



O Earth Beyond all Praising



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

- O Earth beyond all praising, we sing with you today and hymn the love amazing that songs cannot repay; for we can only wonder at every gift you send, at blessings without number and mercies without end: we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word, we honor and revere you, our great and mighty Friend
- Then hear, O gracious Mother, accept the love we bring, that we who know your favor may serve you as our friend; and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill, we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still: to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways, and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.



Laudato Si: A call to Conversion, Beauty and Wonder

“if we approach nature and the environment without this openness to awe and wonder, if we no longer speak the language of fraternity and beauty in our relationship with the world, our attitude will be that of masters, consumers, ruthless exploiters, unable to set limits on their immediate needs” (#11).

“I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need **a conversation** that **includes everyone**, since the environment challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all” (#14).



Climate Change: What's Changing?


Increasing
Carbon Dioxide


Rising
Air Temperature


Decreasing
Snowpack

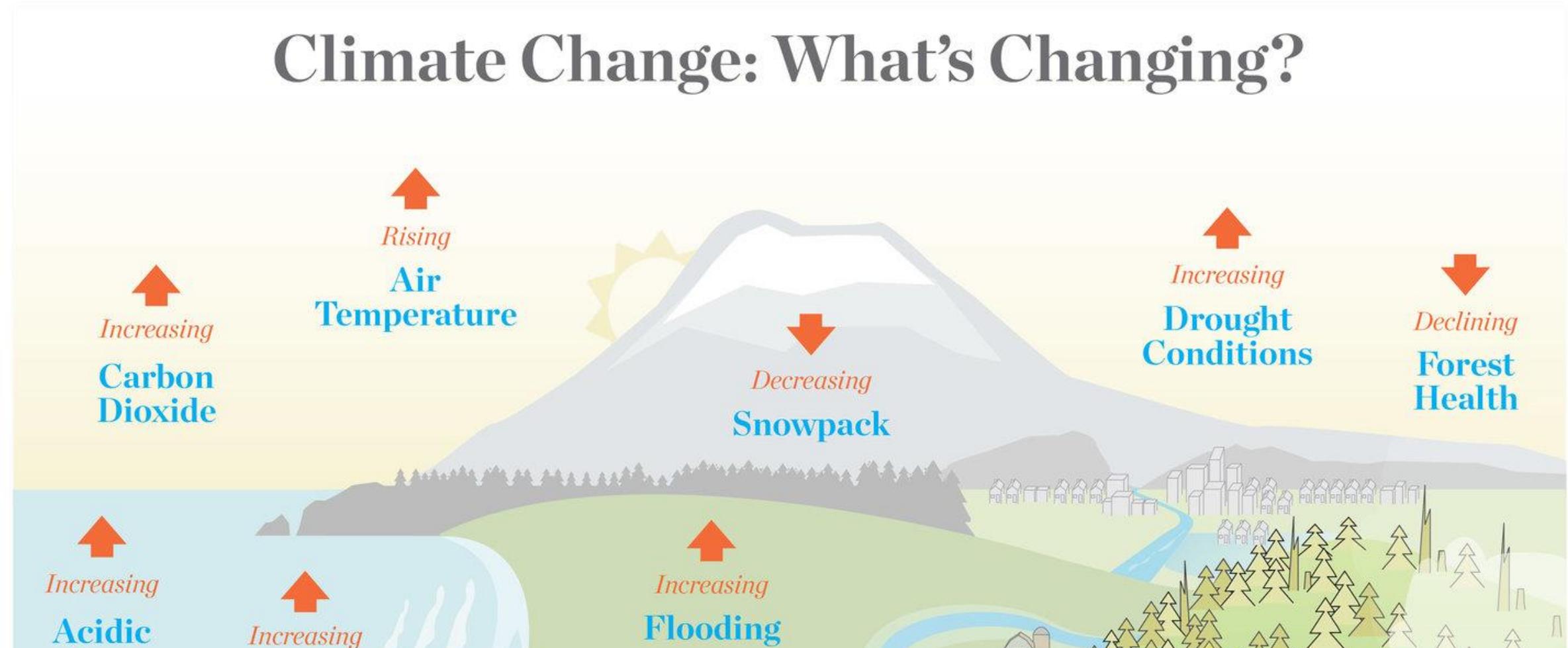

Increasing
Drought Conditions


Declining
Forest Health


Increasing
Acidic


Increasing


Increasing
Flooding



The First Conversion: Object to Subject

'Each creature has its own purpose. None is superfluous. The entire material universe speaks of God's love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything, as it were, is a caress of God' (section 84).

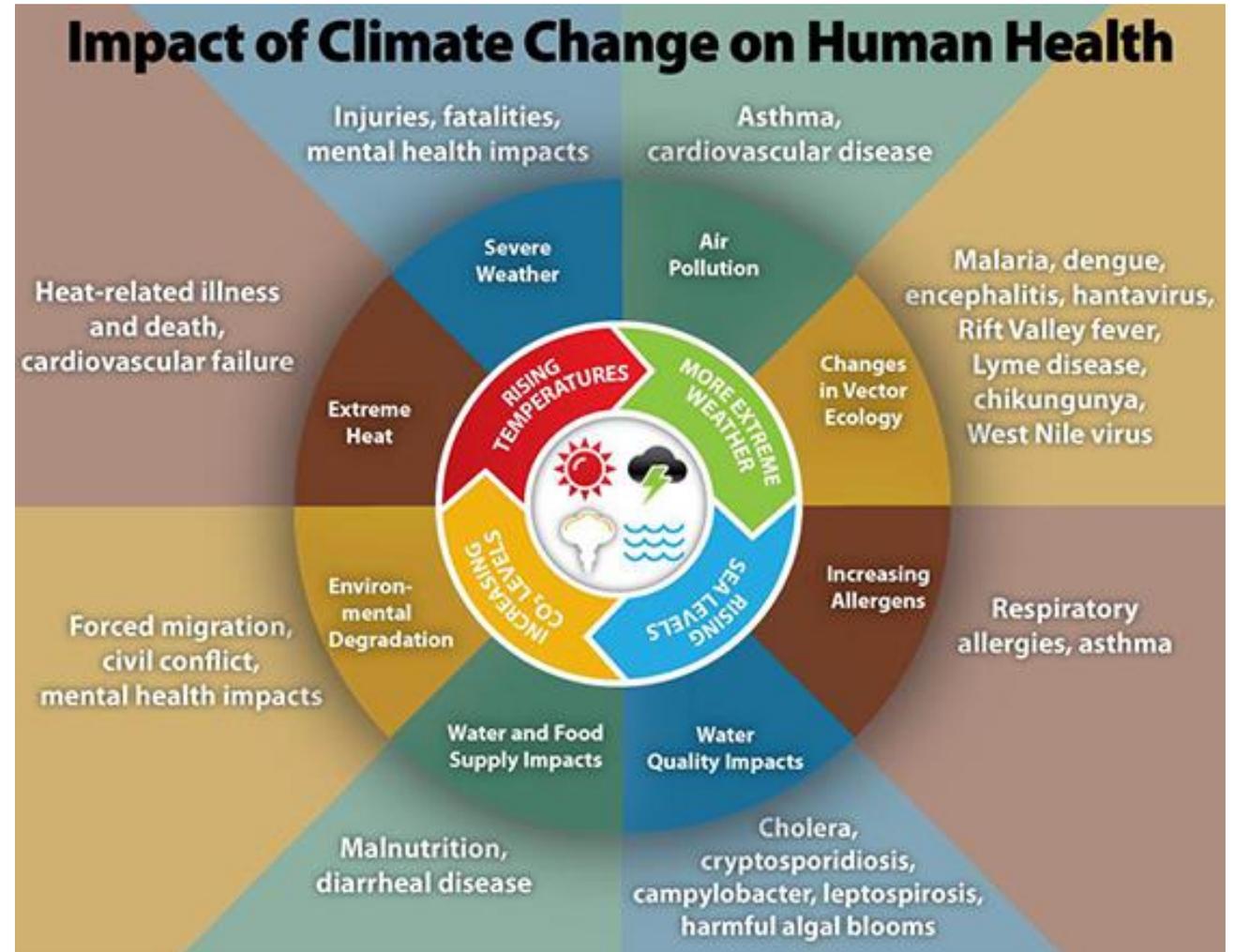
“Social problems must be addressed by community networks....change is also a community conversion.” (219)

