

TALKABOUT

WCC TO CHALLENGE CHURCHES ON NATURE

The World Council of Churches (WCC), the world's largest confederation of Protestant and Orthodox churches, is beginning to move on an area which it says is of vital significance to all Christians - Care for Nature.

At its last major General Assembly (held once every seven years) in Vancouver, Canada in 1983, the WCC committed itself to examining three main issues: justice, peace and the integrity of Creation. Now, two of its departments - Church and Society and the department on Dialogue with other faiths - are preparing consultations and programmes of work which it is hoped will culminate in a growing awareness among Christians of the vital importance of caring for nature.

The Church and Society meetings, to be chaired by the Archbishop of York, Dr Hapgood, start in September this year. Dr Hapgood was a scientist before his ordination. The consultations will group leading Christian scientists and others with expertise in the field of ecology.

The Dialogue meetings start in November and will bring together members of different faiths who can explore the theological and philosophical traditions of the major faiths with regard to nature. From this, it is hoped that a wider understanding will emerge, not just for Christians but also for other faiths.

For more information, please contact either David Gosling, Church and Society; or Wesley Ariarajah, Dialogue, at WCC, 150 Route de Ferney, CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland.

PEACE WITH NATURE

An international conference on environmental education will take place at the conference center of the Pro Civitate Christiana in Assisi, Italy on 18-21 March, 1988. Assisi, birthplace of ecology Patron Saint St Francis, will host the conference to mark the end of the European Year of the Environment. The conference will include a Festival of Spring, "Peace with Nature," at which children of the world will be invited to present their vision of the environmental future.

The conference is being organized by the Assisi Nature Council, under

the patronage of the Task Force of the European Year of the Environment, the European Communities, the Commission on Education of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) and with the cooperation of the Franciscan Orders and various levels of government.

For more information, please write to Casella Postale 107, 06081 Assisi (PG), Italy or 3, Av. de Jaman, 1005 Lausanne, Switzerland.

TERRA MATER

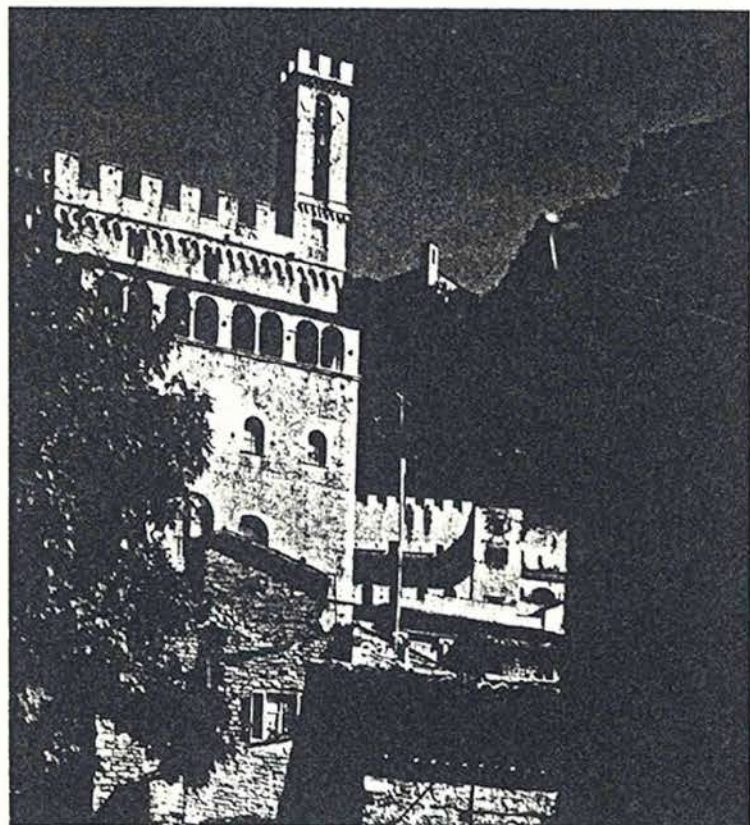
The second Terra Mater Seminar, to be held in Gubbio, Italy on 23-27 September 1987, will include representatives from politics, economics, science, philosophy, education and the arts, as well as representatives of the world's major faiths. It is

designed to follow the ecumenical spirit launched in Assisi by WWF International last September and by His Holiness Pope John Paul II a month later.

The seminar's basic working document will be the "Gubbio Charter," a historical document launched in 1982 in honour of St Francis' birthday 800 years earlier. The Charter unites an ethical vision of nature, fundamental to the Franciscans, with modern ecological thought.

The seminar will be divided into five segments: Ecumenism, Economy/Sociology, Philosophy/Humanism, Jurisprudence/Politics, and Science.

For more information, please contact Secretariat Offices, c/c Italia Nostra, Via Niccio Porpora 22, 00198 Rome, Italy. Telephone: (06)856765 or 861655.



Gubbio, site of the Terra Mater Seminar on 23-27 September.

Organizations interested in taking an active part in the New Alliance of conservation and religion should contact WWF International by completing the coupon below. Alternatively, local action could be initiated by contacting other conservation and religious groups and forming working alliances at national, regional or local levels. WWF International would like to hear about your plans and activities.

To The Editor, The New Road, WWF International, 1196 Gland, Switzerland

I am interested in joining WWF's alliance of conservation and religious