



## *Ecology and Life*

*Let us commit ourselves: "to live an ethical lifestyle in which every choice we make is grounded in critical awareness of its impact on society and the planet, conscious of our own consumerism and all that hurts humanity and the integrity of creation." 2009 General Chapter*

**Symbols** – you can bring symbols that help in the reflection on the theme.

**Music** – (choice of prayer leader)

### **Reflection**

We are in a defining moment in the history of the Earth, a moment in which mankind must decide its future, in a world that is increasingly interdependent and fragile ... Hence, the need to work together to generate a sustainable global society founded on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice and a culture of peace. The global environment of our planet, with its finite resources, is a concern common to all peoples of the Earth. We need ecological sustainability for humans to stay alive on planet Earth, and this means preserving natural resources to be able to use them in the future.

Today we consume more than we produce, we are taking more from the land than it can offer and, in the future, this may bring ecological disasters, poverty, hunger and extinction.

According to experts, ecological sustainability can be considered as one of the strong bases to ensure sustainable development, but there needs to be harmonization between economic development, the preservation of the environment, social justice, quality of life and the rational use of renewable resources such as water, soil, forest products and marine life, so as not to exceed the limits for regeneration and to protect the health of ecosystems.

We are aware of the interdependence of all creation. Any choice or option that we make has implications for life on the planet. The choice is ours, to form a global partnership to care for the Earth, or participate in our own destruction and the destruction of the diversity of life. Gandhi said, "Remember a person, the poorest and most desperate you've ever seen, and ask if the choice we think to make may be useful to that person."

It is before the Creator of the Universe that we are responsible for what we do or don't do to protect and take care of the Earth and all its creatures. "To Yahweh belong earth and all it holds, the world and all who live in it." (Psalm 24: 1)

"May our time perpetuate itself in history as the awakening of a new way to reverence life, the firm resolution to achieve sustainability, for accelerated action in view of Justice and peace, and the happy celebration of life." (cf. Earth Charter)

**Personal Reflection:** Gen 1: 26 – 31a  
Eccles. 17: 1 – 12  
Const. N<sup>o</sup> 18, 76 and 81

**Sharing ...**

**Prayer** - Let us ask the God of Life to help us live what Father Médaille advises, "be brave in assuming what God asks of you and constant to persevere in your commitment. Never give up, whatever the difficulties and the obstacles encountered along the way, unless you feel totally helpless before them." (Maxims, Ch. XI, 5)