

To the Moderators (Presidents) and Provincials

Reading help for the theme of ecology

Dear friends in the Lord,

Commenting on the postulates received on ecology, the *Coetus Praevius* (CP) recommends to the members of the Congregation as resources to study this topic the document 'We Live in a Broken World' (*Promotio Iustitiae*, 1999) and the **Ignatian Ecology Network** (see 3.4.2.3). The CP further suggests that "[this network] may be able to coordinate a universal response".

This letter and the material accompanying it intend to share with those who are going to participate at the General Congregation (GC) 35 some of the work prepared by the Ignatian Ecology Network (IEN). Within this network of Jesuit experts and scientists, many people have dedicated time and energy to this topic. We are grateful to all of them. The annex 'List of Participants' provides a list of all those who are currently members of the IEN.

It is very important to state at the outset that the material we send you is **ONLY a teaching aid**, an instrument that may help you to understand and reflect on some of the implications of a topic that is inherently technical and difficult. This teaching material is not intended to put forward a position or a point of view. It is rather a simple and objective presentation of facts and alternatives. Use this material as much as it helps you.

The IEN started in March 2007 with the aim to supply useful background material for GC35. Over the summer, international groups of Jesuits have been working on 2-page documents, using email as their main communication tool. A password-protected website with more documentation is available to members of the network. The network has been and is open to any Jesuit who wishes to join, and was publicised through the Social Justice Secretariat, where its part-time coordinator is located.

The IEN decided to prepare two types of material: the **factsheets** explaining in relatively simple language some of the issues that characterise the environmental crisis, and a **document** explaining the relationship between the ecological crisis and our mission; more specifically the connection between ecology and faith and justice.

We are sending with this letter only 8 of the total 10 factsheets we had planned. Our goal has not been fully achieved. As other factsheets arrive we will send them to you. Further factsheets on Ecological Footprint and Agriculture are in preparation, as are translations into French and Spanish that are missing for the attached factsheets. It has been difficult to find translators during the month of September but this should be easier once the universities have started again in October.

The document "Our Mission and the Environment" explains the consequences of the ecological crisis for our mission and charism. As mentioned earlier it offers various alternatives and it is meant to help and enrich your reflections.

We have made an attempt to send you this material by the end of September in the hope that you may **want to share it and discuss the alternatives proposed in your Assistency meeting with the members who are attending GC 35**. You may share the material with the elected members of your respective Provinces.

The original material has been prepared in English and then translated into Spanish and French. We have done our best but if you find any mistakes in the material, please help us improve its quality for further use by sending us specific corrections. Also, let us know if we can be of any further help.

For further communication, please contact Uta Sievers, Communication Officer at the Social Justice Secretariat, who has also been the coordinator of the network at <uta@sjcuria.org>

In the Lord,

Fernando Franco SJ

Uta Sievers