



First Friday Reflection

Jul 2023



TWELVE FIRST FRIDAY STEPS TOWARDS THE LAUDATO SI GOALS



AWARENESS

Pope Francis said: "Many things have to change course, but it is we human beings above all who need to change." **The path to change comes through education and spirituality.** "We lack an awareness of our common origin, of our mutual belonging, and of a future to be shared with everyone."

PRAYER

God of all life,
help educators to
"promote a new way of
thinking about human
beings, life, society and
our relationship with nature
so that we may discover
anew that all are important
and necessary to build
a better and safer world."
Amen.

ACTION

Ensure that members of
the community are familiar
with the local ecosystem,
the social dimensions of
the ecological crisis
and ecological virtues.

JULY 2023

image: <https://pixabay.com/photos/grandmother-kids-laptop-myanmar-1822560/>

Australian Reflection

The paper, [Ecological Virtues in Laudato Si](#), highlights "praise, gratitude, care, justice, work, sobriety, and humility" as the key ecological virtues. It states: "We will save our common home only when we learn to see it with a deep sense of wonder that wells up in spontaneous praise of the Creator for all the marvels of creation". It reminds us to imitate First Nations people's gratitude using Pope Francis' words: "For them, the land is not a commodity but rather a gift from God and from their ancestors who rest there, a sacred space with which they need to interact if they are to maintain their identity and values". When we care, we have a "view of the world as a network of relationships", and can "set before the world the ideal of a 'civilisation of love'". If "the earth is essentially a shared inheritance, who fruits are meant to benefit everyone", then we must act justly, not only "between communities of the same human generation (intra-generational)" but also "between current and future generations (inter-generational)". As we celebrate NAIDOC Week "For Our Elders", we are reminded to draw on the wisdom of those who lived harmoniously with Country for over 60,000 years.