



RELIGIOUS SISTERS OF CHARITY

Generalate, Caritas, 15 Gilford Road, Sandymount, Dublin. D04 X337

In the Spirit of our Charism and responding to the "urgent appeal" of Laudato Si, we, the Religious Sisters of Charity continue living our commitment to respond to Pope Francis' appeal to participate in a seven-year journey towards sustainability and integral ecology. This commitment marks our willingness to integrate each of the seven goals of Laudato Si into our life and ministries, make our response to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor a community priority, call our members to continued ecological conversion and promote sustainable lifestyles to save our common home.

Because we are an International Congregation, different areas of the Congregation make their own plans each year to commit to this journey in a way that suits their situation. Having reviewed their Year 1 plans, our five different areas of the Congregation planned for Year 2 and their plans are reflected below:

FROM THE IRISH PROVINCE



**RELIGIOUS SISTERS OF CHARITY
IRISH PROVINCE
ACTION PLAN 2023 – 2024
LAUDATO SI ACTION PLATFORM**



FOR WE KNOW THINGS CAN CHANGE LS 13

The Religious Sisters of Charity have a congregational statement on Care of the Earth

“The cry of the earth is the cry of the poor, just as the cry of the poor is the cry of the earth. We realise that the health and survival of our common home is at risk. Therefore, the Love of Christ urges us as RSC’s to hear and respond to this cry, acknowledging that human activity contributes to the endangerment of our common home. With hope and determination, we commit ourselves to take up the challenge to



conversion and transformation of our way of living for the well-being of all creation and future generations”. *From RSC statement on care of the Earth.*

We continue this journey as we commit to the Laudato Si Action Platform. We are responding anew to the Vatican’s invitation to begin a seven-year process and journey of action to care for our endangered planet. We plan to consult and engage more widely with the sisters in the province to draw up this longer plan.

Meanwhile our plan for 2022 – 2023 includes our current care of earth activities.

GOAL 1 and 2

RESPONSE TO CRY OF THE EARTH, RESPONSE TO CRY OF THE POOR.

“Many things have to change course, but it is we human beings above all who need to change. We lack an awareness of our common origin, of our mutual belonging and of a future shared with everyone”. LS 202

We see these as one cry



Aware of the oneness of all creation and the interdependence and interconnectedness of all living species we plan to:

- ✚ Be advocates for social justice, advocating to keeping the needs of the poor to the forefront at all times. Care of the Earth and Anti human trafficking are our focus areas
- ✚ Pastoral ministry and visitation
- ✚ Sign petitions on social media, lobby local politicians especially at election times
- ✚ Work with refugees, migrants and the homeless
- ✚ Continue the ministries in our social service centres, counselling, education and spirituality centres
- ✚ Use social media to connect with organisations such as Laudato Si Movement, Trocaire, UISG, Sowing Hope for the Planet, Friends of the Earth, Irish Bishop's website
- ✚ Encourage non-use of plastics in local restaurants, supermarkets, our convents and places of ministry
- ✚ Join local care of the earth groups
- ✚ Those working in parishes promote and work on care of the earth issues with parishioners and local groups
- ✚ Encourage wildflower gardens, window boxes, hanging baskets and discourage frequent cutting of lawns. Protect biodiversity
- ✚ Use hybrid cars

Continue 'small daily actions' LS.

- ✚ Reduce, reuse, recycle, refuse, upcycle, compost
- ✚ Waste, use of correct bins, used correctly
- ✚ Grow fruit, vegetables and wildflowers
- ✚ Avoid pesticides, insecticides, tolerate weeds
- ✚ Save energy, use of LED and sensor lighting, thermostats to regulate radiators heat and natural drying of clothes
- ✚ Avoid single use plastic
- ✚ Conserve water
- ✚ Use eco cleaning products
- ✚ Use of bar soap, bar shampoo



GOAL - 3 ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS

“We are agreed today that the earth is essentially a shared inheritance, whose fruits are meant for the benefit of all”. LS 93

- Awareness of the limitations of our planet and its resources. There is no bottomless pit. The earth is a living organism so there is no ‘throw away’
- Support local retailers, purchase locally
- Ethical shopping
- Divest from fossil fuels
- Use resources that are renewable
- Work towards less dependency on fossil fuels
- Reduce, reuse, recycle, refuse, upcycle, compost.



