

## Reflection on our creation community: created, related, keepers and seekers.

**We are created...** in God's image, to share in his life and this is the source of our dignity.



This uniqueness of human beings is the starting point for our Christian understanding of creation community. We are created on earth but we share in the life of God and our destiny is the kingdom of heaven. We see three common rights emerging from this:

We are created with reason and free will, hence a civil right to individual freedom.

We are protected by a God who promises to 'shelter us under his wings' (Psalm 91), hence a social right to welfare and security.

We are called to serve the common good, hence a political right to participation.

When we enable each other to understand that we are all created to be who we are, that we are loved as we are and that we are irreplaceable in God's plan, we nurture in each other self-respect. We give each other a reality against which to evaluate and navigate our world of conflicting influences and images.

**We are related...** to each other by our heavenly Father and we find God through our love for one another.



As we encourage each other to understand and respect our own uniqueness, we help to value the uniqueness in others. The love of God goes beyond division of age, belief, culture or wealth.

We believe that to claim our rights as part of the creation community we must uphold these same rights for all. Individual rights are extended to what we have come to call Universal Human Rights. These express our basic right to life and to the dignity and justice which enable us to flourish.

With these rights come responsibilities. So when we show concern, compassion, generosity of time as well as money, we model for each other the behaviour which reflects a real respect for others. We think beyond our own needs.

When we reflect and pray on issues of justice we help to cultivate an active conscience with which to cherish life: the instinct which prompts positive action in the face of injustice; the altruism that acts beyond our own situation; the empathy which urges us to help another person or peoples.

**We are keepers...** of the gift of creation, it is entrusted to us for our use and that of generations to come.



The right to life and its corresponding value cannot be separated from our care for creation. All life can only flourish with fresh air, clean water, good food, a place to live and work, medicines, days of rest, just relationships and love. Our care for creation is an expression of our praise and thanksgiving to God and of our care and respect for each other, of a healthy community.

When we live simply we are encouraged to think more deeply about:  
How we use resources wisely and fairly  
The consequences of our choices  
The impact of climate change and biotechnology, pollution, over-fishing and deforestation.

When we pay attention to what and how we consume, to fair-trade, how far we travel, how much we re-use and recycle, we model both individual and collective responsibility for all of creation.

**We are seekers...** of the kingdom of heaven with an instinct and aspiration for what is good.



Christ sowed the seed of the kingdom of heaven here on earth but we are charged with its nurturing. We are not only citizens but also co-creators of the kingdom of justice and peace, and upholders of the integrity of creation.

We must let this awareness shape our engagement with the world: we must seek justice, peace and the integrity of creation in all our decisions and actions, whether as private individuals or as part of civil society. When we encourage each other to show solidarity with the marginalised, with those that society has neglected or despised, we show them Christ. When we open our hearts as global citizens and as Christians we become who we were born to be – a loving creation community.