

SIENA COLLEGE

welcomes

Elizabeth A. Johnson, C.S.J.

Distinguished Professor of Theology
Fordham University

“Is God’s Charity Broad Enough for Bears?”



Thursday, April 23, 2015

7:00PM

Sarazen Student Union 241-243

For millennia plant and animal species have received little sustained attention as subjects of Christian theology and ethics in their own right. Focused on the human dilemma of sin and redemptive grace, theology has considered the doctrine of creation to be mainly an overture to the main drama of human being’s relationship to God. What value does the natural world have within the framework of religious belief? The crisis of biodiversity in our day, when species are going extinct at more than 1,000 times the natural rate, renders this question acutely important.

Professor Johnson is currently Distinguished Professor of Theology at Fordham University. She grew up in Brooklyn, New York, the oldest of seven children in a sprawling Catholic family that included beloved cats and dogs. As a young adult she joined the religious order of the Sisters of Saint Joseph. One of the premier Catholic theologians of our day, she has received fourteen honorary degrees, including one from Siena College, and the John Courtney Murray Award for distinguished achievement in theology. She is a former president of the Catholic Theological Society of America, the oldest and largest society of theologians in the world, and a former president of the American Theological Society, an ecumenical association. She has served as a consultant to the US Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Women in Church and Society; a theologian on the Vatican-sponsored dialogue between science and religion; and on the Vatican-sponsored ecumenical conference on Christ and world religions.

The talk is co-sponsored by:

The Franciscan Center for Catholic Studies, the Reinhold Niebuhr Institute for Religion and Culture,
and the Ours To Do Lecture Series.
