

A Message from Reclaiming Earth Committee – Feb. 13, 2019

Since the release of *Laudato Si*, it has become much more common to hear the words *Integral Ecology*. But what do those words actually mean?

Francis began the discussion in Paragraph 137 when he wrote: “Since everything is closely interrelated, and today’s problems call for a vision capable of taking into account every aspect of the global crisis, I suggest that we now consider some elements of an integral ecology.” This calls for a recognition of the interaction of environmental, economic and social ecology.

“...Just as the different aspects of the planet—physical, chemical and biological—are interrelated, so too living species are part of a network which we will never fully explore and understand.” (*Laudato Si*, Paragraph 138)

“According to Pope Francis, the ethical and cultural decline which accompanies the deterioration of the environment forces us to ask fundamental questions about life: What is the purpose of our life in the world? Why are we here? What is the goal of our work and all our efforts? What need does the earth have of us?”

Pope Francis calls for an integral ecology that sees the interconnectedness of environment, economic, political, social, cultural and ethical issues. Such an ecology requires the vision to think about comprehensive solutions to what is both an environmental and human crisis.” (<https://ncronline.org/blogs/faith/integral-ecology-everything-connected> Fr. Thomas Reese, August 27, 2015)

The questions remain: What is the goal of our work and all our efforts? What need does Earth have of us? Reflect on these questions and take them to prayer.

An ecology for transformative action

