



**Dominican Sisters**  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

*Emboldened by faith, serving with joy*



# LAUDATO SI'

## Action Plan

**Now, in this time and place in our story and place in the world,** we undertake with courage, conviction, and compassion the responsibility to ...

**... Care for Earth, our Common Home.**

**... stand with people who have been impacted by climate change, poverty, violence, and exploitation.**

**... understand the interconnections of all creation and to undertake a conversion journey.**

**... engage as Co-creators with God to promote justice, to advocate with/for people who are powerless and oppressed, and to sustain practices which provide opportunity for all humanity to live fully human lives.**

## Some helpful concepts and definitions to understanding **Laudato Si'**

*We are not faced with two separate crises, the environmental and the other social, but rather **one complex crisis which is both social and environmental**. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the underprivileged, and at the same time protecting nature. (§ 139) ~ Pope Francis in Laudato Si' Care for Our Common Home*

### **What Is the Laudato Si' Action Platform?**

It is a journey to integral ecology.

### **What is “integral ecology”?**

It is based on the belief: **Interconnection is the ESSENCE OF REALITY**

A way of seeing our human connection **with all of creation**

A moral principal for acting in harmony **with all of creation**

An understanding of our interdependency **with all of creation**

### **What is “right relationship”?**

The idea of 'being in right relationship' comes from the Principle of Oneness, the interconnectedness of all things. It is an idea and ideal that Pope Francis calls forth often in his preaching and in his writing; it is integral to *Laudato Si' Care for Our Common Home*.

Catholic Understanding of Right Relationship: Righteousness means right relationships – good rapport with your wife, your neighbor, your parents, your children, your co-workers, and with God. Right relationships take work, daily efforts of honesty and patience, forgiveness and perseverance – doing little things with love from morning until night.

**Stewardship** is a Core Value Employees adopted some years ago. It was informed by:

#### **1992 Congregation Direction Statement**

"We commit ourselves to foster the contemplative stance that all the Earth is sacred and interconnected; respect and accountability for the Earth are necessary to affirm life.

We affirm that actions which impact the environment will be preceded by the question:

**Is this action which I (we) are performing supportive of the environment."**

**This Action Plan is a guide for transformational action and expansion of SOLIDARITY.**

## THE LSAP CORE COMMITTEE

Sr. Ann Mason, Cynthia Bailey (A),  
Sr. Doris Faber, Sr. Gretchen Sills,  
Sr. Joan Williams, Sr. Joyce Ann  
Hertzog, Sr. Julia Nellett, Sr. Phyllis  
Klonowski, Lisa Mitchell (A),  
Sr. Mary Ann Barrett, Sr. Brigid  
Clingman, Sr. Mary Catherine  
Fodrocy, Sr. Mary Louise Stauder,  
Nancy Koehler (A), Sr. Phyllis  
Supancheck, Sr. Rosemary  
O'Donnell, Sr. Roxane Dansereau,  
and Sr. Sandra Delgado

The Laudato Si' Action Platform committee and sub-committees have spent many months studying the Laudato Si' Encyclical, viewing many videos, participating in online workshops and much more, resulting in the Laudato Si' Action Platform Plan for our congregation.

This plan was developed by Sisters and Associates for implementation at the organizational and individual levels. It is understood that the actions presented in this plan will be implemented as appropriate for each setting. What is appropriate in one environment may not be appropriate in another; what is appropriate for the institutional setting may not be appropriate in a family setting and vice versa. It is not expected that every action will be undertaken by everyone or in every situation.



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# GOALS OVERVIEW

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Seven interlocking global goals guide the Laudato Si' Action Platform in bringing about a better world for all creation. Progress in any one of the goals has an impact, in varying degrees, on the other six goals.

The seven interlocking goals or directions for action are:

1. **Responding to the Cry of the Earth** – Promote the care of the earth's resources for now and for future generations.
2. **Responding to the Cry of the Poor** – Defend human life from conception to death with special attention given to vulnerable groups such as Indigenous communities, migrants, children at risk through slavery, and others.
3. **Building Ecological Economics** – Foster sustainable production and ethical consumption of goods.
4. **Adopting Simple, Sustainable Lifestyles** – Be moderate in the use of resources and energy.
5. **Creating Ecological Education** – Re-think and re-design educational curricula and educational institutional reform to create ecological awareness and action.
6. **Recovering Ecological Spirituality** – Recover a religious vision of God's creation and encourage greater contact with the natural world in a spirit of wonder, praise, joy, and gratitude.
7. **Promoting Community Action and Advocacy** – Develop policies that protect our common home and all who share it by advocacy and people's campaigns on local, regional, national and international levels.



