The Wisdom of the Sacred Feminine contains research and current events that point to our civilization's spiritual bankruptcy. This book shares the wisdom of "The Litany of Mary of Nazareth" to guide a global shift in our collective paradigm to embrace the Sacred Feminine. An immediate conversion of shared values, perceptions, and beliefs will be the only solution to transform a troubled world into an inclusive, compassionate, and just civilization!

The Wisdom of the Sacred Feminine for a World in Transition

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This book is for people on the spiritual path of "Awakening as One" by shifting to a higher frequency of loving awareness in a world out of balance. Those who seek to bring balance into the world are developing resonance with the female Yin energy of receptivity, nurture, humility and surrender as a counter balance to the Yang energy of domination, aggression, and power. One is not better than the other...both are needed to sustain life.

The Middle way of the Buddhist Path is the Wisdom Path that describes the balance that ends all extremes and cause of suffering. The Mother Mary archetype as understood through the Litany of Mary of Nazareth embodies all the qualities that can create a sustainable future for Mother Earth. This book celebrates the lives of heroic priests and nuns who are examples of manifesting the Divine energy of Mother Mary here on earth. The end of the book is a series of meditations for the endangered soul. Namasté, I see the Divine in You and All Life!

Pauline Martinez-McBeth is a retired educator who has been on a spiritual quest all her life. It was not until her heart was broken open six years ago after the death of her thirty-two year old daughter (Lisa Christine McBeth) that she surrendered to the Sacred Feminine energy of Mother Mary. This book celebrates her daughter's life and photography while expressing appreciation for the lives of many Catholic nuns and priests who have honored the Sacred Feminine through their work.
Somos Books Unlimited was established in January 2010 by Pauline Martinez-McBeth, author/anthologist, with the following mission in mind:

Somos Books Unlimited is an opportunity for ordinary people:

- to document the legacy of their unique lives through the power of story and
- to preserve their personal experiences and wisdom for future generations.

*The Peacock Feather is a symbol of immortality in many cultures and the word “somos” in Spanish means “we are” therefore “we are immortal!”

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The Wisdom of the Sacred Feminine for a World in Transition (In the “Mary of Nazareth Litany”)

Table of Contents

Introduction .......................................................................................................... 1
Chapter 1: Opening Prayer ........................................................................... 17
Chapter 2: Transform Us to Empower Others .............................................. 36
Chapter 3: Mary, Wellspring of Peace ......................................................... 41
Chapter 4: Mary, Mother of the Liberator .................................................... 55
Chapter 5: Oppressed Woman ................................................................. 64
Chapter 6: Woman of Mercy ................................................................. 90
Chapter 7: The God Who Beckons! .......................................................... 99
Chapter 8: Conclusion ........................................................................... 105
Chapter 9: The Flowering of the Human Heart ....................................... 116
Recommended Reading & Web Sites ........................................................ 202
Ave Maria: A Twenty First Century Prayer ........................................... 204
INTRODUCTION:

Although many individuals are fearfully awaiting mankind’s demise through an Armageddon Bang, it is more likely that the end of the world as we know it will be ushered in without our notice! T.S. Eliot, one of the most famous American poets of the 20th century, described this anticipated event best in his poem, The Hollow Men: “This is the way the world ends, not with a bang but a whimper.”

Today some wisely observe that no more waiting is required because the end of our materialistic era is already here. The time for humanity’s ascension to another level of growth is now inevitable. Throughout civilization’s development there have been many evolutionary leaps and it appears that we have now entered one of those transitional stages of consciousness development.

This historical turning point is being hastened by current events that include environmental disasters brought on by our excess, greed, and reckless disregard for life. The recent British Petroleum oil spill may have repercussions for years to come on the wildlife surrounding the gulf coast area. Some individuals have even dared to predict future wars will be fought over water, not oil. The pollution of the gulf disaster and the latest sludge found in the Danube reveal that this possibility truly exists if our resource depletion grows unabated!
In more recent news (December 2010), the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) published a collection of papers on the future of water resources in the southwestern United States. The authors indicate that the Southwest is headed for a water crisis causing shortages and conflict for millions of humans living in the region as well as disaster for its other species. One indicator is the all-time low water storage of Lake Mead reservoir on the Nevada-Arizona border which is now less than forty percent full. 

