



La Vista Ecological Learning Center

A ministry of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate
November 1, 2016
E-Newsletter

Friends of La Vista,

In this month of giving thanks, know that we are grateful for your commitment to the integrity of creation!

In our ongoing efforts to encourage a shift consciousness to one that embraces the sacredness of all life and our interdependence in the Earth community, La Vista offers you eco-spiritual reflections on traditional Church feast days as well as on holidays. We will also offer our programs within this calendar and hope you will join us. May you find inspiration here and in all of life.



November 1 All Saints Day: Spend time being inspired by these words of Thomas Merton from *New Seeds of Contemplation*

"The pale flowers of the dogwood outside this window are saints. The little yellow flowers that nobody notices on the edge of that road are saints looking up into the face of God.

This leaf has its own texture and its own pattern of veins and its own holy shape, and the bass and trout hiding in the deep pools of the river are canonized by their beauty and their strength. The lakes hidden among the hills are saints, and the sea too is a saint who praises God without interruption in her majestic dance.

The great, gashed half-naked mountain is another of God's saints.

There is no other like him. He is alone in his own character; nothing else in the world ever did or ever will imitate God in quite the same way.

That is his sanctity...

For me to be a saint means to be myself.

Therefore the problem of sanctity and salvation is in fact the problem of finding out who I am and of discovering my true self."

November 2 All Souls Day: Ponder these words by Connie Barlow

The Gifts of Death

Without the death of stars, there would be no planets and no life.

Without the death of creatures, there would be no evolution.

Without the death of elders, there would be no room for children.

Without the death of cells in woody plants, there would be no trees.

Without the death of mountains there would be no sand or soil.

Without the death of plants and animals, there would be no food.

Without the death of old ways of thinking, there would be no room for the new.

Without death, there would be no ancestors.

Without death, time would not be precious. (Adapted from a longer version found here:

<http://thegreatstory.org/songs/death-reading-2.html>)

November 19:

Rooted in Love~the Life and Death of Dorothy Stang, Sister of Notre Dame de Namur

Modern martyr and passionate advocate for the Amazon Rainforest and its indigenous peoples, plant and animal species, and fresh water reserves

*Featuring Adrian Dominican
Sister Nancy Murray, O.P.
in a one-woman performance
as Sister Dorothy Stang*

Sat, November 19, 2016

Showtime: 1:30 pm



Location: Maria Center 336 East Ripa Avenue St. Louis, MO 63125
Cost: \$15 (Individual), \$50 (Four tickets group rate)
Registration: Please download the flyer and use the registration form provided.
http://www.lavistaec.org/pdf/DorothyStang_flyer.pdf
Sponsors: Oblate Ecological Initiative; Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Office of the School Sisters of Notre Dame; Intercommunity Ecological Council; and Rockhaven Ecozoic Center
For Information: Call 618-466-5004

November 24: Thanksgiving - Tips for a Green Celebration

Follow the LOAF principle when preparing your meal:

Local - Purchase food locally produced, and your food will be fresh, you will help our planet by avoiding the pollution caused by long-distance trucking of food, and you will be supporting your local economy.

Organic - Buy organically grown food and avoid pesticide laden foods that are bad for humans, soil, water, plants and animals.

Animal Friendly - If you are not vegetarian, purchase sustainably raised meat

Fairly Traded - Look for the "Fair Trade" label to make sure you promote justice for those producing your food.

