

Restoring ecological equilibrium

Ten Green Commandments #8 - Educate toward ecological citizenship

In the eighth green commandment Joshtrom makes the case for ecological conversion for the restoration of earth and the restoring of right relationships with God (p151). Joshtrom cites Pope Francis who proposes that ecological education,

seeks also to restore the various levels of ecological equilibrium, establishing harmony within ourselves, with others, with nature and other living creatures, and with God. (#210)

How can we educate toward ecological citizenship? In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis offers us some guidelines:

We need..

- *to educate all people on what radically new lifestyles are needed if we are to save our common planetary home for ourselves and future generations (p144)*
- *to embrace a holistic education that counters the current economic rationalist paradigm and emphasises the reestablishment of harmony with nature, our fellow human beings, and the transcendent (p143)*
- *to develop a new way of educating which tackles the false arguments of recent centuries that puts results, job readiness, subject hierarchies and performance indicators before education for the common good #121 (p150)*
- *to move away from subject specific knowledge toward a new humanism capable of bringing together the mind, heart, soul and spirit. #141 (p150)*
- *to foster educators capable of developing an ethics of ecology, and helping people, through effective pedagogy, to grow in solidarity, responsibility and compassionate care #210 (p152)*
- *to contribute to the creation of a civilization of love and kindness, performing those small daily acts of solidarity, in a world where power and wealth tend to dominate and monopolize (p152).*

Joshtrom reiterates that the current state of our common home, though dire, has promising signs of hope in the area of ecological education citing *The Statement of Leaders in Catholic Higher Education Globally* signed by university presidents across the world in response to the call of *Laudato Si'*.

The statement promises:

to provide influential leadership in discovering new and life giving paths to address the pressing emergencies of climate change, social exclusion, and extreme poverty and in uncovering new paths to achieving peace, justice and environmental sustainability for the whole human family and the entire family of creation. ...

(p157 cited in Joshtrom - Mulkey 2012 p356)

Now is the time to be courageous in our educational institutions and to seek to integrate care for our common home and all of creation in all we say and do.



REFLECTION

What can you do in your ministry to reestablish harmony with nature, fellow humans and God?

- REFERENCES: 1. Pope Francis. (2015). *Laudato Si'* [Encyclical Letter]. Retrieved from www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html
2. Kureethadam, JI. (2019). *The Ten Green Commandments of Laudato Si'*. Collegeville, Minnesota: Liturgical Press.