

Daily Meditation 03-02-2303

Sister Dorothy and Recovering the Sacred,...

Good morning.

We are meditating together this week on Sister Dorothy Stang's powerful story, beautiful story, on how she, though under great pressure, living in great danger, just committed herself to staying with the forest that she loved. She said, "If the forest dies, we all die."

And she stayed with the peasant people with whom she worked for decades, even under dire circumstances, and well aware that thousands of other people trying to sustain the forest, the native indigenous people there and the peasants, have been murdered over the course of time.

It's another way to understand the poetry I've been sharing from John of the Cross and from Mary Oliver, and of course, Hildegard of Bingen has her own poetry about the sacredness of creation, such as saying "There is no being that lacks a radiance."

That radiance is the doxa, the glory of the Cosmic Christ in theological language.

But the term "Original Blessing," I think summarizes all of this, that creation is planets so special and unique, and yet, just a small part of the huge universe of 2 trillion galaxies, each with hundreds of billions of stars.

This planet is an original blessing and everything that preceded the planet made it possible: the supernova sun, that 13.8 billion year history that brought us to a planet and the 9 billion years that preceded our planet set things up for us, you might say, and for our unique planet.

All that is Original Blessing, which is 13.8 billion years old and has been going all this time: a continuous creation.

I'm going to share with you a letter received today, actually from David Stang, brother of Dorothy Stang. He says

Marguerite and I (another one of his sisters) were lucky to enjoy Dot in December 2004. She already had a price on her head. She was being heavily supported by the National Brazilian Association and received a Human Rights Award from them in front of a packed auditorium filled with peasants. Dorothy called us up on the stage and gave us a big hug with tears. Everyone knew her days were numbered. It was the last time we saw Dot alive. We were blessed to see her awesome energy and her love for the sacred land.

A week after Dot was murdered, and for the next ten years, I traveled to Brazil -- Anapu, Belem, and Brazilia -- speaking publicly for her love of Brazil, to show publicly support for Dot. At the last trial, which we won, the judge thanked the Stang family for their presence at all the trials over those 10 years.

During those 10 years, I also went to a dozen film festivals in the United States and spoke at every festival and Daniel Junge's film, They Killed Sister Dorothy, won the top award at every festival. So I know that Dot's story is very important to many people. I know you all feel this also.

So I think it's a special gift to receive a letter from this that I'm happy to share with all of you about a local martyr, in our time, who stood up for the cause of truth and justice, eco-justice, and social justice.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.