



Journey to the Heart: Falling in Love with Earth

MAY 17-22, 2020

Sr. Sharon Zayac, OP

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We cannot save what we do not love. We cannot love what we do not know. How might a deeper understanding and appreciation of this place we call home give us much needed insight into who we are, how we relate to the whole, and how we come to know Holy Mystery?

This program will be a multi-sensory exploration of story as we embark on a journey to discover our origins, experience the grand majesty of our planetary home and embrace our role as members of the Earth community. We will delve into the questions: Who we are? Where we are? Where we are going? and, Who do we need to become?

Through input, personal and communal reflection, creative writing, art and various expressions of prayer we will explore cosmology, theology and spirituality to literally ground ourselves in the reality of our planetary home.

Resource Person: Sr. Sharon Zayac, OP, a Dominican Sister of Springfield, Illinois, is co-founder of Jubilee Farm, her Congregation's 164-acre center for ecology and spirituality. She spent her childhood traveling and living in the Pacific and Europe, which early on shaped her understanding of being a planetary citizen. Her background includes secondary education and hospital administration. After resigning her position as hospital CEO, Sharon entered a sabbatical program at Siena Spirituality Center in Water Mill, NY. It was there that her "own deep longing and the Universe's deep need finally connected." In 2001, she received a Master's in Earth Literacy from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, IN, becoming that program's first graduate. Her book ***Earth Spirituality: In the Catholic and Dominican Traditions***, published in 2003 by Sor Juana Press, was the first in the series ***Dominican Women on Earth***. In October of 2008, she joined 139 others for training by Al Gore to present his award winning ***An***

Inconvenient Truth from a faith-based perspective. In October of 2015 she was one of the panelists to speak to the encyclical ***Laudato Si'*** at a program with Cardinal Peter Turkson, hosted by the Catholic Conference of Ohio Bishops and the Catholic Climate Covenant held in Columbus, OH. She is included in the book ***Green Sisters: A Spiritual Ecology*** by Sarah McFarland Taylor.

She writes, speaks, and leads retreats in and outside the U.S. Her passion is sharing the Cosmic Creation Story and its implications for life and faith. Her latest work focuses on cosmological consciousness as an emerging worldview.

Recommended Reading:

Cannato, Judy. **Radical Amazement: Contemplative Lessons from Black Holes, Supernovas, and Other Wonders of the Universe.** Sorin Books. Notre Dame, IN. 2006

Macy, Joanna & Johnstone, Chris. **Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're in without Going Crazy.** New World Library. Novato, CA. 2012

Newell, John Philip. **Christ of the Celts: The Healing of Creation.** Jossey-Bass. San Francisco, CA. 2008

O'Murchu, Diarmuid. **In the Beginning Was the Spirit: Science, Religion and Indigenous Spirituality.** Orbis Books. Maryknoll, NY. 2012

Pope Francis. ***Laudato Si', On Care of Our Common Home.*** Encyclical, 2015.

Swimme, Brian & Tucker, Mary Evelyn. **Journey of the Universe.** Yale University Press. 2011

Zayac, Sharon Teresa. **Earth Spirituality: In the Catholic and Dominican Traditions.** San Antonio, TX: Sor Juana Press, 2003

Application forms and program descriptions may be found on our website:
<http://www.maryknollsisters.org/missioninstitute>