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## **Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation**

### **Congregation of Notre Dame Visitation Province**



**T**he desire to deepen our understanding of Right Relationship has brought us to a new moment. Contemplating the Sacred Community of which we are a part, we recognize the interconnectedness of all God's creation. This new consciousness evokes in us a deep compassion for the brokenness within this Sacred Community and compels us to act justly on behalf of the most vulnerable. Personally and communally, we commit ourselves to fidelity within the circle of these relationships.

(Province Chapter July 2009)



### **2001 - Foundation Chapter of Visitation Province**

A desire was voiced to have persons mandated to help us promote and facilitate ongoing education in ecology and ecospirituality, take corporate action in challenging unjust structures, and to assist us in greater networking with established groups and agencies.

### **2003 - Province Assembly**

Continued emphasis on right relationship with one another and with all of creation resulted in a Motivating Team to animate Mission Groups and

community groups by reflection and action on our ecological mission in a culture of peace.

**2006 - Think Tank on Right Relationship** met in February to move deeper into the desire to live in right relationship in all interactions in our world. This included the many challenges of the Earth Charter. A coordinator was contracted by December and the new *Office of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation* was opened. The first location was in Ottawa in **2008**; the office later moved to our present address in Montreal.

A core committee of vowed members and associates meets with the coordinator to define priorities and keep the Province informed and participating.

The *Office of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation* has been visible and active among us.

We have circulated information on various government Bills, encouraged letter-writing campaigns, offering accessible sample letters and brought Sister Sandra Margarita to speak about mining and its effects in her country.

Our coordinator prepared a presentation on the Canadian tarsands; she brought it in her travels to the Maritimes and elsewhere. We supported Bishop Luc Bouchard (Alberta) in his efforts to speak out about the tarsands project.

We took part in a public stand prior to the Copenhagen Conference in a vigil on Parliament Hill.

We attended the National Youth Conference in PE; the coordinator did a session there and we distributed cards and information from our Office.

### **What are the priorities of the *Office of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation*?**

From the beginning, the JPIC Office was asked to deepen collaborative work with four important organizations with whom CND's were already committed: the Congregation's Social Justice Network, The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, KAIROS (Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives) and the JPIC work of the Canadian Religious Conference. In addition, the members of the Core Committee of the JPIC Office have identified the following priorities for 2010-2011:

- › ***Right Relationship*** with creation: this includes mitigating the effects of climate change, holding mining/extractive industries and government to account for ecological and social practices, and promoting just and sustainable water and energy policies for Canada;
- › ***Right Relationship*** with vulnerable persons: this includes the elimination of poverty in Canada and around the world and efforts to end the practice of human trafficking/modern-day slavery in Canada and internationally;
- › ***Right Relationship*** with those living in conflict and war: this includes addressing root causes, the search for ways to promote peace and working towards a de-militarized world and non-nuclear world;
- › ***Right Relationship*** with agents of change: particularly those working for justice and peace in their communities and around the world.

Throughout all these initiatives, there is a strong commitment to collaborate with others. Communication is maintained with CND members and associates by visits (upon invitation), use of the Friday FACQs, and efforts to invite everyone to participate in this ministry.

