



EYE ON JUSTICE

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**SISTERS AND ASSOCIATES
ST. JOSEPH OF LYON/ WINSLOW**

“FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD”

WHAT A CONSCIOUS “WE” COULD ACCOMPLISH

In his State of the Spirit 2011 address Rabbi Michael Lerner stated that global warming will soon be irreversible, but that we have a good ten years to reverse the process if we create a conscious “we” that understood what was needed. This new movement would work to replace the old bottom line of maximizing money and power with a New Bottom Line seeking to maximize love and caring, kindness and generosity, ethical and ecological sensitivity, and awe and wonder at the grandeur of *being*.

If that vanguard could embody the love and caring that it talks about, and effectively use the democratic process and the available means of communicating to mobilize these underlying spiritual needs into an effective political movement, then all the disasters that otherwise seem inevitable might yet be vanquished and replaced by a humanity that serves the deepest self-interest and instead build social institutions that reward rather than undermine our loving and caring capacities.

The Spirit of God that is manifested in every human being continues to reassert itself in every generation, always pushing us toward liberation. However, we have not been able to sustain a social movement with which all who seek to be fuller expressions of God and who yearn for peace, environmental sanity, justice, and a world filled with love could be part. Maybe the time has come for a new political movement committed to affirming a New Bottom Line of love, kindness, generosity, awe, wonder, radical amazement and behavior grounded in ethical and ecological sensitivity. This would be a party of Environmental Sanity, Peace and Justice, Awe and Wonder that transforms the contemporary mess.

**JUSTICE AND PEACE TEAM : Robert & Nancy Hurd, David & Janice
Champion, Patricia Hackett, Claire Lepage, csj**

SIGNS OF OUR WARMING PLANET

This year's extreme weather produced disturbing scenes around the globe. Muscovites wearing masks to protect against eye-burning smog from wildfires, millions in Pakistan with salvaged belongings strapped to their backs, fleeing epic floods, and thousands of stranded walrus packed together on Alaska's shoreline because the sea ice where they're normally found has melted.

Is this the new normal of a warming planet? The record heat and rainfall are probably not random events: 2010 is on track to be the hottest year since record keeping began. So far Guinea is the only country to set a record for all-time coldest temperatures this year. Seventeen countries reported their highest temperature ever at a particular location within their territory. A mass of super-hot water off Southwest Asia has caused one of the worst coral die-offs in history. A record-sized chunk of ice, the biggest since monitoring began 50 myears ago, broke off one of Greenland's glaciers.

Can anyone doubt that a decisive action to cap global warming pollution is urgent? What could our "conscious we" do about this in our daily lives?

THE FOREIGNER WHO LIVES AMONG YOU MUST BE TREATED LIKE ONE OF YOUR OWN. LOVE THEM AS YOU LOVE YOURSELF, FOR YOU TOO WERE STRANGERS IN THE LAND OF EGYPT . (LEV.19:33-34)

NEWS FROM EGYPT

We are very happy to offer you the news of Egypt. During the time that passed, we hope you pray for us and the standing of our society.

*Family el folk
L'alarc Egypt*

SAFEGUARD MAINE'S ENVIRONMENT

Shockwaves shocked our state legislators recently when our governor proposed:

- . That at least three million acres of Maine's irreplaceable North Woods be zoned for development, about of 10 times the size of Los Angeles.
- . Overturn our Kid-Safe Products Act that phases out the worst toxic chemicals.
- . Eliminate Maine's product stewardship laws that prevented more than 3.3 million pounds of toxic materials from entering the waste stream and our environment.