

**Fr Rod Pitts comments on the parish experience
of viewing the presentations on Creation Spirituality
during the four weeks of Advent in 2010**

We had four weekends in Advent that were great: not only did I not have to preach, but we were privileged to have at all the weekend masses some classy PowerPoint presentations on Spirituality to reconnect us with our environment. I enjoyed them immensely, and they were profound and beautiful. But I was also very pleasantly surprised at the positive reception they were greeted with by parishioners.

During the year, I had asked Mary Burke if she could share with our people her appreciation of Spirituality. We got what I would have called a global view of reality which acknowledged our mutual dependence on the whole of creation. We are part of it, and it is part of us. The Creator is dedicated to sharing life and encouraging growth and harmony – and all creatures are brothers and sisters in so many complex and astonishing ways in the vast web of life. To be able to read the face of God in the book of creation is part and parcel of our Judeo-Christian tradition. God will give you back your soul should you be in danger of losing it.

Some parishioners had come across the writings of the Jesuit, **Pierre Teilhard de Chardin**. He certainly inspired me in my early years in the seminary. To begin with, he was a scientist with a world-wide reputation for discoveries about our early ancestry. He spent a lot of time digging in the wilds of China, and there he prayed, meditated, and wrote poetry about his vision of the unity of the whole of creation. His whole exciting and beautiful vision was about the unity of everything, and the rising complexity and growing consciousness. The vision even included apparent ‘opposites’ – *matter* and *spirit* – because God is One. I guess that for years, we had suffered from too many bad interpretations of these terms from the Scriptures.

Teilhard de Chardin’s writings were banned by Rome in the 50’s, but by the time of the Second Vatican Council in the early 60’s, the Decrees, and Declarations issuing from the Council were imbued with his spirit.

We all have more to learn than we could ever imagine. Thanks to Mary and Emmy Silvius for their cleverness, and the amount of time they put into their fruity presentation of the unity, complexity, and the sheer delight and beauty of God’s creation.

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