

**Environment Spirituality and Climate Change:
The Role of Spiritual Formation in
Rebuilding the Human Community as a New Creation**

*What Do We Value Today?
Simplicity and Reconciliation*

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"Set forth in Faith: Defining the Transformative Role of Catholic Ed. in
"a Changing World." 

The lived spiritual challenge today is to heal a Broken World and be reconciled with creation, neighbor and God

1. Environmental spirituality
2. Planetary boundaries (and DRR)
3. Pope Francis and education
4. An environmental way of proceeding

One way of looking at the world...



... on that small spot...
is everything that means anything to you
... all love, tears, joy, games...
... you realize from that perspective that you've changed,
... the relationship is no

Now it is also to reconcile the daily struggle of people in the world of markets, needs and comforts with the needs of all life. Let us find a memory that motivates

Environmental Spirituality



where natural environment is experienced as a spiritual source motivating our commitment and fostering our celebration of creation



*How do we?
Simplifying our lives...
and our styles...*





interior...

attitude...

values...

How we get up...
meet the morning...
the needs of family...

Go out to meet
others...

Others come in...
Work...

Incidentals of the day

Each day I
reflect... regrets... hopes... loves... rest...



meeting with...

living with...
accompanying...



- self
- others
- creation
- Creator

Listening from within to what is
without...



... to
our
land
forest
and
youth

El Vivir Bien

Alternative to development currently used in Latin America, foc used on "the good life" in a broad sense

- Based on the classical ideas of quality of life,
- But, has a specific focus on well-being as possible only within community
- In most approaches, "community" is understood more broadly, and includes nature
- The refore, vivir bien embraces the idea of well-being, cohabitation with others and nature



El Vivir Bien

Rooted in the tradition of indigenous cultures in South America, which lacked concepts like "development", "progress"

- Ecuadorian concept: *sumak kawsay*, or fullness of life in a community, with others, with Nature
- Bolivia: *Vivir Bien*, ethical and moral principles describing the values, ends, and objectives of the state (harmonious living, good life)
- Closely linked with principles of unity, equality, dignity, freedom, solidarity, social justice, etc.



Simple lifestyle and Sustainability

A simple life has different meaning for every person, but it is important that

- i learn what enough is
- i know my extractive impact and regional planetary boundaries
- i work for health and happiness – a m free and mortal
- i consciously consider life of the next generations
- i feel i belong, i know my peace

Simplicity is a process... a question of priorities... and commitments...



Another way of looking at the world...

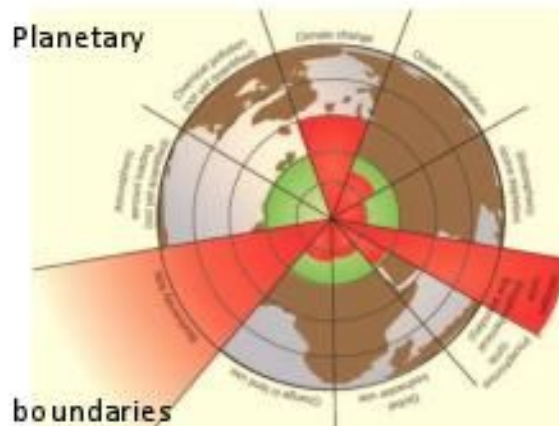
Leaders of the World are changing



It is the powerlessness of the powerful



It is the Anthropocene:
"man-made world"



Gaps

- Although the scientists present evidence that 3 of the boundaries have already been transgressed, there are still uncertainties
 - The seven boundaries are still tentatively quantified: the figures are still "best guesses"
 - Because the boundaries are linked, exceeding one will have implications on others - relationships that are not yet completely understood
 - Uncertainty, in terms of how long it takes to cause dangerous environmental change or trigger other feedback loops that reduce Earth's ability to return to safe levels

Global sustainability is a prerequisite for human development at all scales from local community to national and the world economy.

The Anthropocene:
A Biosphere Shaped by Humanity



Sustainable Development Goals

- The focus is on 4 interconnected dimensions
 - Economic development
 - Social inclusion
 - Environmental sustainability
 - Good governance (including security)
 - This covers seven enabling conditions for sustainable development: transparency, effective conditions, rule of law, participation and personal security, accountability and adequate financing for public goods

Integrating Sustainable Development Goals with Planetary Boundaries and Domains



Inclusive social development

- Low education attainments result in poor marketable skills
- Unemployment is high and wages are at poverty levels
- Good jobs require more schooling & specialized training than before.
- Of particular concern is high youth unemployment in many countries
- One response is establishing targeted institutions of vocational training and apprenticeship to support the school-to-work transition



Environment and poverty

Another challenge in terms of environmental sustainability is in relation to the poor:

- the poor are often dependent on natural resources for their livelihood and they are also the most vulnerable to environmental change.
- Extreme poverty can only be ended if environmental degradation is halted and reversed.

