



# Integral Ecology

Pursuing the Common Good for Our Common Home

## 2022 Earth Day Program\*

\*Modified for Marianist Social Justice Collaborative\*

### Opening Song: Canticle of the Sun, Paul Winter

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7QyfxNhGfcg>

CANTICLE OF BROTHER SUN by Paul Winter in *Missa Gaia*

Words adapted from "Canticle of Brother Sun" by St. Francis of Assisi and the Book of Job

All praise be yours through Brother Sun. All praise be yours through Sister Moon.  
By Mother Earth my Lord be praised, by Brother Mountain, Sister Sea.  
Through Brother Wind and Brother Air, through Sister Water, Brother Fire;  
The stars above give thanks to thee; all praise to those who live in peace.

All praise be yours through Brother Wolf, all praise be yours through Sister Whale.  
By Nature's song my Lord be praised, by Brother Eagle, Sister Loon.  
Through Brother Tiger, Sister Seal. Through Sister Flower, Brother Tree.  
Let creatures all give thanks to thee. All praise to those who live in peace.

Ask of the beasts and they shall teach you the beauty of the earth.  
Ask of the trees and they shall teach you the beauty of the earth.  
Ask of the winds and they shall teach you the beauty of the earth.  
Ask of the flow'rs and they shall teach you the beauty of the earth.

Brother Sun, Sister Moon.  
For the beauty of the Earth, sing, oh sing today.  
Of the sky and of our birth, sing oh sing always.  
Nature, human and divine, all around us lies.  
Lord of all, to thee we raise grateful hymns of praise

## **Readings (10 MINUTES) READING #1:**

[The] common good is to be understood [as] “the sum total of social conditions which allow people, either as groups or as individuals, to reach their fulfillment more fully and more easily.” The common good concerns the life of all. It calls for prudence from each, and even more from those who exercise the office of authority. *Catechism of the Catholic Church #1906*

### **READING #2**

Working for the common good requires us to promote the flourishing of all human life and all of God’s creation. In a special way, the common good requires solidarity with the poor who are often without the resources to face many problems, including the potential impacts of climate change. Our obligations to the one human family stretch across space and time. They tie us to the poor in our midst and across the globe, as well as to future generations. The commandment to love our neighbor invites us to consider the poor and marginalized of other nations as true brothers and sisters who share with us the one table of life intended by God for the enjoyment of all. *~Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence, and the Common Good*, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), 2001, #25.

### **READING #3**

*Laudato Si'* excerpts:

.. “the climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all” (#23)

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” (#139).

“An integral ecology is inseparable from the notion of the common good, a central and unifying principle of social ethics. The common good is “the sum of those conditions of social life which allow social groups and their individual members relatively thorough and ready access to their own fulfilment” (#156)

**PARTICIPANT PROGRAM GUIDE** | Earth Day 2022 | Integral Ecology 2

## **Video (11 MINUTES)**

You can watch directly on [YouTube](https://youtu.be/udDqptXKGS0) (<https://youtu.be/udDqptXKGS0>) or [download](https://bit.ly/34RJxcD) (<https://bit.ly/34RJxcD>) the video to your computer.

## **Small Group Discussion (20 MINUTES)**

1. Has your Marianist community read and discussed Pope Francis' *Laudato Si?*
2. Why is the concept of the common good so central to Catholic social teaching and to our understanding on how we live our faith as a community?
3. How are the concepts of integral ecology and the common good raised in the video segment about the Economy of Francesco? Can you think of examples of how the common good and integral ecology intersect with the Marianist Charism in your life and in the life of your community?

## **Suggested Actions** (10 MINUTES)

### **1) Action Alert on Climate Action**

U.S. Senators are considering substantive climate provisions in budget legislation. Catholic Climate Covenant and our partners have launched "Encounter for Our Common Home," a coalition-wide advocacy campaign. By signing this Action Alert, you can send a letter to your senators, inviting them to support climate solutions from a place of faith and reason.

This Action Alert is a critical part of the Encounter for Our Common Home campaign, which includes trainings and community-building efforts for encounters with U.S. Senators in May.

We invite you to sign this Alert now and join this transformational effort by visiting <https://bit.ly/3i6P3eC>!

## **Closing Prayer** (1-3 MINUTES)

God of all,  
Creator and ruler of the universe,  
You entrusted your world to us as a gift. Help us to care for it and all people, that we may live in right relationship— with You,  
with ourselves,  
with one another,  
and with creation.

Christ our Lord,  
both divine and human,  
You lived among us and died for our sins.  
Help us to imitate your love for the human family  
by recognizing that we are all connected—  
to our brothers and sisters around the world,  
to those in poverty impacted by environmental devastation, and to future generations.

Holy Spirit,  
giver of wisdom and love,  
You breathe life in us and guide us. Help us to live according to your vision, stirring to action the hearts of all— individuals and families,  
communities of faith,  
and civil and political leaders.

Triune God, help us to hear the cry of those in poverty, and the cry of the earth, so that we may together care for our common home.

Amen.

~U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops