

During Autumn, the pace of life tends to accelerate and it grows more difficult to recall the potential sacred nature of each day and each place in which we find ourselves. This day-long retreat will be an opportunity to pause and be grateful for the special beauty of the Earth, to celebrate the abundance of the harvest, and to prepare with care for the approaching holidays. Design your own program from the concurrent workshops and outdoor experiences.



Keynote: Celebrating Sacred Ground

As the Marianists prepare to celebrate the centenary of their presence at Mount St.

John, our world is slowly reawakening to the understanding that we are innately drawn to a relationship with the Earth that is both sacred and grateful. We especially experience this as we stumble upon those acres throughout our lives that haunt us with their beauty and holiness. Sue Sack will draw on Judeo-Christian scriptures, spirituality and her own experience with sacred places to examine what meeting God on sacred ground is all about. Take time to reflect on, discuss and celebrate your own relationships with holy places.

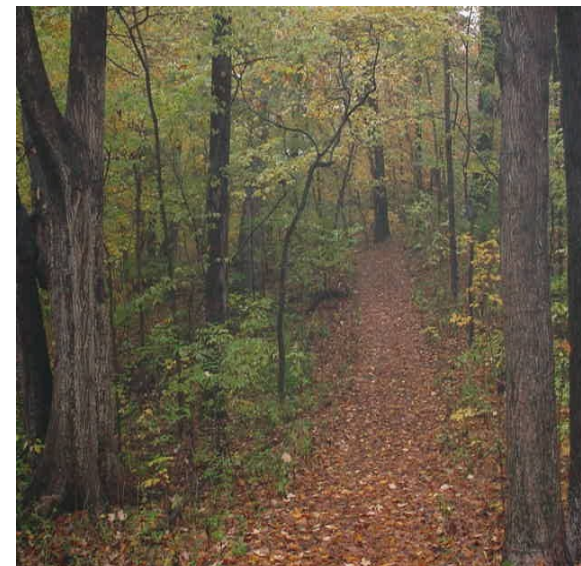
Sue is a wife, mother, gardener and farmer, teacher, writer, parish lay minister and doctoral candidate in theology at the University of Dayton. For almost thirty years and she and her family have rejoiced in, been held in awe by, and struggled to rejuvenate several acres of a mid-nineteenth century west-central Ohio farm.



Marianist Environmental Education Center
Saint Joseph Hall, Mount Saint John
4435 E. Patterson Road
Dayton, OH 45430-1095

<http://meec.udayton.edu>
meec@udayton.edu
Phone: (937)429-3582

Walking on Sacred Ground



An Autumn Inspiration Retreat

Saturday, November 7, 2009
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Marianist Center
Mount St. John

Hosted by the Marianist Environmental Education Center

Restoring communities of land and people

MORNING WORKSHOP OPTIONS

(Choose one)

Always Thankful

Our faith traditions call us to live in a spirit of gratitude but in challenging times and in the changing seasons of our life, how do we stay rooted in thanksgiving? Take time to count your blessings and explore the wisdom from the Judeo-Christian and other prayer traditions including the First Nations' Medicine Wheel. Includes time for personal reflection, experiential prayer and group sharing.

Marianist Sister Leanne Jablonski FMI, Ph.D., directs the Marianist Environmental Education Center. She is an ecologist and pastoral minister. Mary Benson-Landau is a teacher, healer and ordained minister who has studied with wisdom keepers of many traditions. She has served as a critical care nurse, clinical instructor and now coordinates senior care in a large healthcare organization.

Simpler Celebrations

The anticipation of the holiday season can bring up mixed feelings; we look forward to celebrating with family and friends, but worry that all the trappings have eclipsed the celebration itself. In preparation for the holidays, we'll explore how to bring our holiday rituals in line with our desire for simplicity. Participants are invited to come share their own ideas and plans, and will take away numerous suggestions and very practical instructions for gifts, entertaining, and celebrations.

Sue Sack's family has been exploring ways to ritualize the holidays in meaningful ways for nearly thirty years. Tara Poling is MEEC's program coordinator, naturalist, avid gardener and beekeeper.

AFTERNOON SESSION

After lunch, choose one of three ways to get in touch with the sacred ground at Mount St. John. Help us process and/or collect native seed from our prairie while learning about local plants, enjoy a gentle hike through the refreshing sacred beauty of the changing autumn woodland and learn about the plants of the Mount St. John Nature Preserve, or experience a meditative walk in our native plant labyrinth. Please dress for the weather. Indoor options and resources for individual reflection will also be provided.

SCHEDULE

8:30 Registration – Marianist Family Room

9:00 Welcome and Opening Prayer

9:15 Celebrating Sacred Ground — Sue Sack

10:30 Workshop Session (Choose one)

A. *Always be Thankful* - Leanne Jablonski & Mary Benson Landau

B. *Simple Celebrations* - Sue Sack & Tara Poling

Noon Lunch at Bergamo Center

1:00 Afternoon Session (Choose one)

C. Woodland and prairie Walk - MEEC staff

D. Prairie Seed Collection - MEEC staff

E. Guided Labyrinth Walk - Leanne Jablonski

3:15 Closing Reflection - Gather up the day's insights in a prayer of gratitude and receive a blessing for your journey to your own particular sacred places.

The Marianist Environmental Education Center (MEEC) is an environmental education community in the Catholic tradition. In Mary's hope-filled spirit, we preserve and act in communion with the land and educate other communities in sustainability through ecology-based simple living, social justice and spirituality.

For more information about MEEC and information on other upcoming programs, visit <http://meec.udayton.edu>.

Walking on Sacred Ground

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Registration: (Includes buffet lunch; inquire about scholarships)

Full day: O \$40 / O\$35 (Friends of MEEC, students, seniors)

Morning & lunch only: O \$30 / O \$25 (Friends of MEEC, students, seniors)

Become a Friend of MEEC (Donations are tax-deductible) O \$35 (Individual) O \$50 (Family) O \$15 (Low income, senior, student) O Other \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Checks only, payable to the Marianist Environmental Education Center.

Return by November 2 to MEEC, St. Joseph Hall, Mount St. John 4435 E. Patterson Road, Dayton OH 45430-1095

Contact us at 937/429-3582 or meec@udayton.edu.