Solidarity with all living beings

- Develop a worldview built on a planetary awareness or consciousness, a sense of solidarity with all human beings and with all other living beings.
- This challenge is unavoidable, as humanity is now the largest driver of global change.



"Sustainable development, radical sharing and justice"

- Future Sustainable Development Goals must have a real impact on the structural causes of poverty and hunger, attain more substantial results in protecting the environment, ensure dignified and productive labor for all, and provide appropriate protection for the family.
- Specifically, this involves challenging all forms of injustice and resisting the "economy of exclusion".
- A contribution to this equitable development will also be made the legitimate redistribution of economic benefits by the state.
- Reverting to a development that knows how to respect creation.



(Pope Francis, July 2014)

DRR & Spirituality "God does not kill."

- Landslide survivors' belief traditional & contradicting
- "God is a loving God," yet allows or wills disaster
- "the Lord did not abandon them in these trials" faithful are alive
- Disaster viewed as judgment from God or
- timely reminder of our reality & responsibility



Sustainability Camps: *Problems to be studied*

How to decouple 'business as usual' from the common assets of 'carbon,' 'water,' and 'land', which are today casually lumped together and manipulated without restraint?

Because this historical coupling and manipulation is at the core of our present, unsustainable mode of industrialization...



26.5% of Filipinos live on less than 12.2 l/day

Sustainability Camps: *Topics*

- Leadership and Sustainability Ethics
- Urbanization and green economy
- State of the world's resources
- Human development paradigm and development
- Community development, social enterprise
- Sustainability science and values
- Natural resource governance approaches, management regimes, challenges
- Agriculture, food security (+GMOs) forest management and water
- Climate change and disaster risk



Family farms



climate change and market globalization



Why transformative?

- Conventional training and study does not provide opportunities for the personal reflection necessary to integrate what is learned into one's life
- Transformative education recognizes the need to go beyond academic boundaries to improve the capacity to integrate knowledge at many levels
- Seeks to get away from textbook learning; to get into the community, to provide a lived understanding and a basis for action



- focus not only on teaching subject matter, but create opportunities to engage meaningfully with society and respond to its needs
- transform not only the mind, but to also form conscience and a sense of responsibility that is sorely needed in our global society
- focus on developing a better understanding of preferences in life, of their purpose that will carry them forward in life



What challenges	do our youth face?
Assimilation \	Identity, belonging -
Professionalism /	spirituality
Control - insecurity >	Participation
Surfing \	Communications with
Communications /	depth
Educational loans >	Social commitments
Individualism >	Community
Global resource \	Environmental

Engage students in transformative education: enter by their path

lawaan a gift of creation, of local culture

- Youth learn to plant lawaan
 - Done with great preparation, hope, humility & respect
 - Meaning we know we plant for a life of 60-100 years
 - Lawaan is cultural engagement involving gift of the land and knowledge
 - If culture does not value life of lawaan it does not value where it draws its own life
- This is what planting a tree is - in community



Stream regeneration

- You are going as school to embrace ecology
- We are coming from land as life to education



How do we break the isolation and develop the inclusion and meet?

Pope Francis and Education

- Pope Francis has never forgotten his first grade teacher. "I love school because that woman taught me to love it." — Pope Francis, 2013
- "Going to school means opening your mind and heart to reality in all its richness and various dimensions." "If one learns how to learn -- this is the secret, learning to learn -- this will stay with you forever."



- "families and schools should never be in opposition," they must work together for the good of the child. "This makes me think of a beautiful African proverb, 'it takes a village to raise a child.'"



- The pope said he also loves schools because "they educate us about truth, goodness and beauty, which all go together. Education cannot be neutral, either it is positive or it is negative; it enlightens or impoverishes; it helps the person grow or it suppresses or even corrupts the man."
- A mature student graduates speaking "three languages: the language of the mind, the language of the heart and the language of the hands," making sure actions are well thought out and are motivated by what is true, good and beautiful.

- Proclaiming Christ means showing that to believe in and to follow him is not only something right and true, but also something beautiful, capable of filling life with new splendour and profound joy, even in the midst of difficulties.



- Every expression of true beauty can thus be acknowledged as a path leading to an encounter with the Lord Jesus.
- This has nothing to do with fostering an aesthetic relativism which would downplay the inseparable bond between truth, goodness and beauty, but rather a renewed esteem for beauty as a means of touching the human heart and enabling the truth and goodness of the Risen Christ to radiate within it.

