

General Administration
Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary
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Dear Sisters and Associates,

For over 150 years the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary have been guided by the charism of Marie Rose Durocher to respond to critical needs of our time with actions based upon gospel values. Today we are pleased to announce that, in keeping with that tradition, the members of the Congregation and our Associates have very strongly endorsed the following corporate stand:

Water is a Human Right and Public Good

We affirm that:

- Water is a sacred gift that connects all life.
- Access to clean water is a basic human right.
- The value of the earth's freshwater to the common good takes priority over any possible commercial value.
- Freshwater is a shared legacy, a public trust and a collective responsibility.

Therefore, we support actions and policies that:

- Ensure universal access to sufficient, affordable, safe water for all people, especially the most vulnerable
- Protect freshwater as a sustainable, renewable resource
- Implement the objectives of the UN Millennium Goals on water

We oppose actions and policies that:

- Endanger the world's supply of freshwater
- Deprive humans and other species access to adequate, safe water essential for life
- Favor the privatization of water as a commodity to be bought and sold for profit when in reality it is a heritage we all hold in common

So we congratulate you for publicly joining with so many other groups committed to safeguarding this precious gift that is both a human right and public good. We urge you to take personal, regional and corporate ACTIONS that are consistent with our stand, especially to take personal and collective responsibility for safeguarding the world's freshwater and ensuring its equitable distribution, to speak out against its exploitation for economic profit, and "to halve the proportion of people who are unable to reach or afford safe drinking water and who do not have access to basic sanitation." (UN International Decade for Action – Water for Life)

We will post this corporate stand on our external website and distribute articles announcing our stand for publication in Catholic newspapers in dioceses where our Sisters and Associates minister.

Let us continue "to provide support for a healthy future for the generations after us."
(Chapter Acts 2006)

Sincerely,

Lorraine St-Hilaire snjm

Jocelyne Latreille snjm

Margaret Kennedy, snjm

Dalour M. Wehler snjm