

# Pope Francis' Vision for Ecology

## Dialogue and the Common Good Keynote Address Summary

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By Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson, Bishop of Yakima

### Context and Introduction

Bishop Joseph Tyson reflects on Pope Francis' teachings, particularly in *Laudato Si'* and *Fratelli Tutti*, offering insights into the interconnectedness of human ecology, creation, and the common good. Drawing from his pastoral experiences in the Diocese of Yakima, he emphasizes that our redemption and salvation extend to all creation, not just humanity. This vision invites us to reconsider how we live in relationship with God, each other, and the environment. To read the whole address, [click here](#).

### Redemption of All Creation

Bishop Tyson highlights Romans 8:18-27, noting that creation itself "groans" as it awaits redemption. The idea of redemption, central to the Christian faith, involves not just human salvation but the liberation of all creation from the degradation caused by sin. In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis calls for an "Integral Human Ecology," where human dignity is intertwined with the health of the environment. When we neglect creation, we degrade humanity. This principle urges us to care for both the planet and the people, especially the marginalized, as part of God's redemptive plan.

### Modern-Day Slavery and Disconnection

The Bishop shares the stories of individuals like Nico, a seminarian who was ransomed

by his family and fled to the U.S. to escape recapture, highlighting the ongoing effects of human trafficking and exploitation. Modern-day slavery often results from a disconnection between people, creation, and God. Pope Francis condemns this "throwaway culture," where both people (migrants, refugees, workers) and the environment are discarded like packaging with little care for the damage it does. The call to redeem creation includes confronting these injustices and seeing the human face of suffering, whether in fields or through systemic inequality.

### Pilgrimage of Hope for Creation

Bishop Tyson suggests participating in a "Pilgrimage of Hope for Creation" during the Season of Creation (Sept. 1 - Oct. 4), walking with others to deepen our faith by reflecting on both the beauty of the Earth as well as the environmental damage we've caused. Engaging with local communities, like farm workers, and learning about their struggles can add to our understanding of how environmental issues and social justice intersect.

### Integral Human Development

Bishop Tyson stresses that a true soteriology (the study of salvation) is not about escaping the world but about rescuing and redeeming it. We must recognize the interconnectedness of social and environmental issues — migrants who seek

better lives, growers and farmworkers affected by climate change, and the suffering caused by systemic issues like addiction and violence. These challenges require us to think holistically and build inclusive, supportive communities.

### Living Out Pope Francis' Vision

Pope Francis' writings invite us to become "Pilgrims of Hope" by engaging in dialogue and action that promote unity, solidarity, and care for the Earth. As we reflect on the work of redemption, we are reminded to pray for open hearts and a commitment to healing creation. Bishop Tyson's final call is for each of us to act as agents of peace and understanding, drawing from the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, who sought peace, healing, and restoration for all.

In this Jubilee year, let us actively participate in God's redemptive plan by caring for creation and all those who depend on it.

