

ECOLOGICAL CONVERSION



“The ecological conversion needed to bring about lasting change is also a community conversion.”

Laudato Si', [219]

The rich heritage of Christian spirituality, the fruit of twenty centuries of personal and communal experience, has a precious contribution to make to the renewal of humanity. Here, I would like to offer Christians a few suggestions for an ecological spirituality grounded in the convictions of our faith, since the teachings of the Gospel have direct consequences for our way of thinking, feeling and living.

Laudato Si' [216]

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis calls us to undergo an ecological conversion. But what is an ecological conversion? Global Catholic Climate Movement defines ecological conversion as the “transformation of hearts and minds toward greater love of God, each other, and creation. It is a process of acknowledging our contribution to the social and ecological crisis and acting in ways that nurture communion: healing and renewing our common home.”

The rich heritage of Christian spirituality, the fruit of twenty centuries of personal and communal experience, has a precious contribution to make to the renewal of humanity. Here, I would like to offer Christians a few suggestions for an ecological spirituality grounded in the convictions of our faith, since the teachings of the Gospel have direct consequences for our way of thinking, feeling and living. [216]

More than in ideas or concepts as such, I am interested in how such a spirituality can motivate us to a more passionate concern for the protection of our world. A commitment this lofty cannot be sustained by doctrine alone, without a spirituality capable of inspiring us, without an “interior impulse which encourages, motivates, nourishes and gives meaning to our individual and communal activity”. [151]

Admittedly, Christians have not always appropriated and developed the spiritual treasures bestowed by God upon the Church, where the life of the spirit is not dissociated from the body or from nature or from worldly realities, but lived in and with them, in communion with all that surrounds us. [216]

“The external deserts in the world are growing, because the internal deserts have become so vast”. [152] For this reason, the ecological crisis is also a summons to profound interior conversion. It must be said that some committed and prayerful Christians, with the excuse of realism and pragmatism, tend to ridicule expressions of concern for the environment.

Others are passive; they choose not to change their habits and thus become inconsistent. So what they all need is an “ecological conversion”, whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them. Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience. [217]



Find out more about Tau Center at www.taucenter.org

LAUDATO SI'

The seven goals, grounded in the Laudato Si's concept of integral ecology, include: response to the cry of the Earth; response to the cry of the poor; ecological economics; adoption of simple lifestyles; ecological education; ecological spirituality; and emphasis on community involvement and participatory action.

“LAUDATO SI', mi' Signore” – “Praise be to you, my Lord”. In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. “Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs”. [1]

“I BELIEVE THAT

Saint Francis is the example
par excellence of care for the vulnerable
and of an integral ecology
lived out joyfully and authentically.”

— *Laudato Si'* [10]

“INNER PEACE IS CLOSELY

related to care for ecology and for the common good
because, lived out authentically, it is reflected
in a balanced lifestyle together with a
capacity for wonder which takes us to a
deeper understanding of life.”

— *Laudato Si'* [225]



a spirituality ministry of the Wheaton Franciscans



“Teach us to
discover the worth
of each thing, to be
filled with awe and
contemplation,
to recognize that
we are profoundly
united with every
creature as we
journey towards
your infinite light.”

Laudato Si' [246]

“A fragile world,
entrusted by God to
human care,
challenges us to
devise intelligent
ways of directing,
developing and
limiting our power.”

Laudato Si' [78]

There is a nobility
in the duty to care
for creation
through little daily
actions.”

Laudato Si', [211]