

INSPIRATIONS FOR A NEW GOSPEL OF CREATION

HILDEGARD OF BINGEN

1098-1226

German Benedictine Abbess and Polymath

Writer, composer, philosopher, mystic, visionary, medical writer and practitioner.

Books include Physica, Scivias, Healing Plants, Book of Divine Works,



We cannot live in a world that is not our own, in a world that is interpreted for us by others. An interpreted world is not a home. Part of the terror is to take back our own listening, to use our own voice, to see our own light.

We shall awaken from our dullness and rise vigorously toward justice. If we fall in love with creation deeper and deeper, we will respond to its endangerment with passion.

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

1181-1226

Italian mystic, poet and Catholic friar

Founded the religious order of the Franciscans.

Inspired to lead a Christian life of poverty.

Became a beggar and itinerant teacher.

Books about St Francis include Francis and Clare of Assisi (Murray Bodo), Franciscan Lectio (Dan Riley and Steven Copeland), Becoming Prayer Simon Cocksedge and Nicolas Alan Wordsam)



Lord, help me to live this day, quietly, easily. To lean upon Thy great strength, trustfully, restfully. To wait for the unfolding of Thy will, patiently, serenely. To meet others, peacefully, joyously. To face tomorrow, confidently, courageously.

Start by doing what's necessary, then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.

PIERRE TEILHARD DE CHARDIN

1881- 1955

French philosopher and Jesuit priest

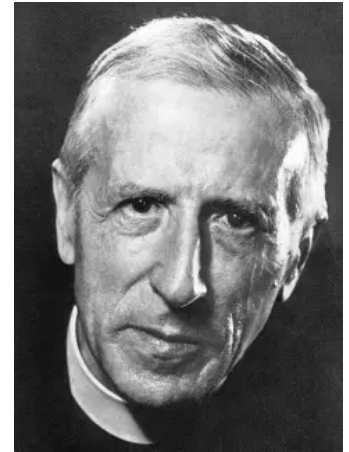
Scientist, paleontologist, mystic and teacher.

Investigated the theory of evolution.

Took part in the discovery of the significant Peking Man fossils

Contributed to the concept of the noosphere.

Books include *The Phenomenon of Man*, *Christianity and Evolution*, *The Divine Milieu*, *The Future of Man* and *The Heart of Matter*.



We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a human experience.

Love alone is capable of uniting living beings in such a way as to complete and fulfil them, for it alone takes them and joins them by what is deepest in themselves.

The future belongs to those who give the next generation reason for hope.

THOMAS BERRY

1914 – 2009

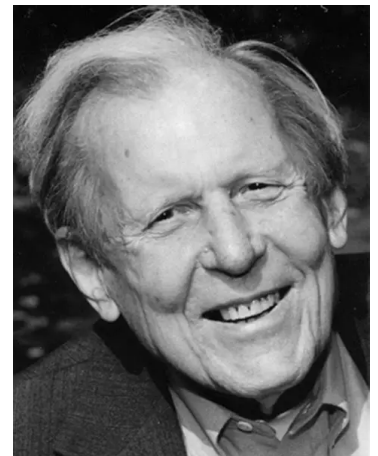
American Catholic priest, cultural historian

Scholar of world religions, especially Asian traditions.

Studied Earth history and evolution.

Called himself a geologist,

Books include *The Dream of the Earth*, *The Sacred Universe*, *Recovering a Sense of the Sacred*, *The Great Work*.



The natural world is the larger sacred community to which we belong. To be alienated from this community is to become destitute in all that makes us human. To damage this community is to diminish our own existence.

The destiny of humans can not be separated from the destiny of the earth. The environmental crisis is fundamentally a spiritual crisis.

What is the human? The human is a space, an opening, where the universe celebrates its existence.

THOMAS MERTON

1915 – 1968

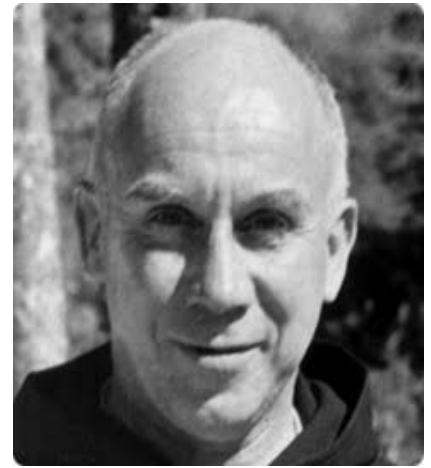
Trappist monk and author

Theologian, mystic, poet.

Wrote on spirituality, social justice and pacifism.

Explored Eastern religions through study and practice.

Books include No man is an Island, The Wisdom of the Desert,,
Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander, The Seven Story Mountain,



The beginning of love is to let those we love be perfectly themselves, and not to twist them to fit our own image. Otherwise we love only the reflection of ourselves we find in them.

You do not need to know precisely what is happening, or exactly where it is all going. What you need is to recognize the possibilities and challenges offered by the present moment, and to embrace them with courage, faith and hope.

