

Conversation on Care for Our Common Home

Washington Fire Hall May 15, 3:30-5:30 PM

THE CONVERSATION CONTINUES

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. We are part of nature, included in it and thus in constant interaction with it. Recognizing the reasons why a given area is polluted requires a study of the workings of society, its economy, its behaviour patterns, and the ways it grasps reality. Given the scale of change, it is no longer possible to find a specific, discrete answer for each part of the problem. It is essential to seek comprehensive solutions which consider the interactions within natural systems themselves and with social systems. 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. *From “On Care of Our Common Home –Pope Francis.”*

Format of our discussion:

- We will share in groups of 10 or 12.
- We will introduce ourselves (short).
- We will use a “round robin” method of sharing, i.e., each person has an uninterrupted chance to share (no more than three minutes for initial sharing).
- After each person has had a chance to share, we will have general discussions.
- There will be a note taker in each group to capture our ideas.
- After the general discussion in each group, we will have reports from the note takers for the benefit of the group at large
- Sharing of final thoughts: “How was this conversation for you?” “What would make the conversation better?”

Possible Questions for sharing –

- Your thoughts on Paragraph #139 (see above)?
- How would you combat poverty, restore dignity to the excluded, and protect nature at the same time?
- Give examples of where these values have been realized: combatting poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and protecting nature.
- What in your opinion is the most pressing environmental and social issue facing the world today?
- If you were czar, what would you do about it?
- What organizations are doing this work?

Next Conversation: June 12 – 3:30 - 5:30 at the Washington Fire Hall