

ACTION ALERT – JUNE 2006
GOOD SHEPHERD VOICES FOR JUSTICE
Commit to Sustainable Development

INTRODUCTION



The first sentence of the revised Good Shepherd Destination Justice Focus Statement says much:
“We believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is inseparable from a concern for and pursuit of justice.”

Social justice is inherently part of who we are as Church, and pursuit of justice is at the innermost core of our collective being as the body of Christ. Therefore, we are suggesting this month that you consider making a commitment to sustainable development asking that you raise your voice in fighting global warming as the Vatican has suggested.

BACKGROUND

His Eminence Archbishop Celestino Migliore, the Apostolic Nuncio, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations, while speaking at the High-level segment of the 14th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development of the Economic and Social Council, New York, May 11, 2006, states the following. (As was originally published on Catholic Online and the Maryknoll website.)



“The international community must commit to sustainable resource management policies that place the needs of the human family and protection of the environment above commercial and industrial concerns. Essential improvement in living standards for all, while assuring our world’s environmental future, will only occur if there is an integrated international environmental and developmental policy coupled with “committed political follow through.”

The human person, the archbishop said, should be at “the center of environmental concerns” in the affairs of nations, corporations and individuals, while there is a simultaneous promotion of the urgency of “human responsibility for the Earth.”

“This is already a humanitarian and environmental crisis, as well as a question of social justice”, noting that 34,000 people die every day due to a lack of clean water and that 1.5 billion people lack such access today, a figure that may double by 2025.

ACTION

Educate yourself, family and friends regarding Environmental Justice:



- Go to:
<http://laymissioners.maryknoll.org/?office=alert&module=MKArticles>
- Review the entire article about the address by Archbishop Celestino Migliore.
- Check out the United Nations link to the report from the Commission on Sustainable Development:
<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/>
- Visit the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns' statement on water:
www.maryknoll.com

Once informed, write or call our United States Ambassador to the United Nations, John R. Bolton.

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Inform Ambassador Bolton of your desire to support sustainable development. Reference the presentation by His Eminence Archbishop Celestino Migliore, the Apostolic Nuncio, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations, who spoke at the High-level segment of the United Nations 14th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development of the Economic and Social Council, New York, May 11, 2006.