

Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation News

Congregation of the Sisters of Bon Secours



Integral Ecology Everything is Connected

"We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature."

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'* #139

Several years ago while attending a meeting of Justice Promoters, the keynote speaker asked, "What do you think is the most serious global problem?" Most participants said, "global poverty." The speaker affirmed that global poverty is a very serious world problem but shared that in reality the most serious world problem is "obscene wealth." Pause...think about that.

The obscene wealth of the world's billionaires doesn't just mean they get to lead lives of luxury. It also means they have great control over the economy and who the economy favors. Likewise, the level of a nation's wealth is linked to the level of greenhouse gas emissions. While the richest countries represent only 16 percent of the world's population, they produce almost 40 percent of CO2 emissions. This means people who are poor are most affected by climate change even though they are the least responsible.

Pope Francis reminds us in *Laudato Si'* that "everything is connected" so addressing the environmental, social and economic crises of our time requires a new way of seeing, thinking and acting. He names this new way "integral ecology". Rather than looking at our justice issues in isolation, he is inviting us to see the connections between them and act more holistically in addressing them. How might we grow in this skill and capacity as we continue to respond to the Cry of Earth and the Cry of the Poor?

Obscene wealth

- The world's 2,153 billionaires have more wealth than the 4.6 billion people who make up 60 percent of the planet's population.
- The 22 richest men in the world have more wealth than all the women in Africa.
- Since 2020, the richest 1% have captured almost two-thirds of all new wealth – nearly twice as much money as the bottom 99% of the world's population.
- Food and energy companies more than doubled their profits in 2022, paying out \$257 billion to wealthy shareholders, while over 800 million people went to bed hungry.
- 722 of the world's biggest corporations together took in over \$1 trillion in profits each year for the past two years while billions of people are having to cut back or go hungry.

Source: Oxfam



Poverty has increased for the first time in 25 years. At the same time, the very richest have become dramatically richer and corporate profits have hit record highs, driving an explosion of inequality. Oxfam, *Survival of the Richest*, 2023



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October
JPIC Days of Remembrance

October 2
World Habitat Day

October 4
**Feast of St. Francis of Assisi
World Animal Day**

October 11
**International Day of the
Girl Child**

October 16
World Food Day

October 17
**International Day for the
Eradication of Poverty**

October 24
United Nations Day

October 24 – 30
Disarmament Week

Sisters of Bon Secours...Women of healing...defending and caring for all creation (Mission Focus)



"An integral ecology is inseparable from the notion of the common good, a central and unifying principle of social ethics. The common good is "the sum of those conditions of social life which allow social groups and their individual members relatively thorough and ready access to their own fulfilment"
(LS #156)

Learn more about Integral Ecology: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=udDqptXKGS0>
Click settings for subtitles in Spanish and French. 11 minutes

Reflection

*How might we grow in our ability to see the connections between the environmental, social, and economic crises of our time?
This month notice the connections as you listen to the world, national and local news.
How does the principle of "the common good" inform your life choices and your participation in the political life of your country?*



SEASON OF CREATION

Bon Secours Laudato Si' Retreat

On September 14 and 15 over 70 Sisters participated in a virtual Laudato Si' Retreat – one of our Laudato Si' Action Platform initiatives (LSAP). Christina Leño, Associate Director of the Laudato Si' Movement, facilitated this deeply moving contemplative experience that included three movements: Listening to the Song of Creation, Hearing the Cry of Creation and Responding to the Call of Creation. For six hours over two days Christina invited us to "Linger, Look, and Love" the creation that surrounds us each day. She encouraged us to pray for and with creation, reminding us that we are all part of a cosmic liturgy. Christina challenged us to view all creation as kin and asked us to consider how we might live differently if we viewed nature as subject rather than object. The heartfelt quotes below capture the experience of some of the participants.

