

## Introduction / Opening

*Location 1:* Aullwood Nature Center, 1000 Aullwood Rd, Dayton, OH 45414  
Aullwood Rd. is located off of Route 40/W. National Rd.

*Location 2:* Sisters of the Precious Blood Solar Field, 4353 Denlinger Rd, Dayton, OH 45416  
Pull onto the access road to the left just past the Salem Heights Cemetery. You will see the solar panels.

*Location 3:* God's Garden at St. Paul, 1000 Wenger Rd, Englewood, OH 45322

*Location 4:* Lilac Farm, 10253 N Diamond Mill Rd, Englewood, OH 45322

**Suggested Song:** This is Holy Ground

### **Opening Prayer: Pilgrim of Hope Prayer**

Loving Creator,

We come as pilgrims to Your gardens.

Let us be aware of your presence - in the soil, the wildflowers, the pollinators, the sun, the air we breathe, and in every person we meet along the way.

As we venture through these sacred grounds filled with beauty, we are reminded of a world broken and weeping yet filled with hope and promise.

We turn to you, O God, with humble and open hearts to hear the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor. In this Jubilee Year of Hope, let us remember that hope is not wishful thinking but rather sacred trust in the unseen work of God.

Renew in us the fire of your spirit so that we may be fertile soil to allow justice, mercy, and hope to bloom within us so that it may be shared with the world.

Let us stand for peace, sow unity, and carry your Promise to a weary world.

Make us caretakers of creation and reconcilers in our communities.

We walk forward, not alone, but together as Pilgrims of Hope, following the light of Christ trusting in the promise of new life.

Amen.

## Theme - Growing in Hope (30-45 minutes) – Aullwood Nature Center

### **Story/Speaker**

### **Questions (3-5 minutes)**

### **Ephesians 4:7-16**

[Christ] who descended is also the one who ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things. And he gave some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers, to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the extent of the full stature of Christ, so that we may no longer be infants, tossed by waves and swept along by every wind of teaching arising from human trickery, from their cunning in the interests of deceitful scheming.

Rather, living the truth in love, we should grow in every way into him who is the head, Christ.

**Wander/Reflection – What most gives you hope? Where do you see hope? Where do you feel called to grow?**

**Suggested Song:** [Cypress Seed Song \(Te Martin\)](#)

### **Sharing**

### **LS 65:**

Those who are committed to defending human dignity can find in the Christian faith the deepest reasons for this commitment. How wonderful is the certainty that each human life is not adrift in the midst of hopeless chaos, in a world ruled by pure chance or endlessly recurring cycles! The Creator can say to each one of us: “Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you” (Jer 1:5). We were conceived in the heart of God, and for this reason “each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary”.

## Theme - Gratitude (30-45 minutes) – Sisters of the Precious Blood Solar Field

### **Story/Speaker**

Caring for our common home with clean solar energy

By Sister Linda Pleiman, CPPS

Over many years, the Sisters of the Precious Blood have taken actions to help protect our environment where and when we can. We have been recycling, changing out our light bulbs to LEDs, and adjusting our thermostats either lower or higher to reduce our fossil fuel consumption. In our most recent Assemblies, there were Directives encouraging the Congregation to take more steps to support the environment and reduce our “carbon footprint.” In 2015, our congregational leadership decided that it was time to explore solar energy production with our properties in Dayton.

Since this was a new effort, it was decided to start small by putting solar panels on two of the buildings. Orchard House (a residence) and the Congregational Administrative Offices were chosen. After some research, a company was chosen, and work began. Leadership was pleased with the installation and, later, the results of the panels on the two buildings, so the decision was made to build a solar array to supply electricity to Salem Heights, our central house in Dayton. Work began in 2019. The array was built on land that had once been an orchard — but most of the trees had long been replaced, so there was an open space to build the array. In all, 1,696 panels were installed.

The array became operational in July 2020. The system can produce 557.57 kWh on sunny days, somewhat less on cloudy days. This translates to supplying about 60% of the electrical needs of Salem Heights. It also means that we have saved about 1,180 barrels of fossil fuels and reduced about 1,500 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>.

When a new garage was built at the Farm House (another residence), it was designed to hold solar panels; in 2022, solar panels were installed on the roof of the residence in Redlands, California. As Sisters of the Precious Blood, it is in our DNA — or, if you will, “our blood” — to care for God’s creation where and when we can.

### **Questions (3-5 minutes)**

#### **Philippians 4:4-9**

Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then

the God of peace will be with you.

**Wander/Reflection - What are you thankful for?**

**Suggested Song:** [Canticle of Creation \(Simon de Voil\)](#) | Let All Things Now Living (Katherine Davis, ASH GROVE) | Canticle of the Sun (Marty Haugen)

**Sharing**

**LS 220:**

The ecological conversion needed to bring about lasting change is also a community conversion. This conversion calls for a number of attitudes which together foster a spirit of generous care, full of tenderness. First, it entails gratitude and gratuitousness, a recognition that the world is God's loving gift, and that we are called quietly to imitate his generosity in self-sacrifice and good works: "Do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing... and your Father who sees in secret will reward you" (Mt 6:3-4). It also entails a loving awareness that we are not disconnected from the rest of creatures, but joined in a splendid universal communion.

## Theme - Concerns/Challenges (30-45 minutes) – St. Paul's Garden

### **Story/Speaker**

God's Garden of Eatin' at St. Paul's parish, was originally founded in 1992 under the direction of Sue Sack and a committee formed to assist in this ministry. Sue had been volunteering at the CSSMV food pantry for a while already, and donating her excess chicken eggs there, so she already knew that the opportunity for good, fresh food was almost non-existent for a certain segment of the local population. As the early garden committee realized, those who are watching their food budget can only sparingly afford fresh produce or fruit – what better way to help our neighbors in need than to provide this for them by the work of our own hands? Why, they asked, shouldn't this become a productive garden that could grow fresh produce for those who were in need and used the local food pantries? They saw the potential for this in the 12 acres of grass surrounding the parish church.

The three tasks the committee set before themselves were 1. To produce good, organic produce for their neighbors in need; 2. To operate as a working spiritual community interested in environmental justice; and 3. As an education point for children/adults interested in learning some important life skills. Those goals remain the same today.

God's Garden operated continuously for 16 years, then was resurrected on the parish grounds in 2007 as a tri-parish effort of the Catholic Communities of Northwest Dayton. Not only is an abundance of produce grown, but the garden also acts as a drop-off point for other local gardeners who wish to donate the excess from their gardens. Today the garden is over 8000 sq feet, and over the years those involved have donated close to 20 tons of organic produce to a half-dozen local organizations. It has also spawned a half-dozen other, smaller gardens through the years.

By early-May an initial planting date is set, and all those interested are invited to come help set out cabbage, broccoli, and tomatoes, and to plant beds of beans, cucumbers and squash, lettuce, and other vegetables. The garden is self-funded by volunteers and private donors – St. Paul's provides the land and water from an otherwise unused well.

During the summer volunteers gather at the garden generally twice a week to continue to plant, weed, mulch and harvest. Additionally, every month visitors are specifically invited to a special event of some kind at the garden – generally involving good food! All produce gathered is given to grateful local food pantries. Usually we continue to meet at least weekly through the first frost at the beginning of October.

### **Questions (3-5 minutes)**

#### **Romans 5:1-6**

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access [by faith] to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not

disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For Christ, while we were still helpless, yet died at the appointed time for the ungodly.

**Wander/Reflection - What have you been struggling with?**

**Suggested Song:** Deep Peace (Sara Thomsen) | Circle me God (Sherri Hansen) | [Tend the Ground \(Curtis Stephen\)](#)

**Sharing**

**LS 80:**

Creating a world in need of development, God in some way sought to limit himself in such a way that many of the things we think of as evils, dangers or sources of suffering, are in reality part of the pains of childbirth which he uses to draw us into the act of cooperation with the Creator. God is intimately present to each being, without impinging on the autonomy of his creature, and this gives rise to the rightful autonomy of earthly affairs. His divine presence, which ensures the subsistence and growth of each being, "continues the work of creation".

## Closing - Sending Forth – Lilac Woods Home Garden

**Story/Speaker** – Tour

**Questions (3-5 minutes)**

### **1 Corinthians 12:18-26**

[...] God placed the parts, each one of them, in the body as he intended. If they were all one part, where would the body be? But as it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I do not need you," nor again the head to the feet, "I do not need you." Indeed, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are all the more necessary, and those parts of the body that we consider less honorable we surround with greater honor, and our less presentable parts are treated with greater propriety, whereas our more presentable parts do not need this. But God has so constructed the body as to give greater honor to a part that is without it, so that there may be no division in the body, but that the parts may have the same concern for one another. If [one] part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy.

### **Sharing Final Thoughts/Personal Action – What are you committed to doing next?**

**Suggested Song:** We Are Many Parts (Marty Haugen) | Make Me a Channel of Your Peace (Sebastian Temple) | [Deep Peace \(Sara Thomsen\)](#)

### **LS 11:**

If we approach nature and the environment without this openness to awe and wonder, if we no longer speak the language of fraternity and beauty in our relationship with the world, our attitude will be that of masters, consumers, ruthless exploiters, unable to set limits on their immediate needs. By contrast, if we feel intimately united with all that exists, then sobriety and care will well up spontaneously. The poverty and austerity of Saint Francis were no mere veneer of asceticism, but something much more radical: a refusal to turn reality into an object simply to be used and controlled.

### **Final Prayer:**

Lord,

With your grace we will become true pilgrims of hope for all of Creation. In your kindness, we ask you to send us forward as a "leaven of authentic hope" for all of humanity, sharing your Good News, helping humanity regain its trust in each other, and continuing to promote the dignity of all persons and respect for God's gift of Creation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Departure Song:** [Laudato Si' O Mi Signore](#)

Suggested Actions: