



RESURRECTION UNIVERSITY PARISH

Land Stewardship Committee

WHEN THE MOTE BECOMES A MOAT

Land Stewardship is more than the birds, bees, wheat, farming and the like. It is also about wood—Specifically the mote in the other fellow's eye while ignoring the plank in your own eye. Holy Scripture alludes to this in less than subtle terms when Jesus says "*Thou hypocrite! First cast out the plank out of thine own eye, and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.*"

How's that?

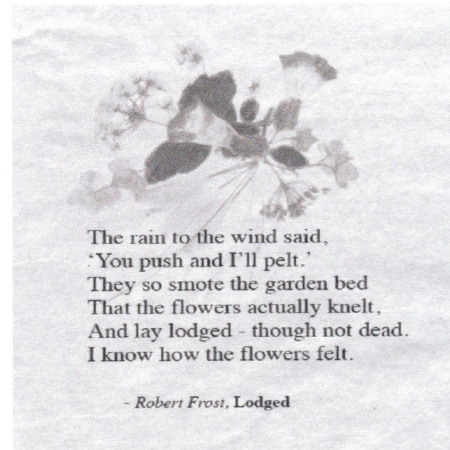
Montana law provides individuals with "a right to use the property of another that is acquired by open, exclusive, notorious, hostile, adverse, continuous, and uninterrupted use for a period of 5 years." In practice, this type of easement can lead to what is known as adverse possession. The real defining factor between a prescriptive easement and [adverse possession](#) is communication between the parties. If the property owner was aware that another party was using their land, but did nothing to stop them or to express that their behavior was permitted, the party in question may be able to adversely possess the property owner's land. And?

Several years past the Land Stewardship Committee retained a surveyor to check the boundaries and fencing at Resurrection University Parish (RUP). Guess what. They're wrong! A meeting was held to work out a process whereby fences to the north and west of the church could be affirmed, moved, or reset. That process was interrupted by Fr. Val being moved and Fr. Joe becoming pastor. A subsequent meeting was held to discuss the boundary issue. The LSC was not informed of the meeting by accident. Also involved in that negotiation was the matter of the many Green Ash trees along the North boundary that are hanging precariously over the parking lot and are a real and present risk of falling on cars or people. And then the "perfect storm"—Will Wright Director of Creation Care Committee moved to the Dakotas and no one has been appointed or volunteered to take his place.

Now we are engaged in a great debate as to cost and placement of a social hall and a rectory, which is assumed by the Bishop in his rightful authority, as vitally needed. Enter the mote. And the plank? How is RUP going to handle millions for construction when the boundaries are wrong and the trees are a threat and they can't handle that problem?

THE MOTE HAS TRULY BECOME A MOAT

FRESH NEWS



Remember the foul weather of June? Cold, rain, wind? And we prayed for relief. And God sent it. Now we pray for rain, cold and some wind to assuage the stifling, oppressive heat and humidity of this early summer.

How true it is. From Scripture
A literal translation would be this: "To man the orderings of the heart, but from God the answer of the tongue." "Man proposes, God disposes."

GREEN LEAF AND LAND STEWARDSHIP are planning for the "*New Look*" of Resurrection University Parish. Land Stewardship ministry is forming up its part in this plan with a list of speakers and programs, including book reviews, zoom sharing sessions and the like for the parishioners and student body all centered on ecology, environmentalism, and the spiritual dimension of the Good Earth. Native American aspects will be a significant part of the written and spoken presentations. The "old timers" of the parish are not forgotten. You will be a major focus also.

—**Employment Opportunity**—Taken. By a non-parishioners.

More is the pity
Paul Gore 406-587-2001

LAND STEWARDSHIP AT RESURRECTION UNIVERSITY 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".

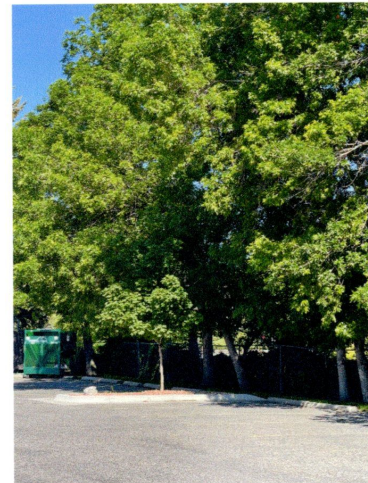
How should land stewardship be practiced at our parish?

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 ministry is about
- Volunteer to serve on the Land Stewardship Committee

Trim the Green ash trees in the north parking lot before they fall on a car or worse, a person. This is just an accident waiting for a place and time to happen!



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

—THE GUNS OF AUTUMN ARE UPON US.—

Prompting this question from the pews

Q. My husband is an avid hunter. Each Fall he goes hunting and for some reason that disturbs me. Please don't think this question foolish, but, does the church have any official stance on hunting?

A. Your question is not foolish. It shows that you are trying to apply Christian values to the reality of the 21st century. This column is meant to give voice to these types of concerns and provide insights to help you with all problems—large and small, unique and general.

The Catholic Church has little direct information on hunting. Two saints discussed the morality of hunting. St. Francis de Sales described it as "innocent recreations that we may always make good use of." St. Thomas More takes an opposite view and brands hunting as "senseless delights."

Theologians opposed to hunting regard it as part of the fallen condition of mankind. Hunting, they say, is lack of reverence and moral irresponsibility. Christians, they say, should cooperate in the process of redemption which involves lifting up the whole order of creation into a higher estate.

Opponents point out that nothing in scripture or Judaeo-Christian tradition condemns hunting - in fact, it is dealt with as expected and the reality of the conditions in the world.

Christians must resolve their position based on their personal beliefs and sources other than the Bible. Game managers and environmentalists may differ on their conclusions, but both sides of the issue are arguing personal beliefs, not morality. There are many biologist, environmentalists, and good holy people of the parish that work in this area. Ask them what would happen if elk were not control hunted every fall.

The movie, "The Last of the Mohicans", displays a good example of the attitude of the Native Americans to hunting. Killing game was essential to life, but they respected and honored the spirit of the fallen animal. Present day hunters that hunt in moderation and do not abuse the resources of nature are in harmony with this approach.