"Santa Clara University is uniquely positioned to make a significant contribution to achieving a more just and sustainable future. I propose that we become a major center for discussions of environmental justice, and for examining the ethical dimensions of how we treat the physical world. I believe we can lead in the development and promotion of practices, businesses, and technologies that will ensure a viable and just future for all.”
— President Michael Engh, S.J., Inauguration Address 2009

Your final exam should explain what you have learned in this class about the concepts of environmental justice and the Catholic imagination, and how you will draw from them to foster your own moral and religious imagination. This assignment is intended to be integrative, but also provide you the opportunity to exercise your own moral and religious imagination. You are welcome to draw from personal experiences and knowledge you have learned in other classes, but I will evaluate the essay by how well you explain the concepts from this class, and how you articulate them with your own emerging vocation.

There are two preliminary exercises required by this assignment.
1. Watch the rest of the “3 Key Questions” video by Michael Himes. You can find this in 3 parts at the bottom of http://food4thought.tv/fft-bin/lfwk?fft.cont.display+@CCODE=himes
2. Contact a friend and a relative and ask both of them to share two memories of you, one of an experience of joy you had, and one where you demonstrated a real talent. Here is some text you can cut and paste for your email to them:

Dear Friend or Family member

For a take home final, the professor in my Religious Studies class “Environmental Justice in the Catholic Imagination” has asked me to contact a friend and a family member and ask them to provide two memories of me. Would you be so kind as to send me a short email that relates a story when you observed me to have an experience of true joy, and another when you observed me to display real talent (this might be a social skill, and not necessarily a technical skill). Could you please email these to me no later than Saturday December 3? That way I can include them in my final essay.

The purpose of these emails, in keeping with the 3 Key Questions video, is to provide you affirming feedback for who you are and for your gifts, to help you reflect on your own vocation. Paste copies of the emailed answers you receive at the top of your essay.
This open book, take home essay exam is worth 15% of the class grade. It is due by email before 6 am on Tuesday, December 6. If you wish an extension, please make this request in person to your instructor no later than Wednesday 30 November. You should write at about 4 pages, single spaced, including the emails you receive. Please title the file: 64Surname.doc. Please put “64Surname” in the subject line of the email to which you attach it. If you are sending this from a non-SCU address, send one email with the attachment and a second email with the entire essay pasted in the body of the email.

The overarching issues to address are:

• What does or could the Catholic imagination contribute to efforts to promote environmental justice?, and
• What specific ethical concepts, values, or beliefs from the Catholic imagination would you like to incorporate more fully into your own moral and religious imagination?, and
• Based on the experience that other people describe of your joy and talent, how might you apply those elements of the Catholic imagination to your vocation?

A superior answer will draw from readings, class discussion, and your portfolio research. Note that one need not be Catholic to find elements of the Catholic imagination helpful for growing in one’s own vocation. You can reference what you have studied in the Central Valley, but this will only help you if you describe the implications of this for your own vocation (do not discuss material from your portfolio, but you could tease out implications from that for your own imagination). I suggest you take time to refresh your memory of what you read and what we discussed in class, and create a mind map (as we will do in class on Monday November the 28th). I also suggest you reflect explicitly on what your friend and family shared with you about their experience of you, and what that might suggest about your own emerging vocation.