

Earth “cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the good with which God has endowed her.” *Laudato Si*” (2)

Laudato Si asserts that the natural environment and the social environment have been gravely damaged by our irresponsible behavior. “Both are ultimately due to the same evil: the notion that there are no indisputable truths to guide our lives, and hence, human freedom is limitless. We have forgotten that ‘man is not only a freedom which he creates for himself. Man does not create himself. He is spirit and will, but also nature.’” (6)

There is an objective reality that we deny or obfuscate to our own peril. Aristotle famously observed - “Does not one indifferent to truth walk into a well or over a precipice instead of avoiding such things?” The Coronavirus pandemic makes this clear to us. The reality of the virus is not influenced in any way by our denial of it or attempts to shape it to suit our purposes. Regarding climate change and degradation of the planet, a New York Times editorial writer mused “You cannot sweet talk Mother Nature or spin her or manipulate her. Mother Nature will always and only do whatever chemistry and biology and physics dictate and she always bats last and she always bats 1,000.”

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