

Laudato Si': From Vision to Practice

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St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception
April 24, 2023

From the Ignatian Tradition: Composition of Place



From the Ignatian Tradition: Composition of Place



John 10:10 and the Abundance of Life



**“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.
I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”**

Part 1: The Problem

“Laudato si’, mi Signore!” / “Praise be to you, my Lord!”

Praised be you, my Lord, with all your creatures, especially Sir Brother Sun who is the day and through whom you give us light. And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour; and bears a likeness of you, Most High.

Praised be you, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars, in heaven you formed them clear and precious and beautiful.

Praised be you, my Lord, through Brother Wind, and through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind of weather through whom you give sustenance to your creatures.

Praised be you, my Lord, through Sister Water, who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.

Praised be you, my Lord, through Brother Fire, through whom you light the night, and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.” —St. Francis of Assisi



Biodiversity Loss: Praise that will “never again” be given to God

“Each year sees the disappearance of thousands of plant and animal species which we will never know, which our children will never see, because they have been lost for ever. The great majority become extinct for reasons related to human activity. Because of us, thousands of species will no longer give glory to God by their very existence, nor convey their message to us. We have no such right.” (33)





Root Cause: A loss of the human vocation



A multifaceted crisis

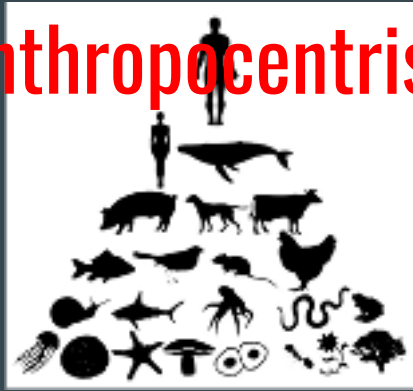


“We have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.” (49)



Rapidification

Anthropocentrism



*Technocratic
Paradigm*

Root Cause: Five Dimensions of the Problem

*The Progress
Myth*

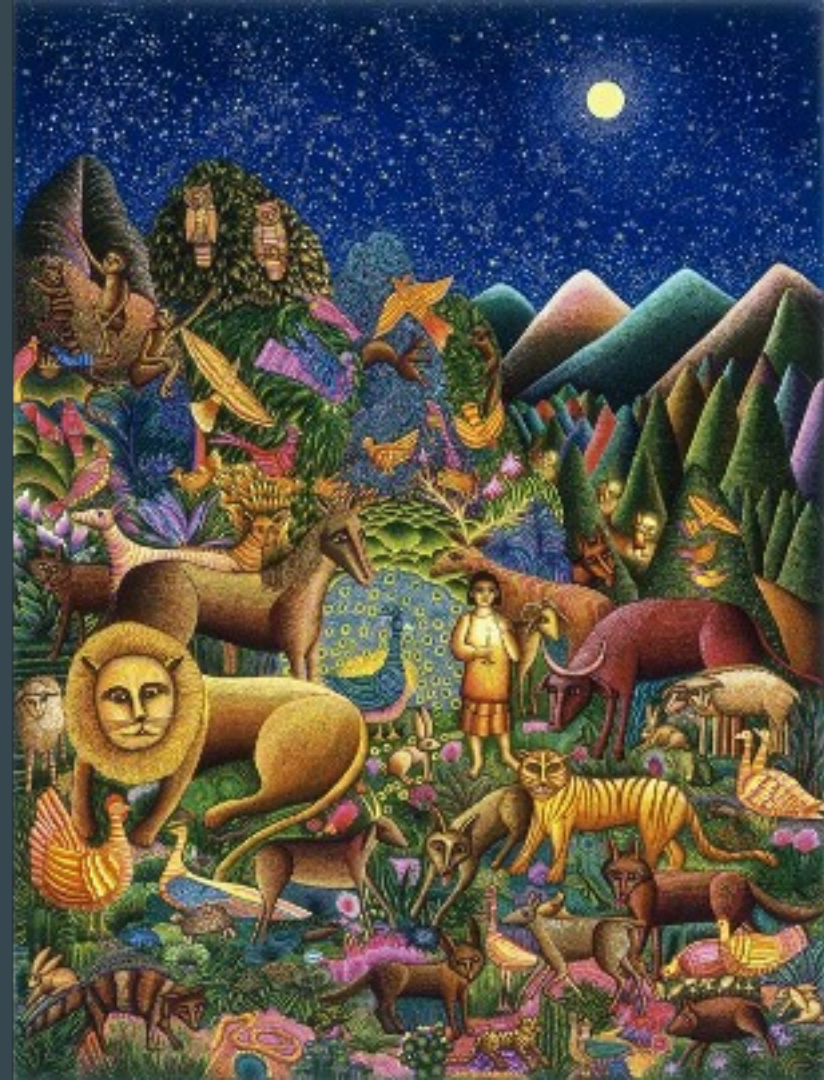


*Throwaway
Culture*

Part 2: The Response



Called to be a
“Community of Creation”



Genesis 1 & 3: From Goodness to Brokenness

Genesis 1:14-18 (excerpt)

14 And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night;' ... God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