GOAL - 4 ADOPTION OF SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES

“Humanity is called to recognise the need for changes, in lifestyle, production, consumption, in order to combat the warming of our planet or at least human causes that aggravate it” LS 23

Continue ‘small daily actions’ LS. (Same as goal 1 & 2 above)

- ✚ Reduce, reuse, recycle, refuse, upcycle, compost
- ✚ Waste, use of correct bins, used correctly.
- ✚ Grow fruit and vegetables
- ✚ Avoid pesticides, insecticides, tolerate weeds
- ✚ Save energy, use of LED and sensor lighting, natural drying of clothes
- ✚ Avoid single use plastic
- ✚ Water conservation
- ✚ Use eco cleaning products

- + Use of bar soap, bar shampoo
- + Be eco conscious in our gifting e.g. gift of trees.

GOAL - 5 ECOLOGICAL SPIRITUALITY

“Ecological conversion entails a loving awareness that we are not disconnected from the rest of creatures, but joined in a splendid universal communion” LS 220

Pope Francis talks about a loving awareness of our common home. Our spirituality is about Finding God in all things. We are constantly deepening our understanding of these spiritualities – Ignatian Spirituality and Creation Spirituality

- Celebration through prayer and ritual of significant events e.g. Earth Day, Creation Time, Laudato Si Week, The Solstices
- Specially prepared evening prayer used to mark some of these occasions e.g. for Lent on Call to Ecological Conversion.
- Ecological awareness examen
- Prayer cards for congregational statement, LS prayer for our earth
- Attend webinars, prayer days, care of earth evenings, province evenings e.g. harvest thanksgiving.
- Reading, use of internet resources on care of earth to help deepen spirituality of creation.
- Membership of care of earth groups
- Community sharing formal and informal



GOAL 6 - ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION



“Our efforts at education will be inadequate unless we strive to promote a new way of thinking about human beings, life, society and our relationship with nature. Otherwise, the paradigm of consumerism will continue to advance, with the help of the media and the highly effective workings of the market”. LS 215.

We are blessed to live in a country with excellent ecological education at primary school and secondary school.

We will

- Raise awareness of the danger our planet is in by sharing articles, sharing information on webinars, sharing books etc. Join local care of earth groups.
- Educate ourselves on length of time it takes different materials to biodegrade e.g. plastic takes 500 years to forever, wool socks 1 to 5 years.
- Work towards ecological awareness of the need to support systems change e.g. cutting out fossil fuels, use of new technologies e.g. Wind energy, ocean energy, more sustainable methods of farming, protection of natural habitats and restoring wetlands, value of wilderness and wild spaces. Appreciate the need for wild flowers and natural rather than cultivated shrubs and plants.
- Value of planting trees. Educate ourselves on how essential trees are for the planet and their role as lungs of the planet.
- Educate ourselves on value of peatlands as carbon sinks and the work being done in Ireland on restoring bogs.
- Educate ourselves on work farmers are doing to protect biodiversity through leaving hedges, field margins etc to nature
- Reading articles, newspapers, books, webinars, lectures, TV programmes. David Attenborough, Spring/Autumn Watch, Eco Eye, Farm Week, and programmes recommended.

GOAL 7 - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATORY ACTION



“Society is also enriched by a countless array of organisations which work to promote the common good and to defend the environment. These organisations are indicative of a sense of solidarity which is at the same time aware that we live in a common home which God has entrusted to us” LS 232.

We aim to

- Raise awareness with staffs, co-workers, Friends of Mary Aikenhead and families

- Raise awareness and interest on current citizen's assembly process (*on climate change*) and current synodal system in the catholic church. Use opportunities to inform ourselves of these participatory processes and become involved in them where possible
- Join care of earth groups and social justice groups e.g. Anti-trafficking
- Join community groups who work towards cleaning environments and protecting biodiversity, sowing fruit and vegetables
- Join reading groups which focus on care of our common home
- As a congregation we work collaboratively with other congregations and agencies e.g. on Fighting Human trafficking and Homelessness



FROM CALIFORNIA REGION

2023 Updated Laudato Si' Plan

“Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with colored flowers and herbs”



St. Francis of Assisi

RSC California Region 2023-24 Plan

We continue our commitment to respond to Pope Francis' call to action reflected in the Laudato Si Encyclical. We recognize the gravity of the Pope's description of the crisis: "as our earth now cries out to us because of the harm that we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her" and we are vigorously committed to respond. Our Care of the Earth Plan reflects a balance of our finite resources with some creativity to extend our outreach and impact, and make a difference.

