



THE GREEN PAGE

presenting Bellarmine Chapel's outreach to the environment.

April, 2009

Catholic Climate Covenant: A Symposium On Climate Change And Catholic Social Teaching

The Climate Change Task Force of the Catholic Social Action Office of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, along with the Ethics/Religion & Society Program of Xavier University are presenting this symposium Sunday, April 5th from 2:00–6:00 p.m. in Alter Hall at Xavier University.

Presenters include Dr. William Rauckhorst, Professor of Physics, Miami University; Tony Stieritz, Director of Social Action, Archdiocese of Cincinnati; Dr. Greg Hitzhusen, Ohio Interfaith Power and Light; Dr. Leanne Jablonski, F.M.I., Marianist Environmental Education Center; Dr. Paula Gonzalez, S.C.; Dr. John Sniegocki, Xavier University; Rosie Miller, O.F.M.; Joanne Koehl, S.C.

Topics will include Renewable Energy, Food and Agriculture, Water Issues, Strip Mining and Climate Change.

Stay afterward for the lecture by David Orr (see Upcoming Events on the back page.)

“Before it is too late, it is necessary to make courageous decisions that reflect knowing how to re-create a strong alliance between humanity and the earth. . . . A decisive “yes” to the protection of creation is necessary and a firm commitment to reduce those tendencies that run the risk of bringing about situations of unstoppable degradation.”
—Pope Benedict XVI



Use One Less Paper Napkin

During an average year, an American uses approximately 2,200 napkins — around six each day. If everyone in the U.S. used one less napkin a day, more than a billion pounds of napkins could be saved from landfills each year.



Little Green Men (and Women)

No, we're not aliens, we are the Bellarmine Environmental Committee. When you see us around, let us know what environmental topics are important to you. We are:

Jeff Campbell • Jerry DiCristoforo • Elizabeth Groppe
Brennan Hill • Liz Keuffer • Doug Klocke • Donna Park
Kathy Riga • Tom Warner • Jim and Debbie Weber

check inside for more information

You Can Compost!

- egg shells
- tea bags and leaves
- coffee grounds
- dryer lint
- unpopped popcorn (including “Old Maids”)
- tissues and paper towels
- nut shells
- pencil shavings
- sawdust 🐾



Using Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFLs)

- Be aware that compact fluorescents can take one to three minutes to reach full brightness. This is not a defect.
- The place where people are most likely to use compact fluorescents, closets, may be a poor choice. Experts at Energy Star warn (www.energystar.gov) that frequently turning the bulbs on and off shortens their lives, and recommend using them in fixtures “that are used at least 15 minutes at a time or several hours per day.”
- The bulbs do not do well in hot places with little airflow, like recessed ceiling fixtures. They are ideal for table lamps.
- Not all compact fluorescents work with dimmers or three-way sockets. Read labels.
- Learning about “color temperature,” which is printed on the label of high-quality bulbs, can help consumers avoid disappointment with the color of the light. The warmest-looking bulbs generally have a color temperature less than 3,000 kelvins, with the harshest bulbs usually above 5,000.
- Compact fluorescents contain mercury and should not be disposed of in the trash. Many chains, like Home Depot (www.nytimes.com/2008/06/24/business/24recycling.html) offer recycling bins for the bulbs.
- If you break a bulb, the Environmental Protection Agency (www.nytimes.com/2009/03/28/business/energy-environment/28bulbside.html) recommends precautions to avoid mercury exposure: Clear people and pets from the room and open a window for at least 15 minutes if possible. Avoid vacuuming. Scoop up larger pieces with stiff paper or cardboard, pick up smaller residue with sticky tape, and wipe the area with a damp cloth. Put everything into a sealed plastic bag or sealed glass jar. In most cases, this can be put in the trash, but the E.P.A. recommends checking local rules.
- Keep your receipt. “Studies show that if electronics are going to fail,” the Lighting Research Center says, “it is likely to happen early on.” 🐾



Lessons from the Planet

In addition to sharing reflections from parishioners, we will also be presenting thoughts on spirituality and the environment from prominent theological figures, past and present.