- A theology – and not simply a pastoral theology – which is in dialogue with other sciences and human experiences is most important for our discernment on how best to bring the Gospel message to different cultural contexts and groups.
- The Church, in her commitment to evangelization, appreciates and encourages the charism of theologians and the irscholarly efforts to advance dialogue with the world of cultures and sciences...

Catholic schools, which always strive to join their work of education with the explicit proclamation of the Gospel, are a most valuable resource for the evangelization of cultures, even in those countries and cities where hostile situations challenge us to greater creativity in our search for suitable methods. (132-134)



process of secularization... and development of mature moral values



- secularization tends to reduce faith & Church to the sphere of the private & personal
- by completely rejecting the transcendent... a growing devaluation of ethics, a weakening of the sense of personal and collective sin, and a steady increase in relativism.
- led to a general sense of disorientation, especially adolescence and young adulthood which are so vulnerable to change....
- in information-driven society bombarded indiscriminately with data – all treated as of equal importance – leads to remarkable superficiality in the area of moral discernment.
- we need to provide an education which teaches critical thinking and encourages the development of mature moral values. (64)

Proclaiming the Gospel message to different cultures also involves proclaiming it to professional, scientific



reach each person, or that the Gospel be proclaimed to the cultures as a whole.

(The gift of faith is trinitarian. The fire of the Spirit is given in the form of tongues and leads us to believe in Jesus Christ who, by his death and resurrection, reveals and communicates to us the Father's infinite mercy.

- On the lips of the catechist the first proclamation must ring out over and over: "Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you."
- This first proclamation... we must hear again and again in different ways, the one which we must announce one way or another throughout the process of catechesis, at every level and moment. (64)



Environmental way of proceeding

"Healing a Broken World" - translation of mission

and ecology

- The signs of the times has caught up with us
- It is no longer about how much we know, but consciously we are aware of the damage done
- As catholic educators we have the intellect and discourse to see ecology as mission and have the heart to heal
- Tough love translates to action



"Our Environmental Way of Proceeding"

- 1 We acknowledge God as Creator of all life and find some quiet moment each day to appreciate this with gratitude.
- 2 We as an educational body seek to reflect and speak of what we experience and discern of our relationship with and responsibility for the natural systems.
- 3 We recognize that the children we see today inherit this living world and as we choose to sustain it by finding God at work in all things, we humbly work with young people.

"Our Environmental Way of Proceeding"

- 4 We seek to reach out in hope to the poor who are increasingly losing their livelihoods and ecological sustainability and incorporate their concerns in our care for the web of life.
- 5 We support good actions in contemporary culture and explore needed alternatives with decision; we partner with others broadening our capacity to transform environmental attitudes and relations.
- 6 We seek the greater good of finding how people can work with the gifts of creation; we live life as a mission, to heal and share with others the fullness of life.
- 7 We accept the challenge of living sustainably in the world.

Reflection in Davao

- DEWPA 1 We acknowledge God as Creator of life and find some quiet moment each day to appreciate this with gratitude.
- Our response to our global environmental crisis is not simply techno-political
 - We need to come from a deep experience of hope
 - begin with the attitude of finding God through creation

We step back, setting aside our own personal concerns. We allow ourselves to be grateful (giving us the perspective of our situation and bringing us to our present moment



Starting with the attitude of gratitude

- We start from a deep gratitude for the gift of all life and
- our personal decisions, witness, and commitment to establish right relations are not simply to sustain us in our comfort zone
- We revise our sense of this being "our" earth and what our attitude needs to be in this relation of life



Starting with the attitude of gratitude

- We learn that we do not own the earth rather we belong to it and calls us to care, drawing out our deepest humanity
 - ecology, environment as we speak of it is not the science alone,
- it is:

- integrity
- intricacy
- intimacy
- simplicity



Starting with the attitude of gratitude

- We learn that we do not own the earth rather we belong to it and calls us to care, drawing out our deepest humanity
- Way of Proceeding is based on a dynamic that starts with asking for the gift of gratitude, then conversation, responsibility, solidarity with those who suffer and hope



Sum up

- Human spirit – keep that clear and simple! connects me with life
- With simplicity and with reconciliation how do I live out these elements as one:
 - *spirituality, planet, formation, new creation*
- **Teach what you are**
 - Join one local action, talk about it as a sign of hope
 - Join an international concern, be aware of what is happening and share your informed concern



In
simplicity

...

thank
you
deeply

