



LOVE OF CREATION INSPIRES JOY & COMMITMENT



Jeannette Martin is an Associate of the Sisters of Charity living in Edmonton, Alberta.

I was introduced to Bunchberry Meadows in the spring of 2015. I dreamed of this 610 acres or 250 hectares of old-growth trees and wetlands being bought and protected by the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC). I had the privilege of walking in this natural oasis of serenity with my friends and the NCC

person in Edmonton involved in the campaign to purchase this land.

I have always loved nature and being in the woods with the trees, the birds and any wild life gifting me with their presence. To smell the fresh air, see the wild flowers, hear and see the birds helped me simply to relax, thank the Creator for the beauty surrounding me along with the peace, joy and gratitude that filled my heart. That this “untouched” pristine land is close to the Devonian Botanic Garden and close to Edmonton made me wish to be involved somehow in the protection of this land not only for Albertans now, but also for the many generations to come.

Pope Francis’ encyclical -- *Laudato Si’ ~ On Care For Our Common Home* -- was published shortly after I walked in Bunchberry Meadows. There, I dreamed of seeing young children learning about wild flowers, trees and the many wild animals such as moose and deer that make their home there.

In my dream I also saw people of all ages enjoying nature and experiencing respite from the hustle and bustle of city and daily activities. I also saw the conservation of Bunchberry Meadows and my involvement in this project as a means of doing my small part in the “care of our common home” -- our beautiful mother earth.

As of February 2016, NCC has raised 92 per cent of the funds needed for the conservation of Bunchberry Meadows. This includes donations made by my family and friends, including the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception.

It is with much appreciation that I express a heartfelt *“Thank you!”* to those who supported this NCC project through my involvement with Bunchberry Meadows.

Any individual wishing to learn more about this project can do so at this Canadian website www.conservebunchberry.ca and click on NCC Bunchberry.

Anyone wishing to see my personal involvement in this project can do so via this American website: www.crowdrise.com Under “Crowdrise”, click on **find an event** and in the **search** box where it says “e.g. New York City Marathon”, write: jeannette and bunchberry (in small letters), click **search** and then look for **“fundraisers”**. There you will see my picture and story. Scroll down, click **select** and you will see a list of my donors.

In the words of St. Francis of Assisi and Pope Francis I say: “Praise be to you, my Lord” – *“LAUDATO SI’ mi’ Signore”*.