

Religious Orders Partnership/Partnership for Global Justice Annual Report, 2003-2004

Realizing that systemic issues are at the core of becoming a just world, Religious Orders Partnership continues to be engaged in the conversation in many ways. We participate in committees and activities formed by NGOs (non government organizations) representing civil society at the United Nations. We partner with other groups who are also committed to systemic change. And, we offer education programs to assist our members in becoming engaged in the efforts of a just world order.

We have just completed a full year as an independent organization, now known as Religious Orders Partnership/Partnership for Global Justice. During this year we worked toward attaining our 501C3 (not for profit corporation) and focused on developing a clear vision that is appropriate for our membership. We also became financially independent from our parent organization, Global Education Associates.

Notably, we participated in the NGO Working Group on Iraq which made reports from our people living and serving in Iraq giving a view of “on the ground” to UN officials particularly the Security Council. We also participated in the NGO Committee on HIV/AIDS which focuses on the increasing pandemic of the disease especially in Africa and Asia. We also are an active voice in the NGO Committee on Financing for Development (FfD) whose issues are giving voice to the Global South.

We hosted our new program, UN Orientation Days with over 100 participants. This program offers an overview of the UN system, gives focus on five issues in which NGOs are engaged such as trafficking of women and girls and provides a theoretical grounding for the issues developed at the UN. It also offers possible ways that one can continue to be part of the global conversation in whatever ministry the participants find themselves. Our UN Orientation Days continue to grow with interests reaching as far as the Philippines and India.

Our Annual Meeting held in New York City, April 22-24, 2004 held an incredible energy that focused on Global Spirituality: Becoming Grounded in the Holy. Our keynote speakers, Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ, Robert Kennedy, SJ, and Daniel Berrigan, SJ, provided us with a rich theological framework for stretching ourselves beyond our imaginations. The UN speakers, Kiran Bedi, Oscar DeRojas and Audrey Kitagawa gave witness to the depth of commitment that a global spirituality could provide for us. Our participants representing our partners from as far as the Philippines fully engaged in the prayer and conversation lifting all of us to new insights and possibilities.

Our efforts to become financially stable became evident quickly as our partners immediately supported us through membership renewals new members, program support and generous donations. In March, 2004, it became possible for us to move to New York City near the United Nations Headquarters providing us with a small office space that allows us to participate more fully with the UN activities and to collaborate with NGO colleagues on important issues.

In addition, we have hired a full-time intern, Mark Meyer, for ten months beginning this September. Mark is a native of Ottawa, IL and a recent graduate of the University of Illinois. He hopes to go to law school, but wants to learn the UN system before graduate school. Mark serves us under the auspices of Dominican Volunteers which is based in Chicago. He is focusing on the issues of Israel/Palestine, the Indigenous Peoples Forum and the NGO Youth Committee during his tenure with us. His energy and committed presence enhances our ministry in many ways.

Our office is also served by two special volunteers, Janet McLaughlin, SC and Janetta McAlevey, OP. Janet, a Sister of Charity of Convent Station, does our membership communication which she has done for a number of years. Because of her consistent work, she keeps our membership logs and communication with our members up to date. Janetta, an Amityville Dominican, manages our finances and handles registrations for our programs. She keeps track of the details that are important for our ministry. We are grateful to Janet and Janetta for their contributions to Religious Orders Partnership. They are invaluable to

our ministry.

Our Vision for the Future

ROP continues to offer our partners ways to understand our role as religious to bring forth a just society. We are committed to developing educational opportunities for deepening our understanding of the economic issues that undergird our world politics. ROP announces a new program, the Global Economics Workshop, which was piloted this October and will be offered February, June and October of 2005. The workshop offers the participants the opportunity to learn basic economic principles, reflection on Catholic Social Teaching in light of economics and a further focus on issues such as trade, debt, the World Bank and privatization.

We will continue to offer the UN Orientation Days offering the three day sessions in December, 2004, January, March, May, June and September of 2005. Registration for this workshop can be found on our website at www.religiousorderspartnership.org. It is our hope to develop a scholarship fund, particularly for partners who need to travel long distances to participate in this our programs.

ROP plans to develop a communications model that would better serve our partners. In addition to our new website, we hope to offer monthly emails, continue our e-service monthly newsletter and provide a listserve that would give opportunities for updates and connections with activities beyond our office.

Our office will continue to serve as an NGO working on the UN committees that foster our commitment to justice through our Platform for Action. The platform is due for review by the membership in 2005 -which will take place- delete this phrase during our Annual Meeting, April 28-30, 2005 in Chicago.

We will also hold a consultation with those partners for whom ROP serves as an NGO. This gathering during the Annual Meeting will serve to identify the issues that their congregations are addressing and how ROP as their NGO might assist them in this process .

As ROP continues to grow and understand our role as a voice in the global conversation, we hope to develop financial support to continue this ministry through membership, programs and grants. It is our hope to serve our partners with a clear and honest voice committed to uttering a call for justice on behalf of the most vulnerable people of our world.

Lucianne Siers, OP
Director
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New York, NY 10017

November, 2004

Please design at least two boxes:

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Box Two:

Please join us for our Annual Meeting
April 28-30, 2005

Reconciliation: Becoming Peacemaking Communities for Transformation
Cenacle Retreat and Conference Center, 513 Fullerton Parkway
Chicago, IL

Kenote Speakers: Barbara Fiand, SND
Michael Crosby, OFMCap
Sheila Provencher, Christian Peacemaker Teams
Susan O'Halloran, Storyteller

You might find a few quotes that you could also pull out and highlight