

**Wednesday, November 22**



**Message From Reclaiming Earth Committee:**

As part of her dissertation while studying for a PhD in Philosophy and Religion (Concentration in Philosophy, Cosmology and Consciousness), Toni Nash, CSJ-Carondelet, wrote: “I believe that the basic commitment as religious is to the sacred as it is manifest in this world, wherever it is found. That translates ... into applying the term people of God to the entire natural world, even though in the Catholic tradition it only refers to members of the Catholic Church.

“Therefore, the entire Earth community, both its thriving and its threats, are an appropriate focus of religious ministry because creation is the result of one sacred, ongoing act forming one sacred community. The ministries of vowed religious women and men need to directly contribute to building that one sacred Earth community.”

*Cosmological Commitment in a Time of Planetary Crisis: Values for a Vibrant Earth (Pg. 5)*

From *Laudato Si*:

“ ... The effects of the present imbalance can only be reduced by our decisive action, here and now. We need to reflect on our accountability before those who will have to endure the dire consequences.” (Par. 161)

“Our difficulty in taking up this challenge seriously has much to do with an ethical and cultural decline which has accompanied the deterioration of the environment.” (Par. 162)

People who are not vowed religious women or men are not excused from taking action on behalf of the people of God as referred to in the first paragraph. Taking action does not necessarily mean blocking mining equipment from entering a proposed mine or petitioning to halt coal exports to other countries but can be a phone call to a local legislator or a novena on behalf of the Earth Community.

What is your action as we move forward?