



Faith Encounters the Ecological Crisis

This JustMatters module was designed as a community learning process built around the book, *Living Beyond the 'End of the World,' A Spirituality of Hope*, by Margaret Swedish. Every day, we experience the many ways the ecology of our communities is changing and even breaking down – toxins in our air, waters, and food, extinction rates unseen since the end of the dinosaur age, changes in weather patterns, diseases impacting our forests, the rise in human diseases like cancer, asthma, and diabetes, invasive species, and more.

Faith Encounters the Ecological Crisis identifies that ways in which we are already living beyond the biocapacity of the planet and challenges participants to identify elements of a spirituality for living through the ecological crisis. Participants will view several films, engage in small and large group discussion, and meet with several guest speakers as they consider various aspects of the ecological crisis. Participants will also identify ways to 'live beyond the end of this world' with a rich and vibrant Earth community still intact, still able to support life.

The module has a strong focus on Catholic social teaching and asks very big questions about our priorities, our moral values, what we owe the world now and the future generations that come after us, and what God intended for this creation. The material is challenging and likely to raise some troubling questions and emotions. This is good! It is necessary! It is also necessary that participants enter the process with the desire to listen to one another and to learn from one another.

By the end of the process, participants will have seen what the crisis has to teach us about how to live faithfully in *this* moment in time, brought Gospel values to the forefront of their reflections on the state of the Earth, gained a sense of empowerment within the context of community, and explored options for making a commitment to action.

Registration for the module is \$150.00. There is an additional cost per group of \$81.00 for DVDs and per participant cost of \$15.00 for a book. For additional information, please contact Mary Wright (mary@justfaith.org) or David Horvath (david@justfaith.org). This flyer and a registration form for the module can be downloaded from the JustFaith Ministries website: www.justfaith.org.