Our Objectives Remain:

Clean Ocean

Water Conservation

Simple Lifestyle

Clean Ocean

Our very existence on this planet is dependent on the health of the ocean. The ocean regulates our climate, is a significant food source, and produces 70% of our oxygen: no ocean, no life.

Right now, 11,000,000 metric tons of plastic are entering the ocean annually. This negatively affects sea life, (a significant food source) which has no protection against the plastic ending up in the ocean; as a result, wildlife is dying at enormous rates after ingesting or being trapped in plastic bags, bottles, etc.

Plastic is not biodegradable. It stays around indefinitely. Research shows that microplastics are entering the water we drink, the air we breathe, and the long-term effects to human and animal life are unknown. At this rate, unless drastic measures are taken, there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish by 2050.

We can't recycle our way out of this. So, we are engaging in an effort to reduce our "single use plastic" footprint.

Water Conservation

California has been subject to record draughts and wildfires over the past decade. Additionally, California is the largest agricultural producer in the U.S., and draughts continue to put food production at risk. We need to ensure that we are good stewards of this critical resource.

Simple Lifestyle

Our commitment to a "simple lifestyle" incorporates our commitment to eliminate single use plastic and conserve water.

2023 -2024 Plan

The California Region intends to continue the work above, with the following updates/additions:

Objective	Activities	Laudato si Goal alignment	Outcomes
California Region and New Life Members			
Our personal lifestyle commitments and changes	1. Our members will review their Care of the Earth Commitments and affirm their ongoing work. (Worksheet attached)	Goal 1: Cry of the Earth Goal 4: Simple Lifestyles Goal 6: Ecological spirituality Goal 7: Community Engagement	In progress
Support for those experiencing homelessness	1. Saturday lunch continues, with the return of in person community and a re-expansion of services including showers, haircuts, clothing, etc. 2. An Eagle Scout designed and remodeled a former shed into a	Goal 2: Cry of the Poor Goal 7: Community Engagement	1. Engagement with the marginalized in our community 2. A place of welcome and acceptance of all

	spacious wardrobe closet to provide a more organized way for our guests to find and select clothing items. Walls were drywalled and the dirt floor was replaced with tile. The project included shelving made from recycled plastic water bottles . Picture attached		
St. Columban's School			
Clean Ocean Training and Simple Lifestyle engagement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Social Justice Team will provide handout to all classes to engage additional families in completing and implementing our Commitment List and checking on '22 progress. 2. 6th, 7th, and 8th grades planning a Beach Clean-up in the Spring timeframe. 	Goal 1: Cry of the Earth Goal 4: Simple Lifestyles Goal 5: Ecological education Goal 6: Ecological spirituality Goal 7: Community Engagement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New and recommitments to lifestyle changes 2. Engagement of our youth in addressing solutions to climate issues 3. Next steps in conservation of our ocean (Beach Cleaning) 4.
Objective	Activities	Laudato si Goal alignment	Outcomes
Covenant House			
Clean Ocean Training and Simple Lifestyle engagement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conducted Clean Ocean Training to engage this youth population who are experiencing homelessness in reducing their ecological footprint and helping to identify ways that they can contribute to the elimination of single use plastic 	Goal 1: Cry of the Earth Goal 4: Simple Lifestyles Goal 5: Ecological education Goal 6: Ecological spirituality Goal 7: Community Engagement	Respectful engagement with a marginalized and often ignored part of our community

	2. The youth are excited about participating in a Beach Clean-up in the Spring/Summer timeframe		
Additional Parish/School outreach			

Beach Cleaning



FROM THE ENGLISH/SCOTTISH PROVINCE

RSC English/Scottish Province 2023-24 Plan



“Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with colored flowers and herbs”

St. Francis

As we continue our commitment to Laudato Si, our priorities remain the same: Provincial Engagement and Prayer, Advocacy, Simple Lifestyle.

Our 2023 Focus

- ❖ We continue to engage our community, deepening our understanding of the sacredness of the planet and all its inhabitants through prayer, enhanced by materials to support reflection
- ❖ We continue to respond to the many issues and challenges which the planet faces through advocacy
- ❖ Attempting to live a simpler lifestyle in harmony with the planet through the promotion of more sustainable and greener products, recycling of all kinds, both communal and personal, and encouraging the repair and re-use of products

(Plan follows)

