

A Sisters of the Holy Cross Workshop

Ecological Economics

As mindful stewards of the Earth's resources, please limit printing of these materials by journaling your responses to this worksheet.

Caring for ecosystems demands far-sightedness, since no one looking for quick and easy profit is truly interested in their preservation. But the cost of the damage caused by such selfish lack of concern is much greater than the economic benefits to be obtained. —*Laudato Si'* 36

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis invites all people, not just members of the church, to enter into dialogue about our common home (LS 3). This self-guided workshop on “Ecological Economics” is an opportunity for you to connect with your own experiences and reflect on where you are being called to act. You are invited to prayerfully spend time with the following readings from *Laudato Si'*:

- ▶ Danger of Deceptive Economic Interests, paragraph 38
- ▶ Influence of Economic Interests, paragraph 45
- ▶ Financial Gain Over Human Dignity, paragraph 56
- ▶ Need for an Economic Ecology, paragraph 141
- ▶ Rethinking Economic Benefits, paragraph 191
- ▶ Compulsive Consumerism, paragraph 203
- ▶ Purchasing as a Moral Act, paragraph 206

Pope Francis never actually uses the term “ecological economics” in his encyclical. However, he talks about integral ecology, which is a comprehensive framework made up of environmental, economic and social ecologies. He also calls on each of us to consider the environmental impact of the economic decisions we make or support every day. He notes that many economic decisions do not consider the environmental impact, resulting in the rampant social issues our world is currently facing.

Ask Yourself

Reflection Questions:

- ▶ What about each reading stands out to you?
- ▶ In what ways might your lifestyle contribute to the issues in the readings?

Conversation Starters:

- ▶ How are people who live in poverty adversely affected by some actions businesses take for financial gain?
- ▶ What role does economic ecology play in integral ecology?

Closing Charge:

- ▶ What can you do on a personal level to be a more socially responsible consumer?

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