



We Mercies

Care for Creation

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

SHARING EARTH WITH THE WHOLE OF GOD'S CREATION

Our Chapter 2013 Vision Statement endorsed our ongoing engagement in the special focus area of Care for Creation. This newsletter is one way in which we hope to keep the needs and the blessings of Earth's community of beings in our consciousness. If you have something you would like to contribute at any time, we would be happy to receive it.

A quote from Thomas Merton says this: *There is not a flower that opens, not a seed that falls into the ground, and not an ear of wheat that nods on the end of its stalk in the wind that does not proclaim the greatness of God to the whole world.*

Our attentiveness towards care for creation has a strong papal approbation. Pope Francis is currently working on an ecology encyclical. It will look at issues related to the care of creation, including protection of the environment. Ever since his election, the Pope has consistently repeated that all people, especially Christians, have the duty to care for creation. At his inauguration Mass he said: *Let us be protectors of Creation, protectors of God's plan inscribed in nature, protectors of one another and of the environment. It means protecting all Creation, the beauty of the created world, as the book of Genesis tells us and as St Francis of Assisi showed us. It means respecting each of God's creatures and respecting the environment in which we live.*

How telling that the new pope took the name of Francis, after the saint whom John Paul II named patron of creation.

American religious women are involved in organisations that work to claim the Rights of Nature. Leaders of the movement met at a global summit in Ecuador in January of this year. As Christians, we can resonate with the ethic of Rights of Nature especially through the mystics and their sense of the natural world. Women religious throughout the world have embraced the mystics' reverence for nature and care for creation as a constituent part of their peace and justice work.

The Rights of Nature Summit identified global warming as the biggest ticking time bomb for our survival and that of Earth. One speaker claimed that the talks in Paris next year are our last chance to change this catastrophic trajectory.

With this summer's disasters here in Australia, can we afford to be indifferent?

Paris is hosting the 2015 conference on world climate change.

The French President has expressed a hope that Pope Francis will time a visit to Paris to coincide.

March
2014

EARTH DAY / EARTH HOUR

Some sisters from ISMAPNG have set up an ecological conversion email conversation to which a few of us also subscribe. Here is a suggestion from one subscriber.

Hi everyone, I keep looking at the "conversion" part of the email address and am sure many of you may already receive messages about Earth Day, BUT.....do you think as a group we could unite with all Australian Mercies for the hour people are asked to switch off power and make it a united reflective time during which we pray together for all those in our world who work so hard to raise our consciences to these issues, OR knowing how much the drought has affected so many farmers thank God for the recent rain and seek further blessing on places still in drought? Just a thought Pat L

Earth Hour is 8.30 pm to 9.30pm. Saturday, March 29th.

Background

Earth Hour started in Sydney, Australia, in 2007. This event saw 2.2 million homes and businesses turn their lights off for one hour to make their stand against climate change. Earth Hour had become a global sustainability movement with more than 50 million people across 35 countries participating in 2008. Global landmarks such as the Sydney Harbour Bridge, the CN Tower in Toronto, the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, and Rome's Colosseum, all stood in darkness for Earth Hour. In March 2009, hundreds of millions of people took part in the third Earth Hour.

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), which organizes the annual Earth Hour event, aims to stop the degradation of the earth's natural environment. It also focuses on building a future where people live in harmony with nature. The organization functions through a network of more than 90 offices in more than 40 countries worldwide. Its first office was founded in Morges, Switzerland, on September 11, 1961.

One urgent action we as Queenslanders can take -

JOIN THE SAVE THE REEF CAMPAIGN.

- Attend a rally
- Write a letter to a politician
- Sign a petition
- Send a wave of compassion to
 - the Reef creatures
 - those who are trying to save the Reef
 - those whose actions may destroy it.