

Wednesday Earth Wisdom

Wednesday, March 8



Message From Reclaiming Earth Committee – Wednesday Earth Wisdom:

If you are fortunate enough to have a computer to read this email, chances are better that you are not homeless! Major cities up and down the Pacific Coast are enveloped with a large number of homeless persons. A recent night count in San Francisco showed more than 3,400 persons sleeping in shelters or cars or literally on the streets.

A similar count in Seattle surfaced more than 4,500 persons without adequate shelter. According to media reports, Seattle Mayor Ed Murray has declared a state of emergency to help deal compassionately with the large numbers of homeless. He has said he won't declare the emergency over until he sees a significant reduction in the number of people dying homeless on the city's streets. What are the moral implications for people of faith when persons are living and dying on the streets of our cities?

Laudato Si, in paragraph 152, states that: "Lack of housing is a grave problem in many parts of the world, both in rural areas and in large cities, since state budgets usually cover only a small portion of the demand. Not only the poor, but many other members of society as well, find it difficult to own (or rent) a home. Having a home has much to do with a sense of personal dignity and the growth of families."

If we are called to the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, where does homelessness fit? What has changed in the past year when this was first written March 8th, 2016?