



La Vista

Ecological Learning Center

A ministry of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

February 2016

E-Newsletter

FEBRUARY REFLECTION

To celebrate Valentine's Day we invite you to ponder this passage from *Laudato Si'* in which Pope Francis invites us to love the natural world in the spirit of Francis of Assisi:



"Just as happens when we fall in love with someone, whenever he (St. Francis) would gaze at the sun, the moon or the smallest of animals, he burst into song, drawing all other creatures into his praise. He communed with all creation, even preaching to the flowers..."

His response to the world around him was so much more than intellectual appreciation or economic calculus, for to him each and every creature was a sister united to him by bonds of affection. That is why he felt called to care for all that exists."

(*Laudato Si'* paragraph 11)

**May we all be drawn to love and care for our rare and precious planet
this month of February!**

LENTEN RESOURCE

Care for Our Common Home During Lent (which begins Feb. 10th) This resource integrates quotes from the encyclical *Laudato Si'* with Lent's Sunday Scripture Readings. To find this resource, copy and paste this link in your browser:

<http://ecospiritualityresources.com/2016/01/11/>

Rumi's Poetry and Authentic Indian Food Saturday, February 20, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

During this special gathering we will learn about Rumi as poet of the heart as well as of the kitchen. Our presenters, Anu and Ishani Trzaska, will share with us their appreciation of his life as they read and reflect on some of his best poems. They will also delight us with special Indian food to nourish our bodies as the poetry nourishes our souls.

Cost: \$15

Registration:

Send your check with your information including e-mail address to La Vista 4300 Levis Lane Godfrey, IL 62035 by Wed., Feb. 17.



Anu Trzaska

Spring Equinox Celebration and Butterfly Puddles

Saturday, March 19 2:00 - 4:00

Celebrate the Spring Equinox and prepare for the coming butterfly season! You might have noticed in the summer how butterflies cluster around damp spots on a dirt path or road. Those butterflies aren't thirsty; rather, they are "puddling", searching in a wet area for minerals they need to be healthy.

Join us and find out how we created puddles for La Vista's pollinator garden so you can make one in your own yard. Join us and become part of a growing movement to create necessary habitats for our insect friends.

Registration: Call 618-466-5004 and leave your name and the number attending. Please bring a springtime snack to share. Optional donations are welcome.

**Spring Wildflower Walk and
Work Day in the Oblate Woods Preserve**

Saturday, April 2, 9:30 am - 11:30 Honeysuckle Removal; 1:00 Wildflower Walk



Led by Natural Areas Preservation Specialist Debbie Newman, we will pull honeysuckle and other invasives that have emerged this season in the Preserve.

After lunch, we'll venture into the beautiful Woods Preserve to see what is blooming. Last year we spotted Wistar's Coralroot, a native orchid. Maybe we will be even luckier this year!

Registration: Call 618-466-5004 and leave your name and the number attending. Lunch: Please bring your own no-waste lunch. Tea and herbal drinks will be provided. If possible, please bring work gloves and a lopper. No fee for this event.

