



Our Common Home

Dominican Sisters of San Rafael ~ Engaging *Laudato Si*

Issue I-I-2016

Earth Charter Implementation Committee

Laudato Si - Chapter 3: Technology, Creativity & Power

Pope Francis reminds us that:

- ◆ “**Our technical prowess** has brought us to a crossroads. [102]
- ◆ “Technoscience, when well directed, can produce important means of improving the **quality of human life.**” [103]
- ◆ **Creativity and knowledge** bring power and the potential for improving life or the risk of domination of the many by a few. [104]
- ◆ “We have certain superficial mechanisms, **but** we cannot claim to have a sound ethics, a culture and spirituality genuinely capable of setting limits and teaching clear-minded self-restraint.” [105]
- ◆ The **fundamental underpinnings** of the technocratic paradigm—a technique of possession, mastery and transformation — move us unwittingly from a cooperative and relational paradigm to a paradigm of confrontation, extraction and domination.
- ◆ In the face of such forces, **human freedom** and alternative forms of creativity that may be more inclusive are **greatly diminished.**
- ◆ There is an urgent need for us to move forward in a **bold cultural revolution.** [114] There can be no renewal of our relationship with nature without a renewal of humanity itself. [118]
- ◆ We cannot heal our relationship with nature and the environment without **healing all fundamental human relationships.** Our relationship with the environment can never be isolated from our relationship with others and with God.



Implications and Challenges

- ◆ “A technology severed from ethics will not easily be able to limit its own power.” [136]
- ◆ In the face of “superdevelopment” of a wasteful and consumerist kind, we fail to see the deepest roots of our present failures — the goals, meaning and social implications of technological and economic growth.
- ◆ “‘Contemporary man has not been trained to use power well,’ because our immense technological development has not been accompanied by a development in human responsibility, values and conscience.” [105]
- ◆ Work is an expression of human dignity and creativity. It is a necessity, part of the meaning of life on this earth, a path to growth, human development and personal fulfillment.

Response – Reflect, Discuss, Pray, Act

- ☞ Pope Francis suggests we “opt for a non-consumerist model of life, recreation and community.” **Discuss:** *How as a community and as an individual can we do this?*
- ☞ **Reflect:** *Do I perceive that my freedom has been compromised by the allure of technology?*
- ☞ “Once our human capacity for contemplation and reverence is impaired it becomes easy” to dismiss the value of every person’s potential contribution to the good of the whole. **Prayerful reflection:** *How might I grow in affirming the dignity and value of those with whom I live and work?*
- ☞ “An authentic humanity, the desire to create and contemplate beauty, seems to dwell in the midst of our technological culture like a mist seeping gently beneath a closed door.” **Reflect:** *How are we encouraging and supporting the response to beauty in ourselves and others?*

Each month from now until May, the Earth Charter Implementation Committee (ECIC) will offer a new issue of this newsletter - *Our Common Home* - considering the encyclical chapter by chapter. Please keep your copies in the green folder provided. We will use these materials at the March Assembly.