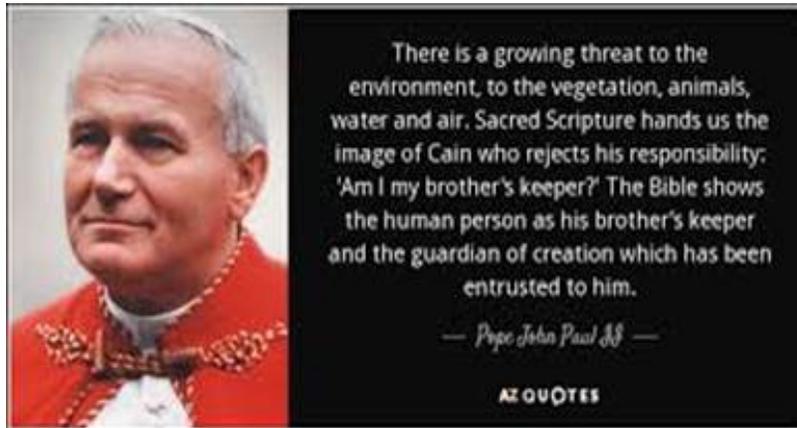


Wednesday, July 25

Message From Reclaiming Earth Committee



“After John Paul was elected ... his encyclical *Laborum Exercens* examined the dignity of human labor, laying the foundation for increased ecological concerns by stating:

*The word of God’s revelation is profoundly marked by the fundamental truth that (humans), created in the image of God, share by (their) work in the activity of the Creator and that, within the limits of (their) own human capabilities, (humanity) in a sense continues to develop that activity, and perfects it as (they) advance further and further in the discovery of the resources and values contained in the whole of Creation ... The knowledge that by means of work (humanity) shares in the work of creation constitutes the most profound motive for undertaking it in various sectors. (Pg 16)*

*Nor can the moral character of development exclude respect for the beings which constitute the natural world, which the ancient Greeks — alluding precisely to the order which distinguishes it — called the ‘cosmos’. Such realities also demand respect, by way of a threefold consideration which is useful to reflect upon carefully. (Pg 17)*

*“First consideration is the appropriateness of acquiring a growing awareness of the fact that one cannot use with impunity the different categories of beings, whether living or inanimate — animals, plants, the natural elements — simply as one wishes ... Second consideration is based on the realization -- which is perhaps more urgent -- that natural resources are limited; some are not, as it is said, renewable ... Third consideration refers directly to the consequences of a certain type of development on the quality of life.”*

*Woodeene Koenig-Bricker Ten Commandments for the Environment (Pg 17)*

Isn't it interesting how Catholic social teaching has been building, deepening and strengthening the concepts of *Integral Ecology* without calling it by that name?

What we are hearing is nothing new, except maybe to us? Think about it. Reflect upon it and respond when called to a certain or particular action.