From *The Divine Milieu: An Essay on the Interior Life*
by Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

“All around us, to right and left, in front and behind, above and below, we have only to go a little beyond the frontier of sensible appearances in order to see the divine welling up and showing through. But it is not only close to us, in front of us, that the divine presence has revealed itself. It has sprung up universally, and we find ourselves so surrounded and transfixed by it, that there is no room left to fall down and adore it, even within ourselves.

By means of all created things, without exception, the divine assails us, penetrates us and moulds us. We imagined it as distant and inaccessible, whereas in fact we live steeped in its burning layers. In eo vivimus. As Jacob said, awakening from his dream, the world, this palpable world, which we were wont to treat with the boredom and disrespect with which we habitually regard places with no sacred association for us, is in truth a holy place, and we did not know it. Venite, adoremus.” 🌱

From *The Ecological Crisis: A Common Responsibility*
John Paul II

“Modern society will find no solution to the ecological problem unless it takes a serious look at its lifestyle....Simplicity, moderation and discipline, as well as a spirit of sacrifice, must become a part of everyday life, lest all should suffer the negative consequences of the careless habits of a few. An education in ecological responsibility is urgent: responsibility for oneself, for others, and for the earth....Today the ecological crisis has assumed such proportions as to be the responsibility of everyone....Christians, in particular, realize that their responsibility within creation and their duty towards nature and the Creator are an essential part of their faith.” 🌱



A Book Suggestion

Love God, Heal Earth: 21 Leading Religious Voices Speak Out on Our Sacred Duty to Protect the Environment — by Sally G. Bingham

Foremost religious leaders from diverse faith communities respond to the most controversial question of our time: Can we save the earth? The author makes the case for environmental stewardship that cuts across old divisions of faith and politics. She presents 20 fellow religious leaders and eminent scholars (from rabbis to evangelicals to Catholics, Muslims and Buddhists) each contributing an original essay-chapter, with personal stories of awakening to the urgent need for environmental awareness and action. From all parts of the religious and political spectrum, they come together to tell why caring for the earth is a spiritual mandate, giving chapter and verse and offering plans of action that go beyond the walls of religious congregations and out into the broader community. 🌱

Upcoming Events

SOME LIKE IT HOT ... BUT LOTS MORE DO NOT: The Changing Climate of US Politics—David W. Orr

Sunday, April 5, 7:00 p.m.

Schiff Family Conference Center, Xavier University

FREE and open to the public

David W. Orr is the Paul Sears Distinguished Professor of Environmental Studies and Politics and Chair of the Environmental Studies Program at Oberlin College. He is also a James Marsh Professor at large at the University of Vermont. His books include: *Design on the Edge: The Making of a High Performance Building* (2006); *The Last Refuge: Patriotism, Politics, and the Environment* (2004); and *Earth in Mind* (1994/2004). He is best known for his pioneering work on environmental literacy in higher education and his recent work in ecological design.



Xavier University's Town Hall Meeting: THE CHALLENGE AHEAD: IN SEARCH OF A NEW ENERGY ECONOMY

Monday, April 6, 7:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

The James and Caroline Duff Banquet Center at the Cintas Center, Xavier University

FREE and open to the public

Panelists: Ray Anderson, Founder and Chairman, Interface, Inc.; David Orr, Paul Sears Distinguished Professor of Environmental Studies and Politics at Oberlin College; Christopher Flavin, President of the Worldwatch Institute; Kevin Leahy, Managing Director—Climate Policy and Economics for Duke Energy.



MOUNTAIN TOP REMOVAL:

Coal's Dirty Secret

Wednesday, April 8, 4:00–6:00 p.m.

University of Cincinnati, Braunstein 301

FREE and open to the public

Dave Cooper, national expert on mountaintop removal presents his lecture and film, *Mountain Top Removal*, an award-winning documentary.



EARTH SPIRIT RISING: A Conference on Ecology, Spirituality and Living Economies

June 12–14

Xavier University Cintas Center

This conference examines economic models that are based on Earth's living systems, and highlights initiatives that support and expand local and regional production of food, energy, goods and services. It will explore the cultural and spiritual dimensions of a transformation to living economies.

Featured Speakers: Paula Gonzalez, SC, David Korten, Miriam Therese MacGillis, OP, David Orr

More information and registration: www.earthspiritrising.org