# INTRODUCTION

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Pope Francis issued the encyclical letter *Laudato Si'*, known in English as *On Care for Our Common Home* in 2015. For the fifth anniversary of the encyclical in 2020, the worldwide “Laudato Si’ Action Platform” was initiated with a coordinating Office in the Vatican. It calls all people of goodwill to work toward restoring the earth and healing relationships in our one human family by both developing and committing to a specific action plan with measurable outcomes. Groups as well as individuals are encouraged to be part of this worldwide plan.

Given the complexity of the ecological and human justice crises facing our world today, we need to study and reflect, pray, and act, as well as advocate for policies that effectively address the environmental and human rights challenges that our world faces today.

Each one of us is called to respond to the critical question posed by Pope Francis when he issued the encyclical *Laudato Si'*: **“What is happening to our Common Home?”**

The human family faces increasing risks of hunger, disease, migration, and conflict due to climate change and environmental degradation. Unfortunately, the most vulnerable suffer above all.

As vowed Dominican Sisters and committed Dominican Associates of Grand Rapids, Michigan, we exist in relationship with God, one another, and all creation.

**In a video series about the Laudato Si’ Action Plan Goals by Sr. Mary Catherine Fodrocy, she shares these thoughts about approaching the Action Platform.**

“The extreme gravity of the current issues concerning our common home and one family requires community involvement and participatory action on the international, national, regional, and local levels to bring about policies and changes that protect the earth and people for now and future generations.

Our personal growth in understanding and awareness of the issues facing us and our willingness to change some harmful behaviors are the foundation of our community involvement and planned action with others. This is the starting point. We need to go on from here.

The challenge before us is to explore and then commit to some organizations and groups on various levels that are working towards a sustainable ecology. The immediate questions before us are:

- What do I need to learn?
- Where can I join others in supporting and collaborating with efforts already being made?
- What new efforts are needed?

Collaboration and action with organizations, groups, and individuals can make significant healthy changes in the environment and society. There will be an impact on the earth, the people who are poor and vulnerable, on economics, lifestyle, education, and spirituality.”

## OUR COMMITMENT

*We have been invited by Pope Francis to join with myriad institutions and individuals of the Church to journey toward integral Ecology. We undertake with courage, conviction, and compassion the responsibility to Care for Earth, our Common Home, and to stand with people who have been impacted by climate change, poverty, violence, and exploitation. We desire to understand the interconnections of all creation and to undertake a conversion journey. We, who live in our evolving universe, engage as Co-creators with God to promote justice, to advocate with/for people who are powerless and oppressed, and to sustain practices which provide opportunity for all humanity to live fully human lives.*

*We pledge to join with others to integrate the seven goals of the Laudato Si Action Platform into our lived reality as Dominican Sisters of Grand Rapids.*

*Affirmed at Dominican Sisters ~ Grand Rapids General Assembly on August 6, 2021*

**This sense of responsibility for an integral approach to Care of Creation is not a new commitment, but rather a deepening of our community's recognition of the sacred interdependence of creation and our place in the web of life. The goals and actions align with the Direction Statements of our Congregation.**

### RELATIONSHIP TO GOD'S MISSION

We commit ourselves to the prophetic call of Religious Life. We pledge to hold the needs and concerns of all in a contemplative space, in the heart of a loving and ever faithful God.

We collaborate in and sponsor ministries that seek to correct injustices and to effect systemic change for the common good.

### RELATIONSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER

In a world crying out for a sense of community and spirituality and in response to the transformation occurring in Dominican life, we affirm our union and communion with each other as we participate in, help shape, and support emerging structural changes.

### RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS

We commit ourselves to encountering and seeking the Holy in ourselves, in each other, and in people of all cultures, lifestyles, and economic status.

