

Laudato Si'

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Earth and Environment Commission Newsletter US Region



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CHAPTER FIVE: LINES OF APPROACH AND ACTION Earth Is Our Home ... We are all *one*:

In Chapter Five, Pope Francis calls us to **ACTION!** He calls for dialogue on environmental policy in the international, national and local communities. He states that this dialogue must include transparent decision-making so that politics serve human fulfillment and not just economic interests. It is important that science and religions work together for the common good.



Interdependence obliges us to think of one world with a common plan. A global consensus is essential for confronting the deeper problems, which cannot be resolved by unilateral actions on the part of individual countries. Such a consensus could lead, for example, to planning a sustainable and diversified agriculture, developing renewable and less polluting forms of energy, encouraging a more efficient use of energy, promoting a better management of marine and forest resources, and ensuring universal access to drinking water. (164)

The same mindset which stands in the way of making radical decisions to reverse the trend of global warming also stands in the way of achieving the goal of eliminating poverty. (175)

How does this information in the encyclical resonate in you?

In any discussion about a proposed venture, a number of questions need to be asked in order to discern whether or not it will contribute to genuine integral development. What will it accomplish? ... Who will pay those costs and how? Some questions must have higher priority. For example, we know that water is a scarce and indispensable resource and a fundamental right which conditions the exercise of other human rights. (185)



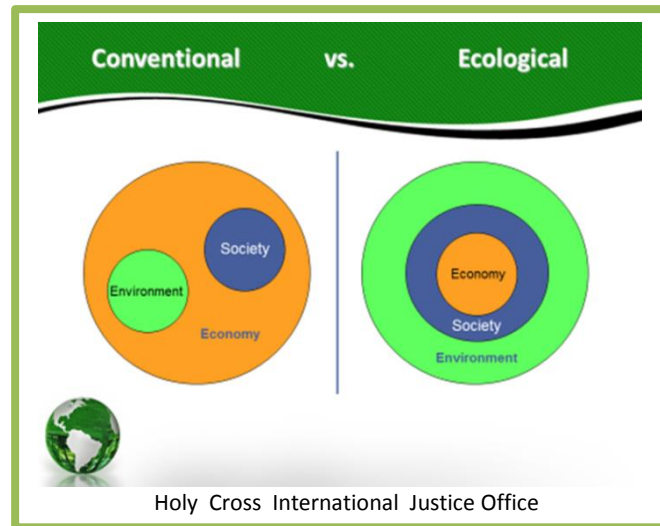
Politics must not be subject to the economy, nor should the economy be subject to the dictates of an efficiency-driven paradigm of technocracy. Today, in view of the common good, there is urgent need for politics and economics to enter into a frank dialogue in the service of life, especially human life. Saving banks at any cost, making the public pay the price, foregoing a firm commitment to reviewing and reforming the entire system, only reaffirms the absolute power of a financial system. (189.)

Which of the following worldviews is consistent with Catholic Social Teaching?

The environment and society serve the economy.

OR

The economy serves society and the environment.



The majority of people living on our planet profess to be believers. This should spur religions to dialogue among themselves for the sake of protecting nature, defending the poor and building networks of respect and fraternity. Dialogue among the various sciences is likewise needed. An open and respectful dialogue is also needed between the various ecological movements. The gravity of the ecological crisis demands that we all look to the common good, embarking on a path of dialogue which requires patience, self-discipline and generosity, always keeping in mind that “realities are greater than ideas.” (201)

**How can science and religion best collaborate?
What contribution can each one bring to assure greater care for Earth?**



Let us pray:

***Love within and around us,
guide us to contemplate the beauty of Earth.
Grant us the courage to take the actions we can to live responsibly
for the good of all beings.
Grant us the wisdom to be Your Voice in these challenging times. Amen.***

