

Deeply Incarnational Theology

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Professor John Haught teaches in Georgetown's Department of Theology and was the chair of the department from 1990-1995. His courses include Religion and Ecology and Science and Religion, and his teaching and research interests focus especially on issues in science and religion, cosmology and theology, and religion and ecology. He is a Senior Fellow, Science and Religion at Woodstock Theological Center.



It was only after many semesters of teaching my “Science and Religion” course at Georgetown University that I finally came across the issue of *Cross Currents* devoted to Tom Berry’s writings. Prior to that I had not yet become acquainted with his thought, nor had I brought ecological concerns into my teaching. Needless to say, I was in for an exciting awakening. It was not too long after my first exposure to Tom’s thought that I added his *Dream of the Earth* to my list of required readings and then later developed a whole new course on “Religion and Ecology,” in great measure because of the inspiration I received from reading that single book. My course on religion and ecology, though interreligious in nature, relied heavily on the sacramental orientation and narrative cosmology that for me have always been the most important contributions in Tom’s innovative vision.

Having developed my first interest in issues in science and theology from reading Teilhard de Chardin when I was still a graduate student, it was a great pleasure to tap into Tom’s own unique adaptation of Teilhard to the ecological concerns of our age. Like Teilhard, Tom has made it possible for many people to love God without having to turn away from the world, and to love creation without having to fear that they are in any way forsaking the call to enter ever more deeply into the mystery of God. My hope is that Tom’s deeply incarnational theological resolution of what has for centuries been a major source of conflict for Christians and many others—those torn between a natural love of the earth and a religious longing for the infinite—will remain a vital part of his spiritual legacy for good.