



EcoSpirit / EarthCare Magazine

*An Eco-Forum for
Reporting, Sharing, & Dialogue*

2025 FEBRUARY

EcoSpirit & EarthCare Magazine

2025 FEBRUARY, NUMBER 1

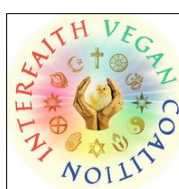
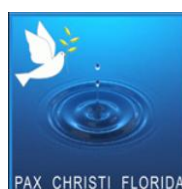
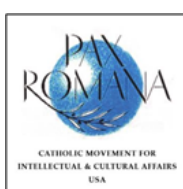
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Message from the Editors



Amanda Bennett-Rivera, Editor

Joe Holland & Jim Maclellan, Associate Editors

hello@ecospirit.life

Dear Friends,

Welcome to this first issue of our new and free **ECOSPIRIT & EARTHCARE MAGAZINE!** Along with our new and free **ECOSPIRIT & EARTHCARE JOURNAL**, it is a joint project of Spirituality & Sustainability Global Network (SSGN) and Pacem in Terris Press. *EcoSpirit* means Ecological Spirituality & *EarthCare* means Ecological Ethics.

We launched **ECOSPIRIT & EARTHCARE MAGAZINE** because we face great ecological, social, and spiritual challenges, and because we need a participatory forum where we can share news, resources, and reflections and dialogue together.

Therefore, dear friends, we invite you to send us via email a "letter to the editor" sharing thoughts and your feelings about what's happening today. Email your letter to us at hello@ecospirit.life. See the recommended format on the next page. We will publish a report summarizing what everyone writes and including some excerpts. (Please write civilly and respectfully.)

We also invite you to send us any relevant news or resources that you think should be listed in future issues. We especially want to report news from SSGN's partner organizations.

Finally, please think of **ECOSPIRIT & EARTHCARE MAGAZINE** as [your personal forum for learning, sharing, reflecting, and dialoging](#). We are at your service and look forward to hearing from you soon!

Amanda, Joe, & Jim

What Are You Thinking & Feeling?

**In this challenging period of
Ecological, social, and spiritual history,
the most important step we can take
is refusing to become isolated and silent.**

**To overcome isolation and break out of silence,
we can strengthen our eco-spiritual resilience
by sharing resources and reflections,
and dialoging together.**

**Therefore, we now invite you,
as we enter this new historical period,
to share your thoughts and feelings
through your ECO SPIRIT MAGAZINE.**

RECOMMENDED FORMAT FOR RESPONSE

- 1. Your name**
- 2. Your email**
- 3. The date**
- 4. Do you wish to share publicly with your name or anonymously?**
- 5. Please write down your thoughts and feelings about this challenging period of ecological, social, and spiritual history that we are now facing – in narrative or even poetic form.**

Please send your Letter to the Editor to:

hello@ecospirit.life

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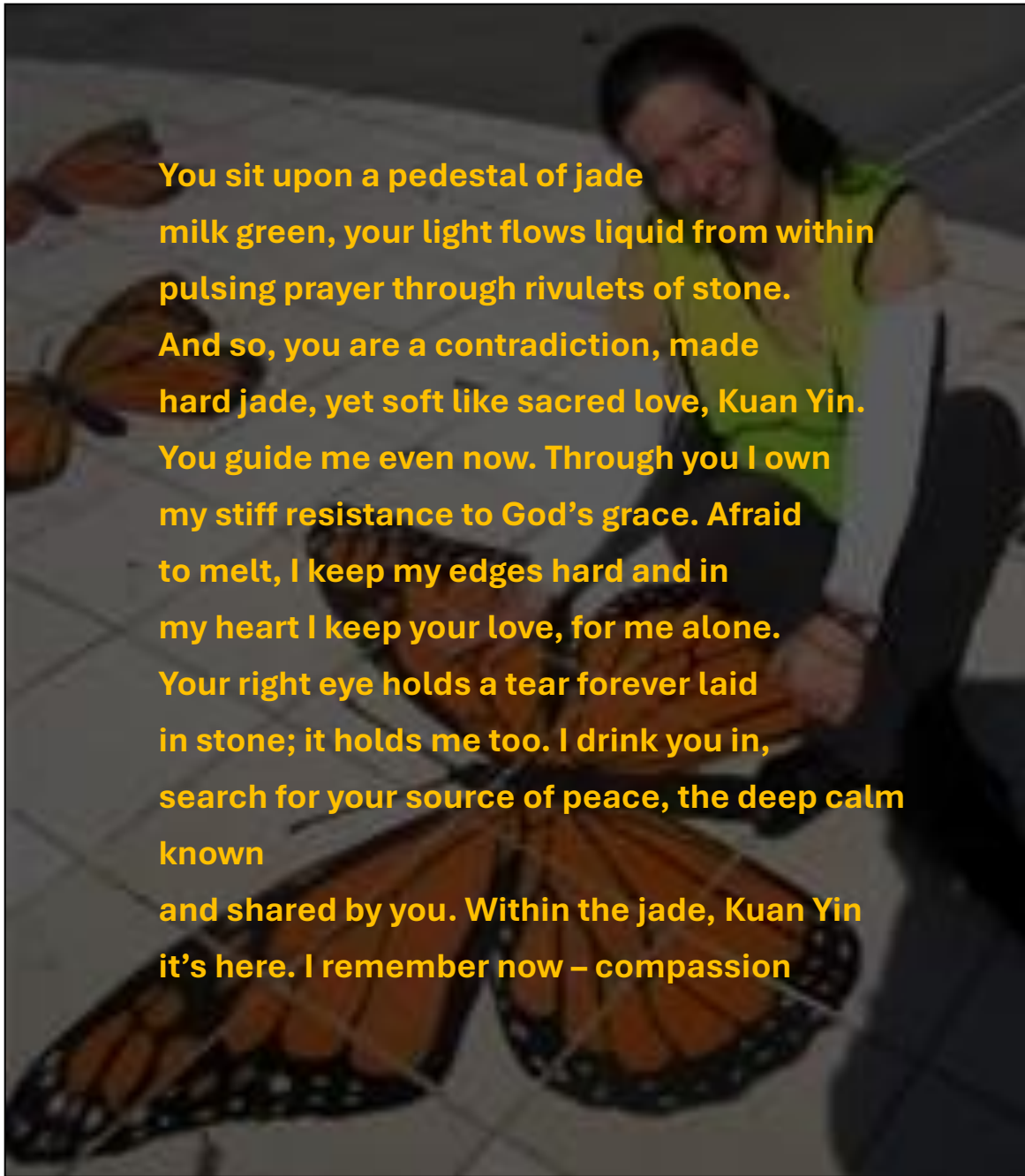
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DRAWING OF KUAN YIN JADE STATUE

By Susan Rogers



You sit upon a pedestal of jade
milk green, your light flows liquid from within
pulsing prayer through rivulets of stone.
And so, you are a contradiction, made
hard jade, yet soft like sacred love, Kuan Yin.
You guide me even now. Through you I own
my stiff resistance to God's grace. Afraid
to melt, I keep my edges hard and in
my heart I keep your love, for me alone.
Your right eye holds a tear forever laid
in stone; it holds me too. I drink you in,
search for your source of peace, the deep calm
known
and shared by you. Within the jade, Kuan Yin
it's here. I remember now – compassion

