

RESURRECTION UNIVERSITY CATHOLIC PARISH

Land Stewardship Committee

REDESIGN UNDERWAY

Resurrection's Land Stewardship Committee and Creation Care Team are collaborating on a project to re-landscape portions of land surrounding the west-end parking lot. Right now, there's lots of grass and rows of trees. But plans are in the works to develop a community vegetable garden, a pollinator garden, and a meditative habitat.

You'll notice some changes to the church grounds over this summer. Sweet peas, Butterfly bush, Oregon Grape, Milkweed, Sage, Ponderosa pine will be appearing. These changes reflect a more ecologically minded vision of what "holy ground" should become.

The new green spaces are inspired by the Saint Kateri Conservation Center, a national Catholic organization working with local parishes to develop an "integral ecology," in the words of Pope Francis, through which people, wildlife, and other living beings can thrive. When we finish the gardens and habitat areas to enliven our sacred spaces beyond the walls of the physical church, we hope to become designated as a registered "Saint Kateri Habitat," joining hundreds of other Catholic institutions across the United States. (See their website at <https://www.kateri.org/saint-kateri-habitat-2/>)

Paul Gore and Ellie Weber, co-chairpersons for the LSC, brought an extensive background with them from Mary Help of Christians in Parkland Florida in the area of church grounds designs for spiritual and

ecological balance in outdoor design. As Paul states, "The church grounds should be more than just where you park your car. It should support, enhance and foster a sense of spirituality."

As Catholics, we know that creation was not simply a one-time event brought forth by God but an ongoing process with humankind tasked as co-creators. Saint Paul, in a letter to the Romans, states that "all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now." The Saint Kateri Habitat seeks to join with God's handiwork in order that we give greater glory to God.

The LSC is working diligently on the inventory of plants, birds and mammals that are present, or pass over, under around or through the church grounds.

Irrigation is presently underway to support the new plantings and the first evidence of the vegetable garden is showing growth of a variety of vegetables. A protective deer fence will encircle the vegetable garden but the native habitat area will be open and non-cloistered.

Parishioners, students of MSU, interested in participating in these church works are urged to contact either of the two committees.

GOT PRINTERS' INK IN YOUR BLOOD?

The Greenleaf is a publication of the Land Stewardship Committee of Resurrection University Catholic Parish. It is privately funded by parishioners and friends of RUC Parish. The editors are Paul A. Gore and Ellie F. Weber and they can be reached at 406-587-2001. All ideas and suggestions are welcome and we encourage students in high school and college to explore writing for the GreenLeaf.

BEAUTY OF SUMMER



A fleck of wheat along the bay
A quiver in the grass,
While daybreak shifts and ripples while
It mirrors clouds that pass.

Warm breezes drift among the trees,
So calming to my ear
And only wistful eyes can seize
This dreamy atmosphere.

Then stars lend glitter to the night
To beam upon the dew,
Which reaches every tree with charm
As beauty thrills anew.

A time to dream, a time to grasp
The heart of summertime
And nothing else to break the flow
Of moments so sublime.

Nayda Ivette Negron's
Summer Sights 5/14/2016

Resurrection University Catholic Parish is very much a part of the Vatican II clarion call to be a "Teaching Church and a learning Church." Here, in the very middle of the academic campus, the *Hoechoka*— middle of the camp we stand to learn as well as teach what Land Stewardship is all about. Not just with words, but with actions.

Here is the right size, the right place, and the right time for most of us. Maybe we begin, continue, or encuentro-rediscover, what land stewardship is all about—here, on the parish grounds, the parish parking lot, on the front lawn, in the soon-to-be garden at the northwest corner, or the prayer paths circling the west end of the parish land, or in the southwest corner habitat learning center. It's a thought, approaching a musing, about to rise to the level of a challenge, and soon to be a reality. That is, if we make it so.

New Books to whet your appetite and assuage your boredom and initiate a book club through on-line participation:

**Last Child In The Woods
Our Wild Calling
Turning To The Heavens and the Earth
Ask The Beasts
Soul and Sacraments**

