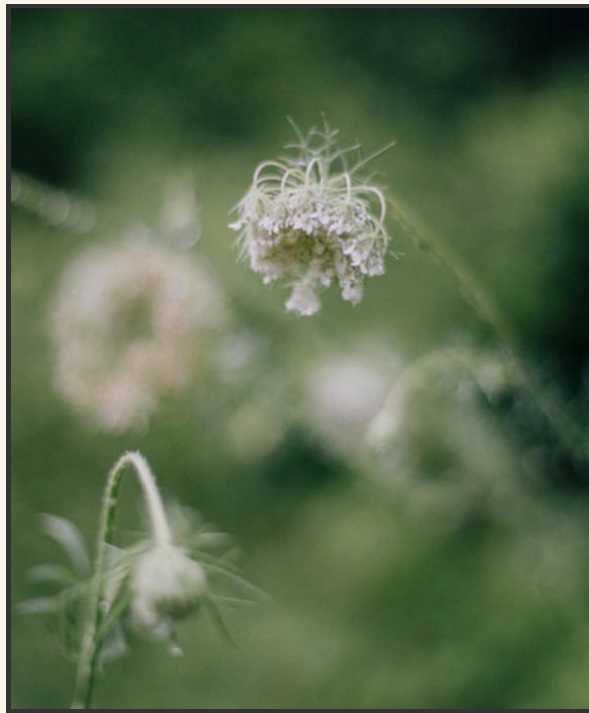

SPIRITUALITY & SUSTAINABILITY GLOBAL NETWORK



We are not human beings having a spiritual experience, but spiritual beings having a human experience. – Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

DEAR FRIEND,

As founding members of SSGN, we are a small group made up mostly of past participants in Spirituality & Sustainability Conferences held in Assisi, Italy, which was the home of St. Francis and St. Clare who were so devoted to all the beautiful creatures of our loving Creator's beloved Creation.



OUR BACKGROUND

We founded SSGN to promote "eco-spirituality" in all religious traditions. We have drawn our inspiration from four eco-spiritual sources:

1. LAUDATO SI' – On Care for Our Common Home: Pope Francis' 2015 papal encyclical on ecology
2. THOMAS BERRY: the mystical-cosmic vision of this late cultural historian
3. THE EARTH CHARTER: the model framework for a sustainable, just, peaceable, and democratic global community
4. INDIGENOUS TRADITIONS: the most ancient, still relevant, and foundational eco-spiritual traditions in our human family

OUR BACKGROUND

We invite you to become part of our network . In what follows, we will tell you what we have accomplished so far. We hope that, with your help, we can join together do even more.



“IT IS VERY RARE
TO SUSTAIN A
MOVEMENT IN
RECOGNIZABLE
FORM WITHOUT
A SPIRITUAL
BASIS.”

DANIEL BERRIGAN

PAST ACTIVITIES

SSGN was started by a group of participants in the most recent two Spirituality and Sustainability interfaith conferences held in Assisi, Italy in 2017 and 2018. These two conferences were organized by Dr. Elizabetta Maria Ferrero, Professor of Religion, St. Thomas University and Dr. Rick Clugston, co-founder of Earth Charter International. We were welcomed by the Mayor of Assisi in the beautiful home of St. Francis & St. Clare

In 2019, inspired by these conferences, SSGN was formed as a non-profit to help support the efforts of past conference participants and reach a much larger audience, especially younger folks. Also, we have been endeavoring to collaborate with other eco-spiritual networks.

We held a gathering in 2020 at the William F. Bolger Conference Center in Potomac, Maryland to brainstorm and explore what SSGN could do in order to further the eco-spiritual movement.

ASSISI, ITALY



ACTIVITIES

We put a lot of work into developing an attractive and accessible Website. We've accomplished a continuing series of insightful Interviews and Essays by our network friends. These include:

- Tony Cortese on Transforming Higher Education and The Critical Importance of Higher Education Leadership for a Healthy, Just, and Sustainable Society
- Arthur Kane on A Life Devoted to Social Justice
- Devon Mearns, Making Choices That Make A Difference
- Kathleen Deignan on Eco-Spirituality in a Time of Crisis and Why Ecological Spirituality?
- Joe Holland on Art for Regeneration and the Power of the Female Imagination and on A Regenerative Vision for Christianity
- Ensign Cowell on Daring to be Hopeful
- Drew Mearns on Acorns and Oak Trees and Leading by Listening
- Rev. Dr. Gregory Simpson on Science and Spirituality

ACTIVITIES

- Geraldine Patrick Encina on A Journey with the Wind
- Claudia H. Herrera-Montero on Co-creation and the mystery of God in relationship with all that is created
- Cesar Baldelomar in A Conversation About Conversation
- Christina Furst on Building Sustainable Communities in Malawi
- Jim MacLellan on Moving Forward to America's Spiritual Renaissance



“ANY HARM
DONE TO THE
ENVIRONMENT,
THEREFORE, IS
HARM DONE TO
HUMANITY.”