- "I was pleasantly surprised at how good the experience was." ~ **Sr. Mary Shimo, USA**
- "The retreat allowed us to be one with nature and to make personal commitments for our planet so it is a little more breathable for future generations." ~ **Sr. Solange Vitry, France**
- "The retreat was a wonderful experience. When we were invited to go back and experience our childhood places in nature it was really wonderful to be able to hear and see the birds and animals. It reminded me of the stories my mother told me about the mountains." ~ **Sr. Maria Pintado Peña, Peru**
- The retreat was a reminder to me that we are all part of nature, of God's creation. We are invited to respect and live in mutual collaboration with each of the creatures. ~ **Sr. Marianne Falanka, DRC**
- I found the retreat to be a very inner approach to appreciating creation. I really liked it. ~ **Sr. Elaine Davia, USA**
- "The retreat was prayerful and relaxing. Christina was just amazing! I loved the retreat." ~ **Sr. Nathalie Lundolo, France**
- I found the invitation to "Look, Linger, Love" very rich and important. Especially here in Cork, I am trying to take time for those three L's! I experienced the retreat time as peaceful soul-nourishment! ~ **Sr. Fran Gorsuch, USA**
- Christina Leano struck me as a person who is the living embodiment of ecological spirituality. She invited us to 'linger' and stop a while within and without ourselves; to 'listen' to the voices both within and without; and to acknowledge a place of 'love' of all of creation. She invited us to hear creation's song, creation's cry and creation's call. It was a moment of awakening for me, that I need to pay more attention to the little moments where I can make a difference in my life that will impact the care of creation around me. ~ **Anne-Marie Whelan, Ireland**

Upcoming Laudato Si' Events

October 4: Season of Creation Closing Ecumenical Prayer at 8:00AM/Peru; 9:00AM/USA; 2:00PM Ireland/ DRC; 3:00PM/ France
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cmDvZucC6xY>

October 4: Coinciding with the conclusion of Season of Creation, Pope Francis will be releasing an apostolic exhortation to expand on the messages of Laudato Si'. In honor of this occasion the Laudato Si' Movement is hosting a webinar: "Laudato Si' part 2: A Celebration of Pope Francis' New Apostolic Exhortation". The webinar will be held at **8:00PM/Rome time**. To receive a reminder notification for the webinar: [click here and select "Notify me"](#). Webinar Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=087P7HaxsQ>

Prayer for Mother Earth

Thanks to the guided and shared contemplative practices of the Laudato Si' retreat, I wrote this prayer:

*Praised be you my Lord,
for Mother Earth,
who carries us and nourishes us,
who produces the diversity of fruits,
flowers, trees, herbs.*

*Blessed are you, Lord.
We must also know how to hear
the cry of creation, feel its suffering,
see the damage.*

*This requires a conversion of the heart
both for all of nature, the planet
and for justice and peace in the world.
Reflecting on our behavior
in relation to the reality of the planet
today is a daily challenge.
~ Sr. Marie Claude Dupuis, France*

International Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Committee

Sr. Rosa Elena Lozada Escobar, CBS
Sr. Mary Beth Hamm, SSJ - Chair
Sr. Mary Leamy, CBS
Rachel Moccia
Sr. Maria Pintado Peña, CBS - Co-chair
Nicholas Stein
Sr. Chris Webb, CBS

Observers
Sr. Marianne Falanka, DRC
Beatrice Lesourd, France
Sr. Nathalie Longolo, CBS, France



LAUDATO SI'
Action Platform

The International JPIC Committee and the JPIC Area Teams are excited to share the LSAP SMART Actions that have been developed for implementation in each Area for 2023 – 2024. Read about these inspiring actions on the pages that follow this Newsletter.

Sisters of Bon Secours LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLAN 2023 – 2024 JPIC USA TEAM



*We, Women of Healing, commit ourselves to defend and care for all creation
and to cry out with others against injustice and all that diminishes life on Earth.*

Sisters of Bon Secours Mission Focus

Approved by USA Leadership Team June, 2023 and Congregation Team July 2023

ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Ecological Education is about re-thinking and re-designing curricular and institutional reform in the spirit of integral ecology in order to foster ecological awareness and transformative action.

