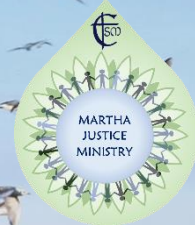


THE LIVING UNIVERSE STORY



THE UNIVERSE STORY is a story of great grandeur that invites humans to deepen and expand our understanding of our connection with all creation. **Thomas Berry**, a Passionist Priest and Anthropologist has written extensively on this topic based on new discoveries in science and his studies in anthropology. Berry sees life as having a single source and comes into being through the interconnectedness of all creation. He identified this process as a sacred story - the unfolding of a living *universe*. His understanding of the oneness of all creation finds expression in his saying: *"To tell the story of anything, you have to tell the story of everything"*. To find out more about Thomas Berry go to the website:

<http://thomasberry.org/life-and-thought/about-thomas-berry/a-universe-story>

Growing into an awareness of this unfolding mystery and our oneness with it, has been a major focus in the **Marthas' journey with the Universe Story**:

- ◆ mid 1990's study sessions in our Congregation on the new Universe Story.
- ◆ 2001 an environmental assessment done of our motherhouse buildings and grounds to help manage our resources in an ecologically sound manner.
- ◆ 2002 a committee known as Environment Resource Assessment Committee (which became the Martha Ecology Committee) established to assist with implementing the assessment's report. Consultants helped with visioning and the work of the committee. Five strategic directions focused the committee's work.
- ◆ Programs and retreats on the Universe Story were offered through our retreat centers, Bethany Center in Nova Scotia, and Martha Centre in Alberta.

The awareness of our interconnectedness with all creation is something we as a Congregation keep in front of us in our daily living and decision making, an awareness that helps keep our vision broad and our hearts sensitive.

LEARNING RESOURCES:

MOVIE:

- ◆ *The Awakening Universe* by Neal Rogin, 2012.
<https://vimeo.com/77918844>

FREE ONLINE COURSE:

- ◆ *Journey of the Universe: The Unfolding of Life*. Yale University.
<https://www.coursera.org/lecture/journey-of-the-universe/journey-of-the-universe-full-film-jBgls>

MUSIC CD:

- ◆ *Song of the Universe* by Kathy Sherman, CSJ, 2015.

ESSENTIAL READINGS:

- ◆ *The Universe Story* by Brian Swimme and Thomas Berry, 1994.
- ◆ *The Dream of the Earth* by Thomas Berry, 1988.
- ◆ *The Great Work; Our Way into the Future* by Thomas Berry, 1999.

FAITH-BASED BOOKS DEEPENING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF LIVING OUT THE UNIVERSE STORY:

- ◆ *Evolutionary Faith; Rediscovering God in Our Great Story* by Diarmuid O'Murchu, 2002.
- ◆ *Radical Amazement; Contemplative Lessons from Black Holes, Supernovas, and Other Wonders of the Universe* by Judy Cannato, 2006.
- ◆ *From Teilhard to Omega: Co-creating an Unfinished Universe* edited by Ilia Delio, 2014.
- ◆ *Laudato Si*, Encyclical Letter of Pope Francis, 2015.

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE:

- ◆ *The Everything Seed: A Story of Beginnings* by Carole Martignacco, 2015. Hear it on YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VCWADhWCytg>

CHILDREN'S MUSIC CD:

- ◆ *Around the World with Earth Mama*, 1997.