Collaboration

We recognize that the laity ... are a gift for the Congregation, the Church and the world. ...with them we will find new paths... and mutually enrich each other.

Gen Chapter Direction, July 2003

The Art of Shepherding: A Lasting Legacy

A Canadian Conference on Reconciliation

In Winnipeg, Canada, with beautiful June weather, over 160 Good Shepherd persons gathered from across Canada for 3 and a half days of work and reflection on the theme of reconciliation. The conference opening featured experiences of the North American pilgrims in Angers in March 2003. In slide presentation, the pilgrims gave witness to how learning the history and internationality of the Good Shepherd congregation reinforces the values they live in daily service. Their testimony sparked enthusiasm as each group lit a candle to signal their witness and participation in the conference. Mid-North America province and the Good Shepherd NGO office were also present.

The first day, Sr. Barbara Beasley, RGS and Val Duffy, of Human Resources, gave a spiritual view of reconciliation. The two combined Euphrasian heritage with the current status of staff zeal.

In the afternoon, Fr. Pasinato reviewed the parable of the prodigal son in contemporary and challenging terms.

The second day expressed the relation between reconciliation and justice. Canadian Justice Peace Contact Person, Sr. Deborah Isaac, and Clare Nolan of the NGO office co-presented. They brought the theory of reconciliation into the Canadian experience of service provision, particularly focusing on the human rights of children and women, both national and international. In areas of migration, trafficking, and best interest of the child, there were many examples of need for systemic reconciliation. While Good Shepherd Canada is responding in many ways with expansion of services for indigenous children and special programs for sexually abused children, they were challenged to find ways to integrate political action and national advocacy in their work. Undoubtedly Good Shepherd can be a strong voice in the Canadian system on many issues that link excellent direct services with the structural realities of Canada.

What must we do to bring justice to these children so that they become reconciled with themselves, with others and with God?

Without justice, what are we creating in the lives of these children? Deborah Isaacs

The conference devoted much time to reviewing values, called "Standards of Care." Staff listened to the voices of those who participate in Good Shepherd programs. Program residents expressed their ideas about staff effectiveness through video interviews. A talk was given by a former resident who...
stressed the need to listen to youth and create avenues for independence. Current residents now in the program presented art, poems and songs on the needs of indigenous youth.

Being a Good Shepherd event, food, fun and gracious hospitality abounded, including program tours and local outings. The energy of this gathering is now released across Canada!

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Partnership for Mission

More on the Canadian Experience

Who is a "Good Shepherd" person? What is a "Good Shepherd" agency? At the Chapter/Assembly of 2003, persons from every continent who spoke about mission had difficulty finding a proper term to describe themselves. They were broader than "laity" since not all shared the same church affiliations. They were more than "employees" because their dedication expanded our notion of zeal. The words "partner" and "collaborator" had inappropiate nuances in some languages. The word "associate" has varying meanings across provinces. The men and women who addressed the Chapter referred to themselves as "Good Shepherd People."

This term took on deep meaning in Canada with the realization that the agencies that formed the national gathering are not all administered by the Good Shepherd province. Each agency has a unique history of Good Shepherd sponsorship. As province structures, resources, and needs changed, so did the administration of some agencies. Some are now under the administration of private Boards of Directors. Each strongly claims Good Shepherd heritage. The Good Shepherd Mission Integration office provides various forms of support and values integration, capturing the meaning and spirit of Good Shepherd charism. Who is a Good Shepherd person? It is one who expresses the zeal and compassion of a loving God. What is a Good Shepherd agency? It is one that advances the mission and philosophy given to us from Mary Euphrasia.

The Canadian Mission Integration Director is Bob Interbartolo who can be reached for any sharing of ideas at: binter@sympatico.ca

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The Significance of Solidarity

What's in a name?

The former International Commission for Justice and Peace for all Creation (ICIPC) has evolved into the Good Shepherd International Office for Justice, Peace and Solidarity (JPS) in Mission. What does this change mean? Our Assembly/Chapter of 2003 was clear that ecological integrity is essential to our mission, especially in the contemplative dimension. It is understood, then, that care of the earth is vital to justice and peace. Yet, as our understanding of justice deepens, the concept of solidarity seems to express an all-embracing view of interrelationships in mission.

Global solidarity requires experiencing and expressing, in concrete ways, unity and relationship with all those who suffer exclusion – be it oppression, violence, discrimination, or extreme poverty. It involves praying as one with those who are excluded. The South African theologian Albert Nolan equates solidarity with humble compassion. It implies "sharing with" and "learning the gospel from" those who are marginalized in our societies. Solidarity impels us to be with, to pray with, to endure with, those who suffer exclusion in our global experience. This solidarity connects directly with our apostolic works, our lives of community and prayer, and all aspects of daily life so that God's reconciliation and good news become gifts shared by all humanity.
At The NGO office...

