

Wednesday Earth Wisdom

February 10, 2016

Message From Reclaiming Earth Committee Wednesday Earth Wisdom:

Ash Wednesday and Lent: a time of prayer and reflection, a time for facing our mortality and the need for transformation.

Laudato Si begins with several statements that seem to point to the path of Lenten reflections. In Paragraph #2 we read: “The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is also reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life. This is why the earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she groans in travail.” (Rom 8:22)

In Paragraph #5, it states: “St. John Paul II ... would call for a global ecological conversion. At the same time, he noted that little effort had been made to safeguard the moral conditions for an authentic human ecology. The destruction of the human environment is extremely serious ... because human life is itself a gift which must be defended from various forms of debasement.”

Patriarch Bartholomew is quoted in paragraph 8 and has spoken of the need to: “repent of the ways we have harmed the planet, for inasmuch as we all generate small ecological damage, we are called to acknowledge our contribution ... to the disfigurement and destruction of creation ... For to ‘commit a crime against the natural world is a sin against ourselves and a sin against God.’”

Care for Creation

Pope Francis has just released a short video on care for creation that can be found [here](#).

During this time of prayer, reflection and examination of conscience, don’t forget to include all of creation, the bounty of God’s generosity and our complicity in whatever happens to those on the margins.

