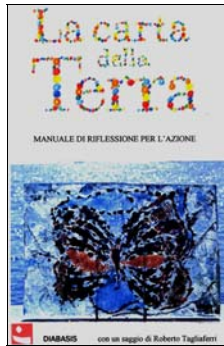


# PRESS RELEASE

Embargo 12 February 2003

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## FEDERICO II AWARD FOR PEACE

*The Promotional Committee announces publication of*

## THE EARTH CHARTER

## A STUDY BOOK OF REFLECTION FOR ACTION

*Published for the first time internationally*

*in this Italian Edition*

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**15 MARCH 2003**

**CASTEL DEL MONTE, CITY OF ANDRIA**

Presentation by Roberto Tagliaferri

of

**LA CARTA DELLA TERRA**

**MANUALE DI RIFLESSIONE PER L'AZIONE**

Written by E. Ferrero and J. Holland

Edited by Diabasis of Reggio Emilia for the "Hevel" series

Translated by Giovanni Principato & Paolo Diotallevi from the English manuscript

**THE EARTH CHARTER: A STUDY BOOK OF REFLECTION FOR ACTION**

With special awards for Thomas Berry & Richard Clugston

### **For More Information**

In the United States, contact:

Elisabeth Ferrero at 305.628.6650 / [elisabethferrero@earthlink.net](mailto:elisabethferrero@earthlink.net)

or Joe Holland at 305.628.6637 / [Joe.HollandOffice@aol.com](mailto:Joe.HollandOffice@aol.com)

In Europe contact: Sabino Ventura 39.02.89181240 / [ventura@savinoventura.com](mailto:ventura@savinoventura.com)

**A**

s part of the Federico II Award for Peace, the world-wide première presentation of THE EARTH CHARTER: A STUDY BOOK OF REFLECTION FOR ACTION in its Italian edition (*LA CARTA DELLA TERRA: MANUALE DI RIFLESSIONE PER L'AZIONE*) will be held at Castel del Monte, architectonic symbol of peace among all the populations, on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2003 This book is written by Elisabeth Ferrero and Joe Holland, both professors at the Saint Thomas University in Miami, Florida.

There will also be presentations of the book in Milan on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March 2003 and in Rome on the 13<sup>th</sup> of March 2003. (For more information, see separate attached announcements.)

Elisabeth Ferrero, in 1998 was appointed by the Earth Council to start the National Committee of the Earth Charter in Italy and to translate the document into Italian. Currently, she is member of the National Committee of the Earth Charter U.S.A. and its Education Working Group.

Joe Holland, President of the U.S.A. Federation of Pax Romana / International Catholic Movement for Intellectual & Cultural Affairs, is a member of the International Group of Work on Ecology and a Senior Scholar with the International Consortium on Religion and Ecology.

At the Castel del Monte event, special awards will be given to honor two very important figures in the global ecology movement, namely Thomas Berry and Richard Clugston. Thomas Berry will receive the Coppa della Fraternità award, created in Murano glass by artist Sabino Ventura, for his life-long dedication to bring about a holistic paradigm respecting all forms of creation. . Richard Clugston will receive from the City of Andria the "Wise Leaders of the XXI Century Award", given for his international and national work to foster the Earth Charter and its principles of social, economic, and environmental justice and peace.

Richard Clugston is the Executive Director of the Center for Respect Life and Environment in Washington DC USA, and publisher and editor of the journal EARTH ETHICS. He also directs the Association of University Leaders for a Sustainable Future and the Secretariat for the Earth Charter USA Campaign. In addition, he is Deputy Director of the International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education and serves on the steering committees of the Forum on Religion and Ecology and the Higher Education Network for Sustainability and the Environment.

Thomas Berry, now having returned to his childhood land of North Carolina, USA, is a scholar of world religions, professor emeritus of Fordham University in New York, a self-described "geologist," and one of the world's leading ecological thinkers. He is known especially for his lyrical collection of essays, THE DREAM OF THE EARTH, as well as his comprehensive study with Brian Swimme, THE UNIVERSE STORY.

