

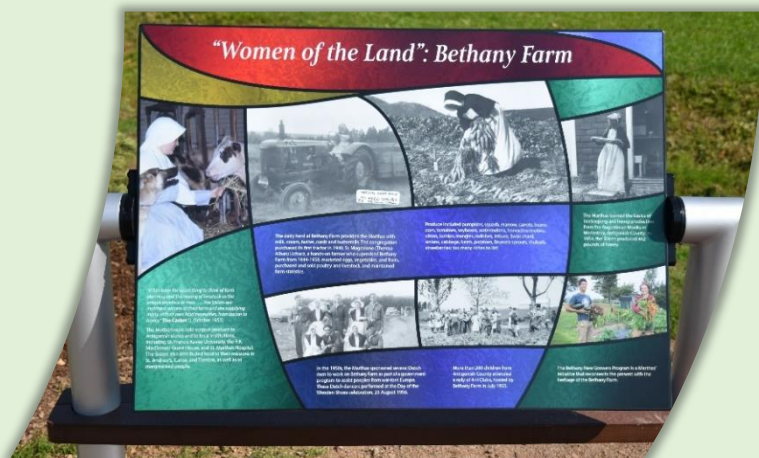
Perhaps the most visible expression of integral ecology is the ongoing development of the Bethany Centennial Garden.

Through the unfolding of this project, from the decision to deconstruct Bethany Motherhouse to the opening of the new garden, we have promoted integral ecology by:

- ◆ deconstructing rather than demolishing,
- ◆ lessening our carbon footprint,
- ◆ living more sustainably,
- ◆ returning the land to a more natural place for pollinators, birds, and all sorts of trees, flora and fauna,
- ◆ inviting people to contemplation,
- ◆ connecting to our sacred story through the building's ruins and a heritage walk.



*“Culture is more than what we have inherited from the past; it is also, and above all, a living, dynamic and participatory present reality, which cannot be excluded as we rethink the relationship between human beings and the environment” (LS: 143).*



The creativity of this garden has given new life to physical elements of our Bethany story. Part of promoting integral ecology means that preserving these elements helps us and the larger community in which we live to...

*“increase our sense of belonging, of rootedness, of ‘feeling at home’ within a city [or town] which includes us and brings us together” (LS: 151).*

Bethany Centennial Garden is just one of the ways that we as a Congregation are responding to our Chapter Direction Statement in which we say that we are *“called forth by the Spirit of the Living God, within creation and Living Our Life as Mission we witness to life-giving choices and promote integral ecology.”*