

# It's your World

## Celebrating 10 Years

The IBVM NGO has been associated the Department of Public Information at the United Nations for the last 10 years. At a recent meeting of the NGO Advisory Committee we decided to remember and celebrate the decade on **February 20, 2014**. Why February 20<sup>th</sup>? It is "World Day for Social Justice". Our commitment to creating a just world throughout the world contributes to the efforts of the United Nations to enable the human family live in peace and equity within the limits of the resources given to us on this planet.



The initiatives and work of each one of us is what makes up the overall activity of the IBVM NGO. Our personal and institutional efforts at local level form the content of the NGO and in our specific ways we translate into practice the values and vision of the United Nations.

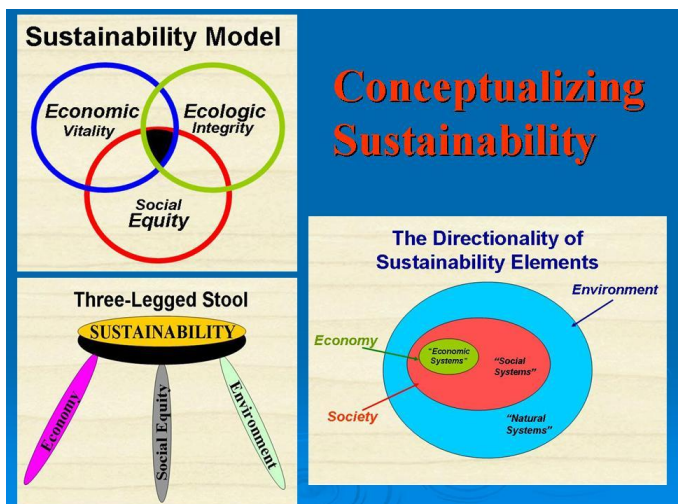
So, make the **20<sup>th</sup> February, 2014** a day to remember and celebrate the efforts of the United Nations and of the IBVM. Do so in your unique ways, according to your circumstances ... a minute, a pause, a prayer, an event, an initiative which connects you to other parts of the whole....etc.

You will receive more information from us along with a short video to mark the Decade.

Find out more about our work as NGO through the new website at [www.ibvmunngo.org](http://www.ibvmunngo.org)  
Information about your initiatives is welcome. Photos and a short explanation will suffice.

## The Three Pillars of Sustainable Development

Integration of the Three Pillars of Sustainable Development is an important aspect of the approach needed to the follow up on the MDGs. The pillars of SOCIAL, ECONOMIC and ENVIRONMENTAL sustainability are essential for sustainable development. It is necessary to harness and build strong linkages between these three pillars of economic growth, social development and environmental protection. If any one pillar is weak then the system as a whole is unsustainable. When we think deeply in terms of the three pillars we recognize a collection of interconnected systems.



## Initiatives connected with our work at the United Nations

Civil society groups from around the world contribute to the preparatory work on the post MDG Agenda. IBVM is involved in one of these initiatives in **Ireland**. An Inter- Congregation working group, with IBVM represented by **Angela O'Grady**, has submitted position papers to different "Sessions" of the UN General Assembly's Open Working Groups. They include papers on

- **The Formation of SDG's** (Sustainable Development Goals).
- **ENERGY** submitted the 5<sup>th</sup>. Session held on 25th -27th November 2013
- **Human Rights and Development**, submitted to the 6th session held on 9th -13th Dec 2013.

**IBVM Leadership** joined the Loretto Community (The other Loretto's!) in a petition calling on Pope Francis to rescind two Papal Bulls, the *Dum Diversas* Bull of 1452, *Inter Caetera* Bull of 1493. These bulls instilled the "Doctrine of Discovery", the Papal sanctioning of Christian enslavement and power over non-Christians. As these Bulls have inspired political decisions up to this day, we urge the Pope to take a definite step to break decisively with past harmful practices.

The **Eight Day Center for Justice** (Chicago) and IBVM partnered for an economic awareness session on the National Budget. *A Faithful Budget: Creating a Federal Budget that puts "the least of these" first.*

**Loreto School, Normanhurst**, Australia held a Model UN Program last November. One of the activities was a skype conversation with the New York Office.

**Mary Ward Justice Center**, Toronto, Canada, held a follow up Day for the students who were part of the UN initiation program held in October 2013.

## Upcoming dates. Looking ahead

**February 2014. World Interfaith Harmony Week** is celebrated during the first week of February. In the resolution that established this week as a way to promote harmony between all people, the General Assembly, recognized the imperative need for dialogue among different faiths and religions to enhance mutual understanding, harmony and cooperation among people. This annual event is observed during the first week of February each year and is a way of promoting the United Nations efforts for Peace.

<http://worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com/> <http://www.upf.org/united-nations/interfaith-harmony-week>

**Commission on Social Development.** (CSocD) 11 – 21 February 2014.

**Theme:** "Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration, full employment and decent work for all".

**Commission on the Status of women (CSW). 10 - 21 March 2014**

**Theme:** "Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for Women and Girls"

*Cecilia O'Dwyer IBVM*

**Learn+assess+pray+act+advocate**