

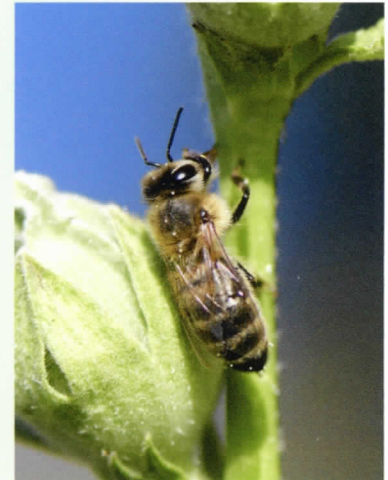


RESURRECTION UNIVERSITY CATHOLIC PARISH

Land Stewardship Committee

To BEE OR NOT TO BEE, THAT IS THE QUESTION

There has been much conversation and animated debate among the Land Stewardship and Creation Care Committees regarding the establishment of a flower or pollinator garden. With The decline of the native bee population at Resurrection University Catholic Parish, in Bozeman, all of Montana, yes, even in the United States the question has as many , if not more, cause and cures offered than the Covid-19 pandemic of recent infamy.



The campus for Resurrection University Catholic Parish does not display any noticeable number of flowering plants, native or otherwise. With a limited budget and a hefty mortgage on the new sanctuary and a dearth of volunteers there is justifiable reason for that fact.

But now, with advent of the community garden and the potential of a native habitat there comes the question: *To bee or not to bee*. That is to say, increase the flowering native vegetation to a degree that surely will draw in and support a population of bees. Which is good. People not knowing how to walk-a-bout among them is bad. Parishioners beeeeeeing stung by bees is very bad. People going into anaphylactic shock and dying is very, very, very bad.

Somewhat like being on the horns of a dilemma—or the stalk of a hollyhock. Since 2008, U.S. honeybee colony losses have averaged 38 percent annually, and MSU is an important fixture for carrying out research aimed at reducing colony deaths.

Michelle Flenniken is an associate professor in the Department of Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology and co-director of MSU's Pollinator Health Center. She was inspired by the \$5,000 match from donor Risa K. Scott, which, she said, "catalyzed others to donate in support of graduate student research in honeybee biology."

Montana plays a critical role in honey production and beekeeping. In 2018, Montana beekeepers produced nearly 15 Million pounds of honey and provided over 260,000 colonies for pollination. (Cont'd page 3)

BE NOT AFRAID, OTHERS GO BEFORE YOU

Ph.D. students in the Flenniken lab AT MSU are investigating the impact of viruses on honeybee colony health at the colony, individual bee and cellular levels. The goal of the research is to reduce the number of honeybee colony losses associated with viral infections. Some of our parishioners are already beesy trying to unlock the secrets of nature.

RESURRECTION



About the Critters 'n Things...

If you are looking for a cheeky little bird that doesn't totally loot your bird feeder look no further than the Pine Siskens. The siskens begin arriving in May and by mid-



June they demand and dominate the stage as they flit, flirt, dash, crash, light and flight all around an area rich in Nyger or dandelion flower heads—which is the large ag. field west of the church campus.

ROCIO'S MUSINGS

Some think mother nature is best if left alone, that landscapes are more beautiful if left untouched by the utilitarian activity of humans. However human beings -yes, that includes parishioners reading this bulletin- are not isolated observers. Genesis teaches us that humans were created to be stewards of nature. Co-creators. We are not above nor below, but we are within nature, and can be the keystone to make it flourish in our parish. We invite you to become part of the Land Stewardship Ministry where you can share your talents and develop your spirituality from the ground up. To learn more about what you as a member of Resurrection University Catholic Parish can do, learn, teach, and pray, call Paul Gore at (406)587-2001. Remember, "parish is not a place where... parish is a people who..."

