

Wednesday Earth Wisdom

Wednesday, March 23



Laudato Si, paragraph 49 states: “It needs to be said that, generally speaking, there is little in the way of clear awareness of problems which especially affect the excluded.”

Yet they are the majority of the planet’s population, billions of people. These days, they are mentioned in international political and economic discussions, but one often has the impression that their problems are brought up as an after-thought, a question which gets added almost out of duty or in a tangential way, if not treated merely as collateral damage.

Indeed, when all is said and done, they frequently remain at the bottom of the pile. This is due partly to the fact that many professionals, opinion makers, communications media and centers of power, being located in affluent urban areas, are far removed from the poor, with little direct contact with their problems. They live and reason from the comfortable position of a high level of development and a quality of life well beyond the reach of the majority of the world’s population.

This lack of physical contact and encounter, encouraged at times by the disintegration of our cities, can lead to a numbing of conscience and to tendentious analyses which neglect parts of reality ... we have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice ... so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

Sustainable Development Goal #9 states: To “build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialism, and foster innovation.”

What is happening in your area: are the homeless or marginalized being pushed out of the way to make space for new high-rise buildings or a new factory? What can or have you done in response?