

Contemplative Reflection for the Month of December

Third Goal on the Action Platform: Ecological Economics

Ecological Economics acknowledges that the economy is a sub-system of human society, which itself is embedded within the biosphere—our common home. “Human costs always include economic costs and economic dysfunctions always involve human costs.” LS 128 “To ensure economic freedom from which all can effectively benefit, restraints have to be imposed on those possessing greater resources and financial power. To claim economic freedom while real conditions bar many people from actual access to it, and while possibilities for employment continue to shrink is to practice a doublespeak . . .” LS 129 Ecological economies include practices of sustainable production and consumption, ethical investments, divestment from fossil fuels and any activity harmful to the planet and its people, supporting circular economies, and prioritizing care, labor and protecting the dignity of workers.

Psalm 24:1: "The Earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.

"If we really want to love God, we must be passionate about humanity, especially those who live the condition in which the Heart of Jesus was manifested: pain, abandonment and rejection; especially in this throwaway culture that we live in today. When we serve those who suffer, we console and rejoice in the Heart of Christ. “- **Pope Francis**

Call to Contemplation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f3an4O13BzE>

Leader: Each individual Christian and every community is called to be an instrument of God for the liberation and promotion of the poor, and for enabling them to be fully a part of society.

Response: To stop investing in people in order to gain greater short term financial gain, is bad business for society.
LS 128

Reflection: “For all our deeply-held convictions that all men and women are created equal, many of our brothers and sisters in the human family, especially those at the margins of society, are effectively excluded from the financial world. The pandemic, however, has reminded us once again that no one is saved alone.”

This conviction should focus the discussions that “contribute to a model of ‘recovery’ capable of generating new, more inclusive and sustainable solutions to support the real economy, assisting individuals and communities to achieve their deepest aspirations and the universal common good.” However, “The notion of recovery cannot be content to a return to an unequal and unsustainable model of economic and social life,” where a minority of the population owns half of its wealth. *Pope Francis, Spring 2021, Meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund*

Climate change is impacting economies around the world. The largest greenhouse emitting corporations are going to bear the responsibility for the greatest injury to our earth and the people who live on it. Watch this video called: “How Can Business Survive Climate Change?” created by the Economist magazine.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7vOwjNTDwBE>

Considerations:

- How can I as an individual make an impact on a business’ behavior toward climate change?
- Integral ecology links care for people and care for God’s creation. How is our concern for our fellow human beings connected to our concern for the environment?
- Pope Francis encourages us to listen both to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor (no.49). What happens when we are attuned to only one or the other?