### RELATIONSHIP WITH EARTH

We commit ourselves to seek right relationships with Earth, its creatures and climate through conversion of mind and heart, understanding that the Universe is sacred and interconnected.

## OVERVIEW OF GOALS & ACTIONS

### 1. Response to the Cry of the Earth

Action 1: Plant 100 trees on the Marywood Campus grounds to expand the tree canopy in our city and neighborhood by 2027.

Action 2: Continue to develop recycling and composting practices/structures.

Action 3: Reduce Congregation's reliance on fossil fueled vehicles and equipment.

### 2. Response to the Cry of the Poor

Action 1: Purchase Fair Trade coffee and chocolate products for congregational use at Marywood and Aquinata Hall.

### 3. Ecological Economics

Action 1: Reduce consumerism by becoming attuned to how our lifestyles and purchasing behaviors influence the wellbeing of our common home and human family.

Action 2 - Establish Sustainable Purchasing/Procurement Policy/ies.

### 4. Adoption of Simple Lifestyles

Action 1 – Adoption of simple lifestyles -- Water Conservation

Action 2 – Adoption of simple lifestyles -- Food

Action 3 – Adoption of simple lifestyles – Use of Electricity

Action 4 – Adoption of simple lifestyles -- Recycle

### 5. Ecological Education

Action 1 - Informing the Congregation (Sisters, Associates and Staff) of what's happening within our city, community, state, and nation in Community Ways Newsletter under our "Did you know" Banner.

### 6. Ecological Spirituality

Action 1 - Annually the Dominican Sisters and Associates will celebrate Earth Day, Seasons of Creation, Summer Solstice, and Winter Solstice using prayer, song, and outdoor activities. Individuals and groups may want to join with local celebrations also.

Action 2 - For the next 5 years, we will include a Creation-centered petition in the weekly Intercessions during Sunday Masses at Marywood.

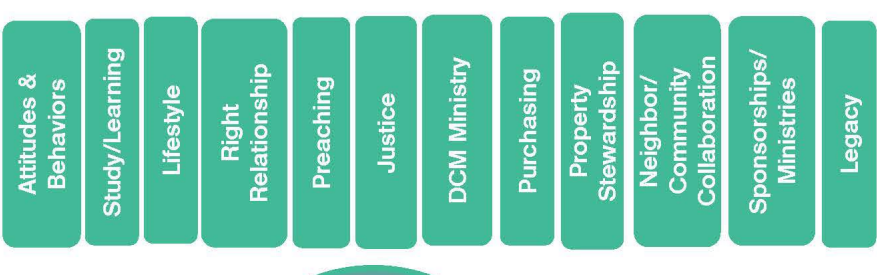
### 7. Community Resilience and Empowerment

Action 1 - Community resilience and empowerment envisage a synodal journey of community engagement and participatory action at various levels. Actions could include promoting advocacy and developing people's campaigns, encouraging rootedness and a sense of belonging in local communities and neighborhood ecosystems.



## Impact Opportunities

Attitudes &amp;



— **grow**

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# 1. RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE EARTH

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**The Response to the Cry of the Earth is a call to protect our common home for the wellbeing of all, as we equitably address the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and ecological sustainability.** Actions could include the adoption of renewable energies and energy sufficiency measures, achieving carbon neutrality, protecting biodiversity, promoting sustainable agriculture, and guaranteeing access to clean water for all.



## **Action 1 - Planting of Trees on the Marywood Campus**

### **Background:**

In 2022, DSGR joined a collaborative to expand the tree canopy in the City of Grand Rapids. The 2011 Green Grand Rapids amendment to the City's master plan established a 40% tree canopy goal in Grand Rapids. The Urban Forest Project is a collective effort to increase tree canopy by maximizing the number of trees planted each year.

### **Specific:**

Plant 100 trees to provide climate control on the Marywood Campus grounds.

### **Measurable:**

- Easy to keep track of new trees each year on Marywood Campus. A small team of persons can be responsible for keeping the count and where the trees are located.
- Audit/map current tree canopy, track newly planted trees, data analysis to determine climate footprint and impact progression.

### **Achievable:**

- The first set of trees (22) were planted on October 29, 2022. Next set scheduled to be planted fall of 2023.

