

Shared Content and Resources by SOEE participants

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Date, Name, Title:

August 6, 2021 Dorothy Calvani, *Laudato Si'* calls us to radical abundance through economic 'degrowth'

Excerpt from:

<https://www.ncronline.org/news/earthbeat/laudato-si-calls-us-radical-abundance-through-economic-degrowth> by Alex Mikulich

In Less Is More: How Degrowth Will Save the World, economic anthropologist Jason Hickel explains: Degrowth begins as a process of taking less. But in the end it opens up whole vistas of possibility. It moves us from scarcity to abundance, from extraction to regeneration, from dominion to reciprocity, and from loneliness and separation to connection with a world that's fizzing with life.

We need a different measure of well-being. The genuine progress indicator (GPI), for example, includes not only GDP, but also negative results of economic growth, such as resource degradation, to assess the overall benefit to society.

Degrowth economists employ a different visual image to convey their goal. The objective is not to make the proverbial economic elephant leaner, but to turn the elephant into a snail, as an international consortium devoted to degrowth, which includes Catholic organizations, puts it. Turning the elephant into a snail means creating an economic metabolism in harmony with diverse ecologies that serve the full flourishing of all of our human and nonhuman kin.

The term degrowth is employed as a way to decolonize our thinking, that is, to shift from assuming that there is only one way of thinking — growth — and turn away from values of domination and exploitation toward values of conviviality, cooperation and reciprocity.

- **....Whereas capitalism seeks to control and extract value from the web of ecological relations that make life, many cultures deemed "primitive" by the modern FCC C in**
- **West celebrate radical interdependence and reciprocity within diverse webs of life.**

The Anishinaabeg, whose original lands were in northeastern America (now Canada), have the word minobimaatisiwin, which means "a continuous rebirth of reciprocal and cyclical relations between human and other life." In southern African regions, Bantu languages have ubuntu, meaning human fulfillment through togetherness, and the Shona have ukama, which indicates "the interrelatedness of the entire cosmos, including the biophysical world." The Chinese shi-shi wu-ai and Maori term mauri express "interrelatedness through the entire life force of the cosmos." (These terms are drawn from Raj Patel and Jason Moore, *The History of the World in Seven Cheap Things: A Guide to Capitalism, Nature, and the Future of the Planet.*)

...Degrowth offers a different way that celebrates the radical abundance of the whole of God's creation while caring for all of our human and nonhuman kin. (bold emphases are mine)

July 24, 2021

[Counter Mapping](#)

Essay by Chelsea Steinauer-Scudder

Jim Enote, a traditional Zuni farmer and director of the A:shiwi A:wan Museum and Heritage Center, is working with Zuni artists to create maps that bring an indigenous voice and perspective back to the land, countering Western notions of place and geography and challenging the arbitrary borders imposed on the Zuni world.

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July 17, 2021, Resolution to Action by Leadership Conference of Women

Religious: [Native Boarding Schools](#)

Written by Libby Comeaux and Brenda Cussen- Catholics for Boarding School Accountability

20 June 2021 Julie Henkener - Only Love of my Soul



O sweetness of my life,
Only love of my soul,
You led me through a desert without a path.
Over arid land,
To this green valley,
To praise Your Love.
Gertrude the Great (1265-1301)

20 June 2021 Lucy Slinger, FSPA

https://lcwr.org/sites/default/files/publications/files/resolutions_to_action_-_summer_2020.pdf Living in Right Relationships

9 June 2021 From Discussion Meeting

...when wondering if one ought to speak:

(perhaps a way to decolonize our conversations...)

—Is it true?

—Does it need to be said?

---How can it be said from love with kindness?

—Does it have to be said by me?

Toni sang this song! Sounds like

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XHFrF4ipFuw>

Hymn for the Russian Earth-- *Traditional Russian*

If the people lived their lives

As if they were a song

For singing out of light

Provide music for the stars

To be dancing circles in the night.

// Hey!