Sabino Ventura, creator of the Coppa della fraternità" Murano glass award to Thomas Berry, is an internationally famous artist who pioneered the art of Murano glass in 1975. Among Ventura's masterpieces is his "Lamp of Peace", now part of the art treasury of Japan. Commissioned by the Prior of the Gran Benziten Sanctuary in Japan, the lamp is considered a worldwide symbol of Universal Peace. A copy of the work shines in the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli in Assisi, Italy, the home of Saint Francis of Assisi and the gathering site of interfaith prayer for world peace. Ventura has organized with the town of Andrea the Federico II Award for Peace, recognizing outstanding individuals who have left a creative mark on our times

Roberto Tagliaferri, who teaches theology at the Istituto di Liturgia Pastorale, in S. Giustina, Padova, has written a special Introduction to this Italian Edition of THE EARTH CHARTER: A STUDY BOOK OF REFLECTION FOR ACTION. His Introduction points out that "The Earth Charter represents a turning point of human consciousness for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century by integrating the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 with the eco-perspective of limited natural resources and the need to foster sustainable development." Prof. Tagliaferri argues that the implications of the Earth Charter require that science "must now revisit its own epistemological presuppositions" and "overcome the historic separation of the science of nature from the science of spirit and mind."

"We are at a critical turn in the history of the Planet, it's time for humankind to choose its future". So states the first sentence of the Preamble of the Earth Charter. Since our planetary society faces ever more difficult ecological threats, each area must connect to all others in order to develop an ecologically sustainable future for the generations to come.

Following the 2001 United Nations World Summit on the Sustainable Development, the Earth Charter has entered a decisional stage. The Earth Charter Initiative has encouraged an international mobilization with a wide basis, and represents a vision of consent with an integrated agenda to pursue peace, economic and social justice, protection of biological diversity.

This book, THE EARTH CHARTER: A STUDY BOOK OF REFLECTION FOR ACTION, is a document that helps all of us to think about how to change our lives and our communities. It is an educational instrument and a guide for local decisional activity in order to build sustainable communities. This book is an indispensable contribution on behalf of an appeal to organize a future based on ecological sustainability.

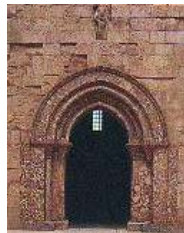
Castel del Monte is the ideal place to celebrate this new book, to honor the distinguished figures who have contributed to it, and to promote the message of the Earth Charter itself. On the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2003, Castel del Monte will become a "cosmic megaphone" to announce the principles, the values and the aims of the Earth Charter.



Near Andria, at 540 metres above the sea level, isolated on a hill of the Apulian Murgia, there is Castel del Monte the most famous monument belonging to the age of the emperor Federico II of Swabia. The building dates back to the first half of the 13th century and, in an admirable way, it makes a synthesis of all the stylistic and cultural influences of the artists near the Swabian emperor in the plan-volumetric scheme. It was built between 1240 and 1246, and the documents prove that the emperor took much care in its building: but it seems that he never lived there and they wonder if he had ever seen it. We know that only for some weeks, during the spring of 1240, he stopped there: it has been observed that its structure makes doubtful the hypothesis of habitability, and that isolated nature is contradictory with the lack of inside services rooms.



The castle has the singleness of an octagonal plant with an octagonal court in the middle, where maybe there was a pool. At the corner of the polygon there are eight structures, octagonal too, which look like towers even if their height is the same of the castle. There is neither a moat nor other defensive works: indeed it was not planned to defend a territory but it was wanted by the emperor to celebrate himself and his temporal power. From far it seems like a crown: it has been observed that the *Reichkrone*, the imperial crown of the X century, now kept in the Schatzkammer of Ofburg in Vienna, is made up of eight gold leaf. The charm and the mystery of Castel del Monte are joined to this symbolic geometric shape.