Transformative SMART Actions	Implementer	Measure of success	Target date
The Native American Land Acknowledgement Working Group will finalize the land acknowledgement and roll it out to the CBS family with opportunities to reflect on and engage the acknowledgement, including an employee forum for education. The action and timing will be tied in with the work of the Building & Grounds Task Force.	Native American Land Acknowledgement Working Group	Use of Land Acknowledgement	August 2024 and ongoing depending on Buildings and Grounds Action plan
We will initiate a conversation with Sisters Academy Congregation Sponsors about ways we can partner in advancing Ecological Spirituality and Education.	CBS Ministry liaison and JPIC Team; eventually the representatives from the Sponsor Congregations	Number of conversations held; Level of enthusiasm from other sponsors; Feedback from sponsors/faculty	August 2024
The USA Leadership Team with the Buildings & Grounds Task Force will continue to explore land trusts, easements, deed restrictions and the transfer or selling of development rights, for the protection of our resources and will investigate their ramifications.	USA Leadership Team and Buildings & Grounds Task Force	Number of options researched	August 2024 and ongoing, depending on B&G action plan after assessment is done
The JPIC USA Team will keep the RCC staff (Jen, Kevin and Tessa) informed of web and print resources on ecological spirituality and education that can be included on the RCC website, Bridges brochure, social media and electronic communications on a quarterly basis. Tessa will include JPIC LS themes in what she does as well. The Team will also continue to suggest presenters for programs at the Center.	JPIC USA Team and relevant RCC staff (Jen, Tessa, Kevin)	Number of resources shared	August 2024

The JPIC USA Team will meet with Linda Culp to explore ways to inform and provide materials on ecological spirituality/education in the RCC Bookstore and provide suggestions for books, etc.	JPIC USA Team and Linda Culp	Number of conversations held; resources purchased; feedback from Linda	Initial conversation by November 2023; ongoing
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How will these actions bring about transformation of mind, heart or perspective about integral ecology?

- *Land Acknowledgement will help us gain a new perspective of the effects of colonization and help us develop a relationship with indigenous people.*
- *Partnership with Sisters Academy will enable various religious Congregations to work together to advance ecological spirituality/education in the spirit of Laudato Si'*
- *Signage, books on ecological spirituality/education and fair trade items in the bookstore will raise consciousness of integral ecology for shoppers.*
- *Investigating how best to steward the land owned by the Sisters will enable them to live their mission focus: Defending and caring for all creation in a new and evolving way.*

ECOLOGICAL SPIRITUALITY

Ecological Spirituality springs from a profound ecological conversion and helps us to “discover God in all things”, both in the beauty of creation and in the sighs of the sick and the groans of the afflicted, aware that the life of the spirit is not dissociated from worldly realities.

Transformative SMART Actions	Implementer	Measure of success	Target date
The JPIC USA Team will work with the USA Leadership Team and RCC managers to host a half day Laudato Si' retreat for all employees at Marriottsville. Date: November 15, 2023 from 9:00 – 12:00/Lunch	JPIC USA Team and USA Leadership Team	Pre- and post-retreat assessments.	August 2024
JPIC USA Team will incorporate a short quote from Laudato Si' or other related text with a question for sharing in the employee newsletter and circulate to the Bon Secours family on a monthly basis for short 5 –10 minute discussion at committee meetings, department meeting, ministry meetings and events, etc.	JPIC USA Team	Click rate for reflections; Feedback from groups and committees on effectiveness	Monthly until August 2024
JPIC USA Team will make ourselves available as a resource/ sounding board to the USA Bicentennial Committee for any integration of JPIC/Laudato Si' Action Plan focus for the 200 th Anniversary Celebration.	USA Leadership Team/USA Bicentennial Committee and JPIC USA Team	Response of USA Leadership Team and/or USA Bicentennial Committee	December 2024, the conclusion of 200th Anniversary

How will these actions enliven and transform the spirituality of the Sisters of Bon Secours?

