

## **A Loretto Land Ethic**

### ***A Loretto Mission: Right Relationship with the Land***

As Friends of Mary at the Foot of the Cross, we are called to care for Earth in its pain, to celebrate its beauty, and to create space for its healing. Land is our common heritage, owned by no one, responsibly tended and cared for by each generation. Those responsible for land at any particular time should regard it as a sacred trust, received with gratitude, tended with care for its integrity and long-term sustainability.

We in the Loretto Community understand that our mission to work for justice and act for peace must include care of the land which is entrusted to us. We therefore commit ourselves to tend the land with respect for its integrity, conscious of:

- the capacity of land to be a sacrament of God's beauty and goodness, reflecting God's creativity and bounty in myriad, interdependent life forms;
- the necessity to recognize our human dependence upon the larger whole, and to tend the land in such a way that all life is enhanced and protected, and that the variety of ecosystems is sustained.

It is our mission to continue to educate ourselves, both individually and communally, about Earth and its creatures, knowing that humans and the rest of nature are inextricably connected. We commit ourselves to raise our bioregional consciousness and continue restorative processes on the land in our care so as to maintain healthy and diverse ecosystems.

Within this context, any use of the land will be guided by the following principles:

- I. That careful consideration be given to the long and short-term interests of the following: the life-enhancement of the immediate users, the local community, future generations of humans, the local bioregion, and the planetary community;
- II. That ecosystems and topsoil be restored and preserved;
- III. That renewable energy sources be given primary consideration, and that when necessary, non-renewable resources be used efficiently and for long-term beneficial purposes.

Guided by these principles, we will embark on individual and collective steps for action.