**Compassion and Creation**

**Refresh The Sense Of Beauty Of Our Planet**



Cosmic Dance by Mary Southard

**Quotes by Sally Ride**

*"The view of earth is absolutely spectacular, and the feeling of looking back and seeing your planet as a planet is just an amazing feeling. It's a totally different perspective, and it makes you appreciate, actually, how fragile our existence is."*

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*“I could see how fragile Earth is. When I looked toward the horizon, I could see a thin, fuzzy blue line outlining the planet. At first, I didn’t know what I was seeing. Then I realized it was Earth’s atmosphere. It looked so thin and so fragile, like a strong gust of interplanetary wind could blow it all away. And I realized that this air is our planet’s spacesuit — it’s all that separates every bird, fish, and person on Earth from the blackness of space. …To a person standing on the ground, our air seems to go on forever. The sky looks so big, and people haven’t worried about what they put into the air. From space, though, it’s obvious how little air there really is. Nothing vanishes “into thin air.” The gases that we’re sending into the air are piling up in our atmosphere. And that’s changing Earth’s life-support system in ways that could change our planet forever.”*



Mary Southard – looking up to space

‘Not the earth’ but *Earth -* to make a relationship

**The Hidden life of Trees: Peter Wohlebeh**

* How interrelated everything is
* Wolves of Yellowstone Park – wolfs balanced the environment and when wolves left the imbalance was created. Wolves got back and nature more balanced.

**PAUSE – what brings you to an awareness of the beauty of Earth**

**Ilia Delio names the crisis**

* Energy crisis due to over consumption of fossil fuels
* Global warming due to excess carbon in atmosphere
* Industrialization of food that disrupts food cycles and creates artificial food substances
* Depletion of natural resources, species extinction, alteration of natural life cycles, loss of biodiversity

**Environment**

1. Bio side (destruction of what is on the planet) and geo side (destruction of Earth itself)
2. *‘Death of Songbirds’* movie: Canadian film (in one day how many died hitting glass windows- table after table of dead species)
3. Genetic seeds implications (Monsanto and Cargill own seeds)
* Developing countries – feeding more people due to seeds but taking away their rights because they must use the seed and it does not reproduce. Poor can’t afford – and they had weed killers then (small garden) but can’t grow anything between rows due to it will be killed
* Kind of a hidden part – corporation owns ability to grow food as needed
1. Jesus used nature to tell his stories and teach: mustard seed, farming, sheep etc.

**John Muir quote:**

*When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe.*

**PAUSE – what brings you an awareness of our suffering planet**

**Implications of environmental issues**

1. Laudato SI –
* Poor people especially affected by environmental issues:
	+ Dependent on natural reserves: agriculture, fishing, forestry
	+ Dependent on fishing reserves
	+ Melting of polar cap lessons hunting for food
	+ Water pollution and the privatizing of water
	+ Rese in sea level and flooding, nowhere else to live
	+ Surge in migration due to many of these comate issues
1. Migration: Fleeing for many reasons (crime and war) but also environmental
2. Extinction of species -

**Underlying Cause – it’s about our attitude**

* **PS 8** – attitude towards planet (humans have dominion over)
* **Green Paradise Lost, Elizabeth Dodson Gray quote**

*Different than, not better than the rest of creation*

* **Laudato SI:**

*Earths Lord and Masters, Plunderers at will*

*Forget we are dust of the earth*

* Get rid of anything an inconvenience - Story from retreat center about frog symphony vs noise
* Disrespect of nature – she refers to class where she learned how to respect a stone
* **Jose Hobday quote**– *ask permission before using some, thank them when something, like flowers, die. Keep mindful.*
* *Ahimsa* = do no harm whenever possible to anything that exists (Buddhism)
* Article Feb. 2008 – Newsweek: *How People Can change “When Nature is Nurtured”*

Must form a relationship with nature if we are going to save it, have compassion

**Thomas Berry quote:**

*Planet has become an it rather than a thou. We no longer hear the voices of the rivers, the mountains, or the sea. The trees and the meadows are no longer intimate modes of spirit presence.*

**Quote by Dostoyevsky**

*Love creation, the whole and every grain of it. If you love everything, you will perceive the Divine mystery in all things…and once you perceive it, you will begin to comprehend better every day and come to love the whole world with an all embracing love.*

**Intelligence of creation – is different from humans but exists**

1. Hidden Life of Trees – talks about acacia trees in Africa eaten by giraffes. He also talks about beech trees grow on rocky, sandy, good soil area. Rate of photsynthesis was the same as healthy ones where helping other trees…all kinds of tree connections.
2. **Beyond Words by Carl Safina** – PBS series she watched about alligators and their babies