These actions will deepen the understanding of the Bon Secours charism and its emerging expression and better help Sisters and colleagues to understand integral ecology.

Sisters of Bon Secours LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLAN 2023 – 2024 Ireland and Great Britain



*We, Women of Healing, commit ourselves to defend and care for all creation
and to cry out with others against injustice and all that diminishes life on Earth.*

Sisters of Bon Secours Mission Focus

Approved by Area Leadership Team June 2023 and Congregation Team July 2023

ADOPTION OF SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES

The Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles is grounded in the idea of sufficiency and promoting sobriety in the use of resources and energy.

Transformative SMART Actions	Implementer	Measure of success	Target date
Currently all the Electricity used in our community house at Cnoc Mhuire is predominantly generated from non- green sources. With the introduction of our Solar PV panel Installation, it is estimated our reliance on fossil fuel Electrical Generation will reduce by at least 25% as our solar panels will generate 25% of our electricity requirements from a fully Renewable Source	Sustainability Manager (James McCarthy) Area JPIC	The Area JPIC will receive a quarterly report on measurement and comparison with previous year	Sept 30 th 2024

How will these actions bring about transformation of mind, heart and/or relationship with Earth?

This action will focus our attention on the use of natural resources and instill an appreciation for natural sources of energy

ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Ecological Education is about re-thinking and re-designing curricular and institutional reform in the spirit of integral ecology in order to foster ecological awareness and transformative action.

Transformative SMART Actions	Implementer	Measure of success	Target date
The Ireland & GB JPIC will form an book club with a goal of reading 2 ecological based books per year.	Area JPIC	We can measure if it takes place and how many members attend the book club	Sept 30 th 2024

How will these actions bring about transformation of mind, heart or perspective about integral ecology?

This study will help Bon secours family to be more aware of integral ecology and the extension of our mission of Good Help to our common home of earth.

ECOLOGICAL SPIRITUALITY

Ecological Spirituality springs from a profound ecological conversion and helps us to “discover God in all things”, both in the beauty of creation and in the sighs of the sick and the groans of the afflicted, aware that the life of the spirit is not dissociated from worldly realities.

Transformative SMART Actions	Implementer	Measure of success	Target date
The Ireland & GB JPIC will plan an ecological pilgrimage for the Bon Secours family.	Area JPIC	We can measure if it takes place and how many of the Bon Secours family attended	Oct 30 th 2023

How will these actions enliven and transform the spirituality of the Sisters of Bon Secours?

This action will call the Bon Secours family to pray in nature and have an appreciation of God in all things.

CRY OF THE EARTH

Disseminate awareness about preservation and establish actions in the use, refusal of ecological resources with communities, partners, local authorities and stakeholders.

Transformative SMART actions	Responsible	Measuring success	Target date
Construction of 10 bio-gardens for planting organic vegetables	Each local community	Bimonthly report submission	March 2025.
Training for beneficiary families in rational use of water, composters, garbage treatment.	Responsible for each project of the local communities.	10 trainings carried out in the local CBS communities. Bimonthly report submission	March 2025

How will these actions achieve the transformation of the mind, heart and/or relationship with the earth?

All the sisters will prepare ourselves technically and spiritually to strengthen in ourselves and in the families with whom we work, the love and respect for the land and natural resources.

We will provide families with home counseling for the planting and consumption of vegetables grown with organic fertilizer, from plants and animals, avoiding the irrational use of insecticides that damage the health of people and the environment.

CRY OF THE POOR

Promote decent work and entrepreneurship of the economically poor and migrants in this way seek acceptance of these in society.

