



Gathering

The Sisters of Saint Joseph and their partners in Mission rejoice that on this anniversary of the death of our Father Founder, Fr Julian Tenison Woods, we launch “Explore, Embrace, Embody: *A Laudato Si’* Action Plan for the Josephite Community”.

Pope Francis, in the encyclical, “*Laudato Si’*: On Care for our Common Home” highlights the crises facing Earth and its peoples and situates our faith response and lived reality as being inseparable and integral. The Pope’s invitation to the whole Church to develop an Action Plan has been welcomed by the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart and the Sisters of St Joseph Lochinvar as a means of building on the significant work done by their joint Eco-Spirituality Team over the past ten years.

“Explore, Embrace, Embody” is designed to be a living document. Grounded in the long history of Josephite responses to the cry of Earth and the cry of those made poor. The early Sisters were awakened to the plight of Earth by Fr Julian in the 1860s and 70s, when he highlighted the danger of losing old growth forests in Tasmania and lamented the unsustainable fishing practices in NSW. St Mary MacKillop and the Sisters who have followed in her footsteps have continued to find new ways of responding to the needs of those made poor in ever-changing contexts.

We invite you to participate in this launch by participating in this prayerful reflection and commitment to “Explore, Embrace, Embody” the goals of the Josephite *Laudato Si’* Action Plan.



Praying

Psalm 8

When I look up at the heavens
at the work of Love's creation,
at the infinite variety of your Plan,
What is woman that You rejoice in her,
And man that You do delight in him?
You have made us in your image,
You fill us with your Love;
You have made us co-creators of
the earth!
guardians of the planet!
to care for all your creatures,
to tend the land, the sea,
and the air we breathe;
all that you have made,
You have placed in our hands.

O Love, my Beloved,
How powerful is your name
In all the earth!

Some words from Fr Julian Tenison Woods

Be "grateful to God for the beauties of nature" (1887). Personally, I owe "a great debt of gratitude to butterflies, moths, beetles and flies ... They... opened up a wide field of enjoyment, [and] constantly [gave] me pleasure and instruction all the days of [my] life" (1887).

When I was "out in the far Bush...it has been a most delightful employment, when books were unattainable, to study the great unpublished work of Nature" (1862). "We have only a page here and there of the great book of nature, and sometimes not more than a piece torn out of a page: sometimes not more than a word" (1879).

"The time has not been wasted" (1862). Such "knowledge is within the reach of everyone" (1880). "Any who are willing... have the opportunity" (1862). Remember that "everyone has it in [their] power to contribute in some degree" (1862).

Breaking Open

Pope Francis calls us through *Laudato Si'* to care for our common home. The Josephite Community commits to “explore, embrace and embody” this call.

Take time to read and reflect on these quotations.

Cosmological Spirituality and Formation

Like Pope Francis, we are called to “get to the roots of the present situation, so as to consider not only its symptoms but also its deepest causes” (*Pope Francis 2015, n 15*). “We need a conversion which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all” (*Pope Francis 2015, n 14*). We are to be educated and formed by “an approach to ecology which respects our unique place as human beings in this world and our relationship to our surroundings” (*Pope Francis 2015, n 15*).

