

Worth Pro-Earth Journey to 2030 Reflections

Session 3 Breakdown in the Quality of Human Life- A Call to Conversion

Life has changed rapidly over the past century and we now live in a very materialistic world. Much of the development was intended to improve the quality of life for all. Sadly, this has been at the expense of many millions who have ended in abject poverty with unacceptable living standards. This is the result of the greed and selfishness of more than half the world. Today we see in the News reports of refugees leaving their own families, cultures and countries, risking their lives to cross oceans in search of a means of survival and a better life in the future.

There has also been a 60% decline of all wildlife since the 1970s.

Pope Francis reminds us to be more conscious of all the resources of our planet which are to be shared, cared for and respected by all. This involves not just an external observation of creation but an inner awareness of our bondedness with all beings and all of life on earth. He says: "As believers we do not look at the world from without but from within, conscious of the bonds with which the Father links us to all beings." LS 216

Readings

Genesis 1 and 2 God made all very good

Isaiah 35:1-7

Matthew 23:23 Woe to you

Luke 12: 6-7, 22-32 Call to inner conversion

Romans 8:18-23

Laudato Si –

209 - An awareness of the gravity of today's cultural and ecological crisis must be translated into new habits. Many people know that our current progress and the mere amassing of things and pleasures are not enough to give meaning and joy to the human heart, yet they feel unable to give up what the market sets before them. In those countries which should be making the greatest changes in consumer habits, young people have a new ecological sensitivity and a generous spirit and some of them are making admirable efforts to protect the environment. At the same time, they have grown up in a milieu of extreme consumerism and affluence which makes it difficult to develop other habits. We are faced with an educational challenge.

217 - So what we all need is an "ecological conversion" whereby the effects of our encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in our relationship with the world around us. Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian experience.

Reflect in relation to our world today (10-15 minutes)

Share anything that strikes you or use the following questions

- The resources of the planet are to be shared- “This involves not just an external observation of creation but an inner awareness of our bondedness with all beings and all of life on earth. What does this say to us about “ecological conversion”?”
- Read again LS 217 above. What does this say to us for our lives today personally, in the family and in the community?
- How can we be more caring living out our lives with sensitivity and love for all our fellow creatures?
- Are there ways in which we could help to improve the quality of other peoples’ lives?

Prayer for ecological conversion

God of the sun and the moon, Of the mountains, deserts and plains

God of the mighty oceans, of rivers, lakes and streams

God of all creatures that live in the seas and fly in the air

Of every living thing that grows and moves on this sacred Earth...

Help us to love and respect it

To repair what we have damaged

To care for what you have made good and holy

Give us the wisdom and the passion to change our minds and hearts and our ways

Let us be mustard seeds in our world

Bringing about ecological conversion which grows and spreads to every corner of the earth

For our sake now and for every generation which is to come.

We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

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