Knowing that you love the earth changes you, activates you to defend and protect and celebrate. But when you feel that the earth loves you in return, that feeling transforms the relationship from a one-way street into a sacred bond. Robin Wall Kimmerer



Resistance to Change harms the poor disproportionately.

“The first step is to humbly acknowledge the harm we are doing to the Earth through pollution, the scandalous destruction of ecosystems and loss of biodiversity, and the spectre of climate change. And to realise that when we hurt the Earth, we also hurt the poor.” Cardinal Turkson, Ghana



Welcome

God has given abundantly to all the basic needs of life, not as a private possession, not restricted by law, not divided by boundaries, but as common to all, amply and in rich measure. ~ St. Gregory Nazienzen (b 390)

Welcome – Do we welcome creation as our sister? Do we welcome those who invite and agitate us regarding climate change and its impact on everyone, but especially on the poor?



Protect

Protect – Are we prepared to reimagine our relationship with our sister and protect her from abuse and destruction. Are we prepared to acknowledge our own complicity in not protecting creation because of our own greed, selfishness, and pride?



Promote

Promote – Are we ready to promote the earth as our sister, hold her up in all her struggles in order to work for change in our own lives and our nation's life? Are we ready to offer people an honest and bold new vision, even in the face of the denial of some and resistance of others?

