

Announcing a New Workshop!

ENCOUNTERING EARTH: RECLAIMING THE HUMAN IN THE WEB OF LIFE

Sister Linda Neil, CSJ, presenter

ABSTRACT

This project, *Encountering Earth: Reclaiming the Human in the Web of Life*, features three workshop presentations which will help participants to become more mindful of Earth issues and how these issues can be addressed in this time of ecological crises. Each of the three workshops weaves the information together in a PowerPoint presentation with art, music, literature, personal and group reflection to create presentations that will help the participants create a deeper awareness of the Earth, her systems and creatures.



This triptych of PowerPoints will feature the artwork of Marion Honors, CSJ. The presentations are the “project outcome” and incorporate the themes of the Earth Literacy Master’s Degree Program at St. Mary-of-the Wood College, IN.

The workshops are flexible. Each one can be used individually as a two-hour presentation or as a full-day experience. The three workshops can also be presented as a week-long “retreat.” The presentations are organic since they can be changed and grow in new ways, using different art pieces, music, poetry and reflections.

The first presentation is entitled *Earth, My Home*. Participants will explore our natural address, experience oneness with the web of life and feel our roots in local ecosystems. They will learn about bioregionalism and explore some of the functions of a bioregion. They will discover how living in a bioregionally way can restore the community of life.

The second presentation is *Dreaming a New Way*. Participants will explore the New Story and its possibilities to bring a new vision and new energy to our journey with Earth. They will be introduced to the work of Thomas Berry and Brian Swimme. They will experience the universe and some of the powers throbbing through her. They will be challenged to reconnect with the universe as the primary referent. They will be invited to moments of transformation in their relationship with Earth.

The third presentation is *Healing Earth*. In this workshop, participants will celebrate the diversity of life and also be invited to mourn the losses in the biota. They will be introduced to three basic dynamics of the universe: individuation, differentiation and communion. They will reflect on the paradox of Earth’s beauty and human materialism. They will be challenged to turn to a new time of sustainability.

The rationale of the project is to create awareness of Earth issues in a way that engages the heart, informs the head and fires passion for change and celebration in our relationship with Earth.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

Earth, My Home

Participants will:

- reflect on our sense of place in our solar system, bioregion and watershed
- understand some of the functions of a bioregion
- experience the meaning of living bioregionally

- deepen awareness of living sustainably
- realize our need for wilderness.

Dreaming a New Way

Participants will:

- grow in understanding the New Story and its implications for living in the community of life
- deepen their understanding of the evolutionary process
- realize that Earth's transformational moments invite us into transformation
- become aware of living in the Ecozoic Era as an invitation to live sustainably
- reflect on some of the powers of the universe and how we can live them out in our lives.

Healing Earth

Participants will:

- deepen their understanding of the incredible diversity of life
- experience the loss of some of this diversity
- reflect on the principles of individuation, diversity and communion realize ways of living out these principles.

Contact Sister Linda Neil, CSJ: lneil@csjalbany.org.