



A Lenten Message...

Let us consider...

"In the beginning was the one Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him, nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name..." (John 1: 1-5, 11-12)

The fourth chapter of **Laudato Si'** can be considered the heart of the encyclical. In this chapter, the Pope's vision of the solution to the ecological question emerges. Integral Ecology means thinking about ecology from an idea that considers the whole world as our Common Home.

"What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up? This question not only concerns the environment in isolation; the issue cannot be approached piecemeal. When we ask ourselves what kind of world we want to leave behind, we think in the first place of its general direction, its meaning and its values. Unless we struggle with these deeper issues, I do not believe that our concern for ecology will produce significant results. But if these issues are courageously faced, we are led inexorably to ask other pointed questions: What is the purpose of our life in this world? Why are we here? What is the goal of our work and all our efforts? What need does the earth have of us? It is no longer enough, then, simply to state that we should be concerned for future generations. We need to see that what is at stake is our own dignity. Leaving an inhabitable planet to future generations is, first and foremost, up to us. The issue is one which dramatically affects us, for it has to do with the ultimate meaning of our earthly sojourn" (LS #160)

During this Lenten Season...

How do I answer with the depth of my heart the questions that are asked in **Laudato Si'** #160?

Where do I need to be converted...changed?