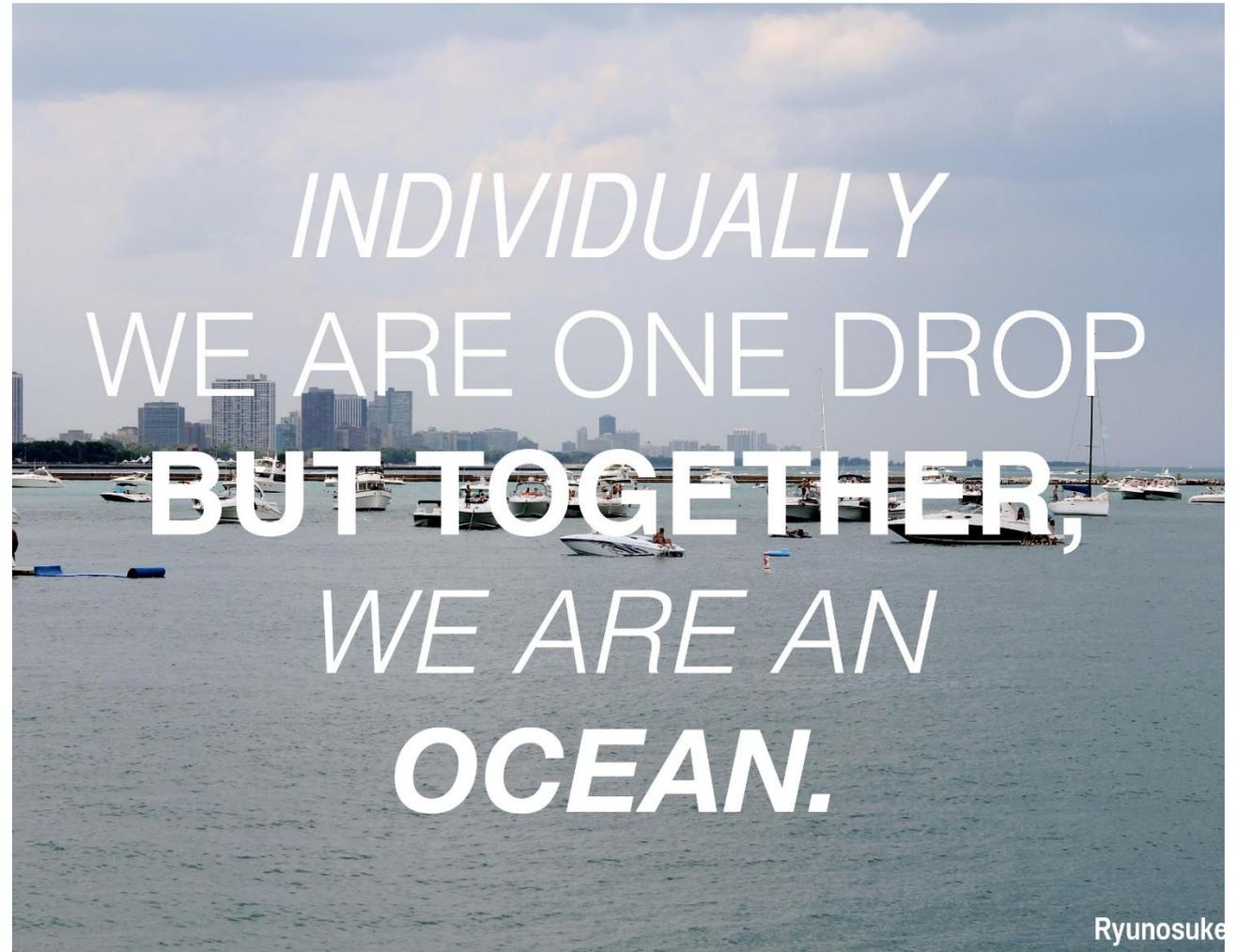


Integrate

Integrate – means to see all that is in creation is related and that our attitudes and practices (plastic, vehicles, use of electricity) have to change in order for all creation to have a chance to rebound, rebuild and sustain us.