POPE FRANCIS

ACTIVITIES

We have a Book section that includes recommended books from Pacem in Terris Press and a new section on Movement News.

Maddie Long – our wonderful part-time Communications Director (emailmaddielong@gmail.com) – has recently initiated an exciting Podcast series called “Make it Sacred” which includes in-depth interviews with a variety of leaders who share our vision and core values.



THE PODCAST



REV. FLETCHER HARPER

"I think God wants all of us to be as fully, lovingly, and compassionately alive as we possibly can be, and I think the beauty, wonder, and awe of the natural world helps evoke our better and stronger selves."



KATIE HARBOLICK

"Let us learn what is here and come to know its intricate role in our ability to exist in this ecosystem. In this way, we can move from surviving into thriving, on a global scale."



CÉSAR BALDELOMAR

CJ's work seeks to find different ways to imagine and talk about the self and about justice in an effort to envision personal, social, and educational ethical paradigms that could serve as possible sites of resistance.

THE FUTURE

Our immediate goals include increasing outreach to youth leaders who are essential to long-term progress toward environmental sustainability, based on spiritual values. We are trying to reach a state of collaboration with other organizations on how to share initiatives and best assist each other in the challenging tasks we all face at this critically important time.

We are starting a “Conversations” series to be placed on YouTube and social media as we aim to educate and enlighten through dialogue. This series will feature network members and prominent thought leaders in the eco-spiritual movement.

OPERATIONAL NEEDS

- Much greater participation and involvement by eco-spiritual activists
- Financial support for our expanded communications and operations

Our challenge and endeavor is to achieve expanded engagement and participation

Who do you know that has the resources and who cares deeply about the environment who might be interested in and supportive of SSGN? Please give us an introduction and we would like to tell them our story and share material that will show the merits and potential of SSGN's efforts.

THOMAS BERRY

“It is absurd that in the political – social order that only humans have rights”.



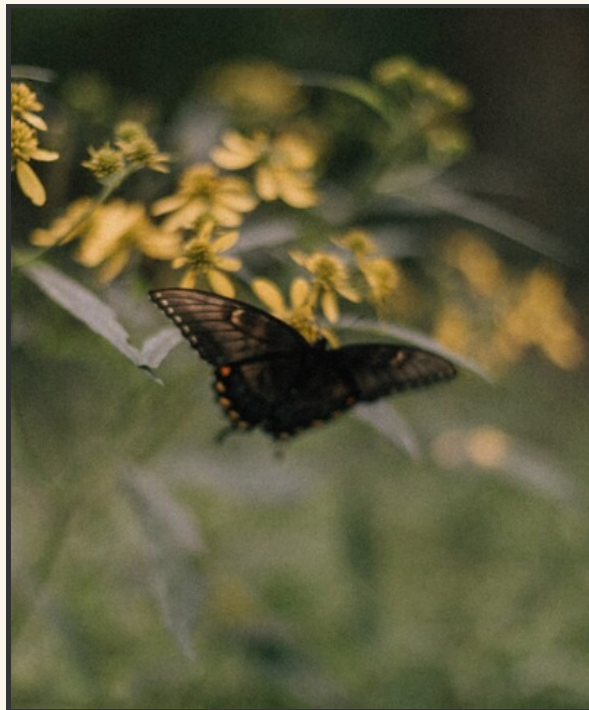
ACTION ITEM ONE

To paraphrase Maimonides, writing in the 12th Century, “Each person should see themselves as though the entire world is on a delicate balance, and with one deed, including prayer, he or she can tip the scales.”

We hope that together we can “tip the scales” towards transforming our consciousness and society by cosmologically reimagining and co-creating integral communities that will heal the Earth.

ACTION ITEM TWO

Please send a note to tell us what you are doing now in the eco-spiritual realm and how we can have a conversation to discuss SSGN going forward.



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