### **Realistic:**

- The grounds staff are responsible for watering these trees for 2 years or until well established.

### **Timebound:**

- To be achieved by 2027.

Committee: Sr. Phyllis Supanchek, Lisa Mitchell (A), Sr. Lucille Janowiak, Sr. Mary Navarre, Kathleen Lally (A), Sr. Kathi Sleziak

## Goal Area 1 -- RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE EARTH

**Action 2** - Continue to develop recycling and composting structures at Aquinata Hall (AH) and Marywood Motherhouse.



### **Specific:**

- Director/ team to be appointed by mission groups/administrators/leadership to collect comprehensive data of current status for recycling and composting at AH and MWD by August 30, 2023.
- Containers are provided labeled and used in common spaces and in individual rooms in buildings Trash and personal hygiene material is to be separated from recyclable and compostable materials.
- Size of specific dumpsters and how often emptied.
- Cost of emptying dumpsters in 3 categories –recycle, compost, waste.
- Acquire additional containers as needed.

### **Measurable:**

- Communicate findings of baseline for trash with sisters and suggestions for improvement by October 2023.

### **Achievable:**

- Consult with sampling of Sisters, staff, administrators inquiring how they perceive the current system and where improvements can be made by January 2024.
- Develop a way that compostable material can be transported to Marywood where there is a bin. Truck or van or golf cart can be used.
- Modify draft design as necessary by March 2024.

### **Realistic:**

- Work with the education group in providing on-going training of Staff and Sisters. Supervisor/team can assist staff and Sisters further understand the importance.

### **Timebound:**

- By October 1, 2023, a baseline will be established as to the weight of the waste for one month's time. The supervisor will work out a way to do this with the housekeeping and kitchen supervisors. Each day the total waste will be determined in each area and then the full month tallied.
- By October 2024, the weight will have decreased by 25%. By October 2025, the weight will have decreased by 30%.
- By October 2026, the weight will have decreased by 40%. By October 2027 the weight will have decreased by 50%.

Committee: Sr. Phyllis Supancheck, Lisa Mitchell (A), Sr. Lucille Janowiak, Sr. Mary Navarre, Kathleen Lally (A), Sr. Kathi Sleziak

## Goal Area 1 -- RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE EARTH

**Action 3** - The car coordinator and Leadership will establish the actual number of cars needed in the congregation by assessing the needs of each of the Sisters (based upon the report of paid /volunteer work needs, possible use of public transportation, carpooling possibilities, opportunities to bundle trips). The number of cars needed will naturally decrease as fewer Sisters are able to drive.



### **Specific:**

- Newly purchased cars are to be Hybrid or Electric Cars starting in August 2023.
- Sisters are to be educated in the tips of conservation of gas.
- Sisters are to keep their assigned cars well-maintained.

### **Measurable:**

- A baseline of cars owned by the congregation will be established by August 30 of each year. The categories will be electric cars, hybrid cars, gas only cars.

### **Achievable:**

- With appropriate education on “green driving”, the Sisters will drive more responsibly.

### **Realistic:**

- Michigan has resolved to put more connection ports into the city. Car companies are making more hybrid and electric cars at affordable prices.

### **Timebound:**

- 50% of community-owned cars will be Hybrid or Electric by 2027.

Committee: Sr. Phyllis Supancheck, Lisa Mitchell (A), Sr. Lucille Janowiak, Sr. Mary Navarre, Kathleen Lally (A), Sr. Kathi Sleziak

## 2. RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE POOR

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**The Response to the Cry of the Poor is a call to promote eco-justice, aware that we are called to defend human life from conception to death, and all forms of life on Earth.** Actions could include projects to promote solidarity, with special attention given to vulnerable groups such as indigenous communities, refugees, migrants, and children at risk, analysis and improvement of social systems, and social service programs.



**Action 1** - Purchase Fair Trade coffee and chocolate products for congregational use at Marywood and Aquinata Hall.

**Specific:**

- Purchase of Fair Trade coffee and chocolate for congregational use at Marywood and Aquinata Hall.

**Measurable:**

- It will be observable whether this is being done.
- Congregation/Department purchasing reports.