And dancing to this song! https://youtu.be/8m-BufY_obk

<https://youtu.be/DW3AuynDKJI>

2 June 2021 Karen Kudebeh - Earth is Proper Name

<https://dtnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/EARTH-is-a-Proper-Name-5-2.pdf>

22 May 2021 Molly Arthur - Sr. Sandra Schneiders: Women's religious life is undergoing a transformation that will help it survive

<https://www.globalsistersreport.org/news/spirituality/news/sr-sandra-schneiders-womens-religious-life-undergoing-transformation-will>

12 May 2021 Beth Blissman - UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

It's almost time for the launch of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030. In an effort to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide, the UN Environment Program (UNEP) has developed many resources to share on June 5, 2021, which is World Environment Day. (See more information here: <https://www.worldenvironmentday.global/>)

To help us take action in this next decade, UNEP has published a practical guide to ecosystem restoration called the Ecosystem Restoration Playbook – it provides an introduction to a range of actions that can slow the degradation of ecosystems and foster their recovery. Designed for all interested individuals and

stakeholder groups, this guide outlines three pathways to getting involved in ecosystem restoration during the UN Decade and beyond:

- Taking action such as starting or support an on-the-ground restoration project
- Making smart choices like buying only sustainable products and changing diets
- Raising your voice in support of ecosystem conservation and restoration

You can find more information, as well as a link to this 21-page guide, here:

<https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/>

So join in on restoring one or more of the eight key types of ecosystems – forests, farmlands, grassland and savannahs, rivers and lakes, oceans and coasts, towns and cities, peatlands, and mountains – and become part of #GenerationRestoration !

12 May 2021 Beth Blissman - Global Goalscast

As we head into late spring 2021, in the midst of a global pandemic that's now wreaking havoc in the global south, it's a prime time to learn more from the Global GoalsCast, an educational and inspirational podcast that covers the efforts of people working to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Go to <https://globalgoalscast.org/> to listen to their latest episode, entitled "The Pandemic Surges," where we get to listen in on an exclusive briefing on Covid-19 for global health leaders. (You can follow @GlobalGoalsCast on social media as well to keep up with this informative podcast.)

12 May 2021 Beth Blissman - Create the future through Flax-growing

About creating a new future: Here's a link to a webinar called the "United Nations of Flax webinar January 2021," courtesy of Chico Flax in California:

<https://chicoflax.com/flax-webinar-2021/>

It's all about bringing back flax production to the US – flax is the plant that's woven into linen, and it is one of the solutions that could both create jobs and help us clothe ourselves more sustainably. It's also a great way to sequester carbon in the soil, where it can do good things.

(The story of the Cleveland Flax Project, who I'm growing some seeds for this summer, starts at 9 minutes in.... Enjoy! Plus here's another video just about the CFP:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sE-gKmWQPLM&t=7s>)

9 May 2021 Julie Henkener - *On Being* conversation with Layli Long Soldier



I'm recommending a conversation with Layli Long Soldier, a member of the Oglala Lakota Tribe, that is available on the podcast *On Being* with Krista Tippett. The title is *The Freedom of Real Apologies*, and it first aired on April 22, 2021. Layli is a poet, whose award-winning first book of poetry, *WHEREAS*, is a response to the U.S. government's official apology to Native Americans in 2009. Tucked away in a bill covering military funding, this apology was given without ceremony and done so quietly that it was missed by most

everyone. The produced show is right at 50 minutes, but there is an unedited version that is about 2 hours. You can find this episode of *On Being* anywhere you normally get podcasts or here: <https://onbeing.org/programs/layli-long-soldier-the-freedom-of-real-apologies/>

24 April 2021 Julie Henkener - This Earth is My Sister



This earth is my sister; I love her daily grace, her silent daring, and how loved I am, how we admire this strength in each other, all that we have lost, all that we have suffered, all that we know: we are stunned by this beauty, and I do not forget: what she is to me, what I am to her.

...because I know I am made from this earth, as my mother's hands were made from this earth, as her dreams came through this earth and all that I know, I know in this earth...all that I know speaks to me through this earth and I long to tell you, you who are earth too, and listen as we speak to each other of what we know: the light is in us.

Susan Griffin (1978)

7 April 2021 Dorothy Calvani

Progressive Christianity, an interesting site that comes out of the thinking of the retired Episcopal Bishop John Spong... entitled [“Beyond Disavowing the Doctrine of Discovery”](#):

3 April 2021 Molly Arthur - [Try something new- Decolonize your mind](#)

16 March 2021 Molly Arthur - [Divesting the Mind of Colonialism](#) by One Earth Sangha

6 March 2021 Molly Arthur - by Robin Wall Kimmerer 5 Minutes: [Eco-Justice for All](#)

By Lyla June 16 Minutes: [Eco-Justice for All](#)

4 March 2021 Molly Arthur - Steven Newcomb: [To Decolonize Our Minds, Start With Words](#)

24 February 2021 - Grounding - Libby's offering

We've heard the refrain, how many layers hide the heart of an onion? Today as we center down and feel our roots reaching down into whatever soil is currently supporting us, we reflect on what it is to be an onion.

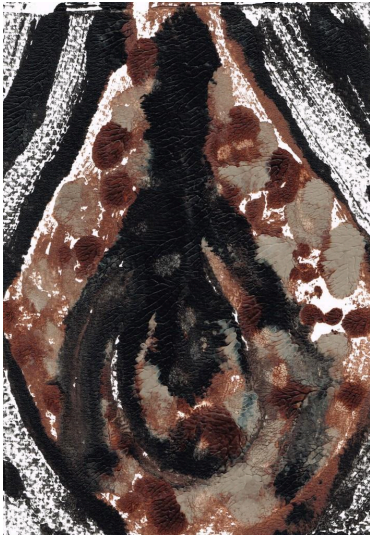
Over the many years we have lived, we've each experienced in our own way the shedding of outer layers revealing the core we might call the essence, the heart of our individual onion. But today, something new is being asked of us. It is springtime, and those who attend us have decided to slice off the fruit of the onion leaving only the root, so that our rootstock can be the beginning of new life.

And not only that, but they have decided to move us from the consistent environment and growing medium of the greenhouse into the relatively wild spaces of living soil.

As we find or feel ourselves transplanted into this rich texture, this buzzing aliveness, this enormous volume of moving creatures, we find ourselves somewhat disoriented. Before, in the consistent growing medium of the greenhouse, with its consistent cycles of temperature, we had mastered the art of shedding our outer layers in relative safety. But now more is asked of us.

That central core that we so identified with before, it begins strangely shifting. Now we are experiencing interactions with creatures beyond us who move gently to our roots seeking nurturance - bringing sustenance - interrelating. We feel small energetic facets of ourselves leave in response, even as new ones enter. Is our bodily integrity at risk? What is happening to our consciousness? Do we even know who we are? What is this sensation of being a small part of a larger, throbbing-with-life multi-layered organism? Are our histories, our questions, still relevant? What is this new experience?

Please sit in this new experience - this becoming the wildness of living soil as your body the onion begins to grow from its roots anew



For each of us as women, there is a dark place within, where hidden and growing our true spirit rises... These places of possibility within ourselves are dark because they are ancient and hidden; they have survived and grown strong through that darkness. Within these deep places, each one of us holds an incredible reserve of creativity and power, of unexamined and unrecorded emotion and feeling. The woman's place of power within each of us is neither white nor surface; it is dark, it is ancient, and it is deep.

Audre Lorde (1977)

20 February 2021 Molly Arthur - Each States Indigenous population, names and some history

<https://www.cdc.gov/tribal/tribes-organizations-health/tribes/state-population.html>

17 February 2021 Dorothy Calvani [Beyond Disavowing the Doctrine of Discovery](#) from Progressive Christianity Magazine by Arden Mahlberg

It takes, what it believes to be, needed revision/resistance to certain Biblical concepts as its basis and gives some practical direction for changes needed in Church communities.

7 January 2021 Karen Kudebeh [This is America](#)- Yes Magazine

We're not asking you to shoot them like you shoot us, we're asking you to NOT shoot us like you don't shoot them... -Davontae Harris, [@wichkid](#)

7 January 2021 Karen Kudebeh from Animas Valley Institute Soulcraft Musings

Every Thought, Etched Upon the Sky

by Geneen Marie Haugen

Friday, January 8, 2021

A band of wanderers who traveled by thumb[1] or caravan to places they regarded as spiritually potent once gathered in the Tetons to Omfor world peace. They asked around for a tipi to use for the Om circles and somehow found me, and thus my tipi was enlisted for their mission. Among them was a songwriter whose haunting voice I

can still hear, many decades later. Although her name is lost to me in the far canyons of memory, I still remember the lyrics she sang, which were something like this: "The world outside is a reflection of within. / We have the power to change it. / We can rearrange it." Attempting to rearrange the "world outside" was the intent of those *Om* circles.

