

**S**piritual guidance awakens us to Divine Presence within all of creation. Seeking a path has been the foundation of many spiritual traditions of both East and West. With regular meetings, individuals are invited to awaken to their specific inner journeys. They are encouraged to develop an inquiring heart and mind in order to find deeper meaning in life's unfolding. They enter the fundamental questions of where we come from, where we are and where we are going.

**Locations:**

- Berakah, Pittsfield, NH
- San Damiano House of Prayer, Lowell, MA

**Norman Comtois, O.M.I.** is on the staff at Berakah, a renewal program for women religious and a center for summer retreats. He serves as spiritual director, pastoral counselor, teacher of the New Cosmology and retreat director. In addition, he travels to La Vista Ecological Center in Godfrey, Illinois each August to serve as a team member of the Earth Literacy Program.



**The Desire of Earth:**

To be admired  
in its beauty.  
To be tasted in its  
delicious fruits.  
To be listened to in  
its teaching.

To be endured in the  
severity of its discipline.

To be communed within  
our highest comments of  
merrymaking.

*Thomas Berry*

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# Awakening



# to the Integrity of Creation



**Workshops • Retreats  
Spiritual Guidance**

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Norman Comtois bases all of his work in eco-spirituality on Thomas Berry's first three principles of the Universe. These are clearly articulated by Brian Swimme in his *Canticle to the Cosmos* as follows:

- The Universe (including the Earth) in itself and in its evolutionary emergence constitutes for the human the *primary revelation* of that Ultimate Mystery from whence all things emerge into being.
- The Universe is a unity, an interacting and genetically related community of beings, which is in constant *communion with itself* at all levels of being. The unity of the planet Earth is especially clear, with everything being interrelated and inter-dependent.
- From its beginning the Universe is a *psychic/spiritual* as well as physical/material reality.

Thomas Berry tells us that the Great Work of our time is to live in a "mutually enhancing Earth-human relationship." Inspired by Berry's vision, Norman encourages people to discover their part in the Great Work and to awaken to the integrity of creation.

- **Universe Story: Invitation to Mystery**  
In six weekly two-hour presentations, we will discuss the basic principles of Thomas Berry's teachings through lively discussion and relevant DVDs. Topics will include the spiritual longing of this generation, the meaning of our origins and place in the Universe Story, the place of chaos in an ever expanding universe, and the significance of faith, religion and spirituality.
- **Expanded Horizons: Where is God?**  
In light of the newest scientific discoveries and cosmological insights, this six-week two-hour series will examine such current challenging religious and spiritual issues as God, Jesus, Eucharist, prayer and ethics.
- **Powers of the Universe**  
In this series of presentations, we will journey from the vast reaches of the ancient cosmos down into the most infinitesimal elementary particles and discover that no matter where we look, even into the human heart, the Powers of the Universe are present. This eleven-week series includes an interactive viewing of Brian Swimme's DVD presentations, reflection questions, dialogue and ritual.

The Universe evokes in us an expansive spirituality within an evolutionary context. Participants are invited to reflect on the spiritual hunger of our time, to enter and experience the cosmic story as primary revelation, and to awaken to the mystery of our origins and our place within the evolutionary process.

**Guided retreats** include daily presentations, videos, dialogue, ritual and time for personal reflection. Participants are encouraged to use the afternoons for creative contemplation through journaling, painting, music, dance, walking the labyrinth.

(Open to scheduling upon request.)

**Individually directed retreats** are conducted in silence and include a daily individual meeting, a Eucharistic liturgy, and an optional group gathering in the evening to share the insights of the day.

### OTHER OFFERINGS

- DVD Discussion Groups
- Book Discussion Groups
- Guest Presentations