**What can we do?**

1. Legislation
* Catholics Continue to Press President on Climate Change ‘Green Fund’ – 100 billion dollars to help underdeveloped nations.
* **Rachal Carson, Silent Spring** and read her life story and her impact: EPA, Earth Day etc.
* Global corporations need legislation
1. Stand up for nature, don’t give up efforts for environmental protection: stop plastic for a day
2. Get close to nature – live in relationship with not dominion over
3. Individual efforts to protect the environment
4. Live with less – how much is really needed

**Quote from St. Basil**

*“When someone steals another's clothes, we call them a thief. Should we not give the same name to one who could clothe the naked and does not? The bread in your cupboard belongs to the hungry; the coat unused in your closet belongs to the one who needs it; the shoes rotting in your closet belong to the one who has no shoes; the money which you hoard up belongs to the poor.”*

*“I want creation to penetrate you with so much admiration that everywhere, wherever you may be, the least plant may bring to you the clear remembrance of the Creator. If you see the grass of the fields, think of human nature, and remember the comparison of the wise Isaiah. “All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field.”*

**Jane Goodall quote:**

*For years, I have been saying that every individual matters. Now this is truer than ever, and social media helps make our voices count. In this new way, we can involve thousands—millions—of people. This is how we can stand up to the giant multinationals. We have to realize that each day we make some kind of impact, and we have a choice as to what type of impact we will make. We need to think about the consequences of the small choices we make each day: what we eat, what we wear. Where was it made? Did it involve child slave labor? Cruelty to animals? Harm to the environment? These millions or billions of small choices lead to a more sustainable world. It seems to me that only when the head and heart work in harmony can human beings attain their true potential. And that potential is huge.*

**Pam Chappell quote:**

*One person at a time, one person at a time.*

*We can build a world of peace*

*One person at a time*

*I can’t change the whole world wide*

*But I can change the one inside*

*And so we start, from heart to heart,*

*One person at a time.*

**Francis Rothluebber poem:**

*Why did You trust us with the Earth,*

*Your jewel,*

*Your pearl of great price?*

*Why did you trust us with water,*

*pure crystal in the sunlight?*

*With rain-forests,*

*lush with table-sized leaves?*

*What do you see in us*

*that we do not see?*

**Joan Chittister:** *Poverty is the greatest enemy of the environment.*

**Thomas Merton:** *to understand our existence we must be in sync with all.*

**Rabbi Arthur Green** ‘Preservation of Divine Glory”:

*“…preservation of this earth…is a sacred duty; it is preservation of the manifestation of divine glory, not just (of) the natural world.”*

**Teihard de Chardin** asks *“does life, which has made us what we are, desire that we should extend it further?*

* How much we love creation?
* How much compassion de we have for it?
* What amounts of gratitude do we have for life?
* Do we truly identify as one with all there is?
* Do we see divine in all creation?

Chardin: *Every aspect of life is bound in a relationship of unity*

**Awakening the Energies of Love by Ann Hillman**

**Progression of Consciousness (Brian Swimme)**

* Experience the beauty of creation
* Comprehend the idea of evolution
* Identify as an aspect of creation
* Understand our species negative impact
* Allow ourselves to fee the related pain
* Develop the compassion to work for positive change

**PAUSE – take some time to review these quotes, information and pull out the**

* + **Ways you can take action to have compassion to creation**
	+ **A quote/idea that resonates with you (could be a line, a word, or the whole quote that can become like your mantra/prayer to keep compassion to creation in your thoughts)**

**Handouts in packet**

* Notes
* Animal Extinction Happens More Often Than You Think by Emily Bohatch (USA TODAY article)
* Additional quotes (Elizabeth Johnson)
* The Gift of Ecological Humility
* One Body from M. Morwood
* Turtle world questions
* A Healing Prayer for the World Meditation
* Song at the Center lyrics
* By Breath lyrics

**Videos**

* Sarah Thomsen
	+ By Breath: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5HgOJiJRKMM>
	+ Song Like a Seed medley: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-fTNrIXz5t4>
	+ Water is Life: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KSRKTuImEW0>
	+ River Dream: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ksfH2-oq3eo>
* Misc.
	+ Beautiful Earth: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DTZWgHfGhus>
	+ The Beautiful of Planet Earth: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SWELdS1fG_E>
	+ The Beauty of Earth: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cl_kXbhTi8k>
	+ The Astonishing Beauty of Nature: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f3tWEoCNXoU>
	+ 12 Meditations for the Earth: <https://intergifted.com/meditations-earth/>
	+ Gentle Rain: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nEdIvaSbhX8>
	+ Turtle World: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aF_NFNx5LHQ>
	+ Astronauts Picture of the Earth (NASA): <https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/features/videos/picturing-earth>
	+ It Is Just Another Ordinary Miracle Today: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NFLAQ2h4Fxo>
* **Comments:**
	+ There are wonderful meditations and prayers (from Joyce) to incorporate. I find it helpful to have an engaging video to startle participants thinking about creation…and out connections.

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