

**Wednesday, December 13**



**Message From Reclaiming Earth Committee:**

“Catholic Social Teaching has emphasized constantly that authentic human welfare and development have to be integral and holistic. For example, Benedict XVI reiterates Progress of a merely economic and technological kind is insufficient. Development needs above all to be true and integral. (*Caritas in Veritate*, No. 3)

“*Caritas in Veritate* recognizes also the uneven and distorted development of peoples globally, across and within nation-states...In relating human development to God’s creation and the natural environment, Benedict XVI affirmed our responsibility to the poor and to future generations and the necessity of inter-generational justice (CV, No. 38) ...Greater ecological sensitivity among the citizenry is shown and sustained by examining current lifestyles, evaluating them, and embracing new lifestyles that seek and embody predominantly spiritual and moral issues.”

Dennis T. Gonzales  
*New Measures for Justice, Ecological Wisdom, and Integral Development* (Pgs 75-76)  
*Just Sustainability: Technology, Ecology and Resource Extraction*

“First we need to keep our own eyes on what for us is a less visible relationship between oppression of women and poverty (the poverty of the majority of people, especially women and children), the impoverishment of the soil, pollution of the air and water—These shrinking means of basic survival for those struggling to live in a subsistence economy under and marginalized from the dominant global system of power and profits. This means we also have to be more truthful about who we are in this system.”

Rosemary Radford Reuther  
*Women Healing Earth* (Pg 7)

As we read and reflect on these words of wisdom, how can we incorporate our own values of integral ecology to this beautiful season of hope and anticipation? It sounds difficult but small changes can have huge results. Think about it.