Transformative SMART actions	Responsible	Measuring success	Target date
Implementation of the Programme for the Empowerment of the Children of the Siloam Centre.	Responsible for the Siloé Center project.	1 program to strengthen the children of the Siloé center.	March 2025
To welcome women and children from Peru or migrants who suffer physical or moral violence and register them in the Consent Form for entry to the Belén Shelter House and in the Entry and Exit Form and in the Informed Consent and confidentiality letter.	Responsible for the pastoral project: Bethlehem shelter home.	Reception and reception of 120 mothers and 48 children who suffer physical and moral violence. Presentation of bimonthly report.	March 2025
Carry out social procedures with the Local Network for the Prevention and Care of Family and Sexual Violence for the access of the person sheltered to complementary services.	Responsible for the pastoral project: Bethlehem Shelter.	120 procedures with a local network for the prevention of family and sexual violence. Presentation of bimonthly report.	March 2025
Implement social welfare plan in Shelter.	Responsible for the pastoral project: Bethlehem Shelter.	Carry out and implement 01 social welfare plan. Presentation of bimonthly report.	March 2025
Facilitate the design of the life plan of women received.	Responsible for the pastoral project: Bethlehem Shelter.	Facilitate the design of the life plan of at least 50% of women received. Presentation of bimonthly report.	March 2025

How will these actions achieve the transformation of the mind, heart, and/or relationship with the poor? We will shelter abused and abused women and children, as well as migrants to give them shelter, spiritual strength and empower their skills, autonomy and economic independence, so that they face the difficulties of life with love and human dignity.

ECOLOGICAL ECONOMY
Disseminate circular economy concepts within communities to promote local purchasing and resource denial

Transformative SMART actions	Responsible	Measuring success	Target date
Importance of the construction of compost bins in all the local communities and educational institutions in which we assume the promotion and in the Ministries that the Sisters have under their responsibility.	Responsible for each project of the local communities.	1 training for the 10 local communities. Presentation of bimonthly report.	March 2025
Purchases in local markets to encourage the consumption of local products.	Responsible for each project of the local communities.	Awareness workshops for sisters. Presentation of bimonthly report.	March 2025

How will these actions achieve the transformation of the mind, heart and/or relationship with the ecological economy?

We will raise awareness among all the sisters of the local communities in the importance of consuming food from the area to make the most of the material resources available in each place , extending the life cycle of the products.

ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION
Celebration of spiritual days to promote ecological spirituality in our communities of Good Help, associates, pastoral agents and others.

Transformative SMART actions	Responsible	Measuring success	Target date
Development of theme: Tell me your ecological story.	Project managers I enrich my life also yours. I.E. Fe y Alegría 36	Educational sessions for boys and girls. Presentation of bimonthly report.	March 2025
Involvement of parents and teachers in extra activities on special dates to provide them with strategies for the care of the common home.	Project managers I enrich my life also yours. I.E. Fe y Alegría 36	Teacher and parent awareness meetings. Presentation of bimonthly report.	March 2025

How will these actions achieve the transformation of the mind, heart and perspective on integral ecology?

These actions will allow HBS, children, teachers and parents, through spiritual days and themes, to reflect and act positively in the care of our common home.

ECOLOGICAL SPIRITUALITY
Promote reflective spaces on ecological spirituality at the level of the JPIC committee, local communities, associate members and Good Help ministries and pastoral agents.

Transformative SMART actions	Responsible	Measuring success	Target date
Reflective days with students, parents, teachers, Sisters of Good Help, families, sheltered mothers, on the importance and integral care of ecology.	Each sister responsible for a ministry designated by the Congregation.	Reflective days with students, parents, teachers, Sisters of Good Help, families, mothers sheltered realized. Presentation of Bimonthly Report.	March 2025
Involvement of parents and teachers in extra activities on special dates to provide them with strategies for the care of the common home.	Project managers I enrich my life also yours. I.E. Fe y Alegría 36	Teacher and parent awareness meetings. Presentation of bimonthly report.	March 2025

How will these actions live and transform the spirituality of the HB S. This will allow the entire Good Help family to understand and reflect on the concrete actions we have to take to demonstrate our love, praise, joy and gratitude towards the environment for being a sacred creation.