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The daily events that keep us in a heightened state of anxiety are constant now. Therefore, our challenge now is to silence our fears by shifting to a higher state of unified “oneness” with the realization that we are all connected to discern our next course of action. The numerous unexpected upheavals within most of our major institutions, political systems, banks, schools, and churches, point to the glaring reality that these structures must now change or collapse.

Corrupt, oppressive, and antiquated organizations governing our economic, political, and spiritual realities no longer work for the majority of our population. The mass population is disadvantaged by a system that benefits only the elite few in a disproportionate way.

These signs all point to the fact that a forced shift into a new paradigm has arrived. No other choice remains. We have reached a saturation point in population growth and resource depletion of historical proportions on this planet! An ancient Cherokee Indian proverb reminds us, “don't let yesterday use up too much of today” so it is important to stop deluding ourselves by dwelling on useless nostalgia. The good old days of abundant resources and a thriving economy that created unfathomable wealth for a select few are gone.
Now is the time to move forward with wisdom and love towards the conscious co-creation of a brave new world that can and will survive. This decision has, in fact, been faced by many civilizations in the past. Chapters in Church History by Powel Mills Dawley (Colonial Press Inc., Clinton, Mass., June 1962) accurately describes these prior turning points as follows: “Here is the tragic situation that has been repeated again and again in the history of mankind: the civic life of a society receiving the idolatrous loyalty of its own citizenry. Here is man making an idol out of the works of his own hands, turning to worship the social and political order that he built. The fall of all great civilizations of the past five thousand years has been presaged by this idolatry.”

“The ancient world could no longer resist man’s idolatry of man. The empire in the end worshipped itself to death. Those who have seen this demonic principle again at work are increasingly aware that the last altars of ancient Rome speak with grim warning to the modern world.” (Quotations from pages 16 &17)

Perhaps it is time to write a new story, a “her-story,” with a promising and sustainable future! It is extremely important to know that we have a collective choice to make in this century. Gregg Braden describes this rare opportunity in his book, Fractal Time: the Secret of 2012 and a New World Age (Hay House, Inc., ©2009) this way: “Because of the scientific model and ancient prophecies, we now have the wisdom to see what’s before us and to recognize the possibilities. Today we recognize the need for vast and sweeping change in our relationship to the earth, one another, and ourselves. We recognize that everything from the way we live each day to how we use the resources that are disappearing before our eyes must change for us to survive.” (pg. 191)
At this point, I ask you to remember there must be a reason we call our planet, Mother Earth, and our relationship with her can only improve with a new found respect and love for the Sacred Feminine!

The Structure of Scientific Revolutions (1962), a book written by Thomas Khun, introduced the term, paradigm. His belief was that systems accepted or resisted change according to the mental models that organize our world. Paradigms are defined as maps that guide what we think, feel, and do. For example, an outdated paradigm that the world was flat eventually shifted when explorers discovered the ability to travel towards the end of the visible horizon without falling off the earth. This event changed general perceptions of our planet and maps of the time accordingly.

Khun claimed that many of the problems experienced in the world at any given time meant that our paradigm was defective. He advised that we must first look at the current paradigm to resolve any perceived dilemma. In many cases, this requires scrapping an old paradigm to invent an entirely new one to replace it. Of course, the arduous task of charting new territory then begins.

Our current social catastrophes were co-created by all of us without thought for the consequences of our actions. We had truly become gradually unconscious on a massive scale. Our collective consciousness will now undergo a radical shift to encompass a new paradigm. A new perception that will create a more loving and inclusive world view of all life forms that rely on global cooperation and interdependence for future survival.