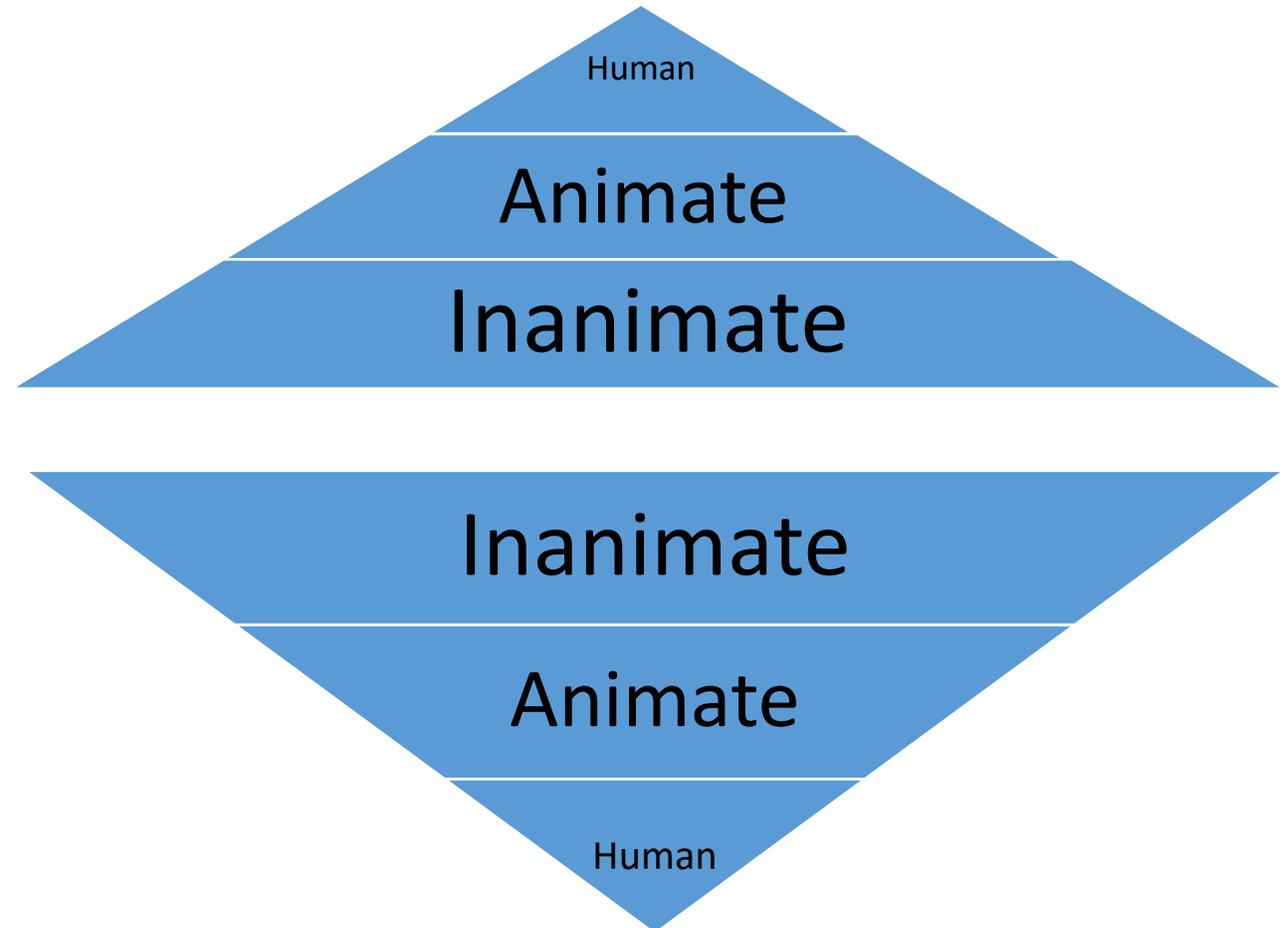
“Since everything is closely interrelated, and today’s problems call for a vision capable of taking into account every aspect of the global crisis, I suggest that we now consider some elements of an **integral ecology, which clearly respects human and social dimensions**” (137).

“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, at the same time protecting nature” (139).



Spirituality of Solidarity

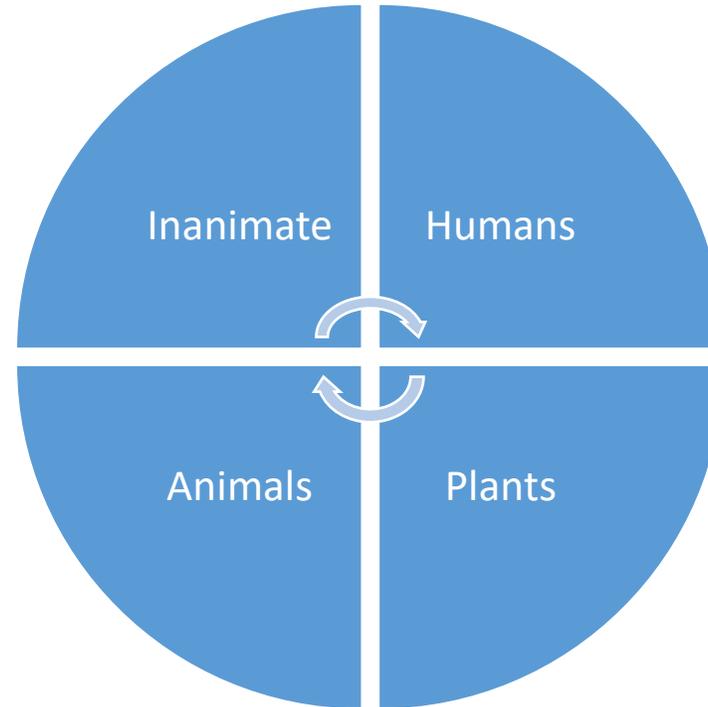
- Humans are not the base or foundation of creation, but emerge from it.
- For centuries Catholic teaching placed humans at the pinnacle of creation with the God-given right to have dominion over other creatures who were made for our use. **Elizabeth Johnson, PhD**

