

# Earth In Crisis: Questions and Challenges

How often do you say thanks to God for all that we have and enjoy, all the beauty and biodiversity of Earth ?



- Is it possible to cut down your water use by timing your shower at five minutes for the first week? at three minutes for the second week? trying an every other day shower schedule for a month?
- Do you use your LEN water bottle or some other reusable bottle for drinking?



What are the ways in which you've successfully broadened your worldview to embrace all species of life?



## How Much Is Enough?

- How do you know when you have enough or more than enough of what nature provides?
  - How much do you throw away because you don't need and can't use all that you store up?
  - How can I do with less in order to make sure others have what they need and can I see that they get it?
- Have you ever thought about heading off to bed with your notebook in hand and before turning off the light asking yourself what in your day was done with an eye to conserving the resources of the Planet? You might try it for a month
- Do you find yourself talking about Earth issues and/or issues of eco-spirituality? How about adding to your reading list the works of Thomas Berry, Mary Evelyn Tucker, John Grim, Michael Dowd, Judy Cannato and others steeped in connectedness with all nature?

- When you look at your pet do you think about what you have in common? About the oneness of creation? About the way your pet reflects God with such unconditional love?
- Do you know that animal shelters can use as much shredded paper as you can produce (without staples!)?



The Universe is the primary revelation of the Divine.

Thomas Berry

- Are you into "green" building? When repairs are needed do you explore "green" alternatives? Check your local library to see if they have a copy of *Green Building for Dummies*?
- In what ways are you willing to share The New Story with younger humans? (i.e. would you be willing to lead workshops? do book reviews for the LEN News? create new curriculum?)
- Where do you put your compost? Do you use that dark, rich soil when you garden?

## How Small is your Carbon Footprint?

- How about setting a "carbon budget" when you make out your "annual budget"?
- How many lights in the house still need compact florescent bulbs? (They save energy, carbon and money!)
- Have you ever thought about insulating your hot water heater? (Not hard or expensive).
- Do you re-set your thermostat at night, or when you leave the house? Or maybe you have a programmable thermostat?
- A sweater can sometimes solve the problem of needing a push-up on the thermostat? Try that sort of solution on cold nights.
- Is duct work in your house a channel for warm and/or cool air? Ever thought about insulating it? This one might require an "insulation party," but it's doable.