Some believe that dramatic changes actually began in the 1960s with an era that has been called the end of innocence. This period
marked our civilization’s entry into adolescence. The social shift of the 1960s exhibited all the qualities of a rebellious teenager. It was then that a whole generation of individuals, the hippie generation, asserted their independence as a rite of passage from childhood’s end. Comparisons have sometimes been made between civilization’s evolutionary transitions to stages of human development. These comparisons appear to make some sense.

There are five stages to human life: infancy, childhood, adolescence, and adulthood ending in the fifth stage of elder-hood. Given the Western view of aging many see this last stage as obsolescence and no longer viable in society. Others prefer to call this fifth stage, wisdom-keeping or “sage-ing” (rather than aging). Life spans of civilizations and individuals are measured by entirely different increments so we arrived gradually at this turning point within our current predicament.

Suffice it to say that after millions of years, the world is now being forced into a next phase of development in the new millennium which is adulthood. Once that growth is achieved we can then move into the ultimate stage of wisdom transmission through elder-hood.

The greatest demand today is for our entire civilization to emerge from its adolescence into its adult stage. The struggle against this transition is pervasive and we are acting like recalcitrant teens who insist on holding on to our youthfulness, carefree spirit, and irresponsible behavior. We are refusing to readily surrender our indulgent appetites.

Others hope that they can delay the future by reverting to the past. Unfortunately, there is no turning back! We are a civilization hoping to avoid the growth required for facing reality as it is; accepting our vulnerability; and recognizing that it is time to grow up! By now, you
are probably wondering, what does any of this have to do with Mary of Nazareth? Be patient, dear ones, the answer will now become clear.

Our global reality is much like a child who has grown up without a mother. As we birth a new reality all the feminine aspects and values absent from our culture, the yin quality of receptivity, will become even more important. The Divine Feminine or Mother Archetype is the only path capable of bringing us back into full balance and spiritual health. We reached the peak of a patriarchal world view that resulted in severe consequences and we are now struggling to fill in the gaping hole of our collective psyche. The refrain for our social dilemma today is similar to that of an old spiritual song that laments: “Sometimes I feel like a motherless child, a long way from home.” We have indeed become spiritual orphans in a world out of balance.

The truth is that we are a motherless society separated from our spiritual home. We have lost our true selves. The self that is capable of weaving both the feminine and the masculine aspects of our collective identity into the fabric of our society and moving beyond duality towards Oneness. Our much needed acceptance of the complementary yin/yang principle of all life could, in fact, erase some of our troubling illusions of separation!

The Old World of yang/male dominated values expressed as aggression, competition, power, and dominance ensured our species survival. These qualities have finally become devastatingly destructive and it is now time for the pendulum to swing. We must consciously birth a counter balance, the feminine side of nature and spirituality. The complementary side of human nature defined by
surrender, compassion, love, peace, nurture, equity, humility, and cooperation will create the equilibrium needed in the world today.

Mother Mary is needed more than ever before to birth another Son, the True Cosmic Christ, who will bring about our salvation. The Cosmic Christ Consciousness that asks us to examine the intent of religious and spiritual parables and to follow their instructions: the one about the Christ who ministered to the poor, the hungry, the sinner, the humble, the weak, and the sick. The peace loving Christ whose intentions were a far cry from the religious wars we wage today; the Christ Archetype that embraces a life of simplicity and provides love for all humanity and God’s creation.

Matthew Fox, the former Catholic priest and well known author, describes original sin as “dualism.” He goes on to explain that “sin is anthropocentric—a human invention. God’s creation, on the other hand, has been an original blessing for nineteen billion years and continues to be so for those who have eyes to see and ears to hear the awesome cosmic story of our holy origins.” (Original Blessing by Matthew Fox, Bear & Co; 23rd printing edition (December 1983).

Today, we see a growing grassroots movement among ordinary people who are seeking the comfort of Mother Mary in all her manifestations. This is a visible expression of our collective yearning for her Divine Intercession in a confused world. Abundant proof exists that something compelling is stirring in the hearts and minds of many when Marian visions are projected everywhere.

