

PROCLIAM GOSPEL JOY

The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart Ps 18

READ THE LECTIONARY ECOLOGICALLY

[Nm 11; Ps 18; Jm 5; Mk 9]

*You have revealed the beauty in your power
The spirit ... on the seventy elders
If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets
The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart
The Law ... gives wisdom to the simple
From presumption restrain you servant
Your wealth is all rotting
Listen to the wages you kept back
Your word Lord is truth ... make holy in truth
If your eye should cause you to sin, pluck it out.*

GREETING

Today's Readings remind us that we are graced to live honestly. Sadly, our comfortable lifestyle often rests on the back of slave-like wages in countries removed from our sight and the ecological ruin of their land. Let us confess our complicity.

Greater investment needs to be made in research aimed at understanding more fully the functioning of ecosystems and adequately analyzing the different variables associated with any significant modification of the environment.

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #42

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

1. Rejoice – God wills that we soar on eagle's wings. That our Church never stop proclaiming a prophetic wisdom that rejoices in the goodness of every being on Earth as kin ... we pray
2. Consumerism – God has led people in every age to avoid the distractions of wealth. That our nation reject the allure of corroding consumerism and model a new life of simple dignity ... we pray
3. Mission – Jesus came on a mission to bring life to the full. That parishioners live out their baptism as missionaries of hope attuned to our time of ecological crisis ... we pray
4. Prophets – God's prophets challenged Israel. That we listen to ecological scientists and social workers, naming them as prophets of truth in our times ... we pray
5. Witness - God rises up saints in every age, humble and dedicated. That we join in the eco-justice witness given by Church saints and secular heroes in our day ... we pray
6. Birds and Animals – God created all that lives in Earth. That we be happy with the scientists who dedicate themselves to caring for birds and animals ... we pray

DISMISSAL

Empowered by the truth preached by Jesus we can go out to evangelise, confident in a Gospel that is good for ourselves, the planet and future generations.

SEASON OF CREATION

Pope Francis introduces a new phrase in to Church teaching, integral ecology, and connects ecological insights with the radical way of life of St Francis in his environmental encyclical Laudato Si' (#10-11). The newness of the vision the Pope names as integral ecology and the way it stretches the moral imaginations is revolutionary. He devotes the whole of Chapter Four in his encyclical to explaining the phrase. It embraces a bundle of connected spheres - ecology, human fulfilment, care for the poor, economics, lifestyle, politics and life style. Integral ecology has believers proclaim with joy the integral connection between Justice, Peace and Care for Earth (JPIC). It offers a new spiritual package both to inform our Sunday Mass and guide daily living.

The establishment of a legal framework which can set clear boundaries and ensure the protection of ecosystems has become indispensable

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #53

HYMNS

1. Christ, be our light (Longing for light)
2. Psalm 19: Lord, you have the words
3. Eat this bread
4. Priestly people, kingly people
5. Thuma mina – Send me Jesus



WHAT CAN I DO?

- Write to congratulate an eco-group's achievement
- Visit a farmers' food market and ask where produce comes from
- Ask your school to run an ecological art project

Where profits alone count, there can be no thinking about the rhythms of nature, its phases of decay and regeneration, or the complexity of ecosystems which may be gravely upset by human intervention.

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #190

COVENANT

Jesus left his 'Holy Spirit Covenant' as an abiding companion until the end of time at the Last Supper (Jn 16:7-8, 13). God's spirit is near in all events on Earth (Is 58:1, 21). The gift of the Spirit would accompany the followers of Jesus into the world, gracing them with power to boldly preach the Good News and witness before judges (Ac 5: 25-26, 40-42). Outsiders held the followers of Jesus in respect when they saw their good deeds of healing and sharing their goods in common inspired by the abiding Spirit (Ac 2:42-45). Wisdom and justice are joined as shown by the early Christians confronting greed which puts the Holy Spirit to the test (Ac 5:9). The Spirit preaches the Gospel so that the breath of God keeps renewing the world (Ps 104:27-30).

CHAMPIONS AND SAINTS

Thomas Berry (1914-2009) was cultural historian, cosmologist and 'geo-logian'. His priestly mission was to preach God's activity in the evolving cosmos. He wrote that a deep understanding of the functioning of the evolving universe is a necessary inspiration and guide for the human species. The titles of his books convey his thinking about 'the great work' of God: The Dream of the Earth; The Universe Story; Earth as Sacred Community. In Australia, working at Macquarie University, David Christian developed the Big History Project. From a science starting point, Big History tells the long story of the universe from the Big Bang to our complex modern societies. The project aims to empower students to locate their particular disciplines in a trajectory that places them and their studies within the wider universe. <http://bighistory.mq.edu.au/>

MYSTICISM

Following one's vocation is a spiritual journey when life is embraced with love. It is a calling from God to love unreservedly – covenant love. To be a nurse, teacher or married is a God given call to use one's talents in a life of service and dedication, creative and nurturing. People find happiness and fulfilment in following their vocation. It is a journey that can sometimes be difficult and with no apparent end but upheld by God's grace it is pursued with unending love. In an environmentally aware age, the life of a scientist or dedicated campaigner could be regarded as an ecological vocation of which Popes have written.



ECOLOGICAL INSIGHT

To grow in appreciation of the diverse gifts of the natural world is a primary aim of many UN Environmental Programs <http://www.unep.org/>. They explain the life cycles of species and the conditions under which they flourish. The Programs detail the threats to the life cycles of many species. In particular, biodiversity provides the basis for ecosystems and the services they provide. All people fundamentally depend on Earth's natural services for human existence. The UN encourages knowledge and care of Earth's life cycles through programs such as local school projects or Landcare. Many believers see participation in these programs as acting in God's name as loving co-creators.

it is no longer enough to speak only of the integrity of ecosystems. We have to dare to speak of the integrity of human life, of the need to promote and unify all the great values.

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #224

LOCAL CULTURE

Australian culture developed a can do character and people became inventive in the process. The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) used science to solve pressing issues and shape the future – ask, seek and solve. It served real local and global needs but new policies involving 'business partners' threatens its values. <http://www.csiro.au/en/About>

*There's a mountain before you
One you feel you can never climb
The distance is frightening,
but I know you can make it to the other side
If only you try*

Unknown You can do Anything

<http://www.thepoetrypad.com/inspirational-poems/you-can-do-anything>