

**Important elements from input
of Sr. Nellie McLaughlin**

Sr. Nellie spoke to us of the emerging world view.

We live in a time when life is constantly evolving and changing. This has implications for our faith, spirituality, our image of God, how we pray, how we relate to each other and our hope for the future. In this exploration what will be explored together is not an alternative religion, not a replacement to what we believe and we hold dear but rather a deepening and a broadening of life, theology, spirituality. St. Paul speaks of us as co-creators.... `the creation is groaning in one act of giving birth`. (Rom. 8) We are involved in this collective effort to build something new. God is ever creative; Divine Energy ever flowing. We cannot contain it or box it or control it to make it comfortable for us. Old Testament reminds of this creativity of God.. ``Behold I do new things around you can you not see it...`` In this new understanding of the World, nothing is discarded, rather everything is woven together in One. Through the New Story of the Universe we are challenged to include the whole community of life.

When we think of ecology, ecumenism, economy... all these come from the root word ``oikos``, which means HOME, Household. Therefore, the invitation is to come home to ourselves, into that Unity, Kinship, Oneness; which Jesus expressed in the Gospel of John 17, ``that all may be one``. Today, ALL embraces not only humanity but all of life.

This is the very same dream of our Founder, our mission as Holy Family, mission of Communion, of FAMILY, ONENESS. This is our GIFT. Our ancestors have given us this gift of life, faith, wisdom particularly, INTUITION. We need to engage with it in a living way. The greatest gratitude for this gift is to appreciate it, in the knowledge we have now, add to it, develop it and pass it on to the next generation. Are we going to pass it on unchanged, as it is or built on it, keep it alive, evolving, attracting and drawing us further on the journey of exploration? Universe is evolving, life is changing, we have no choice but to be open, because this journey of discovery is what life is all about... it is mystery... Life, God, you, me... all is mystery ; THE REAL PRESENCE.... a sense of being present to and part of God`s creative energy; at one with all that IS, a sense of being really present to life, love, creativity and potential; being present to suffering, alienation and able to offer hope.

This new consciousness is our awakening to the story of the evolution of life , of the Universe and our place in it; it means to look with new eyes, to see afresh. This consciousness of Oneness is new because the old view is one of separation, of seeing

everything in isolation, not connected. This new way of seeing is to see all as inter-connected, inter-related and inter-dependent.

Therefore, in this new, emerging world view, all of the universe reveals God; God is acknowledged to be embodied in creation rather than totally separated from it – transcendent and immanent together. There is no superior or inferior, no hierarchy, no pyramid; all is part of the web of life.

Thomas Aquinas said, ``wrong understanding of the universe is a wrong understanding of God``.

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The three ways the universe expresses itself – Diversity, Interiority, Communion

The Universe expresses itself at all levels of reality through differentiation (diversity), subjectivity (interiority), and communion (intimacy, interrelatedness). What is referred to in these three principles is the ***interdependent dynamic energy*** that moves through every aspect of life.

Diversity

Each of us is different from the other, each one of us a unique manifestation of the Divine. We all have our own distinctive gifts. This is the first of the three cosmological principles in its creative expression of life. It is known as the cosmic principle of **differentiation** (diversity).

We live in a universe that is expanding all the time. This expansion is into **diversity**. The cosmic principle of differentiation offers a wonderful invitation to surrender... to surrender to the overwhelming expression of diversity, to the abundance.

Subjectivity

Subjectivity is an effort at naming the ability of each being to become itself. It is about the interior dimension of things. We are not copies of one another rather creative expressions of the Divine, of mystery, of life itself. We have each received the capacity to experience mystery and to give expression to this mystery through the voice within. This is the cosmic principle of **subjectivity** (interiority, inner depths).

Communion

The third governing principle of the universe is **communion**. Everything in the universe is inter-connected, interdependent, nothing can exist in isolation. Relationship is the essence of existence. It connects me to myself and to the whole of life. Together we are all bonded into a pattern of relationship. Everything in the universe is genetically and energetically related.

Here, we see a close link with our charism of communion, understanding it in a wider sense; a FAMILY with the diversity of 5 vocations.

This reality that is in the universe is in us – diversity, subjectivity and communion. Who I am / Who we are as Family, is a question of the quality of our being, of our presence. This calls for compassion. Our spirituality is an engaged spirituality which influences our way of being in the world, all our actions and all the choices we make.