



Horyzonty Polityki  
2026, Vol. 17, N° 59



## Editorial: Media, ecology, and care for our common world

Pope Francis's understanding of the ecological crisis was intrinsically linked to the social crisis. Indeed, the Holy Father regarded these two realities as inseparable, presenting them as two sides of the same coin. In his encyclical *Laudato si'*, he emphasised the need to assume genuine responsibility for the natural environment, which is manifested in the promotion of "a healthy politics (...) capable of reforming and coordinating institutions, promoting best practices and overcoming undue pressure and bureaucratic inertia". A healthy politics grounded in healthy communication represents a strategy of forward-looking thinking. Thoughtlessness, by contrast, consists in failing to approach problems from multiple perspectives, focusing instead on only a single, chosen aspect of reality.

*Laudato si'* introduces the concept of integral ecology, which encompasses the spiritual dimension of the human person. This concept provides a foundation for promoting ecological communication, expressed through reconciliation with creation, justice articulated in ecological terms, and concern for future generations. Integral ecology calls for greater attention to restoring harmony with creation and for critical reflection on contemporary lifestyles. In his teaching, Francis stressed that the degradation of the natural environment is closely connected to the degradation of the human person and society. The absence of genuine encounter and engagement with the real problems people face leads to the numbing of consciences and to "tendentious analyses which neglect parts of reality" (p. 49). For this reason, the media can play a vital role in fostering ecological awareness, while media education can make a particularly valuable contribution to its promotion. At the same time, Pope Francis

criticised ecological ideologies that absolutise nature and place it above the human person, since such approaches ultimately undermine human dignity.

The articles presented in this volume seek to reassess and synthesise the various dimensions of Pope Francis's landmark ecological encyclical, *Laudato si'*. In an age dominated by ideological agendas, returning to one's roots becomes a fundamental element of the human condition. Respect for human dignity in all its dimensions provides the necessary foundation for a proper appreciation of the world in which people live.

Robert Necek  
theme issue editor