

Laudato Si' Reflection inspired by Cathy Petro

“Ecology studies the relationship between living organisms and the environment in which they develop. This necessarily entails reflection and debate about the conditions required for the life and survival of society, and the honesty needed to question certain models of development, productivity, and consumption. It cannot be emphasized enough how everything is interconnected. Time and space are not independent of one another, and not even atoms or subatomic particles can be considered in isolation.” *Laudato Si'*138

We are all interwoven (within and without) * together in the most majestic, living, feeling mosaic. We are all different creatures, all unique, all purposeful and all loved by our Creator God! We live, we die, we co-create with the Source of all life. Throughout the eons of time, we evolve for better or worse, hopefully for better. We can choose something better, something healing for our Earth and her inhabitants. Cathy Petro introduced us all to the wisdom and truth of Thomas Berry. In his book, *THE GREAT WORK: OUR WAY INTO THE FUTURE***, he exhorts us “...to move from our human-centered to an earth-centered norm of reality and value. Only in this way can we fulfill our human role within the functioning of the planet on which we live. Earth, within the solar system, is the immediate context of our existence.” Everything in this world is created by God to be related to each other. This interconnectedness, this wonderful mix of people, cultures, animals, birds, plants, seas, mountains...vibrant and beautiful, alive and eternal are just specks though amongst the stars in the cosmos of wholeness and wonder!

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Integral Ecology Committee

* “The Within of Things” by John Surette, SJ (1993) *AN AMAZING JOURNEY* (Page 7) book introduced to us by Sr. Ceil Roeger and given to us by Cathy Petro.

**Recommended to our committee by Sr. Carol Mayes