The Sisters of Notre Dame Provincial Center, known as St. Joseph Heights, is home to a beautiful nature trail that includes a bird blind, walking trails, wildflower meadow, outdoor classrooms, and educational signage. Schools and community groups are welcome to conduct field trips at the trail, complete with lesson plans created by the Sisters of Notre Dame. For more information or to schedule your field trip, please contact Sr. Ann Marie Pflum, SND, at annpflum@yahoo.com or (859)291-2040.

LESSON PLAN #3: THE MAGIC OF SPRING

CONCEPT: The children will learn that spring is magic because it brings NEW LIFE.

PROCEDURE: The children will observe new growth on trees and plants. They will observe that birds are returning from the South. They will notice that there are insects and butterflies again.

ACTIVITIES: Children will...

- Examine twigs with leaf buds and compare them.
- Look for new growth on the conifer trees.
- Observe buds on the flowering plants.
- Observe birds at the feeders and note their differences.
- Look for saplings and try to identify them.
- Watch for butterflies and other insects.
- Complete several follow-up worksheets.