

Encountering the Ancient Myth —

Ignatian Spirituality and

the New Cosmology

September 26-28, 2003

Cahokia Mounds

Collinsville, Illinois

This gathering will provide the opportunity to explore the ancient myth, the mystery the mystics have tried to share with us, and the truths that science is coming closer to uncovering — that the Divine presence is in all of Creation, and all Creation is united in a universal communion. We will explore how this reality is expressed in the Spiritual Exercises, and how Ignatian Spirituality can lead us to this awareness of our interconnectedness with all Creation. The grace we are seeking for the weekend is: a deeper sensitivity to the dynamics at work in God's Universe and Earth and a deeper activation of these dynamics in our lives.

The weekend is designed to be an experience rather than a conference. There will be some input, but also time for prayer, faithsharing, ritual, and contemplation.

Part of the experience will be the setting. As much as possible of the weekend will be held outdoors at the site of the Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site where the remains of the most sophisticated prehistoric native civilization north of Mexico are preserved. More information about the site can be found at: www.cahokiamounds.com.

Wisdom Figures

Several people will share their spiritual journey in this awareness of the sacredness of creation with us:



Maurice Lange, OMI, was born in San Antonio, Texas in 1962. He spent much of his youth out-of-doors either in the back yard or on the farm of his grandparents. Maurice received an undergraduate degree in environmental studies in 1984. Six years later he took vows as an Oblate of Mary Immaculate and was ordained priest. Hearing of eco-spirituality in the early 90's, Maurice pursued this by going to Genesis Farm in New Jersey for the program "Exploring the Sacred Universe." He followed this with a 2 year internship there in 1998-99. Maurice is currently the director of the Oblate Ecological Initiative in Godfrey, IL. www.lavistacsa.org. This is both an ecological learning center and a community supported agriculture project.



John Surette, a Jesuit priest of the New England Province, is co-founder and director of "Spiritearth: a center for contemplation, reflection, and justice-making in the ecozoic age." (www.spiritearthnet.org) He worked in the Caribbean for 15 years as an adult educator and community organizer and is a past "National Ecclesial Assistant." Most important in John's life is listening to the Divine's foundational revelation — the Universe/Earth — and assisting other to listen as well.



Lois and Kuruvilla Zachariah are retired teachers, biologists and parents of three sons and a daughter. They have been members of Christian Life Community in English Canada for 25 years. Together with John English, developed the *Twenty-Four Spiritual Exercises for the New Story of the Universal Communion* which was published by the World CLC as Supplement #57 of *Progressio*.

Encountering the Ancient Myth: Ignatian Spirituality and the New Cosmology

The Time Frame:

The program will begin at 6:00 pm on Friday, September 26 with dinner and end at noon on Sunday, September 28 with lunch.

Additional opportunities before and after this time frame will be available for those wishing to come early or stay longer. These include: touring the Community Supported Garden (organic) at La Vista, a visit to the Columbia Bottom Conservation Area at the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers (www.conservation.state.mo.us/areas/areas/bottom/), the St. Louis Arch (www.stlouisarch.com), the St. Louis Zoo (www.stlzoo.org/), the Missouri Botanical Gardens (world-known for its research and preservation of botanical species - www.mobot.org). If you would be interested in visiting other sites around the St. Louis area, let us know.

Accommodations:

Since Cahokia Mounds has no accommodations on site, the Holiday Inn (www.holidayinncollinsville.com) in near-by Collinsville will provide sleeping accommodations, some meals and back up conference space in case of inclement weather. For those who would like to experience the fullness of oneness with nature, primitive camp sites (outhouses and no showers) are available at Horseshoe Lake State Park (www.greatriverroad.com/hshoe/hshoeRec.htm) which will also be the site of some of our evening activities.

Special Needs:

While there is opportunity for a lot of walking and a climb to the top of the largest mound at Cahokia is literally breathtaking, all of our activities will be handicapped accessible. If you need any special dietary requirements, please indicate that on the registration form.

For more information contact Janet and Ron Nimer, 636-227-0772, nimron@accessus.net until July 31. After August 4, contact Pat Carter, 314-664-1863, pacarter47@yahoo.com.

Reservation Form Encountering the Ancient Myth: Ignatian Spirituality and the New Cosmology

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip/Country: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Registration for gathering: Cost includes dinner Friday evening, breakfast, lunch and dinner Saturday, breakfast and lunch on Sunday, all materials needed to participate, transportation from airport and to various venues.

\$100.00/person by August 31
\$125.00/person after August 31

Camp Site Rental: includes tent, sleeping bag, etc. \$10/per person/per night _____

I would like to donate funds to assist someone to attend that might not be able to otherwise. _____

Total: _____

To register send a check made out to **CLC Missouri Region** for this total amount in US dollars to:

Encountering the Ancient Myth, c/o Kitty Gray, 1580 Fairmount Drive, Florissant, MO 63033.

Hotel \$83.95/night/room (up to four people can share a room). Please make reservations directly with the hotel after August 10, 2003 and **before September 12. Availability of rooms and rates cannot be guaranteed after Sept. 12.** Mention that you are with Christian Life Community. 1-800-551-5133.

Please indicate any special needs you might have. If you need financial assistance, please contact Pat Carter, 314-664-1863, pacarter47@yahoo.com after August 4.