

- (1) The success of something such as the Earth Charter would require world-wide cooperation. Taking recent U.S. history alone (i.e. pulling out of the Kyoto Protocol, going to war without consent of the U.N., etc), do you believe we are capable of such cooperation in our present time? –Missy
- (2) Berry says, on page 255, “The remedy would seem to emerge, as in denial situations generally, in a crash so severe that we are suddenly confronted with a choice between death and abandoning our addictive mode of functioning. In this case the impending crash is of immensely greater dimensions and more definitive consequences. The crash that faces us is not the crash simply of the human, it’s a crash of the bio-systems of the Earth, indeed it is in some manner the crash of the Earth itself.” In your opinion, how do you think this crash will most likely come about? And is there anyway it can be prevented? Or should we try to prevent it?– Rob
- (3) While Berry states that the way out of this environmental crisis is through the acceptance of the Ecozoic era, he doesn’t give us much direction on how to attain the Ecozoic – he tells us what we need to do, but doesn’t tell us how to do it. What do we do to bring about these changes? - Eric
- (4) In another class I am taking, we were discussing what changes society should make so we can survive. One woman stated that humans are natural, everything we do is natural, so why change what we are doing- whatever occurs would be a normal evolutionary process (even if it means leading to the destruction of life as we know it). How would you respond to this? Also, how does this make you feel considering that this is a well-educated person obviously sticking with this sort of opinion. Do you believe we could shift opinions such as these to a more ecozoic view, and if so, how? -Missy
- (5) Berry states on page 254 that western civilization is the main cause of the current crisis. “That our western civilization should be the principal cause of such extensive damage to the planet is so difficult a truth for us to absorb that our society in general is presently in a state of shock and denial, of disbelief that such can possibly be the real situation.” Do you agree with this statement, and if so, how do you think western civilization came to be so damaging to the earth.? - Rob
- (6) If there was one thing in our country’s education system you could change to bring about a more ecozoic view in our children, what would it be? –Missy
- (7) In the world we live in that is geared around growing our economy and not the natural world, ‘progress’ is actually leading to a decline in the natural world and its resources. Furthermore, in our society we are focused on growing our Gross Domestic Product while ignoring the declining ‘Gross Earth Product’. How are we to make the shift capitalism to the earth communion that Fr. Berry seeks? - Eric

- (8) The Earth Charter has as its basis four guiding principles: 1.) Respect and care for the community of life, 2.) Ecological integrity, 3.) Social and economic justice, 4.) Democracy, nonviolence, and peace. Is there a logical order about how to go about solving these issues, ie. - should we concentrate on one issue more than the others, or try to solve them all in one fell swoop? – Rob
- (9) What does Fr. Berry feel is “single greatest achievement of the entire scientific venture from Copernicus to the present” and what is the significance behind this achievement? –Eric