

Fifth Week of Lent - Laudato Si Goal #5

Ecological Education

“Environmental education should facilitate making the leap towards the transcendent which gives ecological ethics its deepest meaning. It needs educators capable of developing an ethics of ecology, and helping people, through effective pedagogy, to grow in solidarity, responsibility and compassionate care”. (Laudato Si #210)

READ: The Adulterous Scribes and Pharisees (Gospel of John 8:1-11)

REFLECTION: Jesus’ *“effective pedagogy”* took on various forms in this Gospel passage. Jesus’ teaching style was especially striking by way of his posture and activity: bent down and writing on the ground. This pointing by Jesus’ torso and finger to the Earth (to *humus*) pointed the scribes and Pharisees back to their origin, to humility. They had projected *their* adulterous & self-righteous mindset onto a woman...and Jesus called them on it by his Earthiness as well as his words. As western humans bound up by a mindset divorced from the Earth, we all need such a lesson in humility. An ecological education sets us aright and calls us into true relationship, justice, compassion. Through such a profound awakening, we authentically desire to *“go and sin no more”*.



ACTION: Reflect on educators who have challenged your mindset(s). Who has pointed you to humbling and enlivening aspects of Creation? How are you being called to educate yourself and others ecologically? Want *“effective pedagogy”*? Take off your shoes and go on the ritual of *“The Cosmic Walk”* www.thegreatstory.org/CosmicWalk.pdf

“...we human beings above all need to change. We lack an awareness of our common origin, of our mutual belonging, and of a future to be shared with everyone. This basic awareness would enable the development of new convictions, attitudes and forms of life. A great cultural, spiritual and educational challenge stands before us, and it will demand that we set out on the long path of renewal. (LS #202)