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**GRAIL WOMEN SHAPING THE FUTURE
THE MISSION OF THE GRAIL IN THE NINETIES**

The vision of the International Grail
is of a world transformed in love and justice,
by the power of the Spirit that moves in all that lives,
and through women's commitment of their talents and energies.

It is a vision of hope and a work of faith.

It is a journey towards wholeness
in the depths of human hearts,
in cultures and societies,
in the universe.

At this International Assembly of the Grail
we once again
entrust the future to the Spirit of God
who is the central mystery of our lives.

In communion with one another
across time and space
we reaffirm in joy
our desire to seek
and labour for
this new life of promise.

(cf. Vision Statement, 1979 & Faith Message, 1988)

Poised now towards the end of the 20th century, we enter into a new understanding of the state of the world. Enmeshed in a web of human and environmental crises, we perceive more clearly the interconnectedness of all the dimensions of life. It is no longer possible to tackle any problem in isolation from all the others affecting life on Earth today.

Humankind and Nature and joined in their suffering and the threat of annihilation. The whole of life struggles for survival in the arms of a culture of death. Violence and war, human misery and the extinction of species, material and spiritual poverty are the legacy of centuries of domination of the few over the many, of men over women, of humans over nature. The AIDS epidemic sweeps across the globe as human health is increasingly assaulted by toxins throughout our environment. Racism, sexism, colonialism, and classism continue, as global economic powers, unrestricted by national boundaries, pursue profits, heedless of their destruction of the peoples and resources of the Earth.

We find ourselves standing at a crossroads of survival.

Believing that "from the beginning till now the entire creation has been groaning in one great act of giving birth" (Rom. 8:22), we affirm that a world order of life can emerge from the ruins of our present reality. We live in trust that the spark of the Divine within the human is inviolable and will triumph in the end.

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We find seeds of hope among women throughout the world who, having been denied full participation in society, still have the potential for creating new cultural and structural models.

We find seeds of hope among young people who, disillusioned by the societies they have inherited, have a capacity to search for creative ways of living with a global perspective.

We find seeds of hope wherever women and men who are marginalized rise in resistance and struggle for change, wherever the human dignity and worth of those who suffer is affirmed.

We find seeds of hope in the existence of groups with whom we feel an affinity of purpose and with whom we can collaborate.

We find seeds of hope within the Grail as we struggle to make manifest within our own community the principles of a universal society of justice, peace and love.

This International General Assembly 1993 addressed in a spirit of urgency three interrelated themes: Building Justice and Solidarity, Facing Cultural Changes, Contributing to the Survival of the Planet.

Facing our world together we have felt a new sense of mission. Our increasing cultural diversity has awakened new enthusiasm for Grail outreach and growth. We are united in our determination to find ways of strengthening and combining our resources to serve new regional and international strategies. We feel ourselves called by the Spirit to commit our lives and join our energies in order to develop the seeds of hope we find present in the world today.

We are committed to developing strategic and effective ways of meeting the urgent cries for justice throughout the world.

We are committed to challenging women, wherever they may be, to gather together and bring forth their unique gifts and life-giving powers.

We are committed to implementing innovative ways of thinking and being that ensure the quality of life for each person and contribute to the survival of the planet.

We are committed to uncovering the sources of life that abide in the roots of our diverse cultures, that lie silent in the heart of each human being.

We deeply desire to live these commitments within our Grail community, with respect for each other as we meet the challenge of authentic intercultural relationship.

Working in our local contexts as individuals and as Grail groups, interconnecting regionally and internationally, we are bonded in action, in solidarity, and in faith.

Approved – IGA '93