



## FOREWORD

by **Father Stephen Dunn**

**W**hat an outstanding resource book! A vade mecum for our progress in the journey advocated by Thomas Berry: celebrating the new cosmological story in ritual. The co-authors' blending of talents could not be more apt for undertaking this novel journey: wide ranging ritualist expertise (Carol Kilby) and scientific authority about the new cosmology (Stephan Martin). To undertake such a task is to hazard unfamiliar horizons of human potential in the Earth community of life, as well as spiritual discernment within the ever-generative Cosmos that "burst forth and express themselves in our individual and collective lives".

Seemingly simple ritual actions embodying our interconnected-ness with the Earth community can transform our everyday consciousness (and the book provides myriad examples). Thomas Berry's insistence that we require new language for religious experience within this new cosmological horizon leads the authors to challenge the limitations of the Christian mindset most familiar to their readers; what Thomas Berry calls being "between two stories".

With the co-authors, I too am of that "tribe", and agree that "The discovery of the common ground between the two (scientific and spiritual) is one of the most exciting dialogues taking place today." (Martin) Had this work been a dogmatic defence of all the spiritual meanings proposed, counterarguments to specific items would be appropriate. However, as the book's preface makes clear, the authors do not propose "a new belief system but an emerging and ongoing dance with possibility." They accomplish their goal with verve and competence, encouraging much-needed expansion of contemporary consciousness and action in the demanding context of the sixth extinction.

~ Father Stephen Dunn,

C.P. Father Dunn is a Passionist as was Thomas Berry.

He is Founding Director of the Elliott Allen Institute for Theology and Ecology, St. Michael's College, University of Toronto