

Nature Notes

November 7, 2019

A digital journal documenting the search for truth, beauty and goodness in God's lovely creation throughout the diocese of Fort Worth.

Why should we go outside after a rainstorm?



Look at how the raindrops and spines almost form a pattern on this prickly pear cactus.



On these grassy plants, the raindrops clung to each strand of the spikes.

<https://www.rd.com/culture/rain-facts/>

Go outside after a rainstorm because of beauty. Phenomena like raindrops and rainbows are God's gift to the intrepid adventurers who brave the uncomfortable elements. Wednesday's rain showers transformed the courtyards by lavishly decorating the plants with tiny diamonds. Later, the magic wore off, and evaporation returned the plants to normal as efficiently as Cinderella's carriage turned back into a pumpkin. Probably the tiny spider preferred it that way, as the raindrops certainly prevented his delicate web from enticing hapless bugs to stay for dinner.



Go outside after a rainstorm because it smells good. Have you ever wondered WHY it smells lovely after the rain? The smell of rain is actually caused by the raindrops hitting dry ground, trapping tiny particles called geosmin produced by bacteria in the dirt. When the raindrops burst, the geosmin launches into the air, enabling us to smell it. This smell is called petrichor.

Good Reads

<https://creatio.org/the-virtue-of-stewardship/>

This website always has fantastic articles. But I'm quoting the last paragraph of the post above because it sums up our role as Catholic environmentalists so eloquently:

In the end, therefore, we find that Catholic environmentalism begins and ends in the love of God. We begin by falling in love with God. We convert to living in a state of grace, including loving the people we interact with and the world which God made. As we care for and fall in love with God's world, our wonder at His creation leads us to fall in love with Him all over again. Catholic environmentalism is not so much a particular mission and crusade for us to pursue as it is just a lifestyle in harmony with the life of love and virtue to which we are universally called. Let us go forth, then, my friends, into God's world living deeply and fully the love of our Creator.

Children cannot bounce off the walls if we take away the walls.

Erin Kenny, Cedarsong Nature School

Courtyard Adventures



Mme. Foy's first year French students braved the cloudy weather to play a game in the Activity courtyard. Using the sidewalk squares like tiles on a living board game, they followed French directions to various letter clues around the courtyard. Once they collected all their clues, they unscrambled their letters to create a French nature vocabulary word.

Where to find Emily next week

Monday 9:30-2

Nolan Outdoor Learning Headquarters

In the office immediately to the left of the teacher boxes in room D22.

Tuesday 8:30-2

Wednesday 9:30-2

Thursday 8:30-4

Please come by anytime! Let's chat about how we can work outdoor learning into your lesson plans!

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