Living Simply

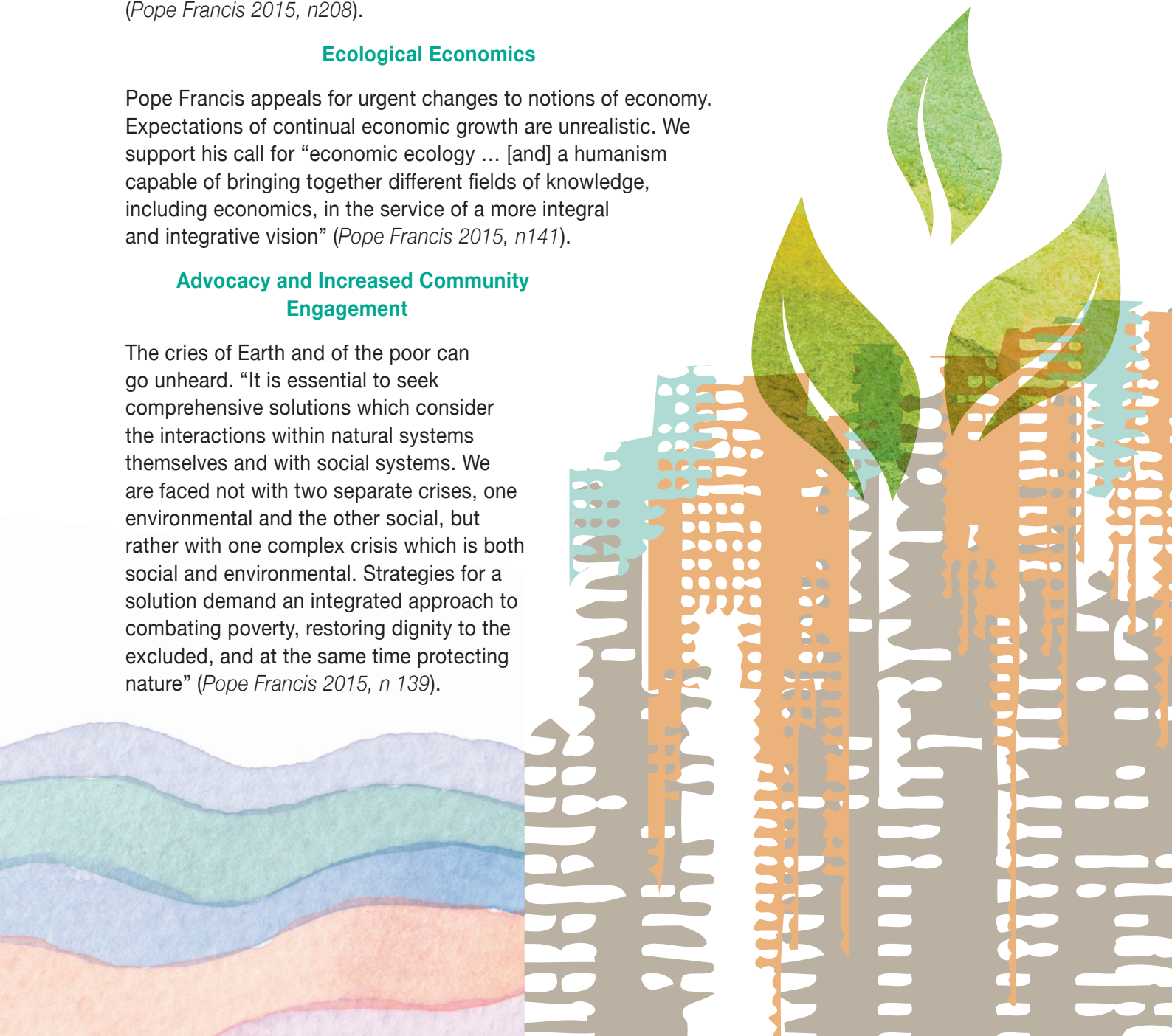
Pope Francis emphasizes the “moral imperative of assessing the impact of our every action and personal decision on the world around us” (*Pope Francis 2015, n208*).

Ecological Economics

Pope Francis appeals for urgent changes to notions of economy. Expectations of continual economic growth are unrealistic. We support his call for “economic ecology ... [and] a humanism capable of bringing together different fields of knowledge, including economics, in the service of a more integral and integrative vision” (*Pope Francis 2015, n141*).

Advocacy and Increased Community Engagement

The cries of Earth and of the poor can go unheard. “It is essential to seek comprehensive solutions which consider the interactions within natural systems themselves and with social systems. We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature” (*Pope Francis 2015, n 139*).



Responding

Julian, you opened our eyes and hearts to the beauty of our cosmos and of our planet

Open our hearts to give thanks

Julian, you taught us to recognise that Earth is being stripped of its riches

That creatures are slowly dying, and people are suffering

And that changes in climate have damaged many systems

Open our eyes to see

Julian, your influence and ministry continue to this day.

You challenged us to find a balance between a healthy economy and a healthy environment

To live simply for the common good

And to respond generously to the needs of those made poor

Open our hearts to act

Julian, your exploration of the natural world taught you to treasure its diversity

You challenge us to make sacrifices to protect Earth's fragile beauty

And to respond to the needs of those suffering or made poor

by the crises affecting Earth

Be with us now

Celebrating

Click here to listen 

Amira Willighagen ~ How Great Thou Art

God help us to change

To change ourselves and to change our world

To know the need of it

To deal with the pain of it

To feel the joy of it

To undertake the journey without understanding

the destination

The art of gentle revolution

LEUNIG



Laudato Si' Action Plan

References

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