Genesis 1:31

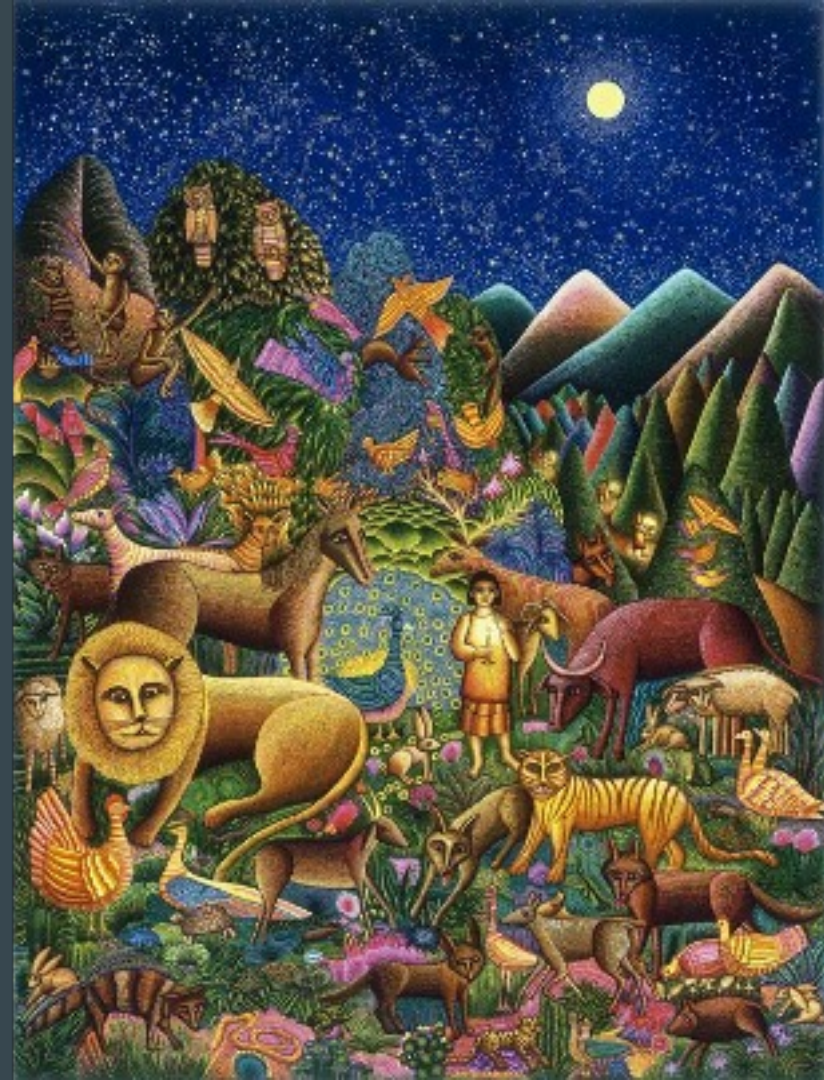
³¹God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was **very good**.

Genesis 3: A Threefold Break

- Humans & animals
- Men & women
- Humans & the Earth



Called to be a
“Community of Creation”

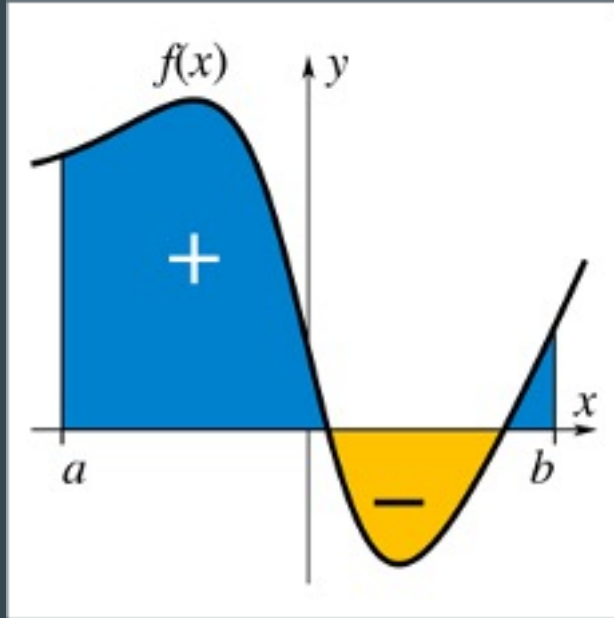


Integral Ecology: The Framework for a Solution

Environmental, economic, and
social ecology

Cultural ecology

Ecology of daily life



The principle of the
“common good”

Part 3: What can we do?

“Truly, much can be done!” (180)

Principles for Common Action that serves the Common Good

- Localization—building and maximizing small communities!
 - *Sharing* food, resources, money, energy, waste: everything (you can't take it with you!)
- Full impact analysis: does this decision hear the cry of the earth & the poor?
- Education & formation: being informed & being formed
 - Changing our stories
 - Individualism
 - Unlimited progress
 - Competition
 - Consumerism
 - Unregulated market
- Starting at home: the family ecosystem, the family garden
- Community gardens in parishes & schools: feeding souls & the hungry!
- Joining the [Laudato Si' Action Platform](#)



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