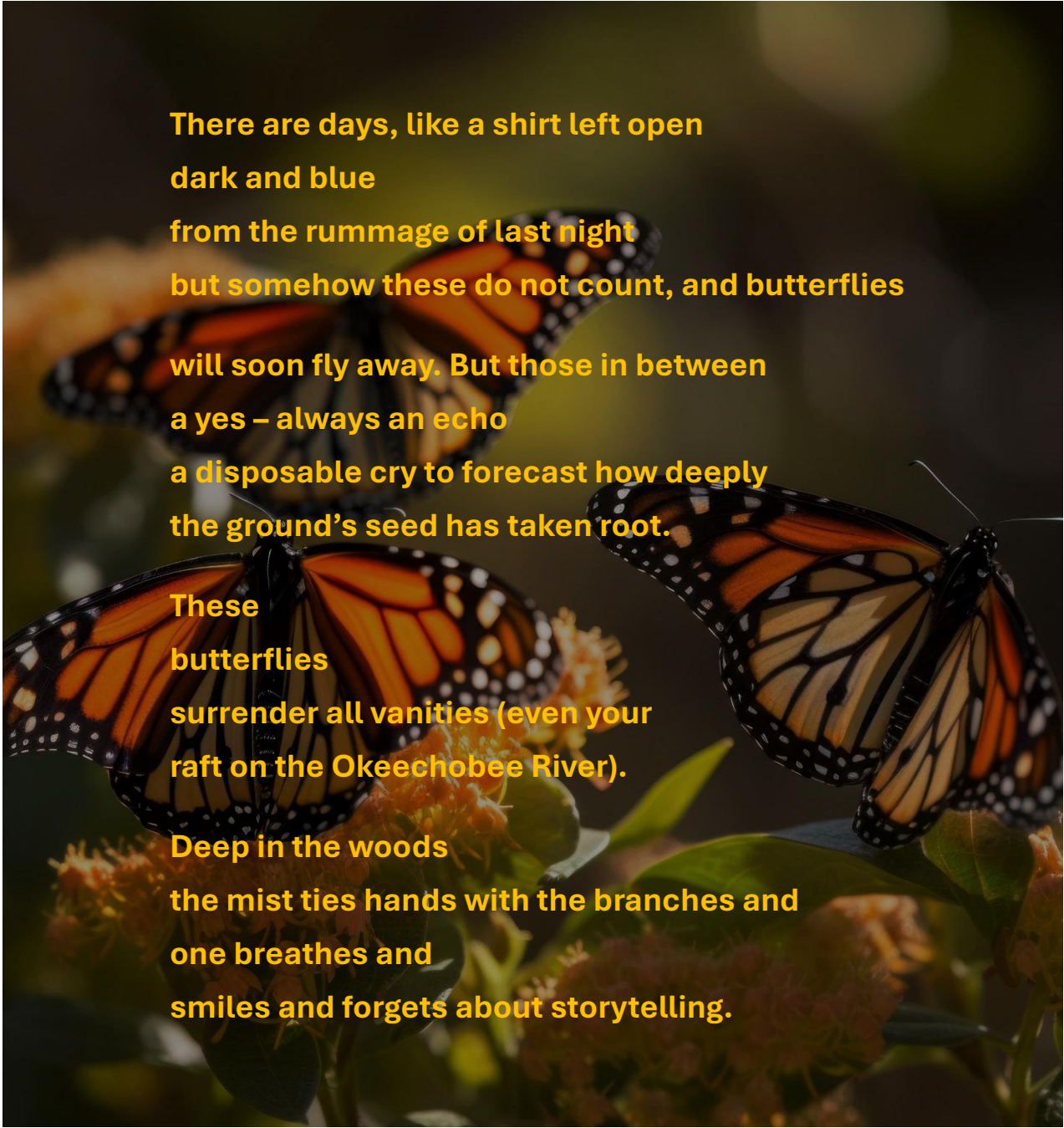
KUAN JIN

Susan Rogers

This poem is dedicated to Keishu Okada.

It is also dedicated to Amrtianandamayi.

*It was inspired by the jade figurine of Kuan Yin
at the Pacific Asia Museum in Pasadena, California.*

A photograph of three monarch butterflies with orange and black wings, perched on small orange flowers. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and yellow. The text is overlaid on the image in a yellow, sans-serif font.

