Awakening Vocations

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Spiritual Direction Check-Up for Summer 2011

What in the world is going on? I pose this question to myself and to you, because right now, in our world, a lot is going on. Even our personal response to the news affects the world in some way.

I am amazed—perplexed, confused—at the number of people I encounter who take their spiritual life seriously but who are unaware of natural disasters or social strife, here at home or in other parts of the world. I encounter people who take their spiritual life seriously but who cannot name five pressing concerns in their own city or town.

What in the world is going on? This is no idle question but one which invites deeper personal reflection and broader conversation. So I offer you these questions to ponder and share in these summer months . . .

My thoughts . . .

1. What *in the world* is bothering me? (Name the concerns; be specific.)

2. What breaks my heart? (Might this also be something that breaks the heart of God? How do I know that?)

3. What gives me hope? (Again, be specific.)

4. How am I personally invested in ensuring hope, especially for those who feel hopeless?

What I am reading now: *American Earth: Environmental writing since Thoreau* (2008). This massive collection of essays and poems from a broad array of environmental writers gives me hope. People before us and people of our own time who care deeply about the natural world and the resources that sustain us are courageously awakening our sensibilities to the life we share on this massive, fragile, beautiful yet deeply wounded planet Earth which we call "home."

What are you reading this summer? Let me know!

Summer-Fall openings available . . .
Personalized one-day or multiday retreats with spiritual and vocational director
Mary Sharon Moore, M.T.S.,
customized in content and pace, in the location of your choice.

Contact Mary Sharon for details:
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Background photo: *Coastal morning sky*, 2010.