



Interreligious Ecology

a catholic and humanistic buddhist conversation

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This presentation offers an interreligious investigation into the importance of the environment as developed by Master Hsing Yun and Pope Francis. The appeal of their ecological messages derives from their alternative worldviews that challenge humanity to question and recalibrate worldly perspectives. The first part examines Master Yun's *Embracing Nature: Ecology from a Buddhist Perspective* by isolating two Buddhist concepts

that dominate the ecological discourse: impermanence and Buddha Nature. The second part analyzes Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato si'* (Praise Be to You) and his notion of Integral Ecology--a term denoting the complexity and irreducibility of the environmental crisis. The conclusion offers ways in which Catholicism can benefit from Humanistic Buddhism' insights and vice-versa. Please join this important conversation.

John Becker, Ph.D. is a lecturer for Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles and University of the West, in addition to being a Research Fellow for the Institute for Postmodern Development of China, USA. His research interests are broad, including comparative religion (Christianity and Mahayana Buddhism), eco-theology, and religious pluralism.