**Achievable:**

- Fair Trade Coffee and chocolate are available for purchase. The community will need to be prepared for this change in our current purchasing practice.

**Realistic:**

- Fair Trade addresses issues of inequality, exclusion, and lack of care and respect that keep many people locked in poverty.

**Timebound:**

- Include Fair Trade in a sustainable purchasing policy for Marywood and Aquinata Hall. Achieve 100% Fair Trade purchasing by 2027.

Committee: Sr. Mary Catherine Fodrocy, Sr. Rosemary O'Donnell, Sr. Joan Williams, Mary Howell (A), Sonja Visser (A), Gaylia Ross (A)

### 3. ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS

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**Ecological Economics acknowledges that the economy is a sub-system of human society, which itself is embedded within the biosphere—our common home.** Actions could include sustainable production and consumption, ethical investments, divestment from fossil fuels and any activity harmful to the planet and the people, supporting circular economies, and prioritizing care labor and protecting the dignity of workers.



#### **Action 1 - Reduce Consumerism**

##### **Specific:**

- Build awareness of how purchasing can impact business.
- Provide resources for FAIR Trade
  - Environmental impacts
  - Plastics
    - Locally sourced/organic foods
    - Eco-positive products (cleaning, hygienic, storing/preserving, etc.)
  - Human Rights implications
    - Forced labor
    - Trafficking and migration
    - Supply chain viability
  - Maintain activity on Socially Responsible Investment
- Organize educational and spiritual programs and/or materials to learn more and integrate knowledge and lifestyles.

##### **Measurable:**

- Provide such information to the community through informational modules once a month. Modules will be 2-4 pages with links to appropriate resources.
- Establish baselines on current behaviors to be compared with at a future date.
  - Personal inventories and needs
  - Use of electricity and water
  - Food waste
  - Prayer intentions reflecting our commitment.
- Quarterly study programs with 10-12 participants.

**Achievable:**

- Past experiences have been successful in developing such modules.
- Enhance relationships with collaborative entities.
- Need to develop materials to measure progress.
- Establish a review oversight committee to meet quarterly.

**Realistic:**

- (no input)

**Timebound:**

- Quarterly/semi-annual reviews and reports to identify successes or weaknesses that will allow for adaptation of programs and projects.
- Annual summation report to be prepared for the congregation and the LSAP.

Committee: Sr. Brigid Clingman, Sr. Joyce Ann Hertzog, Christine Albertini (A), Michael Wood (A), Sr. Sandra Delgado, Sr. Barbara Hansen



## Goal Area 3 -- ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS, cont.



### Action 2 - Establish a Sustainable Purchasing/Procurement Policy

**Specific:**

- All departments across the organization will purchase services and goods that reflect the LSAP commitment made by Congregation August 2021 to integrate the goals of Laudato Si into our lives, practices and policies. Such policies could also be helpful to Sisters and Associates as they make their individual and household purchases. A purchasing policy will be developed by all department staff responsible for purchasing.

**Measurable:**

- Education will be provided to all staff members as an awareness of the goods and services they can acquire when planning the work of their departments.

**Achievable:**

- Various resources and tools are available to guide the development of the policies. Metrics will be developed for quarterly/semi-annually reporting to be possible.

**Relevant:**

- Organizations currently use such policies. They are most effective and realistic when personnel who are responsible for implementing, are also involved in the planning.

**Timebound:**

- Quarterly/Semi-annual reviews and reports will be prepared for the Congregation.

Committee: Sr. Brigid Clingman, Sr. Joyce Ann Hertzog, Christine Albertini (A), Michael Wood (A), Sr. Sandra Delgado, Sr. Barbara Hansen

## 4. ADOPTION OF SIMPLE LIFESTYLES

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**Action 1 - WATER CONSERVATION** Everyone needs water to survive. It is necessary that we are aware of its importance to everyone and conserve as best we can.

**Specific:**

- Reduce water usage by taking shorter showers.
- Use washing machines only when washing a sizable load.
- By capturing rainwater.
- Possess plants needing little or no water.

**Measurable:**

- Request a monthly report showing usage and cost.

**Achievable:**

- Activity done daily/weekly.

**Realistic:**

- Acts familiar to and done by many.

**Timebound:**

- Quarterly and semi-annual review and report.



