

The Honorable Barack Obama,
President- Elect of the United States.

Dear Mr. President-Elect,

The people of the United States have chosen you to lead them. We rejoice in their choice and we salute you. We ask God's blessing on you as you prepare to assume the leadership of this nation and to work with the community of nations.

We represent Communities of Sisters, Brothers and Priests of the Roman Catholic Church at the United Nations. Our members live and work in over 100 countries and are deeply involved in direct service of people and in projects for peace and development all over the world. The missions of our respective organizations reflect a long-standing history of ministering in places of extreme poverty, oppression, Human Rights violations, and conflict.

We have a particular concern to work in such a way that people, forced to live in poverty, may find a way to dignity, independence and greater quality of life. Since their endorsement by the Member States of the United Nations in 2000, we have supported the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

We were delighted to find on the website of the ONE Campaign your public commitment to address global poverty and that you said:

"I'll make the Millennium Development Goals American policy. By the end of my first term I expect to see progress to meeting the MDGs, including reducing by half the number of people living on less than a dollar a day and suffering from hunger, and reversing the number of new HIV infections and malaria cases."

The current world reality means that many people, who had emerged from extreme poverty in recent years, have been forced back into poverty. It is a sad fact that almost two out of every three people now living, live in poverty.

In the Millennium Declaration, for the first time in human history, every head of State and Government publicly committed his/her nation to work with others to eradicate poverty through the MDGs. Events since 2000 have meant that money, desperately needed for poverty eradication, has not been there. We, citizens of the world, need to be convinced that our governments intend to honor the promises made in our name.

No doubt you will receive a multitude of requests to support worthy causes. **We have the hope that you would make reference in your inaugural address to the MDGs and your commitment to them.** This would give them a much needed boost in public awareness and would signal that you intend to return the United States of America to the position of leadership in the world and within the UN that is sorely needed.

We extend a warm and gracious welcome to you to come to New York the United Nations as our guest for a luncheon conversation at a convenient time in your schedule. We look forward to working together in mutually beneficial ways in service of the peoples of our world and our home, planet Earth.

United in hope for a more humane and just world,

Anele Heiges
Sally Dunne
Deirdre Mullan RSM
Rita Arthur, RSHM
Zelia Cordeiro, SSps
Felix Jones, SVD
Marie Lucey, OSF
Joan Kirby
Winifred Doherty
Luigi Zanotto
Caroljean Willie, SC
Catherine Waters, OP
Kathie Uhler, OSF
Kevin Dance, CP
Lucianne Siers, OP
Ann Scholz, SSND
Joy Peterson, PBVM
Jane Quinlan, OSU,
Steven P. O'Neil, SM
Margaret Mayce, OP
Joe Foley, CM
John Deegan, osa

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Adrian Dominicans
The Sisters of Loretto and Associates
Mercy International Association
Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary
Vivat International
VIVAT International
Leadership Conference of Women Religious
Temple of Understanding
Sisters of the Good Shepherd
African Faith and Justice Network
Sisters of Charity Federation
Catholic International Education Office
Franciscans International
Passionists International
Partnership for Global justice
School Sisters of Notre Dame
International Presentation Association
Ursulines of Tildonk
Marianists International
Dominican Leadership Conference
Congregation of the Mission
The Augustinians

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