When I was not on Teton trails or paddling the river, I joined the wanderers to *Om* a few times, entranced by the harmonics through which I sometimes heard clear voices that I could never identify, saying puzzling things like: *I found them. Over here. Here they are.* The seeming dedication of these wanderers to serving the world was so strong that when Anwar Sadat — the Egyptian president who had won a Nobel Peace Prize for negotiating a treaty between Egypt and Israel — was assassinated, at least some of the *Om* folks took it personally, rededicating themselves to "rearranging" the world within that gives birth (in this view) to the world "outside." As far as I could tell, from their perspective, rearranging the world within was mostly supposed to happen on the "inner planes," through *Om*-ing.

From my viewpoint four decades later, I could not say that these wanderers were psychospiritually — or emotionally — mature (nor could I say that I was), though the *Om* practice did seem to offer, at least for moments, a palpable sense of peace and generosity of spirit, even compassion, toward others. The wanderers were the first spiritual seekers I'd encountered who believed — or who wanted to believe — that they were intimately connected with the unfolding of greater consciousness in the world, or with the devastating unraveling. Though even in those days, I recognized a shadow dissonance that I could not name when the seekers were soliciting money or food or airline tickets from folks with jobs rather than enacting their *Om* practice, I also found deep resonance with a *possibility* that my own manner of presence might be reflected in the "world outside" — a possibility that I was entangled in not only unspeakable beauty, but also in the aggression, rage, and divisiveness of human beings.

At the time, I was not familiar with the (apparently true) story that Jung was fond of telling about an old Taoist rainmaker who was called to a drought-stricken area in China. Upon arrival, the rainmaker asked to be left alone in a cottage outside the village.

His meals were left outside the door. After three days in solitude, the clouds opened. When the old rainmaker was asked how he had delivered not only rain but also unseasonable snow, he declined to take credit for it. When further pressed, he offered his own explanation: "You see, I come from a place where the people are in order; they are in Tao; so the weather is also in order. But directly I got here, I saw the people were out of order and they also infected me. So I remained alone until I was once more in Tao and then, of course, it snowed." [2]

I write these words the day after the U.S. Capitol building was breached by throngs of enraged people. I am enraged, too — and feel a strong, primitive impulse to loudly demean and violently condemn all those whose views and actions I find abhorrent. The "outer world" is in utter disarray with a radically divided populace, an on-going pandemic, climate instability, and economic inequities, and more. It is easy to furiously believe that "those other people" are the ignorant, the deluded, the power-hungry "deplorables" or whatever other distinction I can identify separates *them* from *me*.

And meanwhile, an immense psychospiritual drought withers all of the land. The world outside may be (at least in part) a reflection of within. Just now as I write, I remember a quote that was psychically-implanted long ago: "Think as if your every thought were etched in fire upon the sky for all and everything to see. For so, in truth, it is." [3] Do I dare to bring to consciousness the tyrants, insurrectionists, enablers, entitled ones, perpetual victims, indoctrinated conformists, know-it-alls, or heartless ones that are hidden (or maybe not so hidden) in my manner of presence, in my psychic habits, in my way of being in the world?

Over here. I found them. Here they are.

Of course it's not enough to shudder with recognition when we encounter the deplorable in ourselves; of course it's not sufficient to only *Om* for the world. But perhaps when we find the top-secret chambers where the tyrants, victims, conformists and others hide, we might hear and feel the tremendous grief cry that we share with all of those who are broken, lost, betrayed, oppressed, repressed, and trying to survive in worn-out systems that depend on pitting

human beings against each other. From *that* recognition, we might find a way toward common ground.

References

[1] Hitch-hike

[2] Barbara Hannah, Jung's Life and Work, p.128

[3] Mikhail Naimy, The Book of Mirdad: The strange story of a monastery which was once called The Ark

9 January 2021 Kathleen McCabe - Seasonal Wishes and Prayer

When it comes to vision, we all rejoice when it's 2020.

