

Our Lady Queen of Ireland Province



Eco-Spirituality and Christian Foundations

Our Cosmology Group organised our final conference for 2025 which formed part of our provincial strategic plan on November 22nd. The event was held in Tipperary, in venue which accommodated sisters from the Dublin and Limerick areas where our houses are located. The theme of this conference was, **Eco-Spirituality and Christian Foundations** and our presenter was Fr. Diarmuid O'Murchu



MSC. We were joined by our lay colleagues and collaborators who have journeyed with us in exploring a deeper level of faith and also ways and means of understanding how Jesus' message is all inclusive when dealing with the well-being of **the community of life** on Planet Earth.

Fr. Diarmuid's presentation examined Genesis 1: 1-31 as the primary covenant with creation. All that God created, was 'good'. The earth is God's gift to His people. Jesus stated clearly that he did not want to call us 'servants, but friends' Jn. 15:15. We are invited to be co-disciples with him and care for all God's creation giving consideration



to the cultural elements that formed part of Jesus' reality. *"Since the reign of God is especially attentive to the needy and outcast, Jesus showed a partisanship for suffering people that we can today interpret as extending to encompass the earth and its myriads of distressed species and ecosystems. His ministry reveals a wideness in God's mercy that includes all creation."*

(Sr. Elizabeth Johnson CSJ, Feminist Theologian, 'Creation and the Cross' 2018). Jesus refers to the term Kingdom of God over 100 times leading us to understand it is at the heart of his message. The American theologian, Rodger Haight SJ, uses the term *rule* instead of *Kingdom* stating, *"The rule of God refers to the intention of the Creator, the way God desires creation to be, especially human existence in a community that includes relationship with the wider life of*





the planet... The rule of God symbolises being drawn into the mystery of God's intention for the universe of how human beings should live.” (Faith and Evolution, 2019). Jesus was clearly focused on caring for everyone without exception. His ministry is marked by breaking cultural

norms and boundaries, inclusive of everyone, regardless of their social status. His attitude to commensality and healing marked his mission. He clearly denounced the religion of empire, the power that oppressed the poor and needy, but he proclaimed the reign of God to all who had hearts to hear his Word. His parables continue to teach us through three essential elements: Story, Allegory (story is being used to teach a religious lesson) and parable (a hidden, subverted meaning that the adult hearer must discover for themselves)

We were invited to examine the Earth Charter, reading it in conjunction with Genesis chapter one, discovering how it serves us today as a blueprint of how we can translate eco-spirituality into daily practice for the sanctification and empowerment of people and planet alike. *‘Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so God created mankind in his own image, male and female he created them.’*

Gen. 1:26-28 - ‘Affirm the right of peoples to have their spirituality, knowledge, land and resources and to their related practice of sustainable livelihoods’ Earth Charter (12b) ‘Earth, our home is alive with a unique community of life...The protection of Earth’s vitality, diversity and beauty is a sacred trust’. Earth Charter- Preamble

