

Listening to My Pottawatimie Roots

Virginia Pearl, C.S.J.

Thomas Berry inspired me over thirty years ago to “listen” to my Pottawatimie grandmother, my roots; to guide my future and the future of my students and families who participated in intergenerational faith programs.

Today I continue to grow by periodically sitting at Tom’s feet, absorbing his stories, his dreams, his love of Our Mother and all the two-legged, the four-legged and those who swim and fly. I am reminded with each beat of the drum of how in our ceremonies Tom would hold a newborn to the heavens to allow the child to absorb the Gift of Eternal Love. Tom continues to be a model for healing our precious Mother. Tom, my hat’s off to you. I am eternally grateful to you as mentor and friend.

My love, Tom,
Me gretch

Virginia Pearl, CSJ, is a Sister of St. Joseph in Concordia, Kansas. She is a Pottawatimie who authored *A Bunch of Daisies: Model for Intergenerational Programs*, (Sheed and Ward), a creative plan for families to grow toward the sustainability of faith and our sacred Earth. She lives in the ecumenical, intentional community at Heartland Farm at Pawnee Rock, Kansas.