



PURSUING
THE COMMON GOOD
FOR OUR COMMON HOME



Dominican Sisters
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Emboldened by faith, serving with joy

Module 6: Seven Interlocking Global Goals

by Sister Mary Catherine Fodrocy OP

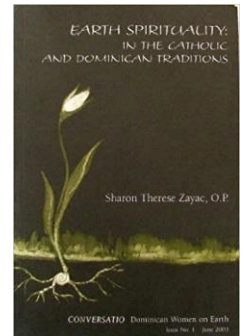
I think of the seven interlocking global goals of the Laudato Si Action Platform as the pieces of a puzzle that come together to form a whole. Each piece has a role to play, and all are needed to complete the picture. The pieces have a greater purpose together than separately.



The purpose of the goals is to bring about a restored earth and environment as well as a healthy human family for now and for future generations.

The two goals of **Recovering Ecological Spirituality** and **Creating Ecological Education** lay the foundation for decisions about **Community Action and Advocacy** which will determine **Response to the Cry of the Earth** and **Response to the Cry of People Who Are Poor**. Response to these cries will lead to the development of **Sustainable Economics** and **Responsible Lifestyles**.

I start with the goal of **Recovering Ecological Spirituality**. This is based on a firm inner conviction that God is the source of all creation which is held together by God’s love. It is the glue that binds the other goals together. Priorities are set and decisions are made from the perspective of God’s creating love. Each one of us and all of creation are embraced by God’s creating love.



Creating Ecological Education involves both formal and informal learning. Formal learning has to do with designing curricula and reforming educational institutions with the goal of imparting the knowledge and the skill needed to restore our common home and heal our human family. Informal learning is our responsibility as individuals. The questions I ask myself are:

- What do I need to learn?
- Where can I join others in supporting and collaborating with efforts already being made about what I have learned?
- What new efforts are needed?

Community Action and Advocacy are essential on the local, regional, national, and international levels because the issues facing us are global and beyond what any of us can do alone. Our personal involvement and actions are the bricks for building a better world for ourselves and future generations. My bricks might be small, but they are important when united with your bricks.

I see **Response to the Cry of the Earth** and **Response to the Cry of People who are Poor** as being interdependent. What I do or don’t do from the perspective of **Ecological Spirituality, Ecological Education**, and joining in **Community Action and Advocacy** has an effect for growth or decline on both our common home and our human family. Home and family are impacted by each other.

It will take paradigm changes to make **Sustainable Economics** and **Responsible Lifestyles** a reality. Priorities need to be rearranged and changes made that will have a significant impact on the way we think, what we do, and the way we experience life now.

I wonder what it would actually be like if the value and dignity of people would be considered rather than profit in economics; if clean energy would replace dependence on fossil fuel in our everyday life; if clean air and water would replace pollution in the world; if compassion would be more evident than dehumanizing speech and actions in political discourse; if I thought more about the good of others rather than what I want now.

Many, many steps by many, many people can begin to make changes in destructive paradigms.

Let us pray for one another that we have the guidance and strength of the Holy Spirit to make necessary changes in our lifestyles as we walk together on the long and difficult path to the restoration of the earth and environment and the healing of our human family for ourselves now and those who will come after us.

Calling for adoption on simple lifestyles, it is a call for sobriety in the use of resources and energy, avoiding single-use plastic, adopting a more plant-based diet, and reducing meat consumption, greater use of public transport and avoid polluting modes of transportation, and behaviors such as these.

Pope Francis reminds us, “All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents” (LS, 14), and everyone can adopt a simple lifestyle. As the fourth of LSGs, the Adoption of Simple Lifestyles is at the center of all the seven goals proposed by the Laudato Si encyclical.

[Adoption of Simple Lifestyles - 4th Goal of Laudato Si](#)

TOWARDS A NEW LIFESTYLE - Laudato Si

206. A change in lifestyle could bring healthy pressure to bear on those who wield political, economic, and social power. This is what consumer movements accomplish by boycotting certain products. They prove successful in changing the way businesses operate, forcing them to consider their environmental footprint and their patterns of production. When social pressure affects their earnings, businesses clearly have to find ways to produce differently. This shows us the great need for a sense of social responsibility on the part of consumers. “Purchasing is always a moral – and not simply economic – act”. [146] Today, in a word, “the issue of environmental degradation challenges us to examine our lifestyle” . [147]