NGO internship:  The NGO office is happy to announce the first Good Shepherd interns: Hiam Baroud of Lebanon and Melania Samudy of Indonesia. They will be working and learning from January 2005 to June 2005. They will take their international NGO learning back home and strengthen Good Shepherd's systemic reach on national and regional levels.

Poverty and Gender – the MDGs:
The annual NGO conference, September 2004, will feature the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs.) The 59th UN General Assembly will also be reviewing the goals that include poverty eradication and gender equality. Good Shepherd will have a delegation of 6, including Volunteers and staff of the Handcrafting Justice project. You can make full use of our NGO status (General Chapter 2003) by local action on MDGs in collaboration with local and national NGOs. Explore more: 
MDG: http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/

Beijing +10: Committee preparations have begun for the March 2005 review of Beijing (10 years) and Mexico (30 years). Many Good Shepherd programs are responding to questionnaires on Beijing, and on girls' rights. If you are involved locally, please send your activities to Clare at the NGO office.

UNIFEM Quilt project: Many Good Shepherd micro-enterprise projects sent cloth pieces for an international quilt as part of a "stop violence against women" campaign. Thanks to all who helped.

Trafficking: Good Shepherd continues a variety of means to advocate against the legalization of prostitution and for an end to all forms of trafficking. This summer we dialogued about our position among the UN CEDAW experts. Also, 21 Korean university students were hosted at the NGO office to discuss strategies for ending trafficking.

Brief notes - Around the World

From the NGO prayer Network: International Contemplative community, Austria
"The suggestions for our prayers are always helpful. We join in... the furtherance of justice in our world. We are here to support you spiritually. A HAPPY EASTER to you and all at the NGO prayer network."

From Canada: Bob Interbartolo, July 2004
The Mission Integration Office is promoting the appraisal of candidates for national election through the lens of child welfare, particularly the eradication of poverty, which is a UN Millennium Development Goal.

From USA: Paulette LoMonanco
Good Shepherd Services in New York signed the New York City Human Rights initiative in support of The Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The agency requested that the NGO office also sign, in order to bring coherence to national and international initiatives.

From Rome: Caroline Price
Caroline Price served on an International Review Team for the Marist Brothers (FMS) with a focus on the animation of Justice within their educational expertise and ministries. The Marists will use the work of the team to impact unjust structures. This type of collaboration is an implementation of the Assembly direction to "weave networks of solidarity in order to offer an authentic alternative in an increasingly globalized world."

From Europe: Eagle Network collaboration
Good Shepherd in Belgium offers outreach and hospitality to trafficked women from all over the world. Good Shepherd Netherlands supports this work by offering space for a summer outing. This year 8 women and 2 children made the renewing trip. Belgium has
also networked to receive trafficked women from France, as France has no laws to protect women who have filed a legal complaint against a pimp. Currently two such girls from Albania are doing well. Sr. Lalini says, "Good Shepherd presence is more and more needed in Belgium."

**From the Philippines, Baguio: Sr. Patricia Perez**

Good Shepherd promotes political action among college students. Volunteers from the Mountain Maid Training Center served as non-partisan poll watchers in national elections last May. Beyond the elections, the students learn the values of common good in society. The Mountain Maid Center also promotes awareness and activities of indigenous students in defense of ancestral lands and culture, especially the Igorots of the North.

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**Regional Collaboration for Ministry – European E.A.G.L.E.**

*Taken from notes of the Report of the Good Shepherd Sisters European Apostolic Meeting, Dublin, May 2004*

Eleven European countries (with translation!) were represented at the Good Shepherd EAGLE network meeting in Dublin Ireland, May 2004. Thirteen Good Shepherd people gathered to focus on the situation of prostitution and trafficking in Europe. The Ruhuma Project in Ireland served as an appropriate host since it is already a collaborative effort between Good Shepherd and Our Lady of Charity Sisters. The meeting was structured with input, discussion, and Recommendation for action. Song, dance and lots of Irish warmth were also included.

In considering the systems and structures of prostitution and trafficking, the group looked to Sweden as a legislative model from which we could learn and use for advocacy initiatives. This model aims to prosecute the "buyers" who fuel the demand for prostituted sex rather than blame or victimize women. Focusing on the "Demand" for exploitative sex requires changing attitudes towards prostitution.

**Recommendations from the meeting included:**

- **Skill development** toward effective lobbying and advocacy work. Collaboration is a big aspect of this since one can use the expertise of others.
- **Using national and international legislation** as tools for combating trafficking. Particularly important are the UN Protocol on Transnational Crime and the European Council Framework Decision Document on Trafficking.
- **Supporting positive structural systemic models**, such as the Swedish legislative model. These models can support effective change in other nations.

