

## Laudato Si Reflection Two: JUDGE

### Laudato Si Action Goal: Ecological Spirituality



**Check in** Share what feelings are arising in you as you come to this meeting?

**Grace:** We ask the Spirit to help us judge from God's word what is needed to re-establish Creation as the order of God's love. (LS 77)

#### **Opening Prayer:**

Father of all,  
Creator and ruler of the universe,  
You entrusted your world to us as a gift.  
Help us to care for it and all people,  
that we may live in right relationship--  
    with You,  
    with ourselves,  
    with one another,  
    and with creation.

Christ our Lord,  
both divine and human,  
You lived among us and died for our sins.  
Help us to imitate your love for the human family  
by recognizing that we are all connected—  
    to our brothers and sisters around the world,  
    to those in poverty impacted by environmental devastation,  
    and to future generations.

Holy Spirit,  
giver of wisdom and love,  
You breathe life in us and guide us.  
Help us to live according to your vision,  
stirring to action the hearts of all—

individuals and families,  
communities of faith,  
and civil and political leaders.

Triune God, help us to hear the cry of those in poverty, and the cry of the earth, so that we may together care for our common home.

Amen.

### **Scripture and Laudato Si Excerpts:**

**Ephesians 2:10** : "Instead, we are God's accomplishment, created in Christ Jesus to do good things. God planned for these good things to be the way that we live our lives."



(LS 85). God has written a precious book, "whose letters are the multitude of created things present in the universe". The Canadian bishops rightly pointed out that no creature is excluded from this manifestation of God: "From panoramic vistas to the tiniest living form, nature is a constant source of wonder and awe. It is also a continuing revelation of the divine". The bishops of Japan, for their part, made a thought-provoking observation: "To sense each creature singing the hymn of its existence is to live joyfully in God's love and hope". This contemplation of creation allows us to discover in each thing a teaching which God wishes to hand on to us, since "for the believer, to contemplate creation is to hear a message, to listen to a paradoxical and silent voice". We can say that "alongside revelation properly so-called, contained in sacred Scripture, there is a divine manifestation in the blaze of the sun and the fall of night". Paying attention to this manifestation, we learn to see ourselves in relation to all other creatures: "I express myself in expressing the world; in my effort to decipher the sacredness of the world, I explore my own".

*"First, we must alleviate poverty.*

*Second, we must reduce the unsustainable lifestyles of the affluent.*

*Third, we must eliminate corruption and economic self-interest.*

*Fourth, we must face up to the problems caused by an ever-growing population."*

( By Fr Ron Rolheiser, 2 March 2023)

On one hand, *“we need to slow down” (LS 114) to break with the frenetic “rapidification” (LS 18) and destructive consumerism that permeates contemporary life. Only then will we be able to notice the sacredness of Creation and practice a contemplative “ecological spirituality” (LS 216), that habit of praying with nature that is at the core of the “ecological conversion” that is so desperately needed.*” This brief comment by Ray Kancharla, a very committed Laudato Si’ Animator from the Diocese of Vijayawada in India.

**Reflection questions to share:**

1. Share a time when you found yourself praying in nature. How was that?
2. What speaks to you in the above quotes?
3. What concerns do you have locally or globally?

**Sharing:** What do I wish to share about what I judge to be most important about the environment and humanity?

**Spiritual Conversation and prayer:** What have I heard and what do I want to pray about (arising in our hearts) Pray aloud if you feel moved.

**Evaluation:**

**Final blessing:** **May** the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and **the love of God,** and **the friendship** of the Holy Spirit be with us all now and forever.