

Awakening to a New Consciousness

*Listening to the Cry of Earth
and the Cry of the Poor*

Mercy's Theological Reflection Process



Session Four | Participant's Guide

January 2022

PREPARATION FOR THIS SESSION

In the fourth session of this Theological Reflection

- **READ** - Read [Overview of Session 4: Social Analysis](#) This overview reviews the important points to remember while engaging in Social Analysis. As we enter into the phrase of “Deep Reflecting”, we must continue to ask the questions of “who, where and why” when seeking to understand how decisions impact people, communities and Earth.

As you review the overview and the sample questions that are articulated:

- Call to mind the videos watched and stories heard, and make a note of where you would need more information to answer some of these questions.
 - What sources would you turn to answer these questions? How would you ensure that BIPOC, communities of the global south and Earth remain center to your understanding?
 - Review the questions listed through the [theological lenses](#) discussed in Session 3, Deep Reflecting.
- **WATCH** - Watch the following videos in the order provided below. You do not need to watch them all at one sitting but should watch each one in its entirety and reflect individually before moving on to the next one. After each video, spend some time in quiet reflection and consider the following questions:
 - What did you learn from examples shared?
 - Knowing the [theological lenses](#) we have explored and discussed, how do you watch this differently?
 - Where did you see the intersection with Mercy’s Critical Concerns in the videos?
 - What questions did these videos raise for you about where power and decision-making occur?
 - Where would you turn to learn more about the situations described centered in the experience of people, communities and Earth?

If you have questions about some of the mentioned concepts, write them down and [click here](#) to learn more.

- [Extractivism in Honduras, The Struggle for Life: An Interview with Mercy Associate, Nelly Del Cid](#) (13:06)

- [Extractivism in Honduras, Empty Promises: An Interview with Mercy Associate, Nelly Del Cid](#) (11:58)
- [Extractivism in Honduras- And Women Rise Up: An Interview with Mercy Associate, Nelly Del Cid](#) (9:49)
- [Intersectionality: Extractivism Impacts Mercy's Critical Concerns](#) (6:06)
- **READ** - Spend time reading and reflecting on these explanations and examples of where the impact of extractivism is seen in the [intersection with the Critical Concerns of Mercy](#). These examples develop the Mercy lens further and show explicitly how the destructive nature of the Extractive Development Model intersects with all of the Critical Concerns. After reading this information, spend some time in reflection on the following questions:
 - What new information did you learn from this document? Were there examples shared that you were not aware of?
 - How does this intersection's exploration help you frame Mercy's current and future engagement with extractivism?
- **READ** - Sister Terri Bednarz wrote the reflection [Extractivism in My Own Backyard](#). Please read this short reflection and consider your own experience and write down what resonated with you from her reflection.

TO GO DEEPER

If you have the time and are interested in delving deeper into analysis and reflection from Mercy on extractivism, please review:

- [Conquest, Neocolonialism and Women Activists in the Struggle against Extractivism in Honduras](#) (12:02) - Jean Stokan of the Justice Team brings her wealth of experience in Latin American to provide additional analysis and perspective to the experience shared by Nelly Del Cid in the previous video. This additional analysis will give a depth of understanding to the historical and systemic reality of extractivism in Honduras, as a case study of the Extractive Development Model and the resilience of the women of Honduras.
- Reflection and Analysis from Sister Mary Pendergast.
 - [Part I: Lessons of the Athabasca River and the Tar Sands](#) (12.23 min), Sister Mary Pendergast of Providence, Rhode Island, shares with us how her pilgrimage along the Athabasca River to the Tar Sands

in Alberta, Canada, impacted her understanding of extractivism. She describes her journey from the natural beauty of Athabasca to the absolute desolation of the Tar Sands. Mary shares with us the toll of the Tar Sands on the local indigenous communities and on the ecosystems that once thrived along the Athabasca. Through her pilgrimage insights, we find ourselves grappling with the development model that drives every aspect of the U.S. economy.

- **[Part 2: From the Tar Sands to Fracking in Providence](#)** (14.21 min)
Sister Mary Pendergast gives concrete examples of the impacts of extractivism and illustrates how capitalism and extractivism impact each of the Critical Concerns. Finally, Mary shares her story of joining others in the struggle to oppose a fracking plant in Providence, Rhode Island.

Thank you for taking the time to review all of these valuable resources in preparation for the next conversation during Session Four in January 2022. Please share any thoughts, questions or learnings with the Theological Reflection Working Group at extractivism@sistersofmercy.org.