

8 Ecological Sin

Lack of Respect, Excessive Consumption

Grace: To feel sorrow for our part in the misuse/degradation of the environment.

Hymn: selected by the leader

Scripture: 1 John 1:5-10

This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

Reflections from Laudato Si':

Many of those who possess more resources and economic or political power seem mostly to be concerned with masking the problems or concealing their symptoms, simply making efforts to reduce some of the negative impacts of climate change. However, many of these symptoms indicate that such effects will continue to worsen if we continue with current models of production and consumption. (LS. # 26.)

Caring for ecosystems demands far-sightedness, since no one looking for quick 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. Where certain species are destroyed or seriously harmed, the values involved are incalculable. We can be silent witnesses to terrible injustices if we think that we can obtain significant benefits by making the rest of humanity, present and future, pay the extremely high costs of environmental deterioration. (LS. # 36.)

These situations have caused sister earth, along with all the abandoned of our world, to cry out, pleading that we take another course. Never have we so hurt and mistreated our common home as we have in the last two hundred years. (LS. # 53)

Prayer: Searching for experiences of light and shadow, I look over my life story searching out those experiences where creation/living creatures have been a source of light that have consoled me and lifted me up. I then look over my life story in terms of the suffering and disorder within creation that I have personally experienced, or contributed towards. I realize that my whole life is an experience of being loved (graced) by the Trinity whether in light, shadow, suffering or hope-filled experience with the community of life in the universe.

Sharing: On the scripture and reflections.

Final prayer:

Prayer of Generosity (St Ignatius of Loyola)

Lord, teach me to be generous. Teach me to serve you as you deserve: to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labour and not to ask for reward, save that of knowing that I do your holy will.

Ongoing practice: In my daily Examen I continue to identify both sources of light and healing in creation and my contribution to the suffering of creation.

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