

### **LAUDATO SI' Goal #3 Ecological Economics**

Ecological Economics acknowledges that the economy is a sub-system of human society, which itself is embedded within the biosphere—our common home. *As we commit ourselves to this 7-year journey toward sustainability in the spirit of the “Integral Ecology” of Laudato Si, let us act proactively for the ecological economics of our society.*

Ecological economics is a bridge across not only ecology and economics but also psychology, anthropology, archaeology, and history. That's what's necessary to get a more integrated picture of how humans have interacted with their environment in the past and how they might interact in the future. It's an attempt to look at humans embedded in their ecological life-support system, not separate from the environment. It studies everything inside and outside of the market in light of the fact that we live on a finite planet and the economy cannot grow indefinitely in the larger system. Actions for ecological economics could include sustainable production and consumption, ethical investments, divestment from fossil fuels and any activity harmful to the planet and the people, supporting circular economies, and prioritizing care labor and protecting the dignity of workers.

*Provident God, help us bring “together the different fields of knowledge, including economics, in the service of a more integral and integrating vision,” and create a new economic paradigm that promotes “new models of integral development.”*

Below is a short list of ways you can, and perhaps are, responding to **Ecological Economics**. You are invited to prayerfully spend some time with this list and notice what action calls to you personally.

- 1. Research and purchase items based on sustainable and ethical production (recycled paper goods, sustainable wild caught seafood, organic products, etc.)** 2. Purchase Fair Trade items. (*In Scranton area: Heaven and Earth Gift Shop, All Things Natural. Consider Whole Foods Market for Fair Trade Certified items.*)
- 3. Reduce your consumption of fossil fuels. Invest in renewable energy.**
- 4. Advocate for ecologically sound policies. (Write, call and meet with local, state, federal representatives).**
- 5. Purchase locally grown food.**
- 7. Other.**

In light of your reflections indicate:

- 1. To which of the above are you drawn to commit?**

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- 2. Are there other ecological actions you want to commit to?**

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