2023 Plan

Objective	Activities	Laudato Si Goal alignment	Outcomes
Align our community in prayer and reflection on the sacredness of our planet and its inhabitants	Engagement in Earth Day, Laudato Si Week, and Season of Creation Create and distribute a leaflet with 10 prayers addressing the various challenges facing our planet to provide	Goal 1: Cry of the Earth Goal 5: Ecological education Goal 6: Ecological spirituality	Engagement and alignment of Sisters in support of Laudato Si

	a prayer of choice for daily community prayers	Goal 7: Community Engagement	
Advocacy: We will continue to advocate whenever opportunities present themselves	Anticipating significant opposition to the Government's lack of concern for the immediacy of a response to the climate crises we are already experiencing, we are committed to participate in whatever ways we can. Last year's activities included: asking sisters to sign petitions and raising their awareness of events planned to respond to issues which arise.	Goal 1: Cry of the Earth Goal 5: Ecological education Goal 6: Ecological spirituality Goal 7: Community Engagement	Governmental recognition of the significance and urgency of issues
Simple Lifestyle	<p>Placing an emphasis within communities to review purchases to reduce harm to the planet</p> <p>Communities will review recycling habits, especially disposal of small electrical goods, batteries, cartridges and bulbs</p> <p>We work with CAFOD where one sister is helping 14 Parishes in England by engaging with them and their resource needs to support them in embracing a simple lifestyle</p> <p>The same Parishes are being engaged in advocacy by participating in petitions</p>	Goal 1: Cry of the Earth Goal 5: Ecological education Goal 6: Ecological spirituality Goal 7: Community Engagement	Reduction of negative aspects of our footprints on our Earth

	and attending events organized by CAFOD and partners		
--	---	--	--





FROPM NIGERIAN REGION

2024 LAUADO SI ACTION PLAN

MONTH	JAN.	FEB.	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY/ AUG.	SEPT.	OCT./ Nov
1 ST Action	Link sisters getting to know each other better and sharing ideas	Cut down on what we throw away. Reuse, reduce, recycle.	Organic farming. Each community choose some form of farming. Base on their space and time. Use compost not chemical	Community chooses some sisters to educate some schools and hospital in their environ, about caring for the earth	Link Sisters Mobilise community cleanup. Either convent environment or ministry environment.	Evaluate activities. Re-strategize if needed.	Focus on buying less plastic and less bottled water. Reuse plastic. Take your shopping bag to the market.	Link sisters encourage communities to use LED bulbs	Evaluation Award to the community that made the most effort to care for the earth.
2 nd Action	Understanding the year plan	Walk more or use public transport	Plant flower and trees in your environment	Continue with one	Continue with one	Focus on less use of water	Cont.	Cont.	Plan for the next year
3 rd Action	Sharing the year plan with the communities	Give feedback to the link group via WhatsApp	Link sisters discuss a topic on care of the earth with their community	Continue with one	Give feedback on group WhatsApp with photos and videos	Reduce the use of water cont.	Cont.	Plant trees cont.	



FROM ZAMBIA/MALAWI REGION

CARE OF THE EARTH ACTION PLAN- ZAMBIA- MALAWI REGION FOR THE PERIOD November 2023- November 2024

As a Region, we will strive to commit ourselves to the following activities for the period November 2023-November 2024 in line with the Laudato Si goals:

Goal 1- response to the cry of the earth	Goal 2- response to the cry of the poor	Goal 3- Ecological Economics	Goal 4- Adoption of sustainable lifestyles	Goal 5- Ecological spirituality	Goal 6- Ecological education	Goal 7 - Community engagement and participatory Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Planting citrus trees in our institutions of learning and some communities where there is enough space -Reduction in the use of plastic by using reusable shopping bags - Ensure sensible fertilizer application (compost and natural rather than chemical fertilizer) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Ensure members of the community have access to clean water -hold litter prevention and removal campaigns with co-workers in each community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Each community will strive to Support local retailers by purchasing goods from them from time to time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - buy from local producers whenever possible -encourage the use of Compost in each area -have native gardens in each community for vegetable production 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deepen Laudato Si spirituality by encouraging sisters to read the new exhortation 'Laudate Deum' - Observe season of creation practice i.e 1st September to 4th October 2024 - appreciate God's creation by hosting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Include ecological education in formation -On-going sensitization on eco themes in our institutions of learning and others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -on going engagement of our co-workers and nearby parishes for those involved in parish work on care of the earth issue -continue advocacy on child protection and human trafficking wherever the sisters are involved

-keep communities clean and green				outdoor prayers at least during Laudato si week and season of creation		
-----------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--



Tree Planting



Access to clean drinking water



Making Energy Efficient Stoves