

## **WORLD TOUR OF SHARING**

*Partage citoyen* attempts to bring people together, regardless of their differences, for a common goal: the sharing of resources, knowledge, values... urgently, in order to preserve humanity. Faced with the challenge of globalisation, demographic expansion and the threat posed to the planet's ecosystem, sharing has become more than a moral necessity: our very survival depends on it, not just in Europe but worldwide.

### **THE DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF SHARING**

#### **SHARING AND EDUCATION**

Our children's sense of sharing is often astonishingly developed, and we discover that not only do we educate them, but they also educate us, change us, encourage us to share. It is important to stimulate personal reflection on this and encourage actions that increase awareness about the problems involved in sharing. Teachers can be of help with this by collecting information about sharing and by asking their students what improvements could be made. We need to teach young people to abide by the values of sharing. Young people have the necessary creativity and energy to tackle big problems such as hunger, water...

#### **SHARING AND KNOWLEDGE**

Increasing access to knowledge for everyone (the right to an education, training programs for the poorest peoples); training the social bodies and developing training between them; changing the way that knowledge is treated; promoting popular education, training by the trading of experiences; promoting a better knowledge of the relationship between peoples, between societies, with the biosphere... and environmental education rooted in the knowledge of one's own land; linking education and ethics; promoting ethical training and responsibility in society....

#### **SHARING AND DIFFERENT CULTURES**

The European continent is marked by a number of different cultures that are specific to a country, several countries, or to a whole region, and its sixty spoken languages are just one example of this. The differences between cultures can be seen through the different forms of expression (language, music, painting, architecture, etc.) as well as in the sectors of manufacture, housing, travel and leisure activities. These cultures have played a large part in forming the landscape, town and houses, as well as Europe's overall heritage. This cultural diversity – previously a regular source of tension and conflict – now presents inestimable potential for the solid development of each country.

#### **SHARING AND SPIRITUAL VALUES**

Through the ages, spiritual values have pursued the same goal: fraternity and universal love. We can understand how different religions, born in different countries, confronted each other as rivals, and how rifts formed inside religions, at a time when it had not yet been fully explained that we all belong to the same human race. But does this rivalry still make sense in the global village that the Earth has become?

Today, spiritual values are linked to elucidation, freedom and the creative growth of mankind. They help mankind's innate tendencies to evolve towards unification and a wider perception. They encourage an openness rather than imposing limits on what we perceive and are capable of doing. For every one of us, the most important spiritual values, regardless of the country we live in, regardless of our ideology or beliefs, are those that raise us out of our selfishness: and sharing is the best example of this.

### **SHARING AND WATER**

In 2006, one person in five on our planet had no access to drinking water and three million people die every year because of poor-quality water. Fifteen million human beings perish every year because of water shortages similar to those common at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The lack of drinkable, clean water obliges billions to live in degrading and disgusting circumstances. Global warming has exacerbated the depopulation of tropical and Mediterranean regions. And even in France, water is sometimes scarce. Much of the water table is depleted or polluted. Water, like petrol, is one of the essential elements for our future. Unfortunately, it is not considered to be a global public resource. Bringing this problem to people's attention is essential, particularly to young people who must be taught the importance of sharing and how to share.

### **SHARING AND FOOD**

The world is currently split into two different blocks: the developed world and the developing world. The former wastes  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the planet's food. The latter has to make do with what's left. This leaves 800 million people suffering from hunger, and seven million children that die of it. This, in a world with huge food surpluses (thought to be around 10% per inhabitant). Patently, nobody should suffer from hunger. The quantity of food and worldwide resources is enough to cover the needs of every human being. But unless we share these resources we cannot change this situation. Our priority must be to make sure that each person in the world has enough to eat.

### **SHARING AND WEALTH**

The current distribution of the world's wealth is completely unbalanced: the developing countries use 80% of the planet's resources. After a time of growth at any cost, a new culture is emerging, based on sustainable development and sharing. The sharing of wealth is important in providing decent conditions for a free, dignified and happy life for every human being, no matter where they are on the planet. It is our responsibility to allow groups of people to organise themselves progressively into democracies and make sure they can settle properly in their lands.

### **SHARING AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

We live in a time of brutal climatic changes, directly linked to humans' use of the environment. The results are: land turning to desert, massive exploitation of forests, over-farming, the pollution of the earth and our water, air pollution...

These phenomena have a direct and immediate effect on our lives, diminishing the world's biodiversity, triggering certain illnesses, forcing some populations to move in order to survive, plunging others into poverty. We do not sufficiently realise the problems of the environment because we have yet to properly evaluate the risks that we run if its condition should deteriorate further. It is essential that we take into account the impact that our way of life has on the environment.

***“Between those who have lost the reason to live because they do not have enough, and those cannot find a reason to live because they think they have everything, we have to help one another, and I think that's really what sharing is”.***

Abbé Pierre (catholic priest, repeatedly voted most popular figure in France, ardent defender of the poor, who died early 2007 aged 95)