Additionally, the EAGLE network is taking time to re-focus its mission, to expand inclusively, renew its membership, and integrate its efforts with other Good Shepherd groups in Europe. Collaborative efforts are never easy but they are the direction to which Good Shepherd is called.

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**Triple Dialogue**

*Think about it. Analyze with it.*

Since 1975 the Federation of Asian Bishops Conference (FABC) has proposed that the way to proclaim the church's mission for today is through a process of "Triple Dialogue" –

- Dialogue with culture;
- Dialogue with religions;
- Dialogue with those who live in poverty.
Congratulations on the new Website:
Good Shepherd Economic Justice Ministries International

http://www.gsejmi.org/index.asp

The website reflects a creative response to poverty, in accord with our Chapter directions: We affirm that... projects that assist people to escape from poverty be... important ministries in the Congregation today.

Please explore the website and consider how you or your province might participate.

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Congratulations to the Foyer, USA

The General Chapter 2003, said that we would "be innovative and develop more prophetic forms of ministry."

Good Shepherd Services (GSS), a multi-service agency in New York City, has opened the Chelsea Foyer. The program is based on a European model of support and dignity for young adults at risk as they make the difficult transition to independent living. The Foyer is a model of collaboration in which Good Shepherd provides services while a community development organization manages the building and housing aspects. There are many other partners in staffing, funding and support. The Foyer offers a setting where youth can take responsibility and work to achieve their goals. Prophetic indeed in this world where youth are often lost, aimless, and forgotten! More about Good Shepherd Services: http://www.goodshepherds.org/

Participate Locally!

2004 - 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence
November 25 - December 10
This campaign has the 2004 theme: For the Health of Women, For the Health of the World: No More Violence. The 16 Days Campaign aims to raise awareness about gender-based violence as a human rights issue. Activities can provide for shared strategy development and demonstrate the solidarity of women working against male violence against women. Strong networks can pressure governments to act on promises to eliminate violence against women. See: http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/16days/home.html

Participate Locally!

World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse
19 November 2004
You can plan activities and build grassroots NGO coalitions to prevent child abuse. Connections and Information:

Women’s World Summit Foundation, WWSF
PO Box 2001 1211 Geneva 1, Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 738 66 19    Fax: +41 22 738 82 48
E-mail: dignity@vtxnet.ch
http://www.woman.ch/children/1-introduction.asp (links to French)

Participate Locally!

Don’t forget to mark these days in your ministry projects and formation programs:

21 September, International Day of Peace
16 October, World Food Day
17 October, International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
25 November, International Day Against Violence Against Women
10 December, International Human Rights Day
1 January, World Peace Day
8 March, International Women’s Day
5 June, World Environment Day
20 June, World Refugee Day,
12 August, International Youth Day

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Reality for Contemplation
The reality, which we live, challenges us: (From the 2003 Chapter Direction)

- The United Nations has estimated that up to one billion people do not have enough food. Hunger kills one child every five seconds.  
  UN news wire

- "We walked from nowhere to nowhere. Then we walked some more."  
  A Sudanese refugee woman from Dafur

- "Where can I go?"  
  A refugee woman Sri Lanka

- In 2004, the UN has appealed for US$3 billion for basic survival for over 45 million persons. Seventeen of the 21 most "neglected crises" are in Africa. The most needy are women, children, and the elderly.  
  (UNESCO, 2004)

- In the 20th century, governments have killed 169 million unarmed people. (UNDP)

Human Development / Resource for Justice

The UN Human Development report was promoted at the 2003 General Chapter. The 2004 report is now available as a resource for global information and trends. Human Development Report 2004: Cultural Liberty in Today's Diverse World presents a framework to examine current issues of international policy: migration, predatory extremism, customary law and cultural diversity. Go to: hdr.undp.org/reports/global/2004/

Resource for Justice /Publication

“It’s In Our Hands: Stop Violence Against Women” Mobilize to counter violence and to use the human rights framework in efforts to stop violence against women. Report in English, French and Spanish at: http://web.amnesty.org/actforwomen/reports-index-eng

Gratitude and the Heart

Many of you are aware that Caroline Price has returned to her home province after serving these past years in the first permanent secretariat for Justice and Peace for all Creation. We offer thanks to Caroline for all she brought to the office: dedication to justice, generous sense of community, excellent skills in secretarial work, attention to communication and networking, and a persistent sense of optimism and humor.

Caroline brought this office into the 3rd millennium, characterized by Jubilee Justice. She used our internationality to enhance our mission in a world of broken structures and systems, a world wounded by sin.

On behalf of the congregation and particularly the Justice Peace Contact Persons and the NGO office, we offer heartfelt thanks to Caroline and pray with confidence that the Shepherd of creation will guide her to creative places where she will continue to live the mission with her characteristic zeal.

News notes prepared by Congregation of the Good Shepherd

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Original in English. 
Please distribute to all communities and Good Shepherd Persons in your province. Thank you.