

Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation News

Congregation of the Sisters of Bon Secours

Laudato Si' Week – Journeying Together



May, 2022
Vol. 7, Number 9



The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change.

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'* #13

Laudato Si' Week 2022, May 22 - 29, marks the seventh anniversary of Pope Francis' landmark encyclical on creation care and the first anniversary of the invitation from the Vatican to participate in the Laudato Si' Action Platform (LSAP), a seven-year journey of transformation of mind and heart in our ways of relating to Earth and all her beings. This year the Laudato Si' Week commemoration coincides with the release of the April 2022 report from the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warning that humanity has less than three years to slash greenhouse gas emissions nearly in half in order to prevent the most catastrophic effects of the climate crisis. And yet, both the IPCC report and Laudato Si' offer HOPE.

We are that hope. We claim to be "women of healing, defending and caring for all creation". Our hearts have been moved by the current climate crises and all the social disparities of our day. And yet, God invites us to go deeper still, to allow the pain of what is happening to our common home to confront us, to challenge us and to transform us. All God asks is our willingness to engage this soul-sized LSAP journey as an act of love for Mother Earth. What is ours to do?

May
JPIC Days of Remembrance

May 1
Feast of St. Joseph the Worker
International Workers' Day

May 15
Anniversary of Papal Encyclicals
Rerum Novarum (1891)
Quadragesimo Anno (1931)
Mater et Magistra (1961)

May 16
International Day of
Living Together in Peace

May 22 - 29
Laudato Si' Week

May 22
International Day for Biological
Diversity

May 29
International Day of
United Nations Peacekeepers

We are on a fast track to climate disaster —
major cities underwater, unprecedented heat waves, terrifying storms, widespread water
shortages, the extinction of a million species of plants and animals.

And this is not fiction or exaggeration.

It is what science tells us will result from our current energy policies.

António Guterres, Secretary-General of the UN

Key Takeaways from the IPCC Report

- 3.45 billion: The number of people highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change – about 45% of the world's population
- 1 in 3: People currently exposed to deadly heat stress globally – projected to increase to up to 76% by the end of the century
- 1 billion: Number of people projected to live in flood-prone coastal zones worldwide by 2050 - more than 1 in 10 people.
- 30 – 50%: Percentage of land, ocean and fresh water that needs to be conserved to help insure a livable climate.
- The science is crystal clear. The impacts of climate change are increasing in frequency and intensity around the world, particularly life-threatening heatwaves, floods, storms and droughts. Source: UN



"At this point it is economically
and morally insane
to continue new investment in the
development of fossil fuels."
António Guterres, Secretary-General of the UN

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



Hope would have us recognize
 that there is always a way out;
 the we can always
 redirect our steps,
 that we can always do
 something
 to solve our problems.
 LS #61

What is ours to do?

**IPCC Report:
 The critical role nature plays in stabilizing the climate**

- One significant takeaway from the April, 2022 IPCC report is how nature can act as a climate solution. The report details 43 cost-effective approaches to limiting global warming to less than 1.5°C (the safety benchmark for a safe climate set by the Paris Agreement).
- First and third on this list are solar and wind energy, respectively. The other top five most effective strategies for mitigating carbon emissions are all natural climate solutions: ecosystem protection, restoration, and the improved management of farmlands.
- Nature-based solutions not only protect at-risk communities from the brunt of climate change they are powerfully aligned with sustainable development goals. These include eliminating hunger and providing access to clean water.
- As per the 2022 IPCC report, confronting the climate crisis requires a complete transformation of our energy sources, economic models and land stewardship. We must rapidly decarbonize our economies and unlock natural climate solutions.
- The IPCC finds that nature's contributions to solving climate change are also cost-effective. Delivering natural climate solutions to limit warming to less than 2°C would cost up to \$400 billion a year by 2050. That's less than current subsidies for carbon-heavy industries like agriculture and forestry.

Source: World Economic Forum

Restore and Protect Your Ecosystem at Home

Improve your soil health: Learn how to make compost and apply a thick layer of this organic matter, or leaf mulch over the soil, which worms and other creatures will take down into the ground. This will then improve the soil structure and deliver nutrients to plants' roots.

Choose native plants: Flowers rich in pollen and nectar will help to increase biodiversity. They will also help to reverse the falling numbers of bees, butterflies and moths, which are vital to the ecosystem and therefore all of us.

Feed the birds: Hanging a bird feeder from a tree or scattering bird seed over the lawn will fill your eco-friendly garden with birdsong. Feeding birds in winter is vital to them returning year after year.



LSAP Update

**A seven-year journey of transformation
 of mind, heart and relationship with Earth**

At our most recent JPIC Committee Meeting we decided that committee members would meet with Area Leadership between March and May to discuss possible LSAP Goals to focus on for year 1 (September 2022 – September 2023) and to begin to develop some SMART actions to achieve those goals. Since the LSAP is ultimately about interior transformation the following questions were proposed for prayer and reflection in preparation for these conversations.

- What transformation of mind, heart, and relationship with Earth would you like to see on a Congregation/Area level seven years from now as a result of our participation in the LSAP journey?
- Which LSAP Goals would most enable the transformation you/we desire?
- Which LSAP goals do you think are most important to pursue this first year?

Reflection

*Think deeply about these questions. Bring them to your prayer.
 Talk about them with one another.
 Transformation is God's work.
 Our stance is one of openness and receptivity.
 What do you ask of God as you/we embrace
 the deep work of transformation on this LSAP journey?*



The Congregation Team (CT) recently appointed **Nick Stein** to the International JPIC Committee. Nick currently serves as the Program Director for Young Adult Ministry in the USA and has served on the JPIC USA Team for the past two years, first as Chair of the committee and currently as interim Co-chair. We welcome Nick and look forward to the insights he will bring to our committee work.

At the same time we offer abundant gratitude to **Sr. Anne Marie Mack** and **Eileen Fernandini** for their years of service to our JPIC Committee. Sr. Anne Marie chaired the JPIC Committee for many years and had been a member since its conception. Eileen, though serving a short tenure, graced us with her passion, dedication and joy. Thank you, Sr. Anne Marie and Eileen for sharing your gifts with us.

International Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Committee

- Sr. Teresa Margot Benites Montero, CBS (Peru)
- Sr. Rosa Elena Lozada Escobar (Peru)
- Camille Grippon (USA) France Liaison
- Sr. Mary Beth Hamm, SSJ Chair
- Sr. Mary Leamy, CBS (Ireland)
- Rachel Moccia (USA)
- Sr. Maria Pintado Peña, CBS (Peru) Co-chair
- Nicholas Stein (USA)
- Sr. Katherine Tierney, CBS (Ireland)
- Sr. Chris Webb, CBS (USA)