

“In our increasing awareness that we are responsible for the Planet’s well being, we People of Providence have turned to the cosmological context, convinced that we ‘give God glory by loving the world.’”

– Mary Christine Mordovsky, CDP

Earlier this year, the moderator of the S.T.E.P. group at the high school where I minister asked me to participate in the eco-justice assembly his group was sponsoring to urge our more than 600 students to get serious about recycling.

S.T.E.P. describes itself as: “Modeling ourselves on the values expressed in the Sisters of Providence prayer about non-violence we hope to make the world a Safer, more Tolerant, Ecologically aware and Peaceful place for all to live. The group exercises leadership in the school’s efforts to be and become more ecologically friendly imitating the Sisters of Providence dedication to eco-spirituality.”

Their description made me proud to be a Sister of Providence, until the moderator asked me to be the one to explain how all of this is linked to the mission of the Sisters of Providence.

I considered telling them it was cool to be green. They might laugh, but they would get it. Instead I told them that before it became cool to be green, the Sisters of Providence were already involved in eco-justice and that our involvement is a direct result of how we understand God. I didn’t say cosmological context but that’s what I meant.

They didn’t laugh, but they got real quiet. It wasn’t what they expected.

I told them what I have come to embrace as the power of my own faith: God is a transcendent and empowering presence within all of creation.

I exhorted them, “Instead of treating our Earth as our stomping ground or worse yet, our dumping ground, we simply need to love Earth and then ask ourselves as we would for any loved one: “What will I do to help restore health to Earth?”

For me, this is what it means to “give glory to God by loving the world.” It’s probably not what most people expect when you think of giving glory to God, but, given the signs of our times, this better be what we mean.

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