

**SOME EXAMPLES OF RESOURCES USED FOR *CATHOLICS GOING GREEN*
AND *CARING FOR CREATION PRAYER TRAIL***

(to accompany **GEMS #51**)

St. George Parish Caring for Creation Prayer Trail
Text for Signs

Station 1 – Watersheds/Baptism

Water in this quiet stream flowing gently by will gather distant raindrops on its journey to Indian Lake, on through the Blackstone River Watershed to Naragansett Bay and ultimately the ocean. The communities of this watershed and the people who live there are connected by the same life giving water which nourishes and cleanses our world just as all the baptized are connected by the waters of baptism that cleansed our souls. Caring for our stream and our watershed is a way of caring for our neighbors and answering our baptismal call.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...” (Mark 28:19)

Station 2 – The Eucharist and Nature

The Eucharist nourishes our body, mind, and spirit. God’s creation in nature also nourishes us and our well-being here on earth. Wheat and grapes, bread and wine, fruit of the earth and work of human hands, become the Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. We not only receive the Eucharist, but we also share the Eucharist. Through it we receive a call to conversion and an invitation to draw more deeply into communion with God and with all that God has created.

“Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.” (John 6:35) or

“While the land has its Sabbath, all its produce will be food equally for you yourself and for your male and female slaves, for your hired help and the tenants who live with you, and likewise for your livestock and for the wild animals on your land.” (Lev. 25:6-7)

Station 3 – Diversity and Healing/Holy Oil

Open your eyes and your heart to all the life forms around you. Recognize the mystery, strength, and healing quality of life and its diversity. It is from among the very elements of nature that we create the Holy Oil used in the Anointing of the Sick. Olives, balsam, myrrh, frankincense, and cloves mixed together create the oil that brings healing of the whole person, mind, body, and especially soul. Take time to observe and appreciate the many plants, animals and all of God’s creatures that live among us here in this forest. As you proceed along this trail, remember that healing is often and uphill climb.

“So they went off and preached repentance. They drove out many demons, and they anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.” (Mark 6:12)

Station 4 – Seed

The stone wall here reminds us of a once agricultural landscape of pastures and farms which produced food, wool, and firewood sustaining the families that lived here. The large oak and hickory trees that we see today were once the tiny seeds of a new forest in those former pastures more than 100 years ago. As Jesus told us, “The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants. It becomes a large bush and the birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches.” So much comes from the smallest of things.

“But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold.” (Matt. 13:8)

Station 5 – Air and Light

Look up through the opening in this forest to the sky and take a deep breath. Air is essential to life on earth. Yet, sometimes we take it for granted. God breathed the Spirit into all beings bringing them to life. All is sustained by the ruah, the breath of God. We must stand in solidarity as a global community for we all live and breathe the same air. Jesus, the Light of the World, asks us to be light for others.

“When you send forth your breath, the are created, and you renew the face of the earth.” (Psalms 104:30)

“What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” (John 1:3b-5)

Station 6 – Fire (A Call to Conversion)

God cares deeply for us and all of Creation, including the natural world. Let us ask the Holy Spirit who sent forth Divine Fire at Pentecost, to inspire us with a new vision of God’s creation as truly sacred and with a deeper understanding of neighbor as every human being, most especially those in need, as well as all God’s creatures and all of creation. We are called to care for creation in a spirit of stewardship. What will you do to answer that call?

“Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.” (Acts 2:3-4)

For more information, feel free to contact Eileen Charbonneau: etcharb@yahoo.com

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