SHORT TWIGS

Many parishioners have inquired as to the outcome of the poison distribution in the area of the Community Garden and, actually, a great deal also on land that is not even owned by the parish. The Creation Care Committee and the Land Stewardship Committee are holding a joint meeting with the lawn mowing volunteers to find an acceptable solution to the issue—OTHER THAN POISON



Hay quien piensa que a la madre naturaleza hay que dejarla ser y que el paisaje es más hermoso si no ha sido tocado por el ser humano. Sin embargo, el ser humano -sí, eso te incluye a ti, parroquiano que estás leyendo esto- no somos tan solo observadores aislados y ajenos a la naturaleza. El Génesis nos enseña que Dios nos encomendó el cuidado de la naturaleza. No estamos ni por encima ni por abajo, sino que somos parte de la naturaleza, co-creadores que le ayudan a florecer en nuestra parroquia. Te invitamos a pertenecer al Ministerio de la Mayordomía de la Tierra donde puedes compartir tus talentos y desarrollar tu espiritualidad, desde la tierra hasta el cielo.

Para saber más de lo que puedes hacer, aprender, enseñar y orar en nuestra parroquia llama a Paul Gore al (406)587-2001.

Recuerda, "la parroquia no es un lugar donde... La parroquia es la gente que..."



(To BEE cont'd from page 1)

It is not as if the introduction of native flowering plants is contrary to the history of the place. After all Resurrection University Catholic Parish is located in the what the Native Americans called the *Valley of the Flowers*. Nor is it contrary to the multitude of crab apples, mountain ash, and other trees that serve quite well in providing sustenance for the bees. The point is that a flower garden/community garden/habitat accentuates the flower species in a closed space and closer to the ground that if successful will result in an increase of bees. Which is good. People however, come to the campus for liturgy and sacraments. What is to be said of their coming for peace, solitude, meditation?

There is an old adage that every problem begets a solution and every solution begets a problem. True, the adage limps a little but it does serve as a focus point. What we are talking about is the conversion and construction of the west end of the church campus and parking lot into a unique, different, and sustainable example by the people of God that is consistent with the papal exhortation in the encyclical *Laudato Si*.

As Yul Brenner said in the movie *The King and I*, "tis a puzzlement."

Got any ideas?

SUMMER SOLTICE

"Morning drains inexpressibly into Christmastime. Overhead the geese are migrating, just as they were the last time I looked. You wash the dishes, turn around, and it is summer again, or some other time, or time to go." *Teaching a Stone to Talk: Expeditions and Encounters*, By: Annie Dillard, Harper Perennial / 1999 / Paperback

TIME TO SAY GOODBY

As June ends, spring passes to summer, and the priests of the diocese move on to new assignments, new challenges, it is time to say good-by. Fr. Val, a friend of the environment, spokesperson for Creation Care as well as Land Stewardship transfers to West Yellowstone and Big Sky. "*Caint tell*", which is the better place but the parish people are confident he will work it out.

Now that the sadness, festivities, joy and uncertainties are settling it remains to be seen if his message of the past decades resonates within the heart of the people. As St. Paul wrote in the Second Letter to the Corinthians:

"Am I beginning to speak well of myself again. Or do I need letters of recommendations to you or from you as others might. You are my letter, known and read by all men, written on your hearts."



AMEN





LAND STEWARDSHIP AT RESURRECTION UNIVERSITY CATHOLIC PARISH

What is Land Stewardship?

- Land Stewardship is the practice of carefully managing land usage to ensure natural systems are maintained or enhanced for future generations.
- Land stewardship is about re-connecting with our dependence on earth, air, water and sunshine and the abundance of life it supports.
- Land stewardship is about re-discovering our natural 'instincts' of awe and respect for nature.
- Land stewardship is about preserving "the capacity of the land for self-renewal".

How is land stewardship practiced at our parish?

The flora and fauna of the parish should be cultivated and maintained in a manner that complements the liturgical and social use of the grounds while at the same time adding to the environmental habitat.

What can you do?

- Prayerfully ponder the gifts and talents you have been given and consider how you can use them to enhance the parish's land stewardship program
- Come and see what this new ministry is about
- Volunteer to serve on the Land Stewardship Committee
- Check the church bulletin for committee meeting dates

Consider doing your part to make our parish a premier example of land stewardship.

The "musings" on page 3 are from Rocio Munoz, a member of the Land Stewardship Committee and fluent in English and Spanish. This is her first entry to News Letter writing.

For more information on the Land Stewardship programs call Paul Gore, 587-2001, or Ellie Weber at 954-609-5612.