The octagon, geometric shape born from the intersection of the two basic shapes of the geometric-symbolic world: the square and the circle (respectively symbols, in the holy medieval architecture, of the humane perfection and of the God perfection; so it is the geometric image of Christ real God and real man), correspond to the number 8, symbol of the ending of the Revelation because it is the sum of the seven days of the Creation and of the one of Resurrection.

For this reason the octagonal plant of the baptistery has been used in the holy buildings of the Christian imperial world such as San Vitale of Ravenna and the Palatine Chapel of Aquisgrana. It is very suggestive the hypothesis that Federico drew inspiration from a monument which fascinated him, the Umar mosque of Jerusalem, which was known as the *Templum Domini*.

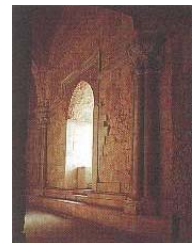
For its octagonal structure and the maze of accesses (but also for the obliged route), Castel del Monte had been compared to a maze, with all the symbolic implication of that draw

(octagonal was the maze on the floor of the cathedral of Reims). Castel del Monte is an example of a precise and symbolic architecture: each building element replay to exact algebraic and astronomical rules.

Some scholars think that it had been chosen and planned to be the biggest space observatory of the middle age. Now, completely restored, it can be wholly visited: from the solemn portal (made up of coral crushed stones) which remember the roman triumphal arcs, one can go into the first hall at the first floor.

This, like all the rooms of the castle, has a trapezoidal shape with a cross vault. After two rooms one can go in the court, octagonal too; here there three doors elegantly decorated. Through a steep spiral staircase one can go to the second floor. The vault of the stairs has some grains which lean to anthropomorphous brackets., very expressive, valuable sculptures of the XII century. In the rooms of the second floor, all the same, the polychromatic marbles of the columns, the doors and the window in coral crushed stone, the fireplaces and the anthropomorphous keystone are very interesting. Maybe Federico wanted to build a pattern-country house, where to meet his few wise friends and his loved falcons. And where to live his last years in a solemn and happy studious idleness, immersed in an environment which would always propose *lex animata in terris*, isolated as a living relic of the imperial sacredness?

The visit to Castel del Monte take us back in the centuries to live again (even if only with imagination) the old adventure which had it as stage, in all his splendour which now it give us.



# MILAN

11 March 2003

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SPAZIOVENTURA, VIA G.E. PESTALOZZI, 4

20143 MILANO

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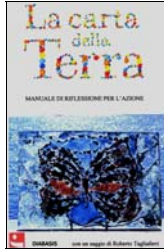
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# ROME

13 MARCH 2003

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As part of an

**FIRST OCCASIONAL SEMINAR: THE EARTH CHARTER**

With Plenary Address by Thomas Berry, CSP

Dialogue Groups in French, English, and Spanish with Thomas Berry, Elisabeth Ferrero, & Joe Holland

**THURSDAY, 13 MARCH 2002, 1600 to 1830 HOURS**

Generalate of the School Sisters of Notre Dame

Via della Stazione Aurelia 95, Rome

Presentation of the book by Roberto Tagliaferri

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or Cathy Arata, SSND, 39.06.6652-0293 / [carata@pcn.net](mailto:carata@pcn.net)



Within the context of the Federico II Award for Peace

on the 15th of March, 2003  
The City of Andria at Castel del Monte  
will confer to

**Richard Clugston**

The "Medal of the Wise Leaders of the XXI Century"

for his work to foster  
both international and nationally  
The Earth Charter  
and its principles of social, economic, environmental justice  
and peace



Within the context of the Federico II Award For Peace

on the 15th of March 2003  
at Castel del Monte

**Tom Berry**

will be the recipient of the "Coppa della Fraternità"  
created in Murano glass by artist, Sabino Ventura

for his life-long dedication and work  
to bring about an holistic paradigm  
respecting all forms of Creation