

ISSUES AND ACTIONS

May, 2005



When the gods were finished creating the world, they admired their achievement and considered the result to be successful. They observed the heavens with all the stars, sun and moon, the seas with all the fish, mountains and pastures and forests, with insect, birds and mammals. They watched man and woman, who in due time were to comprehend all this. Now it only required to hide the truth. One deity suggested hiding it in the sea. Finally one came up with the idea to hide the truth in the heart of man and woman. They all agreed that this was a good place. And so it came to be. (An old myth of Genesis)



The Earth Charter

Integrate into formal education and life-long learning the knowledge, values, and skills needed for sustainable way of life. Earth Charter 14. Provide all, especially children and youth, with educational opportunities that empower them to contribute actively to sustainable development. 14a. Recognize the importance of moral and spiritual education for sustainable living. 14d.

Contributed by Sister Marjorie Wakelin, SHF

The focus of sustainable development has been chosen for this month. One of the most important issues is WATER. Although at this time we have abundant rain and our reservoirs are full, this is not true of much of the rest of the world nor even our water rich state.

As I look at the global picture, I thank God that I will not be living 25 years from now. But what we do today will affect what the younger people will have for their future. So, I like you, need to wake up and be aware and help work for sustainable development.

Much is being done to reverse the picture, but the corporations are also working for their own advantage. Bottled water is an advantage for the well-to-do (or those better off).

In the material attached, you will read STOCKTON'S reaction to the privatization of water. Take the test; you will learn something more.

A global economy and ecology must be based on global ethics. Earth Charter is a global set of values brought about by thousands of individuals from many countries that have participated directly or through voluntary organizations (NGO's).

At the opening of the Earth Charter Campaign, March 18, 1997, in Costa Rica Michail Gorbachev concluded

"I believe that the Earth Charter opens a new phase not only of the ecological movement, but in the world's public life. We must do everything we can, so that this Charter is accepted exactly as it was designed; a set of vitally important rules. I must tell you I have met quite a few cynics in my life, their number will still multiply. Somehow we have all gotten accustomed to the fact that everything is in the hands of the politicians, the main goal is to please the UN, so that they would treat the Charter benevolently, and that business is not too aggressive to our ecological demands. It is not our Charter that is the basis of the total war against everyone, not at all! All we want to achieve by working on this document is to show to all peoples of the world, politicians and business circles, that we only have one option, that is to live within the bounds of nature. We must do everything we can to be worthy of our time, to prove that a mature society, able to assess our situation and act wisely and responsibly in the interests of the present and future generations."



Learn what the church is teaching about Stewardship of the Earth:

“Renewing the Earth” <http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/ejp/bishopsstatement.htm>

“Global Climate Change” <http://www.nccbuscc.org/sdwp/international/globalclimate.htm>

CALENDAR (of interest)

May 14-15, Fair Trade Day - This year the theme is: Fair Trade Is Peace www.fairtraderesource.org. This is a great chance to offer Fair Trade coffee, tea, chocolate, and bananas at your morning coffee and donuts.

May 29, Old Egyptian Festivals of Netera Amen (God of Transcendent Power) and Hopi (God of the Nile River) offerings were made to insure the needed floodings of the Nile River.