

Mineral Resource Development in the Context of the Encyclical *Laudato Si'*

Presentation by Jim Cooney
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Canticle of Saint Francis

“Praised be you, my Lord, through **our Sister, Mother Earth**, who sustains and governs us.

Praised be you, my Lord, with all your creatures, especially **Brother Sun**, who is the day and through whom you give us light.

Praised be you, my Lord, through **Sister Moon and the stars**, in heaven you formed them clear and precious and beautiful.

Praised be you, my Lord, through **Brother Wind**, and through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind of weather through whom you give sustenance to your creatures.

Praised be you, my Lord, through **Sister Water**, who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.

Praised be you, my Lord, through **Brother Fire**, through whom you light the night....”

The Integrity of Creation Inspires “Integral Ecology”

“Francis shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace.”

“Francis helps us to see that an integral ecology calls for openness to categories which transcend the language of mathematics and biology, and take us to the heart of what it is to be human.”

“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.”

Some Elements of the Modern Secular Worldview

- Materialism objectifies the natural world.
- Technology propels the assertion of power over nature.
- Capitalism drives wealth creation and economic power.
- Individual rights are superior to communal interests.
- Private property is fundamental to a productive economy and a stable society.

Objective of Business Corporations

To maximize profits for investors

....within the constraints of :

- Laws and regulations
- Public perception
- Ethical convention

And for some leading mining companies....

- Sustainable development

Some Elements of Integral Ecology

- Inter-connectedness of social and environmental dimensions of reality
- Intrinsic value in nature, animate and inanimate
- Holistic rather than technocratic approach to addressing environmental issues
- Sub-ordination of property rights and economic power to the common good
- Solidarity with the poor and powerless
- Subsidiarity: decisions driven by communities and civil society

The Way Forward: Dialogue

- Will Integral Ecology be able to replace the modern secular worldview as a framework for guiding mineral resource development?
- What should be the objective of mining companies if they are to conform to Integral Ecology?
- Will governments be able to adopt and conform to the vision of Integral Ecology?
- Will civil society organizations....?
- Is Integral Ecology a cultural transformation?
- What sort of dialogue will be most productive?