People see Mother Mary on windows, tree trunks, MRI brain scans, tortillas, potato chips, rocks, and the list goes on. It has been said that everything we see in the world is merely a projection of what lies inside of us. Evidently, Mother Mary, the Sacred Feminine, the Divine
Feminine, the Goddess, Gaia, or any other name you choose to use is begging to manifest right here, right now, at this very point in time!

Our subconscious psyche is sending us a message! This is an opportune time to return to Mother Mary, a nurturing mythic symbol, who will guide us out of material density into a life of spirit while comforting us in our darkest hours. The Mother Mary archetype contains the love and wisdom that can enlighten our hearts and minds to create a brighter future.

The word philosophy literally means the “love of wisdom.” “Philo” is the Greek word for love and “sophy” stands for the Goddess Sophia, who is the Greek embodiment of wisdom. Sophia and the two Christian Goddesses, Mother Mary and Mary Magdalene, are often compared to each other by Mystery Schools. There are some who believe that the Mary(s), one or both of them, were incarnations of Sophia.

“In truth all feminine goddess archetypes are the same soul - just as the same masculine god archetypes - in all creational mythos - are the same soul. The patterns of who they are - and their duality in creating our reality - is self-evident as you study and compare each creational story. The return of Jesus Christ - or any other god/creational figure - is the return to higher frequency consciousness often called the Christ Grid.” (Information from Wikipedia.com) The Christ Grid, in my mind, is the same as the Cosmic Christ or Christ Consciousness being birthed into the world today.

Daniel Berrigan, the famous peace activist, is only one of many with the ability to see the wisdom of Mother Mary. He has written a

“The Spirit as Teacher”

Once more Jesus speaks:
When She comes,
the Spirit of truth,
She will guide you
in all truth.
She will not speak
on her own,
but will speak
only what She hears.
She will announce to you
the things to come”

(John 6:13)

It is interesting to note that the gender designation for truth in this quotation is “She.” He then makes the following observation: “Right thought, right action in the world! How precious that title: ‘spirit of truth.’ And alas, as we bitterly acknowledge and even more bitterly experience, in us the Spirit of Truth must wrestle nightlong with the spirit of untruth! And which is to prevail? We ruefully confess: we can hardly announce with confidence beforehand.”
It was amusing when a reporter, Annie Sweeney, “asked whether he (Daniel Berrigan) should be described as priest, writer or activist, the Rev. Daniel Berrigan tipped back in his chair and slowly worked a toothpick around his mouth. Then he responded with a smile: "Just hyphenate it." Priest-Writer-Activist, what a perfect description for a wise and heroic spiritual warrior! This verbal exchange was published in the November 25, 1999, issue of the Chicago Sun-Times in an article: “Daniel Berrigan's sojourn 'Peace work' still is priest's calling.” Recently Fr. Daniel Berrigan was arrested at the U.S. Intrepid War Museum. He went to court on May 9, 2010, on his 89th birthday. This courageous man truly never gives up!

Ultimately, the book you hold in your hands is neither a scholarly work nor a historical study of the Virgin Mary, it is about what she represents; it is not about a feminist perspective, it is about a unified perspective; it is not about theology, it is about spirituality; it is not about the past, it is about the future; and it is not about condemnation, it is about a celebration of the Marian work that is being done and remains to be done in the world today. It is an effort to “connect the dots” for the transition we face in the New World of the twenty-first century.

May you also connect the dots and draw your own personal conclusions after reading this book. Please pay particular attention to all the wisdom quotes in the “perforated” text boxes which are meant to help you, the reader, connect your own dots.

The various Mother Mary archetypes or Universal spiritual symbols within this book are observations of her emerging presence and messages. The world as it is needs her guidance, love, and active
presence as never before. It is also my hope that by inviting the return of the Sacred Feminine we will usher in a new set of values that will end the reign of male dominated political, religious, and financial institutions. These values have kept the masses divided, oppressed and impoverished.

