Sacred Earth:
Spirituality and Sustainability

Conference sponsored by Chestnut Hill College School of Graduate Studies, the Holistic Spirituality Program, and the Sisters of Saint Joseph Earth Center

Conference Program & Schedule*

*Current conference program with confirmed presenters

Three themes will frame the three days of the conference…

Day One · Spirituality and Sustainability: Our Place
Day Two · Spirituality and Sustainability: Historical and Religious Perspectives
Day Three · Sustaining Ourselves for the Great Work Ahead

Friday, June 11, 2010
Spirituality and Sustainability: Our Place

11:30AM-1:00PM: Registration and room check-in

12:00-1:00PM: Buffet lunch

1:00-1:30PM: Conference welcome, overview, and logistics
- Steven Guerriero, Ph.D., Dean, School of Graduate Studies, Chestnut Hill College
- Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, Ph.D., President, Chestnut Hill College
- Marie Conn, Ph.D., Chair of Religious Studies and Philosophy Department
- Mary Elizabeth Clark, SSJ, Director, Sisters of Saint Joseph Earth Center

1:30-4:30PM: Plenary Session “Arriving—from the Cosmos to Chestnut Hill”
The afternoon session will help conference participants physically and spiritually arrive at the Sacred Earth Conference and come to know where they are geographically. The session will address the importance of knowing place, including topics of the Universe Story, deep time, bioregion/watershed, and local environments. The relationship of self and community in the context of place also will be explored.
- Robert Meyer, Ph.D., Panel Moderator
- Confirmed Panelists:
  - Margaret Galiardi, OP, M.A.
  - Mary Beth Hamm, SSJ, M.A.
  - Dominic M. Roberti, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, St. Joseph’s University

4:30PM until Saturday, 3:30PM: Sacred Earth’s Local Market
- This on-site market will feature a number of local purveyors.

6:00-9:00PM: Reception, Dinner, and Keynote Speaker—Open to the Public
- Open reception spotlighting local wines, microbrews, and cheeses
- Conference and table blessing
- Dinner featuring gourmet vegetarian fare
- Keynote Speaker: Miriam Therese MacGillis, OP, Co-Founder of Genesis Farm, “Unveiling the Sacred, Exploring the Spirit: Laying the Foundation of a Sustainable Future”
Saturday, June 12, 2010

Spirituality and Sustainability: Historical and Religious Context

7:30-8:30AM: Buffet breakfast

8:30-9:30AM: Reflective Walk: Engaging with Sacred Earth

Break

9:45-11:30AM: Plenary Session “Ancestral Roots: Wisdom Traditions and Sustainability”
Our earliest ancestors revered the earth as the giver of all that is good. Throughout history, the wisdom traditions of various peoples have kept that reverence alive. Together, we will explore this wisdom legacy as a guide to walking gently on the earth.

- Marie Conn, Ph.D. and Patrick McCauley, Ph.D.

12:00-2:00PM: Luncheon and Interfaith Panel on Spirituality and Sustainability—Open to the Public
- Topic: Interfaith Perspectives on Spirituality and Sustainability
- Marie Conn, Ph.D., Panel Moderator
- Confirmed Panelists:
  - Shelley DePaul, M.A.
  - Cary Gaunt, Ph.D.
  - Rabbi Arthur Ocean Waskow, Ph.D.
  - Iftekhar Hussain, M.S.

Break

2:15-3:15PM: Conversation: The Role of Higher Education in Support of the Great Work
- Facilitated table conversations to develop higher education programs that highlight sustainability and spirituality
- Steven Guerriero, Ph.D., Facilitator

Break

3:30PM: Sisters of Saint Joseph Earth Center opening, ritual, and concert
We welcome participants to join with us in the dedication and blessing of the Earth Center.

Optional Activities:
- Morris Arboretum
- Woodmere Art Museum
- Fairmount Park, for walking or biking

6:00PM: Dinner on your own. Transportation to Chestnut Hill for dinner and browsing will be provided.

Sunday, June 13, 2010

Sustaining Ourselves for the Great Work Ahead

7:30-8:30AM: Buffet breakfast

8:30-9:30AM: Reflective Walk: Engaging with Sacred Earth

9:45-11:30AM: Concurrent Workshops
Please select your first and second choices when you register. Confirmed workshops and presentations:
- Contemplative Practice, Discernment, and Sustainability
  - Facilitators: Cathy Looker, SSJ, D.Min. & Michelle Mahan
- Through Grief to the “New/Old” Normal: Mourning and Sustainability
  - Facilitator: Marie Conn, Ph.D.
- Weaving Science and Faith Through Practice: Ecological Spiritual Formation
  - Facilitators: Cary Gaunt, Ph.D. & Margaret Galiardi, OP, M.A.

11:45AM-12:30PM: Closing Ritual