



Mercy Northeast is a bimonthly publication for Sisters of Mercy, Companions in Mercy and Mercy Associates of the Northeast Community. Send comments to: cvanaken@mercyne.org.

Northeast

The Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
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Ecology/Justice Conference addresses Planet in Crisis: Mercy Response



More than 75 sisters, associates and companions from every corner of the Northeast Community gathered at Biddeford Pool, Maine, on the weekend of October 29-31 for an ecology/justice conference on the theme, *Planet in Crisis: Mercy Response*.

Mary Christina Wood, professor of law at the University of Oregon School of Law, addressed the crisis facing our planet in the 21st century. Through the use of interactive Skype technology, Doctor Wood was able to speak and answer questions from her home in Oregon, thus reducing her carbon footprint.

While Doctor Wood laid out the reality of the crisis, she also noted that there is still time to act. It will be necessary, however, to change lifestyles and rethink fundamental assumptions. *[Click on Ecology Ministry in the navigation bar on the Northeast home page of SharePoint for an article written by Mary Christina Wood that is similar to her presentation to the group in Maine, as well as other pertinent materials.]*

Sisters Mary Pendergast and Nancy Audette facilitated the *Awakening the Dreamer/Changing the Dream* program which is galvanizing people around the world to be committed to “bringing forth an environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling and socially just human presence on this planet as the guiding principle of our time.” Through the lens of Mercy, the group looked at four questions: 1. Where are we? 2. How did we get here? 3. What is possible for the future? 4. Where do we go from here? Discussion yielded suggestions about what Mercy must do now, the changes that are needed, and the steps to be taken to bring about change.

Participants also examined the Land Ethic statement affirmed by the Northeast Community Assembly in March and discussed possible responses to it. **By Sister Anne Vaccarest**



TOP – Dr. Mary Christina Wood, at home in Oregon, “appears” on the retreat center’s flat-screen TV via Skype – thanks to Kim Cardin, Northeast IT manager

CENTER – Denise Turcotte, CSC, coordinator of New Dawn Earth Center, leads the assembly in prayer

BOTTOM – participants bless and affirm Sisters Mary Pendergast and Nancy Audette for bringing them to a state of “blessed unrest”