

Message from Reclaiming Earth Committee

Integral Ecology: It is a term we have heard multiple times in Laudato Si' and now in the 2017-2022 Orientations from General Chapter of the Sisters of Providence.

We continue to live into the orientations in the areas Community Life, Mission, Formation, and Governance. In Mission we read, "To respond to the emerging needs related to all forms of poverty by...deepening our understanding of Integral Ecology."

Chapter four of Laudato Si' is specifically titled Integral Ecology. The first paragraph, #137, says, "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**, one which clearly respects its human and social dimensions."

"Adding ethics, spirituality, and action to the study of environmental science does not encumber science but improves it. Interdisciplinary and multi-dimensional perspectives can catalyze new depth and innovation in science." This is integral ecology: adding the multi-perspectives to our knowledge base. (Teacher's Guide, *Healing Earth*, pg. 5).

As we look at and reflect upon all the components of integral ecology, it can feel overwhelming, That is why the recommendation is to begin the journey with the first step and then continue to proceed one step at a time. One recommended book for beginners is *The Sacred Universe: Earth, Spirituality and Religion in the Twenty- First Century* by Thomas Berry. Notice especially Chapter 10.

CHAPTER FOUR - INTEGRAL ECOLOGY

- ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ECOLOGY
- CULTURAL ECOLOGY
- ECOLOGY OF DAILY LIFE
- THE PRINCIPLE OF THE COMMON GOOD
- JUSTICE BETWEEN THE GENERATIONS

