



## RESURRECTION UNIVERSITY PARISH Land Stewardship Committee

### THE BEHOLDER IS WANTING

19th century English Jesuit Gerard Manley Hopkins, in the opening lines of his poem "*Summer Is Ending*," says "Sheaves of grain stand bound after the harvest; autumn winds blow; wavy clouds drift over violet hills hung with mist." The poet is walking through this beauty when insight strikes:

"These things, these things were here and but the beholder Wanting."

Some consider this the single most beautiful poetic statement of the Catholic sacramental principle since it suggests that education is (or can be) training in sacramental beholding. The purpose of higher education is to turn our students into beholders. All students—those in Montana State University and those in the church pews.

Baron von Hugel, an early twentieth century influential thinker posed this question to his students in his theology class at Oxford University "Who was the most striking example of asceticism in the nineteenth century?" Without pause he answered himself. "Beyond doubt, it was Charles Darwin. With immense discipline and over a long period of time, he focused his keen, powerful intellect and astonishing energy on painstaking observation of nature, from the varieties of barnacles to the shape of pigeons' bills. With clarity and intensity, he saw what was there. In the process he discovered one of the deep and powerful forces of the living world, changing the world's imagination forever."

This is true asceticism. Higher education succeeds when our students learn to cease looking in the mirror long enough to look out the window at what is really there. It is a Christian conviction that in seeing reality they will discover grace, the Love that undergirds all that exists. Higher education succeeds when our students learn to cease looking in the mirror long enough to look out the window at what is really there. It is a Christian conviction that in seeing reality they will discover grace, the Love that undergirds all that exists.

Charles Darwin was a beholder. He was not wanting!

*"I do not believe that botanists are aware how charged the mud of ponds is with seeds"*

Charles Darwin

GREEN LEAF

## Getting to Know Your Land



The prefix "eco" in the words economy and ecology is derived from the Greek word "oikos" which means "house." And the word "logy" is the "study of." Which means that this ecology of ours, so necessary for the economy is really the study of our house.

Is our house more than the abode where we live? Or is it someone else's? Or worst yet, it is just the place where our house sits? And what about our parish? Is that our house also? If so, then don't we have an individual and collective obligation to study about it and care for it?

The question becomes, is our parish a PLACE WHERE, or is parish a PEOPLE WHO...?

If we fail to study our house and the economy of our ecology, then we will pay the price. That is what stewardship is all about — the study of what we will pay or have to pay to preserve our home. Our God is a forgiving God, but Nature is a hanging judge.

We are already witnessing the effects of the Green Ash Borer and the slow destruction of the trees along the east parking lot. Montana State University will experience the same fate, but they have departments and budgets, and professors to call out the necessary solutions to a state wide problem. What does Resurrection University Parish have? The people of the "house." The house of God.

Now is the new year, 2023. Maybe we begin to think a little closer in than the universe, the Amazon, the Pacific whales, the wolves of Yellowstone. Maybe we will begin to think about our "house," the parish, and become involved. Creation Care Committee is still leaderless. Land Stewardship has two members and is a great metaphor for how well war should be attended. Both groups need help. Mental, physical, artistic, editorial, grant applications, orchestration of seminars, and areas as diverse as ecology kind of help. The following pages display a series of new writings, evenings of reflection, Lenten evenings of prayer and retreat, and many other ideas that need help to come to fruition. One or more may interest the parish members. Hope so.

One of the great passages in Scripture showS the early apostles asking Jesus, "Rabbi, where is it you live." And he answered, "Come and see." The Hebrew word for "come" is better understood in English as make a commitment. So, COME to Land Stewardship, COME to Creation Care. Come and see.

Paul A. Gore, 406-587-2001, hoechoka.com: Ellie Weber, Parish Office

## LAND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

PRESENTS

### PENTIMENTO

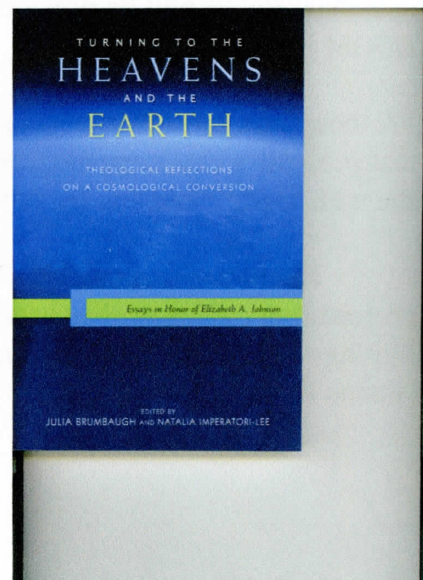
A SERIES OF ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND EVENINGS OF REFLECTION AND MEDITATION THAT EXPLORE THE FAITH YOU INHERITED, SEARCHED OUT, WERE BAPTIZED IN, OR CLAIM, AND BRINGS IT FORWARD WITH NEW INSIGHTS.