In Silence God ceases to be an object and becomes an experience.

MATTHEW FOX

1940 -

Priest, theologian, author

Books include Original Blessing, Hildegard of Bingen: A Saint for Our Times, Illuminations of Hildegard of Bingen, The Coming of the Cosmic Christ, A Spirituality Named Compassion, A New Reformation and Hildegard of Bingen's Book of Divine Works.



Our job now is to remind people what the Earth is all about and what Gaia really is, so that they come to understand the beauty and integrity of the Earth and willingly embrace their role as Earth's children and Earth's helpers.

Don't ask yourself what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive, and then go do that. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.

The only way to change the world is to change ourselves first.

CYNTHIA BOURGAULT

1947 -

Modern day mystic, Episcopal priest, writer

Teaches Christian contemplative practices.

Centering Prayer, Chanting the psalms, Fifth Way.

Recognised among 100 most spiritually influential living people

Books include The Wisdom of Jesus, Centering Prayered and Inner Awakening,

The Wisdom Way of Knowing, Eye of the Heart and Chanting the Psalms.



You are the breath of God. You are the way God is aware of God in the immediacy of your life. You are the way God feeds the hungry, clothes the naked, frees the wrongly imprisoned. You are the way God brings justice, mercy, and humility to life. But because you want to be more, you end up being less: the way God brings horror, hate, and holocaust to every corner of the globe.

We mirror the cosmos. We mirror the divine consciousness.

BRIAN THOMAS SWIMME

1950 -

Professor at California Institute of Integral studies

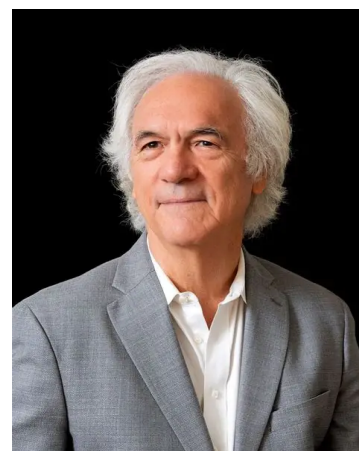
Teaches evolutionary cosmology.

Subjects also include philosophy, cosmology and consciousness.

Also ecology, spirituality and religious programs.

Featured in TV series Soul of the Universe (BBC, 1991).

Books include Journey of the Universe, The Universe Story, Hidden Heart of the Cosmos and A Walk Through Time,



This is the greatest discovery of the scientific enterprise: You take hydrogen gas, and you leave it alone, and it turns into rosebuds, giraffes and humans.

Four billion years ago the planet Earth was molten rock; now it sings opera!

By pursuing your allurements, you help bind the universe together. The unity of the world rests on the pursuit of passion.

ANDREW HARVEY

1952 -

Author, religious scholar, mystic

Founder of Sacred Activism.

Takes tours to sacred sites.

Friend of the Dalai Lama.

Voted no 33 in Most Spiritually Influential Living People.

Books include The Mystic Vision

(with Anne Baring), The Essential Mystics, Radical Regeneration, The Direct Path and

The Magdalene Revolution.



Sacred Activism is the fusion of the mystic's passion for God with the activist's passion for justice, creating a third fire, which is the burning sacred heart that longs to help, preserve, and nurture every living thing.

Unless the human race realizes with a passion and reverence beyond thought or words its inter-being with nature, it will destroy in its greed the very environment it is itself sustained by.

There are no solutions to life, but there is an experience of wholeness, of bliss, of being, of the deathlessness of the Divine Self, of Silence in all its multifaceted, diamond splendor that heals all grief, all wounds, all questions.

ILIA DELIO

1955 -

Franciscan sister, university professor, author, scientist

Specialised in neuropharmacology, neuromuscular disease, neurotoxicology.

Writes on AI and religion, relational holism, evolution, theogenesis.

Books include The Christian Mutation, the Not-yet-God, The Unbearable Wholeness of Being, The Hours of the Universe.



We humans are evolution made conscious; hence, our choices for and in the world shape the future of the world.

From within the heart of matter, I hold together the foundations of the universe.

With this new sense of moving forward, from simple to complex life forms, from bacteria to humans, science shows that evolution is more than a method of collecting and classifying the facts of life; rather it is the means by which humanity can move forward into the future.

LAUREN ARTRESS

1951 -

Episcopal Priest

Grace Cathedral, San Francisco

Psychotherapist

Walked labyrinth Chartres Cathedral 1991

Founded Veriditas

Books include Walking a Sacred Path, The Sacred Path Companion, The Path of the Holy Fool.

The labyrinth literally reintroduces the experience of walking a clearly defined path. This reminds us that there is a path, a process that brings us to unity, to the center of our beings. In the simple act of walking, the soul finds solace and peace.

All of the larger than life questions about our presence here on earth and what gifts we have to offer are spiritual questions. To seek answers to these questions is to seek a sacred path.

