



# Interdependence: Our Gift, Our Strength

## Call to Prayer

We believe God’s Spirit is present in every generation, event, and encounter. At this moment, in our particular time in history, we are called to listen deeply to the movement of that Spirit being expressed in the struggles of our Earth community. We gather in silence, prayerful reflection, and conversation to share with each other how we can deepen our living of interdependence.



**Reading** A selection from the “Preamble” of the *Earth Charter*.

We stand at a critical moment in Earth’s history, a time when humanity must choose its future. As the world becomes increasingly interdependent and fragile, the future at once holds great peril and great promise. To move forward we must recognize that in the midst of a magnificent diversity of cultures and life forms we are one human family and one Earth community with a common destiny. We must join together to bring forth a sustainable global society founded on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice and a culture of peace. Towards this end, it is imperative that we, the peoples of Earth, declare our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life and to future generations.

### Silent reflection on the reading

### Sharing

Share a word or image from the Preamble that speaks to you.

### Silent reflection (5-10 minutes)

Recall a time when you and others were doing something together in a truly interdependent way.

- ◇ What was happening between you and the other(s) involved?



UN Photo:  
John Issac

- ◇ What dynamics did you experience?
- ◇ What do you remember about the experience that excited you?
- ◇ What within the experience helped reflect your values and achieve your objectives?

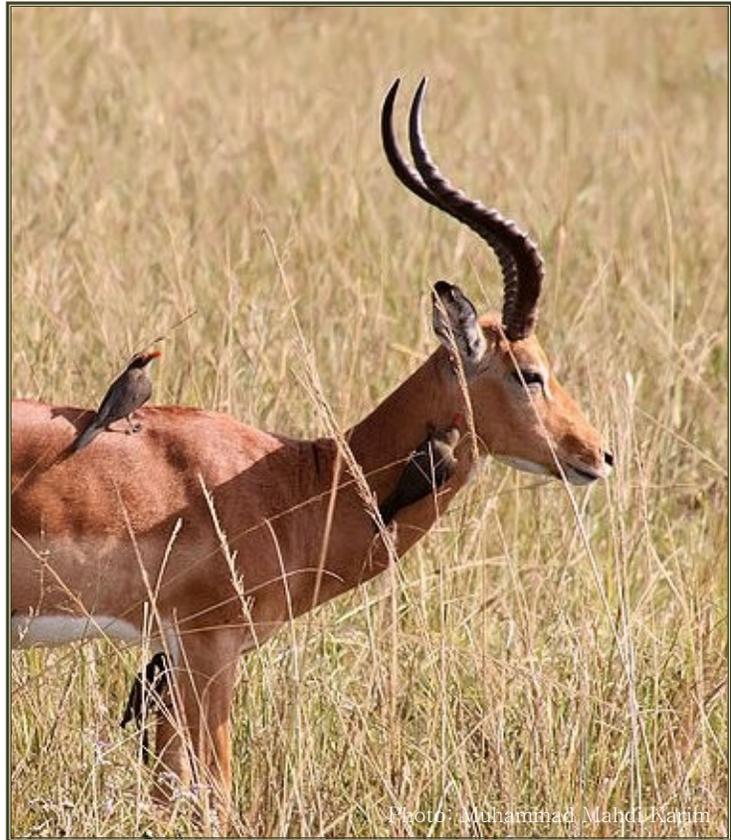
### Sharing

What do you perceive as strengths in a healthy interdependent relationship?

### Silent Reflection (5-10 minutes)

Now, recall an experience when you were involved in a group project that did not go well or, at best, was very frustrating.

- ◇ What were you trying to accomplish or create together?
- ◇ What were the elements of the situation that interfered with the project's success? What dynamics did you experience?
- ◇ In reflecting back on the experience, imagine behaviors that might have changed the outcome.



### Sharing (25 minutes)

What might we do to deepen and strengthen our lived interdependence with one another? With all of creation?

### Group response

Together, identify or create an image that expresses healthy interdependence for your group. Photograph your image and send it electronically or by mail to the Holy Cross International Justice Office (see addresses below). The office will collect the images and post them on the HCIJO web site in the form of an "interdependence quilt."



**Closing prayer**      “The Way Forward” from the *Earth Charter* (Please read antiphonally)

Side 1: As never before in history, common destiny beckons us to seek a new beginning. This requires a change of mind and heart.

Side 2: It requires a new sense of global interdependence and universal responsibility.

Side 1: We must imaginatively develop and apply the vision of a sustainable way of life locally, nationally, regionally, and globally.

Side 2: Our cultural diversity is a precious heritage and different cultures will find their own distinctive ways to realize the vision.

Side 1: We must deepen and expand the global dialogue...for we have much to learn from the ongoing collaborative search for truth and wisdom.

All: Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life.

Amen.

