

MINDANAO-SULU PASTORAL CONFERENCE XIV STATEMENT

We, the two hundred and thirteen (213) delegates from twenty one (21) Ecclesiastical Jurisdictions in Mindanao, gathered together at Crisbel Crown Center, Digos City for the Fourteenth Mindanao-Sulu Pastoral Conference from October 18-22, 2010, have reflected on and rediscovered the importance of the Word of God in addressing issues and concerns affecting the Environment and Peace. Moved by the Goodness and the Creative Power of the Word of God, we have seen our successes and failures, our efforts and shortcomings. We have seen the immensity of our Mission as Local Churches in Mindanao. We are challenged to follow the path toward the New Evangelization which would transform our context.

Mindanao is a beautiful land which we love, so rich in natural resources; the home of good and beautiful people, with rich and diversified cultures. But it is also the land damaged by violence, aggression and selfishness.

We are all aware of the threats to Life and Peace. We know that the situations of unpeace are often land-based and geographically-localized; they are all related to maldistribution, usurpation, monopoly, misuse and abuse of resources. The corruption of economic and political powers, the distortion of moral and spiritual values, the materialistic culture of amassing wealth for vested interests have very high environmental and social costs.

On the other hand, we also see many signs of hope. A good number of conscientious individuals, groups and institutions are working untiringly for the Protection of Creation as well as for the Promotion of Peace. Their number is increasing everyday. Many have dedicated their lives for the Call toward Culture of Peace and Christian Environmental Stewardship.

We therefore condemn in unequivocal terms:

- All activities which threaten and devastate Creation: the destructive mining activities particularly open-pit mining, logging activities which denude our forests, toxic agricultural practices, destructive fishing and all activities contributory to climate change and global warming;
- Any and all forms of aggression against the lives, cultures, and livelihood of the Indigenous Communities as well as anomalous encroachment into their ancestral domains;
- All activities of violence, hatred, vengeance, bloodshed perpetrated by individuals, groups and institutions to right what maybe wrong;
- Everything and every act which harms, endangers, destroys and kills life: extrajudicial liquidations, terrorism, drug pushing, artificial contraception, sterilization and abortion, everything and every act which prevents the conception and birth of human life.

In the name of God given life, we condemn every sin which creates disorder, disrupts peace and harmony in individuals and the society at large.

We are firmly resolved:

- To strengthen our dedication and commitment to deepen education and formation of our families, communities, parishes, local churches based on the Word of God and the Christian Faith centered on the Holy Eucharist;
- To pursue the Formation of Christian Environmental Conscience, Intergenerational Justice and the Promotion of the Culture of Peace. We are firmly resolved to pursue the paths of the New Evangelization using solid catechesis for the care of the Earth and for the creation of Peaceful Environment;
- To undertake concrete measures like Environmental Education and Peace Campaigns in all Churches, BECs, Parish Groups, Catholic Schools and Colleges, as well as conduct activities such as tree planting, adopt-a-forest program, setting up of nurseries in all Catholic Facilities on Church Lands whenever possible;
- To conduct information and education campaigns to the faithful regarding the Alternative Mining Act (AMB) now filed in Congress and is known as National Management of Resources and Stewardship Bill, as alternative to the present destructive and immoral Philippine Mining Act of 1995;
- To protect the integrity of Mother Earth, the Visible Sign of Divine Order and Wisdom, the Life in the Mother's Womb which is the Sign, Center and Foundation of God's Creation, as well as the Sacredness of Marriage and Family Life;
- To strengthen the interfaith and interreligious for the cause of Integrity of Creation and Peace;
- To continue our dialogue and cooperation with civil society, government and the basic sectors for Human Development and Peace as well as to uphold the rule of law at all levels.

Prayerfully, we invoke the Blessing of the Almighty Father, the Enlightenment of the Creator Spirit, and the Mighty Name of the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, the Lord of the Cosmos through whom everything was made (John 1:1ff) and will be reunited to Himself (Col. 1: 9-14). We implore the Powerful intercessions of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Word-made-Flesh and Spiritual Mother of Creation.