Committee: Sr. Gretchen Sills, Sr. Julia Nellett, Sr. Janet Brown, Sr. Jean Williams, Sr. Doris Faber, David Lincoln (A)

## Goal Area 4: ADOPTION OF SIMPLE LIFESTYLES continued

**Action 2 - FOOD** Everyone needs food to nourish their bodies. It is necessary that we monitor and commit to a process for those living both on and off campus.



### **Specific:**

- Use leftovers, when possible, store in reusable containers that are labeled and dated.
- Eat in moderation.

### **Measurable:**

- Be knowledgeable about what you eat.
- Track cost of local purchasing.

### **Achievable:**

- Be conscious of cooperating with the menu system at Marywood and Aquinata Hall.

### **Relevant/Realistic:**

- By reducing our intake in eating what is given to us we can increase our overall health.

### **Timebound:**

- Quarterly review

Committee: Sr. Gretchen Sills, Sr. Julia Nellett, Sr. Janet Brown, Sr. Jean Williams, Sr. Doris Faber, David Lincoln (A)

## Goal Area 4 -- ADOPTION OF SIMPLE LIFESTYLES continued



**Action 3 - USE OF ELECTRICITY** We are dependent on energy to provide us with electricity. In order that we are able to use our appliances and lighting fixtures we need to be aware of what we use and what can be saved.

**Specific:**

- Turn off lights in a room not in use.
- Unplug small appliances not in use, such as an electric can opener.
- Refrain from opening refrigerator door more than needed.
- Avoid high-use times.

**Measurable:**

- Request from the Finance Office a month-to-month report on electric utility usage and per unit cost.

**Achievable:**

- Finance Office receives a monthly bill

**Relevant/Realistic:**

- Heating/Cooling needed for comfort, adjust temperature

**Timebound:**

- Quarterly review

Committee: Sr. Gretchen Sills, Sr. Julia Nellet, Sr. Janet Brown, Sr. Jean Williams, Sr. Doris Faber, David Lincoln (A)

## Goal Area 4 -- ADOPTION OF SIMPLE LIFESTYLES continued

**Action 4 - RECYCLE** - An activity we have been doing for a number of years. This activity continues to be an ongoing activity that gives us a valuable way to help preserve and protect our common home.



### **Specific:**

- Print on both side of the paper.
- Use the back of used paper.
- Cut up scrap paper into smaller pieces for writing note reminders.
- Use public library for books/magazines instead of purchasing them.
- Use a cloth bag when shopping if possible.
- Use glass containers or multiple-use containers for saving food.
- Pay attention to what we are recycling and place it in correct container.
- Be kind to others in helping them to recycle.

### **Measurable:**

- Non-use of plastics within 7 years after Laudato Si' Action Plan was implemented.

### **Achievable:**

- This is an ongoing activity

### **Relevant/Realistic:**

- This activity has been in use by many of us.

### **Timebound:**

- Review on weekly/monthly basis or as needed.

Committee: Sr. Gretchen Sills, Sr. Julia Nellett, Sr. Janet Brown, Sr. Jean Williams, Sr. Doris Faber, David Lincoln (A)

## 5. ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION

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**Action 1** - Informing the Congregation (Sisters, Associates and Staff) of what's happening within our city, community, state, and nation in Community Ways Newsletter under our "Did you know" Banner.



**Specific:**

- Knowing what needs to be accomplished each time an article is submitted to the Newsletter either from our group or submitted on behalf of the other LSAP committees.
- Having an article that either covers the city, state or national level if there are no submissions from the other committees.

**Measurable:**

- In keeping track of who is submitting an article, the topic of the article, the length of the article and keeping the "Did you know" articles informative as well as interesting.
- Will have an email for readers to respond with comments on each article to help us know how our readers are using information.

**Achievable:**

- With the help of other committees submitting to our committee their articles for their committees and receiving feedback if there are any comments sent to the email address.
- Realistic in educating on many topics through the Community Ways newsletter and perhaps branching out to other publications in the future.

**Relevant/Realistic:**

- The purpose of the articles is to plant seeds of curiosity to get readers of the newsletter to do further investigation and even get them started on doing actions themselves.

