

Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation News

Congregation of the Sisters of Bon Secours

*“Our common home
is like a sister
with whom we share our life
and a beautiful mother
who opens her arms
to embrace us.”*

(Pope Francis, Laudato Si' #1)



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Over these past three months the JPIC News has focused on our Bon Secours desire to respond to Pope Francis' challenge to undergo an ecological conversion for the future of Earth and all living and non-living beings that share our common home. This conversion requires a turning away from a human-centered world view and a turning toward one that is Earth-centered. *By way of review...*

- The October JPIC News identified and described these two world views. We were invited to reflect on the world view that is most operative in our personal and Congregational lives.
- In November we savored the words of Father Thomas Berry, an Earth scholar, and were asked to notice how we are and how we are not present to Earth in a mutually beneficial manner.
- During December we reflected on *Laudato Si'* in light of the Advent Scriptures. We were called to pay attention to our personal behaviors toward Earth for which we need to repent and to commit to some change in lifestyle for the sake of the world God so loves.

It is the hope of the International JPIC Committee that all of us have used these issues of JPIC News for our prayer, reflection and conversation with each other. It is our desire that we allow the content of these Newsletters on ecological conversion to find a place in our hearts, to challenge and stretch us, to ultimately transform our worldview to one that is truly Earth-centered and is reflected in our personal and Congregational decisions.

Earth is a living organism.

Instead of treating
creation as an object,
we learn to treat her as a
living organism with
reverence and respect.

Fr. Thomas Berry



The Will to Act – Exercising Self-emptying Love

The ecological crisis is a summons to profound interior conversion. It must be said that some committed and prayerful Christians...are passive; they choose not to change their habits and thus become inconsistent. So what they all need is an "ecological conversion". – Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'* #217

**What conversion is happening within you and within the Congregation as a result of your reflections on "ecological conversion" these past months?
Are there any habits you choose not to change? Why?**

Given our twin planetary crises of climate change and unjust financial distribution, what is needed is not more information but the will to move from belief to action, from denial to profound change at both personal and public levels. —Sallie McFague, Christian theologian

Is there anything that prevents you from moving from belief to action regarding the way you relate to Earth?

January
JPIC Days of Remembrance

January 1
World Day of Peace
(Catholic Church)

January 15
Martin Luther King Jr. Day (USA)

January 24
Foundation Day
Sisters of Bon Secours of Paris



In the spirit of our Foundress,
Josephine Potel,
may we be a healing,
compassionate and liberating
presence on and for Earth,
our common home.

January 27
International Commemoration
for Victims of the Holocaust

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

Never have we so hurt and mistreated our common home as we have in the last two hundred years.

Yet we are called to be instruments of God our Father, so that our planet might be what he desired when he created it and correspond with his plan for peace, beauty and fullness.

Pope Francis, Laudato Si' #53

Relating to Earth as a Living Organism

When we live out of an eco-centric, Earth-centered worldview, our thinking, conversations and questions begin to shift when we are making personal and Congregational decisions. Questions like these begin to emerge:

- How can I/we protect Earth while also finding her resources useful?
- Will this product that I purchase most likely end up in a landfill?
- What effect does my/our consumption (water, fuel, food, things, etc.) have on poor people and other living and non-living beings?
- Is Earth literacy part of the Congregation formation program and included in professional development in Bon Secours ministries?
- How do our investments support care for creation?
- How can we build and make renovations with the green standards in mind?
- What natural predators will I invite into the area to take care of pests naturally?
- How can I/we value the beauty of Earth and preserve it?
- What methods of caring for the land we own are the best ways to nurture Earth?

Do you ever ask questions like these before making decisions?



What other questions would you add?

How might you begin to incorporate this thinking and questioning in your personal life and on committees and organizations where you serve?

The Earth Charter

The Earth Charter asked us to leave behind a period of self-destruction and make a new start, but we have not as yet developed a universal awareness needed to achieve this. Here, I would echo that courageous challenge: "As never before in history, common destiny beckons us to seek a new beginning... Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life".

– Pope Francis, Laudato Si' #207

The Earth Charter is an ethical framework for building a just, sustainable, and peaceful global society in the 21st century. It seeks to inspire in all people a new sense of global interdependence and shared responsibility for the well-being of the whole human family, the greater community of life, and future generations. It is a vision of hope and a call to action.



Read the Earth Charter. Allow it to inspire you to make a new start in promoting ecological health in 2018.

<http://earthcharter.org/discover/the-earth-charter/> (English)

<http://cartadelatierra.org/descubra/la-carta-de-la-tierra/> (Spanish)

<http://chartedelaterre.org/decouvrir/la-charte/> (French)



CBS Corporate Statement on Water

We, Women of Healing, oppose actions that deprive humans and others species access to adequate, safe water essential for life.

New Year's Resolutions for a Healthy Planet

- Refuse single-use plastics and instead use reusable containers: especially plastic grocery bags, which, to a hungry sea turtle, look a little too much like jellyfish.
- Skip the Straw. This helps reduce the use of plastic and keeps it from ending up in the ocean.
- Become an advocate for one endangered or affected marine species and learn all about it.
- Use natural soap and cleaning products. Antibacterial soap's most common ingredient, triclosan, is not completely removed during wastewater treatment, and is toxic to marine organisms.
- Watch what is washed down the drain, including prescription drugs.
- Get involved with your local climate action group, letting your elected officials know that you are concerned about climate change.

Source: Ecology Center and Ecology Project International

What other resolution could you add to this list?

What resolution could you adopt that will help you live out the CBS Corporate Statement on Water?

Past issues of JPIC News can be found at:

French: http://bonsecours.org/?page_id=5381&lang=fr

Spanish: http://bonsecours.org/?page_id=5382&lang=es

English: http://bonsecours.org/?page_id=5175

<http://jplic.bonsecours.us/justice-resources/jpic-newsletter/>



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