



We Mercies

## Care for Creation

As you take the next step, remember the traditional custodians of the land

### **AWAKENING CONSCIOUSNESS**

*Consciousness waking, holy and whole; creation stirring, birthing anew!  
Now is the time. We are the space for the Holy to rise in our midst.*  
(Jan Novotka)

One of the main purposes of this newsletter is to help raise our consciousness about the urgent environmental issues of our time.

#### **One of these issues is that of Sustainable Development.**

The responses of governments and other bodies to the 2000 Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations have been actually effective in helping to reduce extreme poverty by half. There is still a long way to go, of course. However, several of the eight goals have already been met and, as the MDG deadline of 2015 approaches, the UN and partners around the world are considering what should come next.

A panel appointed by the UN has now called for ‘5 Big Transformative Shifts’. One of these shifts is to *put Sustainable Development at the core*. To do this, a new global partnership must be forged.

Developing a single, sustainable development agenda, they claim, is critical. Without ending poverty, we cannot build prosperity. Without prosperity, we cannot tackle environmental challenges; we need to mobilise massive investments in new technologies to reduce the footprint of unsustainable production and consumption patterns. Without environmental sustainability, we cannot end poverty; the poor are too deeply affected by natural disasters and too dependent on deteriorating oceans, forests and soils.

The new agenda will be decided at a global summit in 2015. It will have a massive influence on governments and people. Catholic agencies such as IYCS, Forum of Catholic inspired NGOs, and CIDSE (alliance of Catholic Development agencies) are working to ensure Gospel values and principles of Catholic Social Teaching are central to what is agreed to – the Common Good, the Dignity of Work, the Option for the Poor, the Dignity of all Human Life, and the Stewardship of Creation.

Keep your eyes open to see ways in which you can contribute to the expression of these principles, e.g. MY World Survey online.

(Taken from article by Devett O’Brien, Secretary-General International YCS).

How important  
is  
the concept  
and  
the practice  
of  
sustainable  
development?

Are you aware of  
the 2000  
Millennium  
Development  
Goals?

July  
2013

Another UN initiative for an international campaign is that of the  
***INTERNATIONAL COMPASSIONATE CITIES.***

On a global scale, civic leaders and policymakers are realizing that initiatives that integrate compassion are transforming their cities. By activating the Golden Rule within our local communities, we transform challenges into opportunities as people individually and collectively work toward compassionate solutions. It is possible that 100 compassionate cities are enough to “tip” the scale in favour of global compassion.

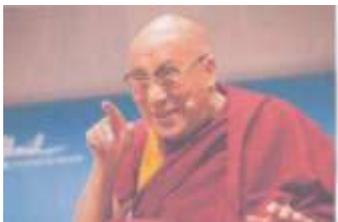
The movement is spreading throughout the world. There are now over 80 cities that are participating and following the Charter of Compassion.

*The principle of compassion lies at the heart of all religious, ethical and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves. Compassion impels us to work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of our fellow creatures, to dethrone ourselves from the centre of our world and put another there, and to honour the inviolable sanctity of every single human being, treating everybody, without exception, with absolute justice, equity and respect.*

*It is also necessary in both public and private life to refrain consistently and empathically from inflicting pain. To act or speak violently out of spite, chauvinism, or self-interest, to impoverish, exploit or deny basic rights to anybody, and to incite hatred by denigrating others—even our enemies—is a denial of our common humanity. We acknowledge that we have failed to live compassionately and that some have even increased the sum of human misery in the name of religion.*

*We therefore call upon all men and women to restore compassion to the centre of morality and religion ~ to return to the ancient principle that any interpretation of scripture that breeds violence, hatred or disdain is illegitimate ~ to ensure that youth are given accurate and respectful information about other traditions, religions and cultures ~ to encourage a positive appreciation of cultural and religious diversity ~ to cultivate an informed empathy with the suffering of all human beings—even those regarded as enemies.*

*We urgently need to make compassion a clear, luminous and dynamic force in our polarized world. Rooted in a principled determination to transcend selfishness, compassion can break down political, dogmatic, ideological and religious boundaries. Born of our deep interdependence, compassion is essential to human relationships and to a fulfilled humanity. It is the path to enlightenment, and indispensable to the creation of a just economy and a peaceful global community.*



***Look up Charter for Compassion on Google or on Facebook to sign it for yourself.***