There are days, like a shirt left open
dark and blue
from the rummage of last night
but somehow these do not count, and butterflies
will soon fly away. But those in between
a yes – always an echo
a disposable cry to forecast how deeply
the ground's seed has taken root.

These
butterflies
surrender all vanities (even your
raft on the Okeechobee River).
Deep in the woods
the mist ties hands with the branches and
one breathes and
smiles and forgets about storytelling.

BUTTERFLIES

Elisabetta Ferrero

"ECOSPIRIT CONVERSATIONS"

Dialogues about Spirituality & Sustainability

SPECIAL EVENT COMING SOON ... STAY TUNED



AMANDA BENNETT-RIVERA

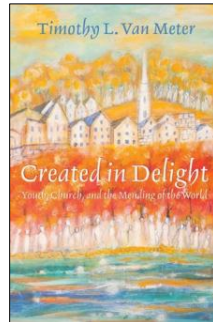
"YOUTH ENGAGEMENT"

A native of Costa Rica, Amanda was formerly Program Manager for the Youth Program of the Earth Charter International Secretariat and the Center for Education for Sustainable Development at the United Nations University for Peace in Costa Rica. She has now started teaching 4th grade in New Jersey as a part of the Teacher Corp of Teach for America. Amanda has a master's degree in public policy and is pursuing further graduate studies in Environment, Development, and Peace at the University for Peace.

UPCOMING & PAST ECOSPIRIT CONVERSATIONS

AVAILABLE NOW OR SOON IN VIDEO

Videos of these events are available through the SSGN website at
<https://spirituality-sustainability.net/conversations>
 or go to the SSGN YouTube Channel "Make it Sacred Podcast" at
<https://www.youtube.com/@makeitsacredpodcast/channels>



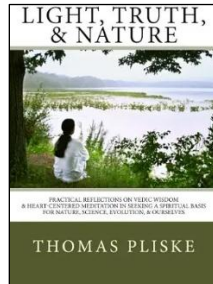
UPCOMING - 26 February 2025

(Postponed from earlier scheduling)

TIM VAN METER, PH.D.

Seminary Professor & Ecological Leader

"Cultivating Regenerative Vision - Learning from soil and regenerative systems"

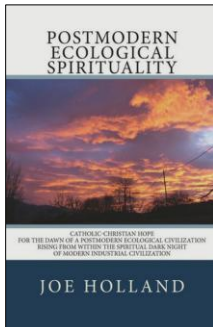
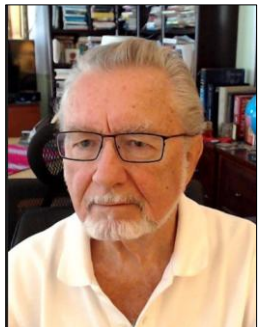


10 December 2024

THOMAS PLISKE, PH.D.

Environmental Scientist, Author, Educator

"Spirituality, Transformation, & Connecting with Nature"



13 November 2024

JOE HOLLAND, PH.D.

Eco-Social Philosopher & Catholic Theologian

"Exploring Christian Nationalism, Modern Cries, and Grass Roots Solutions"

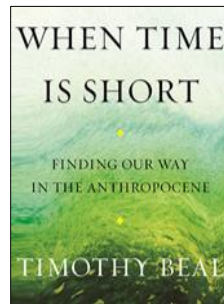


27 October 2024

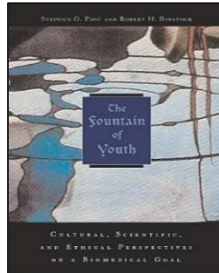
EMMANUEL ROUX

Food expert, advocate of community gardens & permaculture

"Regenerative Agriculture & Local Food Systems"



7 September 2024
TIM BEAL, PH.D.
Acclaimed religion scholar and author
"When Time is Short, Find Our Way in the Anthropocene"



20 August 2024
STEPHEN POST, PH.D.
Acclaimed author, bioethicist, pioneer on care for aging & forgetful persons
"Interface of Spirituality, Healing, and Nature"

**Also listen to SSGN audio podcasts
with these same speakers and other eco-visionary leaders
at SSGN's Make It Sacred Podcast:
<https://www.youtube.com/@makeitsacredpodcast/channels>**

**Plus, see more resources from SSGN,
Including blogs, newsletters, and books,
On our SSGN websites at:**

<https://spirituality-sustainability.net/blog>



It's time for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty!



Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty In...

770 subscribers

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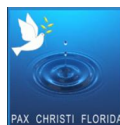
<https://fossilfueltreaty.org>



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YsIRf_jNAvQ



JOE IANNONE, Ph.D., a member of the SSGN Board of Directors and working with Pax Christi Florida, has been creating a grass-roots network we may all wish to learn from and expand. He has been developing a creative populist movement among Florida churches and other organizations to support the Fossil Fuel Nonproliferation Treaty. Joe is also a former Dean of St. Thomas University's School of Theology and Ministry, co-founder of the Contextually Engaged Theological Education Foundation of South Florida (CETE), and an active leader in Pax Christi Florida. **SHARON JOY KLEITSCH** of The Connection Partners in Florida, a long-time friend of SSGN, and participant in several Assisi Conferences, is closely involved with Joe in this project. Also, CETE, Pax Christi Florida, and Connection Partners are SSGN Organizational Partners.



TWO COURSES WITH SAM KING ON DEEP TIME NETWORK



SAM KING, an SSGN Board member, serves as Research Associate for the Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology, and Project Manager for the Emmy Award-winner *Journey of the Universe* film and multimedia project. He is also Director of Sustainability for the US Marist school network, where he works with youth leaders across the country to galvanize grassroots engagement on climate change, species loss, pollution, and environmental justice.

The *JOURNEY OF THE UNIVERSE* and *THE WORLDVIEW OF THOMAS BERRY* courses are based on the Yale/Coursera courses, with the same names, developed by Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim with the assistance of Sam King and Anna Thurston.

They will explore how the emerging story of cosmic evolution can help guide us toward a more just and flourishing future. You may register for each course individually or both together and receive a discount.

#1: *JOURNEY of the UNIVERSE*

Seven Tuesdays, March 25 – May 6, 7:00 – 8:30 pm ET

#2: *The WORLDVIEW of THOMAS BERRY*

Six Tuesdays, May 20 – June 24, 7:00 – 8:30 pm ET

For More Information:

<https://dtnetwork.org/product/jotu-tb-study-groups>

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EARTH CHARTER



From 1-3 July 2025, a special gathering will take place to celebrate 25 years of tireless efforts to turn the Earth Charter vision into action. The three-day event titled “Planetary Consciousness, the Ethics of Care and Intergenerational Justice,” will bring nature and future generations to the core of the celebration and dialogues. You are encouraged to take part in it and register.



The Earth Charter was launched in 2000 as a call for action, a document of hope that offers a comprehensive and solid ethical foundation for the Earth Community and inspiration for the world at the beginning of the new century and millennium. During the first quarter of the century, we have experienced many challenges affecting the well-being of the greater community of life and our aspirations for a higher level of justice and peace. At the same time, there has been a growing recognition that we must take responsibility to care for Earth and work towards a more just, sustainable, and peaceful civilization. Therefore, in the year 2025, it is time to reflect, take stock and consider the higher purpose of the Earth Charter work and movement. We will come together with confidence to reinforce our commitment to the Earth Charter, find synergies with other similar movements and join forces to turning conscience into action for a thriving Earth.

EARTH CHARTER INTERNATIONAL

c/o University for Peace.

