

## Leaps and Bounds Reflection Process

Our way of life is often taken for granted as “the way the world works,” but in this interconnected world of ours, people around the planet continually suffer the negative effects of our carbon consumption. Climate change is just one of the symptoms of human impact on creation. It is increasingly apparent that our consumption oriented, profit driven, industrial societies are undermining the balance of nature, which makes life possible. God calls us to understand our responsibility to care for and share Earth’s gifts across the global community.

Through a combination of artistic expression – dance, theater and spoken word, “Leaps and Bounds” embodies an adventure, searching for the values that would support an economic system that promotes human well-being and ecological health. Faith communities are invited to model alternative economic systems of sufficiency and solidarity and to discover a way of life that allows all people to live in dignity while cherishing and nourishing the gift that Earth is to all of us. This reflection process helps communities explore the issue of complicity in the deepening of our planet’s economic and ecological crises and their role in turning this around.

### SMALL GROUP PROCESS

1. Read aloud the Statement, “A Call to Integrate Faith Ecology and the Global Economy” and silently reflect on the reading for a minute or two.
2. Questions to consider:
  - a. What in the Leaps and Bounds performance spoke most to the spiritual awakening you need to live out a new vision of the economy?
  - b. What in the statement’s vision of a new economic model resonates with you most?
  - c. In what ways can we begin to change our lives and address the imbalance of economic relationships in our dominant culture? How does faith help us in this undertaking?
  - d. Can you think of concrete examples that highlight the realities brought out in the “what we witness” section?
  - e. Can you share an experience, where you were in nature that made you feel connected to the Divine? How did this love for Creation stay with you or affect your behavior and actions?
3. Community is the best “green solution” we have. Record group responses and challenge yourselves to come up with one way of acting on what you discussed.

Closing meditation:

Ask someone to read aloud the following quote from Desmond Tutu:

*“We were made to enjoy music, to enjoy beautiful sunsets, to enjoy looking at the billows of the sea and to be thrilled with a rose that is bedecked with dew... Human beings are actually created for the transcendent, for the sublime, for the beautiful, for the truthful... and all of us are given the task of trying to make this world a little more hospitable to these beautiful things.”*

Closing prayer:

LEADER: “Loving God, we are grateful for your gifts that come from Earth. We pledge to seek ways to live such that Earth and its living creatures cease to suffer.

Help us to embrace your great and sufficient support by promoting your will on Earth

ALL: I will lift up my eyes to the mountains; from where shall my help come? My help comes from God, Who made heaven and earth.

**WE WOULD LOVE YOU TO SHARE YOUR REFLECTIONS WITH US!**

Please take time to summarize your reflections (during or after the meeting). Send your written summary to [kmcneely@maryknoll.org](mailto:kmcneely@maryknoll.org) or by mail to the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns; P.O. Box 29132, Washington, D.C. 20017 (attention: Kathy McNeely).

Please include:

1. The list of the most important aspects of your reflection.
2. Experiences discussed by the group or individuals that you would like to share with us.
3. Who participated in the discussion (age, ethnicity, spiritual/religious affiliation of the group gathered) and the date and place where the reflection took place.
4. Please include any evaluative comments people made about participating in this process.

Thank you again for your enthusiasm and your commitment to economic and ecological justice! Contact us with your questions or concerns.

**Faith Economy Ecology Working Group**  
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