

Voyage

January 2007

A monthly newsletter of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, U.S.-Ontario Province

We've got the

whole world

in our hands. Now what?



By Mimi
Maloney,
SNJM

Everything in the universe moves and is sustained through interdependence. The human family participates in these creative relationships which unite all in a common future. Witnesses to the Gospel and true to our charism as instruments of transformation, we Sisters and Associates of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary are called to consciously live our interdependence in new and dynamic ways.

(From the Acts of the 32nd General Chapter)



I love this picture of Earth taken from space. In a real sense it has become a religious icon for me, a sacred symbol of that which is holy, because it speaks so eloquently of the ineffable beauty of Earth and of its increasing vulnerability and fragility. This picture brings home to me, in a way nothing else can, that we are One Sacred Community sailing through space on Planet Earth together.

Earth does not recognize our human-made borders, boundaries and nation states because fundamentally we are global citizens. We must begin to develop a larger allegiance than to the nation state because true peace, justice and security will only come when our allegiance expands to include the whole planet.

Hans Kung once said: *The globalization of the economy, technology and the media also means the globalization of problems, from financial and labor markets to the environment and organized crime [terrorism]. What is therefore needed is a globalization of ethics: again, not a uniform ethical system but a necessary minimum of shared ethical values, basic attitudes and standards to which all regions, nations, and interest groups can subscribe. [What is needed] in other words, is a shared basic ethic for humankind. Indeed there can be no new world order without a world ethic – a global ethic. [www.interreligiousinsight.org/January2003/Jan03Kung.html]*

We thankfully have such an ethic in **The Earth Charter**, which is a declaration of the fundamental principles that are going to be needed in order to build a just, sustainable and peaceful global society in the 21st century. It is a document that ties in beautifully with **The Acts of the 32nd General Chapter** because its inclusive ethical vision recognizes – really for the first time – that environmental protection, human rights, equitable

(Please turn to Page 2)



Inside: Leadership Team members begin reviewing 2006; “Sisters on the street” talk about hope **Monthly departments Experiences:** Facing the environment with open eyes ■ **Gatherings**

■ **Milestones:** Birth of our Province Justice & Peace Network

The whole world...

(Continued from Page 1)

social and economic development, democracy, nonviolence, and peace are all interdependent and indivisible aspects of one seamless web of life.

This beautiful document weaves together the wisdom of the world's cultures and religious traditions, with the insights coming to us from the human, physical and social sciences and offers us a more hopeful way into the future. It invites us to that change of mind and heart that is going to be needed in order to actualize God's "kin-dom" in our midst.

These beautiful words from the **Prologue to the Earth Charter** echo that call to transformation and interdependence that our **Chapter Acts** also invite us to embrace:

We stand at a critical moment in Earth's history, a time when humanity must choose its future. As the world becomes increasingly interdependent and fragile, the future at once holds great peril and great promise. To move

forward we must recognize that in the midst of a magnificent diversity of cultures and life forms we are one human family and one Earth Community with a common destiny. The choice is ours: form a global partnership to care for Earth and one another, or risk the destruction of ourselves and the diversity of life. www.earthcharter.org

SNJM Sabbath Space (www.educatingforthe21stcentury.org) is willing and eager to be a resource ministry for the implementation of the **Chapter Acts on Interdependence: A Response to the Cries of the World**, and to assist us in our call to be instruments of transformation in the world. The ministry focuses on providing individuals and dialogue groups with educational resources related to our SNJM charism and to the Congregation's social justice concerns. In concert with others, we envision SNJM Sabbath Space being a hub for information and resources that

will help us move forward on all five Chapter Acts, but most especially **The Crisis of our Environment**. A lending library of more than 1,500 items is available (for free) through our web site. Two copies of *An Inconvenient Truth* (both the DVD and book) as well as several copies of David Korten's great new book for group discussion, *The Great Turning: From Empire to Earth Community*, are also available. Videos to accompany *Earth Charter Study Groups, Practical Tips for Earth Friendly Living, Taking the Pledge, A Pledge of Allegiance to Earth* and other wonderful resources can be found at www.educatingforthe21stcentury.org. Please visit our web site often! The information also is on the Province web site, www.snjmusontario.org. ■



—Mimi Maloney, SNJM,
in Olympia, WA



What we can do: 'I'm taking the pledge'

The Invitation: *An opportunity to give the whole world a precious gift this year.* In keeping with our 2006 Chapter Act regarding care of the Earth, you are invited to join with others in taking the "Smaller Footprint Pledge", a commitment to decrease damage to the Earth by a 10-25% reduction in our:

- * Use of electricity
- * Use of petroleum products
- * Use of chemicals and products that harm the environment
- * Use of water, especially hot water
- * Consumption of meat
- * Consumption of paper products
- * Consumption in general

For helpful suggestions, information and a packet of educational resources, please e-mail snjmsabbathspace@icehouse.net or visit www.snjmusontario.org or www.educatingforthe21stcentury.org.

Suggested videos to use to accompany the study of The Earth Charter:

A Universe Drama in 3 Acts (15 minutes); *Our Unfolding Story* (29 minutes)
God's Creation and Global Warming (29 minutes)
The Global Banquet: Politics of Food (Part Two) - *The Globalization of the Food Supply* (25 minutes); *The Global Brain* by Peter Russell (30 minutes)
The videos are available from the SNJM Sabbath Space Lending Library: SNJM Sabbath Space, at: www.educatingforthe21stcentury.org. ■

SNJM Sabbath Space is researching the best Earth-friendly home products and will feature them in a "Clean and Green" workshop this year.

We have found that simple products such as vinegar, baking soda, cream of tartar, toothpaste, borax, citrus juices, tea-tree oil, natural oil essences such as lavender, and many items such as herbs and teas found in most kitchens will work wonders in cleaning, deodorizing, and disinfecting indoor spaces while doing no harm to us or the environment. A great resource is: "Clean & Green: The Complete Guide to Nontoxic and Environmentally Safe Housekeeping."

In addition, small things like switching to reusable grocery bags and contacting services to eliminate junk mail can be painless ways to be Earth-friendly. ■

—Sally Duffy, SNJMA