

Faith-Ecology-Economy: Deepening Maryknoll's understanding of the places where faith, ecology and the global economy intersect
A reflection process sponsored by the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
February 2009

Understanding the ways in which climate change has made us all aware of the limits of our planet's natural resources, the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns requests your input to help us understand the various ways in which faith, ecology and the global economy intersect. We know that you as Maryknollers, living among resource-poor and indigenous communities, comprehend the principle of sufficiency, while the principal agents driving the global economy allow profit and the endless pursuit of growth to blind them to the grave physical and moral consequences of ignoring resource limits and the natural processes for the regeneration of life.

Last year, before and during election season, many Maryknollers helped contribute to our election reflection guide, *Loving our neighbor in a shrinking world*, the homily helps used throughout the year, and the Platform for the Common Good. Since there was great energy around many of these processes, we are turning to you to ask for help in surfacing the values and experiences that will deepen our work around faith, ecology and economy.

We ask that you come together in a small group and follow the reflection process outlined below. You may choose to meet more than once, as we have two suggestions of videos to watch to get the discussion going. We invite you to draw on your own experience of the intersection of your faith, the ecology and the global economy.

We ask that you send us your reflections (before May 15, 2009) to help shape the way we move forward with our Faith-Ecology-Economy Project. This year is filled with possibilities as global climate change discussions continue, as the United Nations calls a special assembly on the global economic crisis and as a new U.S. president begins to sift through climate and economic priorities.

SMALL GROUP PROCESS

1. Read aloud Luke 12: 27-34, silently reflect on the reading for a minute or two
2. Watch together **EITHER**:
 - "The Story of Stuff" available for download at: <http://www.storyofstuff.com> *
 - **OR** Chris Martenson's "Crash Course Chapter 18: Environmental Data" available for download at: <http://www.chrismartenson.com/crashcourse/chapter-18-environmental-data> **
3. Questions to consider:
 - What do we feel are the most important values needed to respond to the issues raised in the video?
 - Considering the issues that the video surfaced, what are the most important issues facing our community, locally and globally, today?
 - Are there any real life experiences that the video brings to mind?

4. Closing prayer:

LEADER: "Loving God, we come in gratitude for the gifts surrounding us. Thank you for the earth, its flowers and grasses that you cause to regenerate over and over again so that we might know beauty and be fed by your bounty. Be with us as we celebrate your gifts and examine the many ways that you care for us. Help us to embrace your great and sufficient support. Guide us as we seek to promote your will on earth."

ALL: I will lift up my eyes to the mountains; from where shall my help come?

My help comes from God, Who made heaven and earth.

5. **WRITTEN SUMMARY:** Please take time to summarize your reflections (during or after the meeting). A written summary should be sent to kmcneely@maryknoll.org or by mail to the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns; P.O. Box 29132, Washington, D.C. 20017 (attention: Kathy McNeely) **by May 15, 2009.**

Please include:

1. The list of the most important values and issues that you raised.
2. Other experiences (e.g. mission stories related to the themes of faith, ecology and the global economy) the group discussed.
3. Who participated in the discussion (e.g. affiliate group, regional Maryknoll grouping, parish group, local pastoral group where you serve).
4. If you include in your reflection people you minister to in your mission setting, tell us something about the group (e.g. ethnicity, gender, age, religious affiliation, etc.) and the date and place where the reflection took place.
5. Please also include any evaluative comments people had about participating in this process.

Thank you again for your enthusiasm and your commitment to global concerns! *Please feel free to contact us with your questions and concerns!* ogc@maryknoll.org or kmcneely@maryknoll.org

** If you have trouble accessing these videos, let us know; we can send you DVDs. Also, if you choose to share this process with a non-English speaking crowd, a **subtitled** version of [The Story of Stuff](#), and translated scripts, are available in several languages including Spanish, Portuguese, Thai, and Taiwanese Mandarin (both Simplified and Traditional) at: <http://www.storyofstuff.com/international/>*

*** You may choose to spread the reflection out over two meetings, so that the group could have the benefit of the input of both videos. You may also ask people come to the meeting after they've watched the videos at home, if technology is an issue for your meeting setting.*