



SPIRITUALITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

with

Rev. Charles Brandt

May 17 - 19

Friday 7:30 PM to Sunday after lunch.

This retreat will stress the need for personal transformation through "paying attention" to what is going on around and in us individually.

Almost everyone today is aware of the ecological harm that is taking place to the earth. And we want to change others so that they become aware. We can't just give out information, as frightening as it is and expect people to change their attitudes and actions. People are full of fear. How to transform this fear into productive action?

We have to see the dangers. We have to come to "think like a mountain", to see the interconnectedness of all living beings. To see this interconnectedness is not so much an intellectual process or a conceptual one, but one of attention (as opposed to intention). It is necessary to open ourselves through attention to the consciousness of the resurrected, glorified, infinitely transcended Christ, and through sharing this oneness, share oneness with all creatures. This means that we must first change ourselves.

To undergo this transformation is the heart of the matter. Transformation takes place through the exposure of our deep consciousness to the consciousness of Christ which means that we must devote time each day to silence and stillness and simplicity.

One way of paying attention and exposing oneself is through the praying of the mantra, the apophatic tradition of the Church in a context of the Eucharist and holy reading and a life lived out in compassion and good works.

Father Charles will give an explanation of Christian meditation (mantric prayer) and there will be several times for practice of mediation. The entire weekend will be in total silence.

Father Brandt is a priest of the Diocese of Victoria who lives as a hermit in the Black Creek area. He is also an Oblate of the Shantivanam Ashram of Father Bede Griffiths in India. Father Charles has given many talks on meditation and led many retreats based on mantric prayer. He is well qualified to speak on ecological issues and their relation to spirituality.

Limited to small group.