



# SBC Conference 2021

## Re-Rooting a Rootless Society

### *Some Reflections on the Importance of the Physical for our Spiritual Lives*

by Sister Maria Philomena, M.I.C.M. - October 8, 2021

#### Quotes

“The changes that have been taking place during the present century are so far-reaching that no one can foresee what their ultimate effect on human life will be. But already they have caused a loss of social tradition and a dislocation of human experience such as no previous generation has known since the beginning of history.”

Christopher Dawson, 1949, *Tradition and Inheritance (Reflections on the Formative Years)* (<https://stormfields.files.wordpress.com/2015/11/cd-tradition-and-inheritance.pdf>)

“Yet we are far from wishing to assert that Economics belong to a region apart from Religion. Religion, to be worthy of the name, must claim to be the inspiration of every side of human life, and the economic life, however exaggerated are the claims the Socialists make for it, is certainly one of the fundamental forces that have moulded the development of human society. Among primitive peoples the connection between religion and economics is clear enough. **That by which man lives is holy: there is a mystery in all the processes by which the earth is brought to bear fruit for the support of man,** and the one great end of sacrifice and spell and purification is to cooperate with the forces of nature in producing good harvests, numerous flocks and favourable seasons.

“In the case of Christianity, however, this is much less obvious. At first sight it would seem impossible to conceive of a religion more hostile to the economic view of life. It stands at the opposite pole to the Nature Religion, for it is essentially “other-worldly” and bases its teaching on a new scale of values in which the old economic and natural values disappear, or are reversed. Nevertheless, it will be seen that Christianity eventually reconquers the economic life for itself, by bringing that also into relation with spiritual values.

“The Christian attitude towards wealth and the use of material goods is expressed in the two great evangelical ideals of Poverty and Charity. These are intimately connected with one another, for they are respectively the negative and positive aspects of the teaching of Jesus concerning the Kingdom of God. The present world and the natural order are but the preparation for the world to come—the spiritual and supernatural order. This alone is worthy of man’s efforts, and the goods of the present world are only of value if they are used for spiritual ends. If they are treated as ends in themselves, they become evil.

“ . . . But **Catholicism** cannot acquiesce in any such division of life, for it **teaches an integration of the whole of life, so far as life is not dominated by perverse instincts of will. The God who redeems man is the same God who created him, and with him all exterior nature. It is the function of man to be the head of the material order, and to spiritualise [sic] inferior things by using them for God. Though the natural and the supernatural are two distinct orders, to which in a sense the secular and the religious lives correspond, yet both are directed to the same ultimate end. Thus economic life, though it is essentially a co-operation for the provision of material goods, is for the Christian a co-operation governed and inspired by love.**” [The bold sections were quoted in the talk.]

Christopher Dawson, *Blackfriars Review*, 1921 (republished in *The Distributist Review* <https://distributistreview.com/archive/the-land>)



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## References

Pollan, Michael; *The Omnivore's Dilemma - A Natural History of Four Meals*; Penguin Books; 2007 (multiple editions available -- including a Young Reader's version)

Salatin, Joel; *PolyFace Micro - Success with Livestock on a Homestead Scale*; Polyface, Inc.; 2021 (PolyfaceFarms.com) (Joel has a lot of other books, too -- and you can find talks he's given on YouTube or on Justin Rhodes' channel.)

Rhodes, Justin; YouTube & Abundant Permaculture.com & Abundanceplus.com (Justin synthesizes a lot of information from different sources. You might enjoy his family's documentaries: *The Great American Farm Tour*, *Permaculture Chickens*, *Permaculture Pigs*, and the series *Rooted*.)

Sheard, Brandon; FarmsteadMeatsmith.com (Watch his free documentary *The Anatomy of Thrift* and check out the podcast.)

Hovarth, William; Permaculture Apprentice (<https://permacultureapprentice.com/>)

Avid, Rob & Michelle, & Takota Coen; VergePermaculture.ca (They are having a free three-day online summit October 15-17. See Web site.)

Judy, Greg & Jan; GreenPasturesFarm.net (under Learning Opportunitites, see his YouTube channel)

Dowding, Charles (a British, no-dig, market gardener little acreage - on YouTube)

Hughs, David; Northwest Edible Life ([nwedible.com](http://nwedible.com)); How To Combine Rabbits and Chickens for Homestead Animal Synergy (<http://nwedible.com/combine-rabbits-chickens-homestead-raken-house/>); 2018

SeedsForGeneration.com

*There are many resources gardening/farming small areas. Here are a few:*

Tenth Acre Farm - Permaculture for the Suburbs (<https://www.tenthacrefarm.com/>)

GreenStalkGarden.com (vertical containers for very small areas)

Tilley, Nikki; Gardening Knowhow; Urban Gardening: The Ultimate Guide To City Gardening (<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/special/urban/urban-gardening-ultimate-guide.htm>)