

Wednesday, October 25



**Message From Reclaiming Earth Committee:**

*Integral Ecology* was the theme for the Spring issue of *A Matter of Spirit (AMOS)* published by the Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center.

In the front-page article, Jessica Ludescher Imanaka defines Integral Ecology from the perspective of Pope Francis and *Laudato Si'*: "Pope Francis reframes sustainability in terms of the concept of integral ecology. Sustainability in *Laudato Si'* encompasses development and resource use, but it also expands to include integral human development as well ... Integral ecology includes multiple ecologies: environmental, economic, social, cultural, and daily life (human ecology) ... It also incorporates the Catholic Social teachings principle of the common good."

[NCRonline.org](http://NCRonline.org) published a short readers guide to *Laudato Si'* written by Father Thomas Reese. He writes: "Recognizing the reasons why a given area is polluted requires a study of the workings of society, its economy, its behavior, and the ways it grasps reality. We are not faced with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis that is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded and at the same time protecting nature." (Pg. 5)

He asks: "Why does Francis argue that we are faced not with two separate crisis, one environmental and the other social, but rather one complex crisis which is both social and environmental?" (139) He also asks: "What does Francis mean by "the common good?" (156)

Can you answer these questions? Think about them, reflect then respond.