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YOUNG ENERGY FOR ECOSPIRIT & EARTHCARE
*Responding to the Electronic Revolution's New Challenge of
Spiritual-Technological Transformation*

Background for a New Youth Project

This project is beginning with Catholic high school students because of institutional access to them. However, the project could eventually broaden to include other schools, different educational levels, and other religious groups.

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Presently, we face the most difficult challenge our unique species of homo sapiens has ever faced since its evolutionary emergence in Africa approximately 300,000 years ago, and since the rapid development of human culture began approximately 50,000 years ago. To better understand this unprecedented challenge, let us first place it within the wide context of our human family's evolving culture in relation to spirituality and technology.

HUMANITY'S THIRD CULTURAL TRANSITION

I propose that spirituality and technology are, metaphorically-speaking, two sides of the same coin, with technology as the objective side and spirituality as the subjective side. Thus far, we can discern four distinct eras in our human family's cultural evolution of spirituality and technology. And we are now deep within the new cultural transition out of our human family's third spiritual-technological era into an emerging fourth spiritual-technological era – the journey out of collapsing Modern Western Industrial-Colonizing Civilization (now globalized) into the emerging Postmodern Global-Local Ecological-Humanistic Civilization.

Today, the collapsing Modern Western Industrial-Colonizing Civilization is intensifying its degenerative and scapegoating pathologies of hyper-masculinism, ethnonationalism, and white-racism. To counter those pathologies, we need to advance the regenerative spiritual-technological transition toward a multicultural and inclusive Local-Global Ecological-Humanistic Civilization.

However, there is no guarantee that our human family will successfully navigate this new transition. A new global oligarchical class of billionaires, still following the reductionist modern Western philosophical Cosmivision of Atomist-Mechanical Materialism, is driving our globalized late-modern societies into what science-writer Elizabeth Kolbert has frighteningly named “The Sixth Extinction” of biological life across our garden-planet Earth. Further, the global oligarchy’s expanding use of Artificial Intelligence, powered by its vast expansion of anti-ecological fossil fuels, is accelerating that extinction of Earth’s biological life.

To further explore the background to this global crisis, let us now briefly review, albeit only from a Western perspective, these four cultural eras in human spiritual-technological evolution.

FOUR CULTURAL ERAS IN HUMAN EVOLUTION

1. **Primal Communitarian Era.** The *Speech Revolution*, beginning probably over 100,000 years ago, eventually made feasible the first great spiritual-technological revolution in human culture. It produced humanity’s Communitarian Primal Era, which developed knowledge into ongoing oral traditions. Its social technology constructed relatively egalitarian tribal/clan communities. It found nourishing inspiration in its *Holistic Cosmic Spirituality of Mystical Immanence*.
2. **Classical Aristocratic Era.** The *Handwriting Revolution*, beginning over 5,000 years ago, made feasible the second great spiritual-technological transformation in human culture. It produced the Aristocratic Classical Era, which developed literate elite intelligentsias storing knowledge in hand-copied manuscripts. Its social technology constructed aristocratic-patriarchal and slave-based domination from fortified city-states exploiting agrarian empires. It found nourishing inspiration from its *Dualistic Celestial Spirituality of Masculinized Mystical Transcendence*, hierarchically dominating terrestrial matter that aristocratic intellectual elites feminized and secularized.
3. **Modern Bourgeois Era.** The *Mechanical Print Revolution*, beginning approximately 500 years ago, produced the third great spiritual-technological transformation in human culture. It made feasible the Modern Bourgeois Era that broadened knowledge for an expanding Middle Class through mechanically printed books. It used that knowledge for industrial exploitation of Nature and of the working class from within nation-states and their industrial empires. It found nourishing inspiration from its *Individualist-Psychological Spirituality of Mystical Interiority*, which further desacralized Nature and became an internal buffer from the harsh truth of external exploitation.
4. **Postmodern Global-Local Ecological Civilization?** The new Electronic Revolution, beginning in the middle of the 20th Century, is now making feasible the fourth great spiritual-technological transition in human culture. Visionary and prophetic persons and communities are already planting fresh seeds for ecological, social, and spiritual regeneration that can grow into the future Global-Local Ecological-Humanistic Civilization. I call the emerging new spiritual form, which accompanies the emerging new electronic technological form the *Holistic-Ecological Spirituality of Mystical Co-Creativity*.

However, at the same time, the 500-year-old and now-globalized Modern Bourgeois Era is disintegrating into the ecological, social, and spiritual erosion and its civilization is collapsing. As a result, the Late-Modern World is beginning its global ecological-social-spiritual suicide. Especially through its still-expanding global ecological devastation, it is beginning to flip catastrophically anti-ecological “tipping points,” and it has already begun the “Sixth Extinction” of Earth’s biological life.

To avoid total global ecological devastation, we urgently need to advance the emerging Postmodern Global-Local Ecological-Humanistic Civilization by finding nourishing inspiration from all our human family’s eco-spiritual traditions, beginning with the spiritual gifts of Indigenous Traditions from our Primal roots, then including the spiritual gifts of the Classical and Modern Eras, and finally integrating those gifts within a fresh Mystical Ecological-Evolutionary Cosmovision.

ECOLOGICAL CONVERSION, ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION, & ECOLOGICAL SPIRITUALITY

In his 2015 prophetic encyclical letter *Laudato Si – On Care for Our Common Home*, the late Catholic leader Pope Francis prophetically denounced the late Modern World’s global ecological devastation. Not simply identifying this devastation as an ecological crisis, Francis more comprehensively defined it as an attack on “Integral Ecology” – devastating both natural ecology and human ecology. Francis also defined the root cause as spiritual, or rather anti-spiritual, and he therefore called for a global campaign of “*ecological conversion, ecological education, and ecological spirituality.*”

Henceforth, all our human family’s spiritual traditions need to place at their center stage the great tasks of ecological conversion, ecological education, and ecological spirituality. Again, these eco-tasks are now the most important and most foundational tasks for all world religions.

THIS NEW PROJECT OF YOUNG ENERGY FOR ECOSPIRIT & EARTHCARE

Attempting to follow Pope Francis’ call, SSGN (Spirituality & Sustainability Global Network), in partnership with CMICA (Pax Romana / Catholic Movement for Intellectual & Cultural Affairs USA) and CETE (Center for Engaged Theological Education Foundation of South Florida), has launched a new project that we call “*Youth Energy for EcoSpirit & EarthCare.*”

This project focuses on young high-school students because they may be the most important generation for laying the cultural foundation in spirituality and technology for a healing and regenerative Postmodern Global-Local Ecological-Humanistic Civilization. In its first phase, which we are calling “*Catholic Youth for Climate Justice,*” the project will seek to develop young eco-leaders through “*Laudato Si Ecology Clubs*” at Catholic high schools across the United States (approximately 1400).

For more information, visit the project’s website at <https://ecospirit.net> or send us an email at hello@ecospirit.net.