The danger of material greed was certainly the prophetic message given to us when Jesus threw the moneychangers out of the temple. He reprimanded them by saying this, “It is written, my house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.” (Matthew 21:12-13)

On another occasion, Jesus warns his disciples against the excesses of capitalism in the following parable: When a rich young man asked Jesus what he needed to do in order to inherit eternal life, Jesus answered that he should keep the Commandments. The man stated he had done that and Jesus replied "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

The young man became sad and was not eager to do this. Jesus then spoke and left his disciples astonished: “I tell you the truth; it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” (Matthew 19:23-24).

Is it time rid ourselves of all unnecessary worldly possessions and turn to a life of simplicity to survive the new century? Many books have already been written about this phenomenon called voluntary simplicity and they warrant closer examination.
At this juncture, it is important to distinguish between democracy which is built on the principle of human rights and the principle of capitalism which is an economic design that focuses on consumerism.

It is the Western version of capitalism not democracy that is failing us at this stage in history! Creators of a site called the Paradigm Web have stated it well: “We’re not experiencing paradigm-norms as healthy, either personally or globally. The blueprint for our families, schools, businesses, and governments isn’t working. It’s causing our shared social systems to function abusively and to make us sick as a result. Healthy systems don’t turn addictive, life-destroying substances into the biggest growth industry on the planet.” ©The Paradigm Web/Denise Breton and Christopher Largent.

This warning alerts today’s clergy of the people’s need for hopeful messages that will end the great divide between acceptable male and female values as well as other dualistic thoughts that create “the other.” There is evidence from recent research that people are purposely avoiding church. Even when they do attend religious services they tune out the sermons from the pulpit because they have become politicized. Today’s youth are exceedingly savvy with the abundance of information available on the internet and most intelligent people of faith recognize when canned speeches are laced with propaganda.

A recent poll released in February of 2010 by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press contains a report titled "Religion among the Millennials." This report is a comprehensive analysis of a variety of recent annual surveys. The research has been conducted by Pew and other sources with the following conclusions:
"Fewer young adults belong to any particular faith than older people do today…Fully one-in-four members of the Millennial generation (born after 1980 and who became of age around the year 2000) are unaffiliated with any particular faith…Young Americans are dropping out of religion at an alarming rate of 5-6 times the historic rate (30-40 percent have no religion today versus 5-10 percent a generation ago)…The report goes on to elaborate that the “youth's religious disaffection is largely due to discomfort with religiosity having been tied to conservative politics."

By excluding the Sacred Feminine, the lost parts of our selves have been relegated to a secondary status. It has produced fragmented souls limping through life with no way of healing and recovering the authentic self which is ultimately the spiritual center of our souls.

The stories and examples of heroic nuns and rebellious rogue priests illustrated by the Marian photographs in this book are reminders of our desire to embrace the Mother Mary archetype whose example guides us through difficult times. Surely, she is capable of leading us to the Cosmic Christ which is the path to our higher consciousness.

The “Litany of Mary of Nazareth” is the thread that ties all of Mother Mary’s manifestations and her mission in the world today. That prayer is printed in its entirety on the pages after this section.

The stories and examples of courage and truth of so many brave souls shared in this book reaffirm the fact that Our Lady is still among us. My wish is that these stories will:

- inspire those who are bewildered by the current events of a rapidly changing world;
• give hope to the hopeless (particularly the younger generation);
• and convince everyone that we can each make a difference with our God- given unique gifts.

It takes only one drop in the pond to create what is known as the Ripple Effect. This concept describes the impact of one drop of water on a pond that can send expanding ripples outwards followed by other ripples. The end result is more powerful than any one person can ever imagine. May we all believe in the power to affect the people around us. It takes only one drop to affect a small pond and undoubtedly it is possible for one person to affect the Almighty Ocean itself!

Pauline Martinez-McBeth

14
The Wisdom of the Sacred Feminine

LITANY OF MARY OF NAZARETH

Glory to you, God our Creator
... Breathe into us new life, new meaning.
Glory to you, God our Savior ...
Lead us in the way of peace and justice.
Glory to you, healing Spirit
... Transform us to empower others.

