Solar house tour to middle school students from St Clare’s Middle School:

The Stories of SCU’s solar houses

The goal, like other outreach activities in Spirituality & Sustainability, is to design an event, lead and event, and write up a description and evaluation of the event; all these should be done in light of what we have read and discussed in class. You must work with a partner to plan the presentation, develop the presentation outline, and conduct the presentation. Each of you will write up your own description of the event, and your own evaluation of how effective it was.

The presentation you organize, deliver, and evaluate should be 50% science & technology of the solar decathlon houses (the “what” and the “how”), and 50% ethics & spirituality at a Jesuit Catholic university (the “why” and the “who”). If you do an excellent job with the event, but don’t reference the ethics & spirituality dimensions we have discussed in class, that will not translate to an excellent grade.

There are three phases:
1. The preparations
2. The actual presentation to the students on the 5th of March (turn in the prepared outline after you have used it to guide your presentation on that day)
3. Write up a description of what happened, what worked well and what could be improved. This is due by email Thursday March 8.

One. The preparations.

a. You will need to do your preparation with your partner, and give the presentation with your partner on 5 March.
b. Tours will be given of the solar decathlon houses on the following dates and times: Tues 2/28 @ 12:30 pm --Wed 2/29 @ 1:30 pm --Fri 3/2 @ 11:00 am
c. The “preparatory information” on the Angel website are most useful for the specifics of the science & technology, along with the videos and slide show linked.
d. You will need to study the materials in this folder plus that of Eaarth by McKibben and
e. prior to creating the presentation outline.
f. On Wednesday 29 February, the date of the midterm, in class, you will sign up with your partner. Before the event on the 5th, you will come up with a detailed outline of how you are going to explain the what and the why of the solar decathlon, 50/50. The outline need not be rigid, but it should have all your ideas at your fingertips.
g. The presentation should aim to last 45-50 minutes.
h. Don’t let it be dreary or depressing.
i. Make it interactive, so that you are actively engaging the curiosity, imagination, and conscience of the 7th graders.

j. We need to plan carefully so that we don’t have a traffic jam with 70 people trying to go into the same place in the 2009 house at the same time. When you sign up as a pair, you should note where your first “station” will be. Your second station will be the location immediately below that. Starting with your third station, you can go where you wish. Note that six of the teams will not start inside the house, but rather outside the house telling background stories. Keith will provide more details about this as we get closer.

k. The presentation you organize, deliver, and evaluate should be 50% science & technology of the solar decathlon houses (the “what”), and 50% ethics & spirituality at a Jesuit Catholic university (the “why”).

Two. The presentation and outline

a. We will meet the 7th graders at the Benson fountain. They will have the name of your team, and your first names. They will come to find you at the fountain.

b. Introduce yourself as human beings. Ask them their names and interests.

   Consider a very brief icebreaker. Walk over to your first station, and begin the tour.

c. As the tour is ending, ask the 7th graders what they learned.

d. At the end of the tour, we will determine how to gather together the 7th graders and get them safely back across Lafayette. Do not send them across Lafayette without adults!

e. I will take attendance by gathering from you on this day by collecting the outline of your presentation on that day. Bring it in hard copy, with both your names on it. One outline per team will suffice.

Three. The write up

a. Describe your preparations. Which team member did what? How did you decide what information to include? How did you plan to fulfill the 50% S&T and 50% ethics & spirituality?

b. Describe the flow of your presentation. What happened that was unexpected—and problematic? And helpful?

c. What do you think the 7th graders learned?

d. How did you actually achieve the 50% S&T and 50% ethics & spirituality?

e. What did you learn about communicating sustainability and spirituality?

f. What would you do differently in the future to improve?