3. MARY WARD HOUSE  
presents ECO- JUSTICE,  
that is right relationship with God’s creation.

We believe, *God is the center of the universe*, and we humans are the stewards of the earth. The gifts of creation are means to know, to love, to serve and enjoy communion with God and one another.” We have inherited from past generations and we have benefitted from the work of our contemporaries. So we cannot refuse the benefits of the earth to those who come after us.” If we abuse any of the gifts of creation we sin, we break our relationship with God & block His glory. Through the witness of our lives we are to be models of eco-sustainability, mindful of those most affected by eco-injustice.

**OUR RESPONSIBILITY BEGINS WITH AN APPRECIATION OF CREATION**  
its goodness, beauty and richness. The heavens proclaim the glory of God; the firmament shows forth his mighty works!

About 14 billion years ago God said, “I will make me a world.” And as far as the eye of God could see, darkness covered everything blacker than a hundred midnights. Then God smiled and the light broke, spangling the night with billions of galaxies and constellations. From the debris of one star, the sun, God formed a necklace of 8 planets spinning around the sun, the jewel of which is our earth! God clothed the cooling earth in beauty and elegance! The green grass sprouted, little red flowers blossomed, fishes and fowls, beasts and birds swarmed the rivers, roamed the forests and split the air with their wings.

Right into the heart of this immense celebration of creativity, the universe saw its next surprise - HUMAN BEINGS - in God’s own image, capable of loving like Him. God looked at everything he had made, he looked at his sun, his moon, his stars; he looked at all the living beings and said, "That’s very good!"

For ages human beings lived in harmony with nature; tasted God’s wisdom and power in every aspect of creation-( music & dance)  
The vitality of the earth is now depleting. The impact of technological, industrial and civilized human activities are destroying our ‘life-support system’- air, water, sunlight, products of the earth and works of human hands –

Look at Earth’s **NATURAL RESOURCES**: 64% of the world income is consumed by 20% of the world, while 20% gets only 2%.

Look at her **ENERGY RESOURCES**. Careless mining and overuse of fossil fuels coal, petroleum and natural gases. The earth has limited supply of fossil fuels.
Look at her SOIL on which our daily food supply depends. It is destroyed by soil pollution, over use, deposits of toxic and nuclear waste.

Look at her FORESTS: massive deforestation, destruction of species for commercial profit.

In this shrinking world, everyone is affected and everyone is responsible, although those most responsible are often the least affected.

Poisoned air and water cross borders freely.

Greenhouse gases affect the earth's atmosphere regardless of where they are produced. Acid rain pours on countries that do not create it.

Global warming, melting of ice, depletion of the ozone layer, the damaging effects of ultra violet radiation, depletion of bio-diversity, disappearing water, are causing death and untold sufferings particularly to the poorest.

“Plants can live without humans but, humans will not live without trees.’
Dr. A. Kalam.

LISTEN TO THE CALL FOR ECO-JUSTICE, for collaboration and commitment on the part of all: scientists, politicians, business people, workers, lawyers, farmers, media, teachers and all people.

Maintain landscapes in integrity,/ safeguard endangered species,/ ensure the feeding of a hungry world,/ restore the purity of air and water/ avert further depletion of the ozone layer/ check the production of greenhouse gases,/ redress the effects of global warming !!!

“The ecological crisis is a moral issue and a Common Responsibility”
Pope John Paul II.

We cannot continue to use the goods of the earth as we have in the past. An ongoing evaluation of our life style - how we use the goods of the earth, what we pass on to future, and how we live in harmony with God's creation is a matter of Justice and a way of realizing our “ecological conversion.”

The future of the earth lies in human hands. Save the world.