



Where Justice and Truth Meet

February 2014

What is Earth asking of Dominicans?



As a follow-up to the 2012 Dominican Sisters Conference Convocation which raised the question “*What Is Earth Asking of the Order?*” the Dominican Sisters Conference is engaging with this issue in area meetings throughout the United States. Over the next several months Dominican Sisters, Associates, Co-Workers and Friends will be grappling with the question of climate change.

Margaret Mayce, OP, the NGO Representative of the Dominicans at the United Nations, writes:

“The author of a recent New York Times article about global warming, [If You See Something Say Something](#) said: ‘If scientists choose not to engage in the public debate, we leave a vacuum that will be filled by those whose agenda is one of short-term self-interest.’ What will happen if we choose not to engage in the public debate? Whose interests will be served by our silence? Whose interests will suffer?

Our hope is that we will become more engaged in our respective geographic areas and move toward action on a national level. As members of the Order of Preachers, how could we not engage in the public debate? As our sister Catherine of Siena says, “*Cry out as if you have a million voices, for it is silence which kills the world.*”

[Weaving the Threads of Contemplation and Action:](#)

[What is Earth asking of the Order?](#)

Saturday, April 5, 2014
8:30 – 11:30 a.m. CDT



The retreat will be broadcast live from Weber Retreat and Conference Center in Adrian, MI. Consider participating with other Dominicans online or hosting a small group in your area. If the date is inconvenient, the archived program will be available on the websites of Alliance Congregations afterward.

50th anniversary: War on Poverty

Just five months after Martin Luther King led a historic March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom – and gave the momentous “I have a Dream” speech – U.S. President Lyndon Johnson announced a “War on Poverty” in January, 1964.

“If your refrigerator is empty and you’re not sure when you’ll be eating your next meal, reflecting on this fiftieth anniversary may not be a high priority. Unfortunately, a recent survey by Half in Ten, an organization dedicated to cutting the poverty rate in America by 50% within ten years, finds that having trouble paying for necessities is a fact of life for at least a quarter of all Americans. And more than half of Americans say that someone in their immediate or extended family is poor. For millions of struggling families, building a pathway out of poverty is an urgent matter,” says [Deborah Weinstein](#), executive director of the Coalition on Human Needs.

“We need to take a hard look at why poverty persists and what works to reduce it,” continues Weinstein. In a survey conducted by [Half in Ten](#), nearly two-thirds of respondents said they believe poverty stems from jobs that do not pay enough and/or from lack of education and health care, while only one in four ascribed poverty to bad personal choices or irresponsibility. Many see—in their own lives or in the experience of their friends and relatives—that the economy fails to provide people with opportunities to support a family.



Visit: [Our American Story: A Storyteller Action Network](#), a community of low-income families, service providers, and other community leaders working to expand economic opportunity for all through the power of their personal stories.

Poverty in the world is a scandal. In a world where there is so much wealth, so many resources to feed everyone, it is unfathomable that there are so many hungry children, that there are so many children without an education, so many poor persons.


– Pope Francis



The Millennium Development Goals, ranging from halving extreme poverty rates to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education by a target date of 2015, focus worldwide efforts to meet the needs of the world's poorest.

For Women and Girls: Moving Beyond the Millennium Development Goals

The 58th Session of the [UN Commission on the Status of Women](#), to be held March 10-21, 2014, holds a critical opportunity for evaluating the results of the [Millennium Development Goals](#) (MDGs) from a gender perspective. With the MDGs set to expire next year, much conversation has focused on the achievements and shortcomings of the MDGs. Though significant progress has been made, it has been uneven, and many of the goals will come up short of their targets by 2015. The global community is now moving on two fronts: pursuing the MDGs to the end, and looking ahead to the post-2015 development agenda. As Rwandan President Paul Kagame said in his General Assembly speech in September, *“As we think about a new era of human development, we must have courage to go further than MDGs. The MDGs are a floor not a ceiling.”*



**Millennium Development Goals:
Spotlight on Peru**

Peru has succeeded in reaching the goal of halving extreme poverty and hunger. In education, the target has been surpassed; most South American countries have primary school registration rates close to 90%, however there is progress to be made in quality of education. Peru has reached targets for MDG 3 on gender equality, as well as combatting HIV/AIDS and other diseases. Peru is the only country in the region which has succeeded in reducing the mortality rate for children under-five by two thirds. Progress remains in the field of maternal health, as well as environmental sustainability.

Justice Sunday – “Let justice roll down like water”

[Faith Coalition for the Common Good](#)

is a diverse organization of 25 faith congregations (including Dominican Sisters), community service and labor organizations working together to improve life in the Springfield area. Faith Coalition’s mission is to train, educate and motivate “people in the pews” to act on important community issues which affect all of us—to work for the common good. Faith Coalition has declared **Sunday, February 23** as **Justice Sunday** – a day to remember past struggles and make promises for a brighter tomorrow. *(Click on the link above to view the FCCG Justice Sunday slideshow.)*





**GUN VIOLENCE
PREVENTION SABBATH**

MARCH 13-16 2014

[Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence](#), a coalition of 50 national denominations and faith-based organizations, including the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), has announced plans for its second annual [Gun Violence Prevention Sabbath](#) to be celebrated March 13-16. The weekend will include prayer events from coast to coast and begin with prayer at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. on the evening of Thursday, March 13.

[Become a SHEPHERD](#)

**Stop Human Trafficking and Exploitation:
Protect, Help, Empower, and
Restore Dignity**

Click to download [Toolkit](#) from USCCB

Click on the link at right for a video prepared for **International Women’s Day, March 8**, reflecting the history and future possibilities for women.

