

THE ROLE OF FAITH IN CREATING A BETTER WORLD

EUTIMIO TILIACOS

Secretary General

CENTESIMUS ANNUS PRO PONTIFICE FOUNDATION

Laudato Si̇ (from now on LS) 207 “As never before in history, common destiny beckons us to seek a new beginning... Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life”

LS 207. The *Earth Charter* asked us to leave behind a period of self-destruction and make a new start, but **we have not as yet developed a universal awareness** needed to achieve this.

Faith with its profetic role does also provide for increased universal awareness of men's powers however associated with men's fragility

Book of Psalms

Psalm 8

O LORD What is man that You are mindful of him,
or the son of man that You care for him?
You made him a little lower than the angels;
you crowned him with glory and honor.
You made him ruler of the works of Your hands;

Psalm 144

O LORD, what is man, that You regard him,
the son of man that You think of him?

**Man is like a breath;
his days are like a passing shadow**

«We need to reflect on the call to a conversion of minds and hearts so that the development of an integral ecology can become ever more a priority internationally, nationally and indeed individually»

ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS TO PARTICIPANTS IN THE
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE CENTESIMUS ANNUS PRO PONTIFICE
FOUNDATION
Vatican, June 8, 2019

«In the current moment in time, however, a number of challenges and issues still remain. For example, progress on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals has in some cases been slow and even non-existent, or, sadly, has regressed»

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«Improper use of natural resources and models of development that are not inclusive and sustainable continue to have negative effects on poverty, social growth and social equality (cf. Laudato Si', 43, 48).

**Laudato Si' is not a “green” encyclical:
it is a social encyclical»**

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LS 139 When we speak of the “environment”, what we really mean is a relationship existing between nature and the society which lives in it. **Nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting in which we live....**

LS 139...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.

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This single crisis has its deep roots in the scarce consideration we pay to the **fragility** of the socio environmental system and in the partially not efficient use of financial resources available for investments

LS 142. If everything is related, then the health of a *society's institutions* has consequences for the environment and the quality of human life. “Every violation of solidarity and civic friendship harms the environment”

LS 177 *Political and institutional frameworks do not exist simply to avoid bad practice, but also to promote best practice, to stimulate creativity in seeking new solutions and to encourage individual or group initiatives*

LS 181 *In the absence of pressure from the public and from civic institutions, political authorities will always be reluctant to intervene, all the more when urgent needs must be met*

LS 181 *A healthy politics* is sorely needed, capable of reforming and coordinating institutions, promoting best practices and overcoming undue pressure and bureaucratic inertia.

LS 214 *Political institutions and various other social groups* are also entrusted with helping to raise **people's awareness**. So too is the Church. All Christian communities have an important role to play in ecological education

LS 181 It should be added, though, that even the best mechanisms can break down when there are no worthy goals and values, or a genuine and profound humanism to serve as the basis of a noble and generous society

**We therefore need Faith to fill this gap:
Faith bringing about worthy goals and values
and preventing our society from imploding
especially when natural disasters occur**

«Disasters are sometimes considered external shocks, but disaster risk results from the complex interaction between development processes that generate conditions of exposure, vulnerability and hazard.»

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

Vulnerability has a major impact also on economy especially when impacted by lack of preparedness to natural disasters and spread of pandemic diseases

- «In addition to loss of life,
estimated costs of past events include:
- a loss of over US \$40 billion in productivity from the 2003 SARS epidemic;
 - US\$53 billion loss from the economic and social impact of the 2014-2016 West Africa Ebola outbreak ;
 - and the US\$ 45 to 55 billion cost of the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic»

World Bank anticipates the possibility of a loss caused by Coronavirus in the region, at global level, of \$ 3 Trillion
or 4.8 % of world gross domestic product (GDP)

«While the world is an unpredictable place, unpredictability is often not a problem. The problem is that faced with clear risks, we still fail to act....» (FTW 18-19 April 2020)

«.....Most events that catch us by surprise are both predictable and preventable, but we consistently miss (or ignore) the warning signs. Many disasters in business or in life in general are preceded by clear warning signals that leaders either miss or purposely ignore.» (FTW 18-19 April 2020)

INVESTMENTS OUGHT BE DIRECTED TO PROJECTS :

- To provide appropriate science-based tools, scientific modelling and other information for assessing hazard risk, vulnerability, and resilience that decision makers and community leaders can understand and use;
- To arrange effective community plans and strategies that improve community readiness to cope with natural and human-induced hazards;
- Meant to preserve healthy natural habitats, biodiversity, and ecosystem services also supporting local economies and communities