**Timebound:**

- "Did you know" article submitted to Community Ways Newsletter and published twice a month.

Committee: Sr. Ann Mason, Sr. Nathalie Meyer, Cynthia Bailey (A), Patricia Hawkins (A)



## 6. ECOLOGICAL SPIRITUALITY

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*Ecological Spirituality recovers a religious vision of God's creation and encourages greater contact with the natural world in a spirit of wonder, praise, joy and gratitude.*

Christian spirituality proposes an alternative understanding of the quality of life, and encourages a prophetic and contemplative lifestyle, one capable of deep enjoyment free of the obsession with consumption.  
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**Action 1** - Annually the Dominican Sisters and Associates will celebrate Earth Day, Season of Creation, Summer Solstice, and Winter Solstice using prayer, song, and outdoor activities. Individuals and groups may want to join with local celebrations also.

**Specific:**

- Creation consciousness

**Measurable:**

- Monitor if this is done annually.

**Achievable:**

- Yes, with coordination and a commitment from all parties.

**Realistic:**

- We are good at preparing various kinds of spiritual experiences, e.g., prayer, retreats, etc.

**Timely:**

- Done annually.

Committee: Nancy Koehler (A), Mary Ellen Robertson (A), Sr. Mary Louis Stauder, Sr. Mary Ann Barrett

## Goal Area 6 -- Ecological Spirituality continued

**Action 2** - For the next 5 years, we will include a **Creation-centered petition** in the weekly Intercessions during Sunday Masses at Marywood.



**Specific:**

- Creation consciousness

**Measurable:**

- Monitor if this is done weekly.

**Achievable:**

- Coordinate with Intercession writers and Liturgist, Janet Brown.

**Realistic:**

- We do petitions weekly anyway and will include one for Creation.

**Timely:**

- Done weekly.

Committee: Nancy Koehler (A), Mary Ellen Robertson (A), Sr. Mary Louis Stauder, Sr. Mary Ann Barrett

## Goal Area 6 -- Ecological Spirituality continued



**Action 3** – Initiate a “Creation Speaks in Canticles” writing project that engages others (Sisters, Associates, Friends) in writing a first-person reflection that shares the wisdom of some aspect of Creation: grass, sunflower, garden snake, willow tree, squash, plant, sun, elephants, butterfly. A call for poems will go out in December, selections will be received throughout the year, the committee will begin publishing the works during Lent, 2023 through Community Ways.

**Specific:**

- Create awareness of God’s natural world through personal reflections.

**Measurable:**

- Will monitor the number of canticles received and their publication.

**Achievable:**

- Publication of canticles in Community Ways or Daily Blessings as determined by Communication Department.

**Realistic:**

- There are many talented writers in the community of Sisters, Associates and friends.

**Timebound:**

- To be published on weekly or monthly basis as determined by Communications Department. Will stop when canticles are no longer submitted.

Committee: Nancy Koehler (A), Mary Ellen Robertson (A), Sr. Mary Louis Stauder, Sr. Mary Ann Barrett

## 7. COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND EMPOWERMENT

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**Action 1 - Community resilience and empowerment** envisage a synodal journey of community engagement and participatory action at various levels. Actions could include promoting advocacy and developing people's campaigns, encouraging rootedness and a sense of belonging in local communities and neighborhood ecosystems.



**Specific:**

- Identify, learn from and work with local/regional groups with our shared interest.
- Discover ways to share resources, even digitally through social media.
- Provide information and advocacy opportunities on the action plan issue.

**Measurable:**

- Provide such information to the community through informational materials from various organizations as needed.
- Modules will be 2-4 pages with links to appropriate resources.

**Achievable:**

- Assign members to attend/participate with affinity groups. Frequency TBD
- Organize opportunities to write to and/or meet with decision-makers to advocate for change.

**Realistic:**

- Whatever specific plans are developed, there are other existing groups with whom we collaborate. This has been our experience for many years of ministry.

**Timely:**

- Collaboration (with past collaborators) within 6 months of implementation of an action.

Committee: Sr. Brigid Clingman, Bob Sadowski (A), Mary Morris (A)

### **A Prayer for Our Earth**

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

AMEN

*Laudato Si' Closing Prayer by Pope Francis*