

**THREE: The Human Roots of the Ecological Crisis: *The Deepest Causes*** (101-136)

**Lessons**

There is an excessive/distorted anthropocentrism (68, 69)...  
 ...but it must not yield to biocentrism (118)

**Key quotes**

“Human beings cannot be expected to feel responsibility for the world unless, at the same time, their unique capacities of knowledge, will, freedom...are recognized and valued” (117).

[...two extremes coexist:] “a technocracy which sees no intrinsic value in lesser beings...[with one] which sees no special value in human beings” (118).

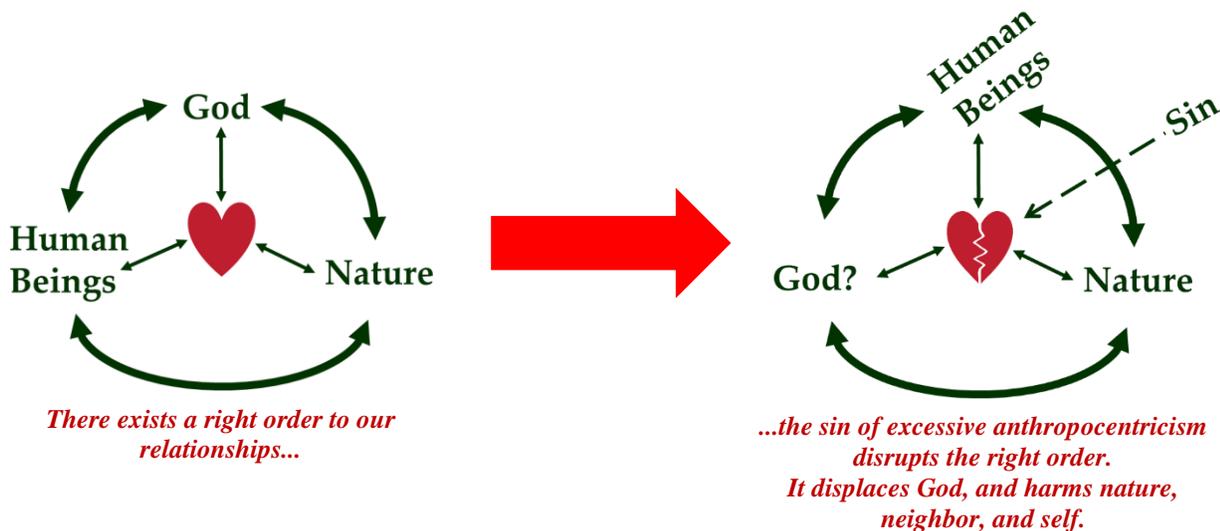
“Our relationship with the environment can never be isolated from our relationship with others and with God” (119).

“When human beings place themselves at the center, they give absolute priority to immediate convenience and all else becomes relative” (122).

**Relationships**

Human beings have changed from those who receive to those who extract from nature (106)

Dominion / convenience has overtaken stewardship and care for nature (and vulnerable people) (116, 117)



**FOUR: Integral Ecology: *Our Unique Place in this World and Our Relationships*** (137-162)

**Lessons**

Our approach to solving this problem must be integral: environmental, economic, and social

**Key Quotes**

“When we speak of the ‘environment,’ what we really mean is a relationship existing between nature and the society which lives in it” (139).

**Relationships**

Environment = relationship between nature and the society that lives in it (139)

Environment is not something separate from us → we are part of the environment

**FIVE: Lines of Approach and Action: Broader Proposals for Dialogue and Action** (163-201)

**Lessons**

Dialogue between nations will help us escape self-destruction (163)...  
...but economics, politics, and technology do not have all the answers

**Key Quotes**

"...dialogue...can help us escape the spiral of self-destruction which currently engulfs us" (163).  
There is "a growing conviction that our planet is a homeland and that humanity is one people living in a common home" (164).  
"...environmental protection cannot be assured solely on the basis of financial calculations of costs and benefits" (190).

**Relationships**

Humanity is one people that share the same home planet (164)  
Planet created by God and shared with nature

**SIX: Ecological Education and Spirituality: Inspired Guidelines for Human Development** (202-246)

**Lessons**

Laws and regulations are not sufficient (211)...  
...we need to change ourselves (202)

**Key Quotes**

"Yet all is not lost. Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good, and making a new start..." (205).  
"We must not think that these efforts are not going to change the world. They benefit society, often unbeknown to us, for they call forth a goodness which, albeit unseen, inevitably tends to spread" (212).  
"Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience" (217).  
"The human person grows more, matures more, and is sanctified more to the extent that he or she enters into relationships, going out from themselves to live in communion with God, with others, and with all creatures" (240).

**Relationships**

Our practical actions and behaviors (big or small) affect our relationships with God, others, self, and nature

**Upcoming events:**

**Laudato Si' Summit**

**June 2 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at Seattle University Student Center**

**<http://www.ipjc.org/programs/a-new-solidarity-with-creation/>**

**Care for Creation Presentation, Part Three**

**June 5, 7:00 p.m. at Holy Family Parish, Kirkland**

**Additional Resources:**

<http://www.usccb.org/about/leadership/holy-see/francis/pope-francis-encyclical-laudato-si-on-environment.cfm>

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/environment/index.cfm>

<http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/>