

WHY YOUR DEACON LOVES MATTHEW FOX & WHY YOU MIGHT TOO.

-OR-

WHY YOU SHOULD COME TO HEAR MATTHEW FOX SPEAK AT TRINITY CATHEDRAL ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH.

As you probably know by now, Matthew Fox will be here at the cathedral this month. What you may *not* know is just who he is and why the Rev. Pamela Anderson arranged for him to come and speak. Well, I'm going to tell you why, and as a bonus I'll tell you why I can hardly wait.

Who He Is

Matthew Fox was a Benedictine priest who in 1983 wrote a book called *Original Blessing*. In it, he took on the issue of 'Original Sin' and showed that what Scripture really talked about most was not sin, but blessing. One result of the book was that he was silenced by the Vatican in 1989, which led to his dismissal by the Dominican order in 1993. The other result was that he became an Episcopal priest.

Rather than tell you about this ground-breaking book, I'll just give you a few quotes.

What He Wrote

Speaking of Original Sin, he wrote: *It was...St. Augustine who first used the term in the fourth century A.D. Jesus himself, being a Jew, never heard of the concept. How strange that a religion would sustain itself on a theory that its 'founder' never even heard of....The church inherited the Roman empire in the fourth century, and to run an empire efficiently one needs theories like original sin to keep the citizens and soldiery in line.*

Speaking on the old 'divide' between religion and science, he wrote: *Clearly there has been enough sin on both the religious and the scientific fronts in Western Cultural History.*

Speaking of the 'fall/redeption' model of spirituality ('Original Sin'), he wrote: *Fall/redemption spirituality does not teach believers about the New Creation or creativity, about justice-making and social transformation, or about Eros, play, pleasure, and the God of delight. It fails to teach love of the earth or care for the cosmos, and it is so frightened of passion that it fails to listen to the impassioned pleas of the anawim, the little ones, of human history.*

On our commonality with all peoples, he wrote: *All persons and all religions share creation in common. A global awakening can only happen from a spiritual awakening that is of global consciousness, this basic understanding of our true interdependence will overcome our tendencies to make battle with each other.*

...and all of this was from just the introduction of the book! I myself am now only half-way through chapter one, but I can tell you that if you ever wanted to have a love-filled, theologically sound, and clear answer to the hell-fire-and-brimstone line of some churches, Matthew is your guy. He brings you even closer to the Jesus your heart always knew.

As a bonus, we are forming small groups to discuss some major themes of Matthew's work. There is a group available each day of the week, so you can be sure to find one to fit your schedule. Sign-up sheets are in the Great Hall.

So, buy your ticket and I'll see you in the pews.

Deacon Steve

P.S.

Tickets are \$12. If you would like to come but need help, please contact me. I know a lot of folks who would be happy to get you a ticket.