

## On the Catholic Contribution to Sustainability and Justice

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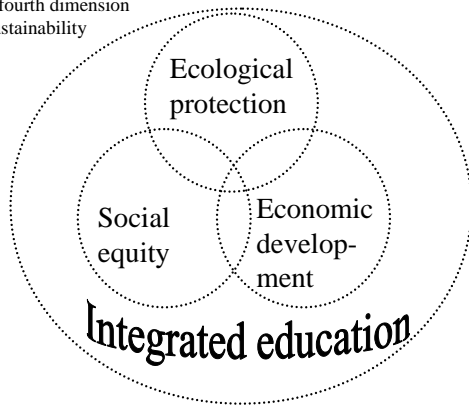
The Jesuit, Catholic tradition offers a bundle of intellectual, moral and humanistic resources than can shape a response to our environmental and sustainability crises.

1. Catholic imagination
2. Jesuit Catholic ideals in higher education
3. Catholic social teaching

But what is “a” “tradition”?

1. Catholic imagination
  - a. Worldview, Cosmology
    - i. Vision of the human person, human society, material reality
    - ii. Creation is good. It has meaning and purpose.
  - b. Sacramental imagination, sacramental mysticism
    - i. Communitarian vision of humans and nature in relationship.
    - ii. An alternative mode of consciousness based on love and gratitude.
    - iii. Moral purpose of creation is to help transform humanity, human identity and relationships
    - iv. A spirituality tradition orients us toward nature, creation.
    - v. A wisdom tradition assists in the practice of virtue, and prudence.
2. Jesuit Catholic ideals in higher education
  - a. Structure of Jesuit education: integrated education means all the parts well assembled into a developmental process. *Modus parisiensis*; education for civic engagement and the common good; logical progression in education; active learning; integrated education; SCU’s undergraduate core curriculum.
  - b. Horizons: oriented toward development of conscience; the good and the common good; engaging the needs of society; fostering common good.
  - c. Jesuit theories of knowledge: roles for all disciplines and professional programs
  - d. Models of teaching and scholarship in Catholic higher education. SCU’s teacher-scholar model: seeking synergistic benefits by linking classroom education, engaged scholarship, and academic service to the world.
  - e. The “debates” about the Catholic identity of Jesuit universities.
3. Catholic social teaching
  - a. Core values: dignity of person; humans as social; justice; common good...
  - b. A positive vision of human community is evolving to i nature/society relations. Authentic human development as sustainable development.
  - c. An ethic of environmental justice as “right relationship,” applying to the relationship between humans and the Earth. Justice, from a Biblical perspective, imposes duties on those with power and resources to care for people who are vulnerable (the widow, orphan, migrant) and the land.

The fourth dimension  
of sustainability



## Resources

### **1. Catholic imagination**

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National Catholic Rural Life Conference <http://www.ncrlc.com/default.aspx>