lesson. Sometimes its necessary to become a child again, to get down to the elfin scale, to view life from an ant's perspective and to be filled anew with a sense of wonder and gratitude for wee gifts.

"BEHOLD I HAVE GIVEN YOU...ALL THE LIVING CREATURES THAT CRAWL UPON THE GROUND." Gen 1: 30