PENTIMENTO is a term from the art world that describes the actions of the artist that views oil upon the canvas and decides that the result is not exactly what he or she wanted to present or is happy with. Instead of erasing the object or throwing away the canvas, the artist paints over it with his new color, new strokes, new patinas. Same canvas, new look.

Some programs:

1. *TURNING TO THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH*; Theological reflections on the cosmos—essays in honor of Elizabeth A. Johnson, from the book edited by Julia Brumbaugh. There are nine openings. The program will look at selected chapters pertaining to Catholic new direction in ecology and environment. Meeting format will be by Zoom or Church Office to be determined by room availability. Select chapters will be used appropriate to Catholic Church authors and teaching. Elizabeth is a noted author in Catholicism supporting and advocating Church action in this area.

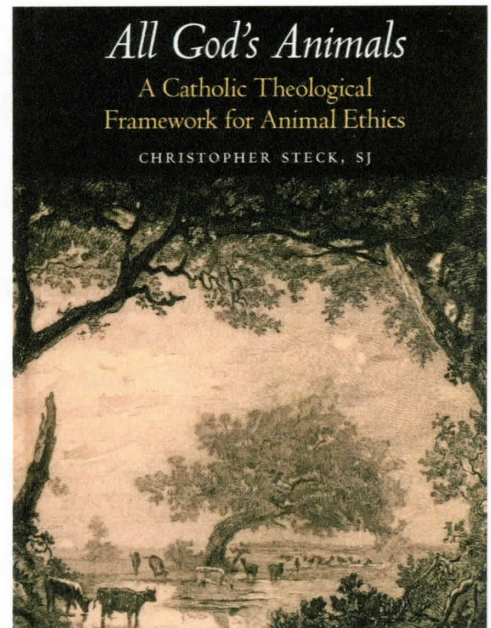
A review notes: “A unique work of a festschrift (studies written in honor of a person) with contributions from varied authors that shows how theology today must and should turn to new ways in light of cotemporary science and ecological crisis..... ”



4. *ALL GOD'S ANIMALS*, from the writings of CHRISTOPHER STECK, SJ of Georgetown University. This study has 7 books only available and will be by ZOOM. There is a possibility that one of the professors from Carroll University will participate. Steck has written the first substantive theology of animals in a Roman Catholic context. "The author's fluent text gives scholars and students alike an important contribution to the growing literature on the animal theology and ethics" says Celia Deane-Drummond, director and professor of theology, University of Notre Dame.

This book is hard cover and worthy of reading by MSU students studying in the area of environment, wildlife management, and ecology, and members of Resurrection University Parish Creation Care Committee as well as Land Stewardship Committee.

This will be a multi-week ZOOM session suitable for MSU undergraduates, upper levels, and parishioners with backgrounds in ecology, environment, and wildlife management. A small contribution will be required for this volume to defray the cost of the publication and stipends for the guest speakers.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND DETAILS ON ANY OF THESE  
OFFERINGS CALL PAUL GORE AT 406-587-2001 OR SEE ELLIE WEBER AT  
THE PARISH OFFICE

## COULD THEY BE TEARS?<sup>1</sup>

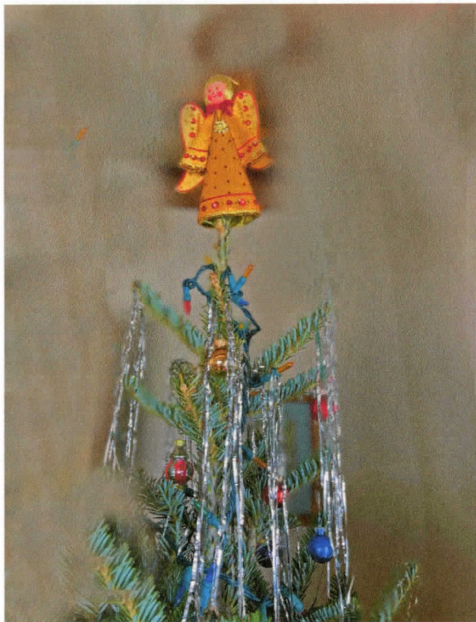
Could they be tears — those few remaining strands of silver foil  
That drip in limp and vagrant disarray  
Where they eluded sacking hands with purpose to despoil  
That stripped the shimmering ornaments away?

But yesterday a thing of dazzling beauty,  
laden-limbed —

So soon the hour of triumph  
disappears!

A Christmas tree, atop a bulging garbage  
truck, untrimmed

Except those silver strands — could  
they be tears?



---

<sup>1</sup> Nature Magazine. February, 1954. Page 99. Helen Ward Gall.