Mary, wellspring of peace...
Be our guide.
Model of strength
Model of gentleness
Model of trust
Model of courage
Model of patience
Model of risk
Model of openness
Model of perseverance

Mother of the liberator...
Pray for us.
Mother of the homeless
Mother of the dying
Mother of the nonviolent

Mother of widowed mothers
Mother of unwed mothers
Mother of a political prisoner
Mother of the condemned
Mother of the executed criminal
Oppressed woman... Lead us to life.
Liberator of the oppressed
Marginalized woman
Comforter of the afflicted
Cause of our joy
Sign of contradiction
Breaker of bondage
Political refugee
Seeker of sanctuary
First disciple
Sharer in Christ's passion
Seeker of God's will
Witness to Christ's resurrection
Woman of mercy... Empower us.
Woman of faith
Woman of contemplation
Woman of vision
Woman of wisdom and understanding
Woman of grace and truth
Woman, pregnant with hope
Woman, centered in God
Closing prayer of the Litany of Mary of Nazareth:

Mary, Queen of Peace, we entrust our lives to you. Shelter us from war, hatred and oppression. Teach us to live in peace, to educate ourselves for peace. Inspire us to act justly, to revere all God has made. Root peace firmly in our hearts and in our world. Amen.

Michelangelo’s Pieta in St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City
Chapter 2: Goddess of the Americas, Transform Us to Empower Others

Our Lady of Guadalupe

God of power and mercy, you blessed the Americas at Tepeyac with the presence of the Virgin Mary of Guadalupe. May her prayers help all men and women to accept each other as brothers and sisters.

Through your justice present in our hearts may your peace reign in the world. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

*(In the United States, Our Lady of Guadalupe is celebrated on December 12th. This is the opening prayer of her Celebration.)

A 12 foot statue honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patron Saint of the Americas, sits in front of the Santuario de Guadalupe (Santa Fe, N.M.) the oldest church in the U.S.

The prayer shown in the left caption box is recited on December 12th to Our Lady of Guadalupe. It expresses a vision of our indigenous Mother Mary as a symbol encouraging all men and women to unite as brothers and sisters. There is no distinction here about the superiority of either gender. The prayer reveals that
justice when present in our hearts allows for peace to reign in the world. How can we recite this prayer without putting these words into action?

First, let us examine four areas: the historical background of Our Lady of Guadalupe; her origins; the intent behind this icon; and the guidance she can provide for the future. La Virgen de Guadalupe’s history is taken from a lovely book entitled, Goddess of the Americas: Writings on the Virgin of Guadalupe, edited by the renowned author, Sandra Cisneros. Her book is a comprehensive anthology by thirty writers and poets who contributed poetry, stories and personal perceptions and knowledge related to everything “Guadalupana.”

The first “cuento” (story) in the book is by F. Gonzalez-Crussi which I will paraphrase. The author recounts the first arrival of Spaniards who encountered a sacred hill of Tepeyacac (now known as Tepeyac). At the top of the hill there was a temple to the goddess Tonantzin, which translated means “Our Mother.” During this period of time the temple and the goddess were reduced to a heap of dust and replaced by a cross.

To appease the conquered people the Spaniards installed their own version of the Virgin, the “morenita” or little brunette of Villuercas, from the district of Guadalupe (Extremadura, Spain). Today, the Mexicans also call her La Virgen, La Morenita, or Little Dark One. Her physical transformation from an Iberian identity to a Native Virgin was initiated by the colonist’s greed for treasures of the New World. This reveals the church’s historical manipulation of iconic figures for the purpose of controlling the indigenous people and acquiring a fortune. Unfortunately, the church has a sad history of misguided practices beginning with the conversion of a conquered people for the gathering
of wealth and followed by the inquisitions forcing people into compliance. One is left to wonder if anything has changed.

