

Evolution Sunday

First Reading: "The New Story" by Thomas Berry

It's all a question of story.

We are in trouble just now because we do not have a good story. We are in between stories. The old Story—the account of how the world came to be and how we fit into it—is not functioning properly, and we have not learned the New Story.

The Old Story sustained us for a long time. It shaped our emotional attitudes, provided us with life purpose, energized action.

It consecrated suffering, integrated knowledge, guided education.

We awoke in the morning and knew where we were.

We could identify crime and punish criminals. Everything was taken care of because the story was there. It did not make men good; it did not take away the pains and stupidities of life, or make for unflinching warmth in human association.

But it did provide a context in which life could function in a meaningful manner.

The New Story" from The Dream of the Earth by Thomas Berry

"Here we might observe that the basic mood of the future might well be one of confidence in the continuing revelation that takes place in and through the earth.

If the dynamics of the universe from the beginning shaped the course of the heavens, lighted the sun, and formed the earth, if this same dynamism brought forth the continents and seas and atmosphere, if it awakened life in the primordial cell and then brought into being the unnumbered variety of living beings, and finally brought us into being and guided us safely through the turbulent centuries, there is reason to believe that this same guiding process is precisely what has awakened in us our present understanding of ourselves and our relation to this stupendous process.

Sensitized to such guidance from the very structure and functioning of the universe, we can have confidence in the future that awaits the human venture."

"...we will recover our sense of wonder and our sense of the sacred only if we appreciate the universe beyond ourselves as a revelatory experience of that numinous presence whence all things came into being. Indeed, the universe is the primary sacred reality.

We become sacred by our participation in this more sublime dimension of the world about us."

* **Gospel: John 10:10**

Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life and live it abundantly!"