

Wednesday, February 7



### Message From Reclaiming Earth Committee

#### CONCERNING A PROPOSAL FOR THE CARE OF THE EARTH COMMITTEE

Recently the *Care of the Earth Committee* put out an invitation for proposals identifying an area/topic/issue for concentrated attention by the committee. We have received such a proposal and would like to share it with you to see if some of you would be interested in joining a study group around it.

A number of years ago, a Zimbabwe ecologist named Allan Savory proposed a radical idea. He pointed out that 2/3 of the earth, including land on every continent, is in the process of becoming desert. He has spent his life addressing that issue because it is the root of much of the earth's environmental and social crises today — accumulation of atmospheric carbon leading climate change (second only to fossil fuels) and the interruption of food production and polluting water cycles, all leading to social upheaval, poverty and war.

**Savory proposes that desertification can be addressed** by the careful management of large grazing animals, particularly cattle. He has found that the common belief that cattle are the cause of the problem because of soil degradation through overgrazing is wrong. Instead he has found that cattle can be problematic through poor management. The careful use of grazing rejuvenates the grasslands, sequesters carbon and encourages consistent pure water cycles. To see a presentation of his work, view his TED Talk "[How to green the world's deserts and reverse climate change.](#)"

A second, closely related area of concern, is the field of regenerative agriculture — approaches to farming and growing food that regenerates the soil and reverses desertification. Refer to "[Re-generation of Our Lands: A Producer's Perspective](#)" and "[White Oak Pastures: Our Story.](#)" In addition, look at holistic ranching and farming in the Pacific Northwest [here](#).

**If Savory is right**, then we as Sisters of Providence and Tacoma Dominicans, committed to supporting integral ecology, want to be in the picture. The proposal suggests several lines of action:

- Study;
- Personal and group supportive behavior, perhaps involving food choices;
- Investment choices.

Are you willing??