

ST. JOSEPH SPIRITUAL MINISTRIES
A Congregation Ministry
of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston



Staying Connected in this Uncertain Time

The Leadership Conference of Women Religious has called all of us to be more “attentive to deeper invitations.” As we carry on here at SJSM in remote locations, we are taking some contemplative time to reflect on how God has personally sustained us during past difficulties. May we notice the ways God is present and active with each of us during this horrific, global crisis.

“All of creation is a symphony of the Holy Spirit . . .” Hildegard of Bingen

An invitation from Joanne Fantini, CSJ Agrégée, director of St. Joseph Spiritual Ministries, recently arrived in my email box. I replied, “Not right now, but in a week or two, I’d be happy to contribute something for our prayer.” Then, with the click of a computer mouse, I opened a file related to a six-session series, An Endless Adventure, on cosmology and cosmogenesis.

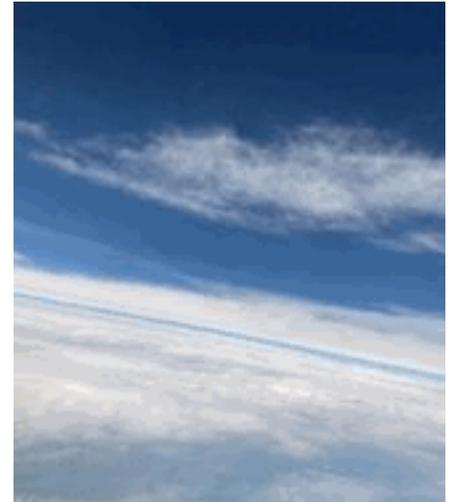


Photo by Beverly Good, used with permission.

If we had met at our scheduled date on March 21, I had planned to invite the registered participants to arrive early, if they wished, to enjoy an extended Prelude to our fourth session. The prelude music was going to be Paul Winter’s, Missa Gaia.

MISSA GAIA, Mass of the Earth, an hour and 14 minutes of beautiful music by Paul Winter to help us all be united in prayer for all humankind, all life on our planet, Mother Earth. To view Missa Gaia, click on this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bYGTZp-tqLo>

Once again, disappointment and fear surfaced. Life, health, plans throughout our planet had become so suddenly and unimaginably vulnerable and constrained. Yet, I imagined Earth still swirling in its patterns within our solar system, our Milky Way Galaxy and our known universe. How strong, reliable and majestic is Earth! How fragile is its life! How powerful is the corona virus!

Then the invitation I received became an invitation to you. Out of a necessary self-quarantine, oozes some creative balm to raise our consciousness, calm our spirits, heal life on earth and deepen trust in our triune God.

2 POEMS:

III, Rabindranath Tagore

I know not how thou singest,
my master!
I ever listen in silent amazement.
The light of thy music
illumines the world.
The life-breath of thy music breaks through
all stony obstacles and rushes on.
My heart longs to join in thy song, but vainly struggles

for a voice.
I would speak, but speech breaks not into song,
and I cry out baffled.
Ah, thou hast made
my heart captive
in the endless meshes
of thy music, my master!

CCCXIV, Rabindranath Tagore

When all the strings of my life will be tuned,
my Master,
then at every touch of thine
will come out the music of love.

Blessings,
Joan M. McCarthy, CSJ
Retreat and Spiritual Director,
Co-Director of a Spiritual Direction Internship Initiative, a training program