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Mail: info@earthcharter.org

Recommended Resources



CVNew Live

LAUDATO SI' (Praise Be to You) is the second encyclical of Pope Francis, subtitled "on care for our common home". In it, the Pope criticizes consumerism and irresponsible economic development, laments environmental degradation and global warming, and calls all people of the world to take "swift and unified global action". The encyclical, dated 24 May 2015, was officially published at noon on 18 June 2015, accompanied by a news conference. The Vatican released the document in Italian, German, English, Spanish, French, Polish, Portuguese and Arabic, alongside the original Latin. (Wikipedia)

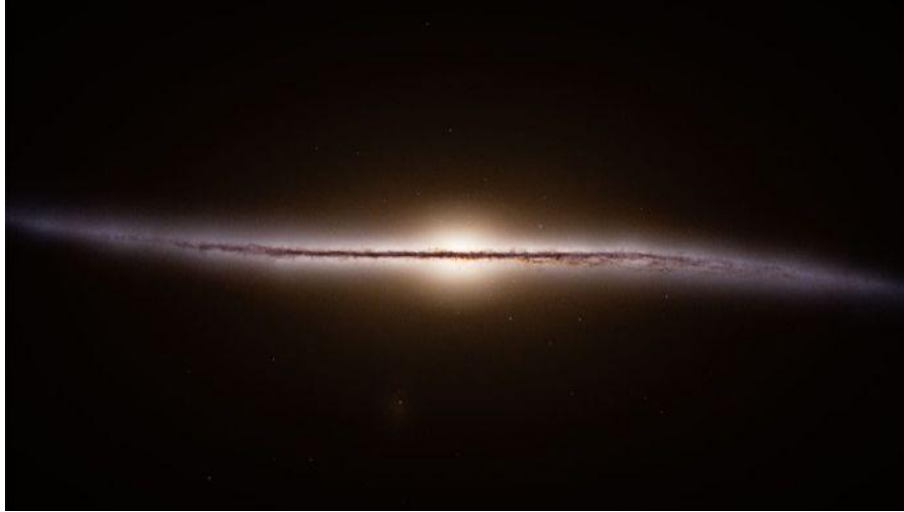
https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.pdf



The Covenant presents an Islamic outlook on the environment in a bid to strengthen local, regional, and international actions to combat the triple planetary crises defined by the United Nations as climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. It is a global endeavor to engage Muslims from all levels of society in the development and adoption of this call. (Al Mizan website)

<https://www.almizan.earth>

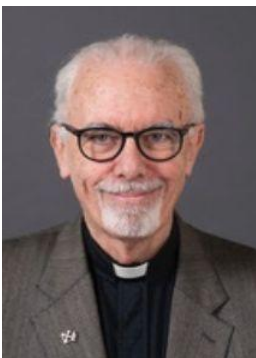
Brief Reflection



HOW SHALL WE HOPE?

Brother Kevin Cawley, Ph.D.
Carbon Rangers/Ecozoic Times
February 1, 2025, Vol. 18, No. 2

<https://us1.campaign-archive.com/?u=5dd06f3cbb86536df56de4a9d&id=780ba25d8d>



Dear Reader, in these days, many may be in distress about the changes taking place in the United States government at the highest levels. Some rejoice in the belief that they have finally been heard and will be seen clearly. Many register shock and fear in the face of harsh treatment of the most vulnerable among us, in the face of threatening language toward other nations as we see traditional norms of respect failing to hold back a wide frontal assault on the norms of diplomacy and human rights, including a threat of a sweeping freeze on foreign development assistance, putting millions of lives in jeopardy.

On the energy and environment front, I will let Bill McKibben share here: The attacks on sensible energy policy have been swift and savage. We exited the Paris climate accords, paused IRA spending, halted wind and solar projects, gutted the effort to help us transition to electric vehicles, lifted the pause on new LNG export projects, canceled the Climate Corps just as it was getting off the ground, and closed the various government agencies dedicated to environmental justice. Oh, and we declared an “energy emergency” to make it easier to do all of the above.

Pope Francis has recently opened the Jubilee Year. In the Roman Catholic tradition, a Holy Year, or Jubilee is a great religious event. It is a year of forgiveness of sins, is a year of reconciliation between adversaries, of conversion and consequently of solidarity, hope, justice, commitment to serve God with joy and in peace with our brothers and sisters. The theme of the 2025 Jubilee Year is "Pilgrims of Hope".