Yet in this year of 2020 we have had more than enough of

Illness, deaths, heartbreak, financial crises, racism,

jobs lost, inequities that cry for attention,

poverty made visible in endless food lines and more.

Yet also we must not forget healthcare heroes, frontline workers,

neighbors caring for neighbors and singing from balconies,

young persons organizing to save produce without markets

to provide it for hungry persons.

We have discovered anew our interconnectedness,

our frailty and vulnerability, the bonds we cherish,

our desire and need to connect

right alongside painful divisions in our country,

inequities that cry for attention,

hatred with depth we were unaware of, and so much more...

Amidst all this there has been generous giving again and again

groups growing in number and on-line activity
motivated by care for all of us, untold generosity!

As we bid farewell to 2020 my prayer for you,
for all of us, for the entire human family, the entire Earth family-
all people, all countries, all species, all that is-
my prayer is for peace, justice, health, well-being for all!
May we learn through all we've suffered and continue to suffer
that we **are together** so much more than we are alone,
that we are capable of so much more than we ever realized
that the suffering of anyone is my suffering and
the well-being of anyone is also my well-being.

It seems to me we are in the midst of an evolutionary moment
calling forth the best in all of us to go beyond ourselves
to the goodness within that wants to evolve.

May 2021 reveal cooperation, collaboration, goodwill, harmony
breaking through where we'd least expect!

May this possibility bring you Christmas peace, joy, and love
in abundance with good health and celebration!

After all, is this not what Christmas is all about?
Love taking flesh in the person of Jesus
revealing our ability to put flesh on love wherever we are!

May it be so!

16 December 2020 Libby Comeaux

Culture Hack is an awesome team sponsored by Schumacher Center for a four-part webinar I just attended. Delving into the deep undercurrents of current narratives and how we can act responsibly to shift the narratives to foster life rather than destruction.

23 December 2020 - Betty Kissilove - Solstice Celebration Recordings and Links from Deeptime Network

Recordings:

Solstice Celebration (Saturday) -- [Click here](#)

Solstice Celebration (Monday) -- [Click here](#)

[Both gatherings drew people from around the world and both hemispheres. We started with a musical meditation from Australia \(didgeridoo and flute\). Sarbmeet Kanwal's presentation described in scientific, poetic and religious language the breaking of symmetry in the beginning of the universe -- a primordial differentiation -- that started cosmic evolution. His talk was followed by a polarities ritual \(on Monday\) lead by Aussies Margie Abbott and Sally Neaves, and we participated in a midwives dance to help us birth ourselves and the next chapter in the Great Story.](#)

9 December 2020

AS IF TO DEMONSTRATE AN ECLIPSE

by Billy Collins

I pick an orange from a wicker basket
and place it on the table
to represent the sun.
Then down at the other end
a blue and white marble
becomes the earth
and nearby I lay the little moon of an aspirin.
I get a glass from a cabinet,
open a bottle of wine,
then I sit in a ladder-back chair,
a benevolent god presiding
over a miniature creation myth,
and I begin to sing
a homemade canticle of thanks
for this perfect little arrangement,
for not making the earth too hot or cold
not making it spin too fast or slow
so that the grove of orange trees
and the owl become possible,
not to mention the rolling wave,
the play of clouds, geese in flight,
and the Z of lightning on a dark lake.
Then I fill my glass again
and give thanks for the trout,
the oak, and the yellow feather,
singing the room full of shadows,

as sun and earth and moon
circle one another in their impeccable orbits
and I get more and more cockeyed with gratitude.

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Nov 20, 2020, Linda Neil, csj, , The Honorable Harvest

We humans are members of the Universe who must take life in order to live our own lives. How do we learn to honor and respect the countless lives that sustain us? We can begin with please and thank you. Listen as Robin Wall Kimmerer gently shares the wisdom of the honorable harvest. [3 minute video.](#)

Nov 25,2020, Linda Haas, Native Governance-

[News and current outline of Land Acknowledgement](#) and more.

Nov 13, 2020, Anna Koop,

If you haven't *experienced* Cornel West, you're missing a brilliant preacher.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ti09oEN-DJ0>. It's about a half hour, and confirms our interest in faith-informed economics all the more, along with a racial justice perspective that goes beyond accessing power to an unjust economic system.