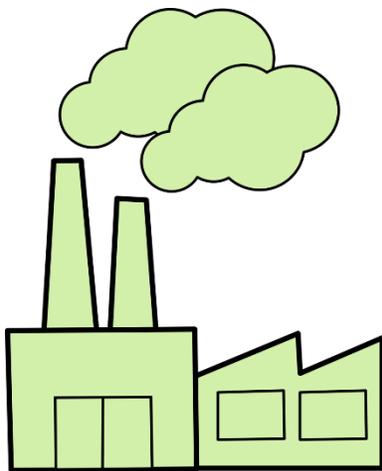


Pyramid to Circle

Shifting the model from pyramid to circle has radical, far-reaching consequences... philosophers and theologians have much work to do here, to reconceive anthropology, ethics, and spirituality in this more inclusive vein.

At the center theologically and spiritually is God who keeps all in existence and relationship.

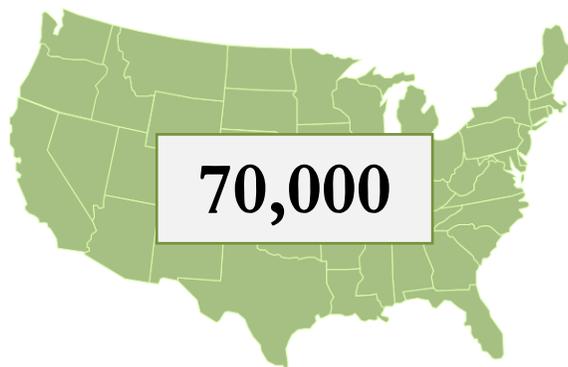




Fact: 40% of energy use in buildings is wasted

Buildings in the U.S. waste \$200B per year and emit more than 2,600 million metric tons of CO₂. This is equivalent to the emissions from 292 billion gallons of gasoline.

Source: Business Insider, McKinsey, Joule Assets, US Green Building Council, EPA, EIA



There are 70,000+ Catholic-owned buildings in the US

These facilities average 23,000 sqft in size and spend an average of \$35,000 annually on utility costs.



The average Catholic facility is wasting \$14,000 each year

Taken together, Catholic facilities are wasting nearly \$1B annually.

Catholic Energies can change this

THE MODEL



Church pays utility for fossil fuel electricity



Church reduces costs by generating your own clean energy

US Catholic Church

73 million Catholics (23% of the U.S. population)

18,000 parishes; 70,000 Catholic-owned buildings

573 Catholic hospitals treated 84.7 million patients in 2005

6,511 elementary schools and 1,354 high schools, with over 2.5 million students enrolled

244 Catholic colleges and universities with nearly 800,000 students



The St Francis/Laudato Si Pledge

- **Pray for and with creation**
- **Live more simply**
- **Advocate to protect our common home.**



Life Style

Reduce how much you need

Reuse what you already have

Recycle what can be made new

Finish your meals. Don't waste food.

Make time for others, especially the needy

Choose a "more humble" purchase.

Meet the poor in the flesh.

Befriend those who disagree.

Don't remain indifferent

Give freely from substance

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=USo_vH1Jz7E



Questions for Discussion

- What are the most important ethical questions that emerge from Laudato Si?
- When did the light go on for you regarding the ethical implications of climate change?
- What lifestyle changes personally and structurally are demanded by Laudato Si?
- Have you made changes?
 - If not, can you identify your resistance?
- How can we work together to honor and preserve Creation's gifts for the next generation?