For many of us, the evolving transition of presidential administrations in the United States has taken a disturbing turn with new fears, especially for those made poor and seeking refuge in the USA. Is it right to have hope before the uncertainty generated by the new US administration? To paraphrase Vincent Miller of Dayton University, our theology tells us that Christian hope is not surprised by the travails of the world nor by the demands of seeking goodness. Often, we can see that hope arises precisely amid difficulty and seeks a way toward a possible good. Hope can honor the broken-heartedness of those who have eyes to see what we are doing to the Earth and can offer an honest path to action instead of despair... There is a fierceness to hope – it moves us toward good and away from obstinate evils. Some note its root meaning is anger- fighting for a good. Those of us at Iona University may be reminded here of our university motto: Fight the Good Fight (of Faith).



Francis chose this theme of Hope to encourage people to look to the future with “genuine hope and a trusting heart.” Francis does not present hope as a feeling. He portrays it as determination against enormous odds. “To say that there is

nothing to hope for would be suicidal, for it would mean exposing all humanity,

especially the poorest, to the worst impacts of climate change.” (**Laudate Deum**).

And from **Vaclav Havel**: Hope is a dimension of the soul; it’s not essentially dependent on some particular observation of the world or estimate of the situation. Hope is not prognostication. It is an orientation of the spirit, an orientation of the heart; it transcends the world that is immediately experienced and is anchored somewhere beyond its horizons. Hope, in this deep and powerful sense, is not the same as joy that things are going well, or willingness to invest in enterprises that are obviously headed for early success, but, rather, an ability to work for something because it is good, not just because it stands a chance to succeed.

Rebecca Solnit is a long-time climate champion, and she has written this week: “We’re not stopping. We’re not stopping our work on climate and democracy. And we’re not stopping being a “we”: being a community of shared values, a network of elders, a movement of climate, a group of people who together have great power. I’m in, and I hope you are. “

What to Do? Examples:

<https://news.climate.columbia.edu/2025/01/15/7-climate-experts-on-what-we-can-still-do-to-fight-climate-change/>

Our Home Galaxy. In 2013 the ESA Gaia mission launched a spacecraft to trace our galaxy’s history and evolution, and it’s been a total success. Over an 11-year period, it’s taken three trillion observations of two billion individual objects in the galaxy, most of them stars, and measured those same objects repeatedly to produce a non-static 3D map. (**Universe Today**). Obvious that a little perspective can help.

You can see the new **Milky Way** photo in the banner at the top of this February 2025 edition.

Cordially, Br. Kevin

Subscribe to Brother Kevin's Periodic Reports & Reflections:

<https://edmundriceinternational.us1.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=5dd06f3cbb86536df56de4a9d&id=571b51c977>

Brother Kevin Cawley, Ph.D., an Edmund Rice Christian Brother, has spent 17 years in secondary education as teacher, coach and administrator and 34 years in university teaching, administration and religious leadership. The most recent years of this university assignment include service at the United Nations advocating for human rights and environmental stewardship.

Br. Kevin is currently Executive Director of the Thomas Berry Forum for Ecological Dialogue at Iona University in New Rochelle, NY. He is editor and publisher of a monthly electronic newsletter on environmental concerns, ***The Carbon Rangers/Eozoic Times***. The newsletter has grown to an audience of 600+ subscribers in over 30 countries and takes particular interest in linking to the teachings of Pope Francis in **Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home**, his encyclical of 2015.

Br. Kevin has been serving for the past 15 years at United Nations Headquarters in New York as the Main Representative of Edmund Rice International (ERI), a non-governmental organization working in 30 countries for the rights of young people and Care of the Earth. At the UN, he is also active with colleagues in the work to prevent the trafficking of persons. He is Permanent Secretary for the UN NGO Committee to Stop Trafficking in Persons. He serves as member of the UN NGO Mining Working Group with particular focus on the human right to water and sanitation.

