

Awakening to a New Consciousness

*Listening to the Cry of Earth
and the Cry of the Poor*

Mercy's Theological Reflection Process



Session One | Participant's Guide

September 2021

SESSION ONE: INTRODUCTION TO THE PROCESS

Goal: To introduce the Mercy Theological Reflection Process and the definition of extractivism and the extractive development model.

PREPARATION FOR SESSION ONE

Preparation Time: Please allow for approximately 60 minutes of preparation time prior to the first session. Spend time reading and reviewing the following resources on the Call to New Consciousness: Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor webpage: ([click here](#)).

- The definition of extractivism ([click here](#))
- The Chapter 2017 Recommitment description ([click here](#))
- Overview of the process ([click here](#))

After reading the resources, please consider these questions regarding personal and communal conversions that we have already engaged in after hearing of the cries of the poor and the cries of Earth. Take time to reflect on how far we may have come, what compelled us to change and perhaps what held us back from deeper transformation. Begin with your own personal reflection on these questions, then use this link to engage in Contemplative Dialogue with each other.

1. Whose stories have you heard or read that have recentered your thinking towards the cry of Earth and cry of the poor? How have you found those stories?
2. What concrete action have you committed to that changed a past habit or behavior in answering the cries of Earth (e.g., energy and water waste monitoring)?
3. How have these changes called for a radical shift in how you live your daily life (e.g., awareness of amount of water used for shower or gas used when driving)?
4. How have these changes led you to acts of advocacy either through education or seeking policy changes in institutions and governments (e.g., responding to action alerts calling for Just Transition to Renewables or campaigns to keep Fossil Fuels in the Ground)?
5. What personal and communal values compelled you to make this change of habit and value (e.g., value healthy climate and vital ecosystems, especially for future generations and all living beings)?

6. Did this change or value/habit bring about another unexpected value/habit (e.g., using public transportation, drinking tap water, eating healthier, fresher local foods).
7. As you consider your answers, what observations can you make about your own process of conversion? In what ways have you felt or expressed gratitude for the changes that you have made? What has held you back from making other changes or made this change difficult to implement?

SESSION ONE: PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE

Structure of Session:

We will gather together as a large group and then you will enter into a small group for:

- Prayer
- Introduction of participants
- Presentations on what extractivism means and how it impacts us – based on preparation work
- Personal reflection and group sharing
- Further explanation of this process

Please send any insights from this session to share to extractivism@sistersofmercy.org. Feel free to send poems, artwork or other forms of creative expression as well as written reflections.

Please bring your journal to each session, so you can record your feelings, thoughts and learnings.

If you are a poet or artist, we encourage you to creatively respond to the questions or conversation.

PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT SESSION

Please allow approximately two hours over the next month to complete your preparatory materials for Session Two. Please click on the materials for Session Two in advance of the meeting to review any reflect questions.

- [read] Overview: Seeing—Deep Listening ([click here](#))
- [view] In Defence of Life (33 min.) ([click here](#))
- [read] Theological Lenses
 - Mercy Lens ([click here](#))
 - Eco-feminism Lens ([click here](#))
 - Laudato Si' Lens ([click here](#))
 - Eco Liberation Lens ([click here](#))