



RESURRECTION UNIVERSITY CATHOLIC PARISH

Land Stewardship Committee

LAUDATO SI', mi' Signore: Ecology non

"LAUDATO SI', mi' Signore"

"Praise be to you, my Lord". In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. "Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, ...".

This encyclical is touted by many as a strong affirmation of the Church's ecological concern but that is not necessarily the case. That does not imply that the church doesn't care about ecology but a person has to understand the concepts and use of Encyclicals. The by-product in care for the environment is care for the poor.

Encyclicals are statements from popes or bishops that are general letters. They are to be understood as written to no one in particular and everyone in general.

When *Laudato Si'* first was translated into English, ecologists, earth scientists, and other people interested in and related to the earth sciences hailed it as a strong statement for ecology. Actually it isn't a strong statement for ecology. It is a statement for help for the poor. Probably the same end result but not the same process.

In an interview praising the Italian Press in getting messages to the public Pope Francis noted that: "...I thank you for you already strive to work for this, even with documents such as *Laudato Si* which is not an ecological encyclical but a social one.." (Origins Vol.49, #19) The pope went on to point out that his message was against consumerism which most adversely affects the poor. He urged the professional press to work harder for peace, justice and solidarity. In a telling example he pointed out that the stock market dropping two points gets more press space than a poor woman freezing to death on a city sidewalk.

It is in the abuse of the environment that we injure the poor the most.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

This is why the earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she "groans in travail" (*Rom 8:22*). We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (*cf. Gen 2:7*)"

FRESH LEAF



BLUE JAYS INVADE BOZEMAN

No, not the Toronto Blue Jays but that rascally avian member of the Corvidae Family has appeared in Gallatin Valley in great numbers. That is a real treat for bird watchers as well as ornithologists. Although not the first time this has happened the number of sightings are greater than ever recorded before.

The influx started shortly after the early October snow storms that struck the Bozeman area. Scientists guess that the storm with strong north winds pushed the jays farther south than normal.

The Bluejay is not to be confused with the Stellar jay which is in this area but generally higher up in the surrounding mountains. Both Stellar and Blue jays hang around pine trees, of which there are many on the church grounds. Watch for them around the east side of church.



DID YOU KNOW?

That the Arizona Highways magazine recently reported on a tree that helped convict a poacher of elk?

The hunter, hunting illegally, propped up the dead animal next to a tree with a very peculiar shape. Game wardens for the state knew the tree quite well and had seen it often. They went to the site and secured enough evidence to identify the hunter and gain a state conviction.

Do trees talk?

THE BLUE JAY

"Garrulus glandarius"

*Such a chatter, such a fuss!
Bluejay; bright-eyed, curious,
Greedy, trigger-furious.
Watch him bury stolen food
(Tucks it under any thing).
If he's in a happy mood,
Listen to him sweetly sing.*

*When you hear a concert-cry,
You can know a snake is nigh.
Some birds, when the bluejays fly,
May dispute but none defy.
Yet despite the normal noise,
Cannibal meals (which we think wrong).
And the slyness he employs
Listen for his sweeter song!*

*Though some skeptics doubt my word,
Bluejay warbling joy I've heard;
Soft and shy; in contrast, gay.
Listen for the two-tongued jay!*