Vatican opulence continues even today in sharp contrast to the starvation and suffering in many third world countries. An alarming news article written by Victor Simpson of the Associated Press in Vatican City in The Independent at their web site: http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/vatican-bank-allowed-clergy-to-act-as-front-for-mafia-2158692.html. (December 13, 2010) reports this: “The Vatican Bank is under new scrutiny in a case involving money-laundering allegations that led police to seize €23m (£19.25m) in September… fresh court documents show that prosecutors say the Vatican Bank deliberately flouted anti-laundering laws with the aim of hiding the ownership, destination and origin of the capital. The documents also reveal investigators' suspicions that clergy may have acted as fronts for corrupt businessmen and Mafia.”

“The corruption probe has given new hope to Holocaust survivors who tried unsuccessfully to sue in the United States, alleging that Nazi loot was stored in the Vatican Bank…Yet the scandal is hardly the first for the bank, already distinguished from other banks by the fact that its cash machines are in Latin and priests use a private entrance.”

It remains to be seen if these allegations are true which would sadly do great damage to the Vatican’s spiritual authority. This would put the Church leadership in the same unscrupulous league as Wall Street Bankers who often use unscrupulous methods for making a profit at any cost! The continued exclusion of those not deemed acceptable to the church is therefore disturbing. The Vatican has the
spiritual authority to lead us towards a kinder, more loving perspective that is less judgmental and more inclusive.

The Vatican also has the discretion to make changes related to the acceptance of married priests and female clergy. This is not a matter of scripture but of the Vatican’s ultimate decision making authority. How easy it would be for the church to embrace all of humanity in a spiritual sense and move beyond worldly things!

Theology at its worst is a way of controlling people and brainwashing the masses so that the ruling class in politics, religion and society can hold a “power over” paradigm. The major threat to their continued dominance is the internet and the speed at which information is shared. This has become a vehicle to share new ideas and to reveal the fallacy of old ones. Information is escalating at an unbelievable speed and we are left to adjust to a rapidly changing world on a daily basis.

A group called Catholics United (www.catholics-united.org) recently released the following statement on December 18, 2010, indicating that a culture war in our society is indeed being waged by conservative Catholics. I imagine their recent actions are an effort to swing public perception in preparation for the 2012 Presidential election:

“When the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops rejected a moderate and elected conservative New York archbishop Timothy Dolan as its new leader, we hoped it didn't signal the church's further turn to the right. It looks like we might have been wrong.”

“Yesterday, Archbishop Dolan authored a startling blog post on the Archdiocese of New York's official Web site entitled “Why we need
Pauline Martinez-McBeth, M.Ed.

the Catholic League.” For those who don't know, the Catholic League is a conservative organization run by Bill Donohue, arguably the most divisive figure in the U.S. Catholic community. Under Donohue's leadership, the group has spent its time waging war against progressive values, and attacking elected officials and candidates who support social justice. Bill Donohue is a good friend of Glenn Beck. In fact, when Beck insulted Catholic teaching by advising his viewers to stop going to churches that talk about social justice, Donohue actually defended him.”

The question now is this: Can institutions anticipate the necessary changes for a new reality or must they collapse before they come to terms with the need to adapt? Survival of the fittest is an evolutionary process that is operational at every level. When this is translated into practice it means that only adaptability to increasing changes of the 21st century will ensure survival. Civilization and humanity are always in the process of becoming; there is no destination point, only the journey! We can choose evolution or revolution or finally perish.

La Virgen de Guadalupe Fortunately continues to attract the affections of a devoted Latino community. She is approachable and merciful to saints and sinners alike. The humble and most scarred by life can appeal to her for help. Many times you will see rough and tough gang members and those who have done prison time with tattoos of La Morenita, a symbol of hope and safety from the mean streets they know so well. The arm tattoo above was posted by Girl Roni on Tattoos Gallery.net.
The Wisdom of the Sacred Feminine contains research and current events that point to our civilization's spiritual bankruptcy. This book shares the wisdom of "The Litany of Mary of Nazareth" to guide a global shift in our collective paradigm to embrace the Sacred Feminine. An immediate conversion of shared values, perceptions, and beliefs will be the only solution to transform a troubled world into an inclusive, compassionate, and just civilization!

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