

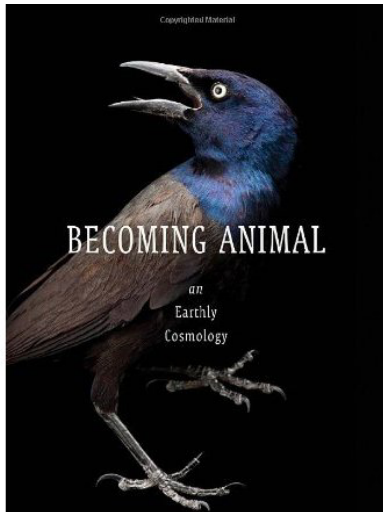
## What Ecospirituality Committee members are reading, watching and listening to:

### **Books, nonfiction**

#### ***Becoming Animal: An Earthly Cosmology***

By David Abram

Reviewed by Lucy Slinger, FSPA



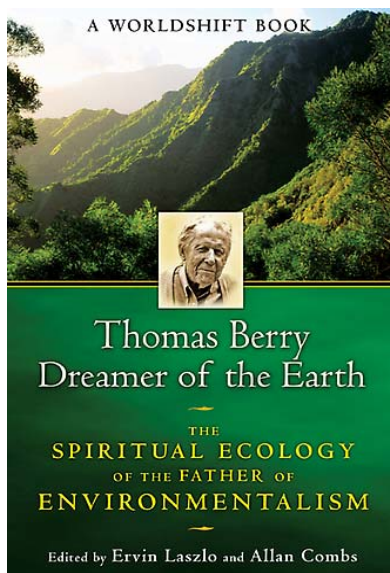
As a reader of this book, I felt that Abram invited me to return to the true sense of humans as creatures, not unlike other mammals, but endowed uniquely with the gifts of reflective ability as in consciousness and the use of one's senses to know the visible and invisible world of creation. It is a mind-enhancing, alternative, philosophical perspective through which one is invited to reconnect with the essence of being a mammal. Although I felt challenged to relate to the discovery of one's own sense of place in the universe, I enjoyed the expressions Abram drew from to capture the great depths and heights of the human senses we use to experience more fully our right relationships

with the rest of creation. I loved immersing myself in this book and did not want it to end. Other readers may not. Nonetheless, I guarantee it will challenge at least a few prior-held ideas about reality.

#### ***Thomas Berry, Dreamer of Earth: The Spiritual Ecology of the Father of Environmentalism***

Edited by Allan Combs & Ervin Laszlo

Reviewed by Lucy Slinger, FSPA



This anthology brings new insights to the work of the late Father Thomas Berry. His life teachings—promoting the individual and societal shifts humans need to make for a sustainable future for our species—are presented and reviewed by ten different spiritual environmentalists. Some very familiar environmental authorities like Joanna Macy and Matthew Fox (and less familiar to me like Stanley Krippner) present new perspectives of interpretation and application of what Berry calls “integral ecology.” It is a concept that extends the meaning of ecology beyond the scientific to include the conditions of spirituality, psychology and energy we know so little about but have scientific evidence that credits it as a part of our universe. I found myself grateful for the insights I gleaned from this brief but significant work. It is enriching to see the fresh-eye

views of environmentalists who are just discovering Berry's work and its implications for our future. A sometimes challenging but good read *Dreamer of the Earth* holds the scholarship to substantiate and the wisdom of story to call us to deepen a personal connection to the natural world and meaning of an Earth-based spirituality.

### **DVDs**

#### ***Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time***

(72 minutes)

Reviewed by Lucy Slinger, FSPA

This is the first high-definition documentary film about legendary environmentalist Aldo Leopold. It is a tapestry of the significant experiences that shaped the development of the first documented land-ethic position statement by Leopold and how it is still relevant and is inspiring sustainability projects around the United States today. The piece offers great insight for developing a sense of place and discovering right relationships for both people and for land alike.

### **Book and DVD**

#### ***Journey of the Universe***

Includes a 56-minute summary with a study set of six DVDs

Reviewed by Lucy Slinger, FSPA

Brianne Swimme and Mary Evelyn Tucker, an evolutionary philosopher and religion historian, collaborated to draw together the science and theology of 21st century cosmology. They developed and presented the nature of the universe and significance in how humans live in right relationships through historical and current practices, and also a view of the infinite potential contained in a sacred, sacramental, spiritual and scientific story of an unfolding universe. *Journey of the Universe* is beautiful to watch or read and to contemplate from the Franciscan perspective of creation as brother and sister, "Who are you oh God and Who am I?"