

"The universe as a whole, in all its manifold relationships, shows forth the inexhaustible riches of God." (LS 86)

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In the Second Week of the Spiritual Exercises, St. Ignatius invites us into one of the loveliest imaginative exercises. Ignatius asks us to imagine the three persons of the Trinity gazing down upon the earth and all of humanity and seeing great diversity: "some white, some black, some at peace, some at war, some weeping, laughing, some healthy, sick, some being born, others dying...(106)" With great compassion, the three Divine persons determine the best way to help us is for one of them to become one of us: The Incarnation. Jesus comes, as John tells us, 'to pitch his tent among us.' Herein lies our greatest hope. God enters our humanity to invite us into God's own life. God does not choose to work without us. Being a Jesuit, Pope Francis would have prayed this exercise several times and I imagine held this contemplation in mind and heart when he wrote *Laudato Si'*.

Ignatius then asks us to look at the whole world, God's whole world, from the vantage point of the Trinity and ask God for the grace to 'see as God sees': the goodness of all Creation, human diversity and interconnectedness. These two, the environment and humanity, are inseparable, forever intertwined as two

of God's most 'inexhaustible riches.' Jesus spoke often of creation as signs of God's Kingdom on earth. He spoke of red skies, fig trees, birds of the air, lilies of the field.

Imagination in our day is essential. It will take all our imaginative creativity and will to co-labor with God in applying a healing balm to both the environment and humanity.

How does Pope Francis' message inspire our active inclusive love to see the environment and humanity as one single community, eternally intertwined for the flourishing of all?



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