

# Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation News

## Congregation of the Sisters of Bon Secours



May, 2021  
Vol. 6, Number 9



"Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience."  
LS, #217

At the completion of the *Laudato Si'* Anniversary Year this month, the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development plans to launch a seven-year journey to sustainability in the spirit of Pope Francis's landmark encyclical called the ***Laudato Si'* Action Platform**. All Congregations of Women and Men Religious around the world are among those being invited to participate in this initiative. The ***Laudato Si'* Action Platform** is a call to the universal Church – families, parishes and dioceses, educational and healthcare institutions, organizations and religious orders – to take concrete steps toward a sustainable future in the spirit of *Laudato Si'*.

Engaging *Laudato Si'* is not a new focus for the Congregation of Bon Secours. Since 2015 a majority of the 69 monthly JPIC Newsletters published to date have referenced quotes and reflection questions from this encyclical for us to ponder, discuss and act upon. *Laudato Si'* has been a topic at several of our assemblies. In 2020 the Congregation of Bon Secours made a commitment to participate in the International Union of Superiors General (UISG) *Sowing Hope for the Planet Initiative* by participating in Meatless Mondays, eliminating single use plastics, decreasing water use and addressing fossil fuel use – intentional efforts to live out *Laudato Si'*.

For the past six years the UISG has sponsored several webinars on *Laudato Si'* with the hope of animating Sisters to undergo an ecological conversion, to adopt an integral ecology and to live in more mutually enhancing ways on Earth, our common home. Several of our Sisters participated in these global webinars.

As we approach *Laudato Si'* Week this month, all of us are invited to consider if we, the Congregation of Bon Secours, want to participate in the ***Laudato Si'* Action Platform** and commit to a seven-year journey toward living more sustainably. The UISG is coordinating this international effort and we have been told some Sisters' Conferences, eg. Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), are coordinating efforts in geographic areas. While plans are still in process, this Newsletter contains information about the ***Laudato Si'* Action Platform** as we know to date in the hopes that this information will give all of us food for thought and conversation and ultimately help us make a decision as to whether we would like to commit to this seven-year journey toward integral ecology.

Hope would have us recognize that there is always a way out, that we can always redirect our steps, that we can always do something to solve our problems. LS #61  
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 16 - 24  
Laudato Si' Week

May 22  
International Day for Biological  
Diversity

May 29  
International Day of  
United Nations Peacekeepers

## Laudato Si' Action Platform Goals

- Response to the Cry of Earth
- Response to the Cry of the Poor
- Ecological Economics
- Simple Lifestyles
- Ecological Education
- Ecological Spirituality
- Community Participation



### Cry of Earth

- Reducing fossil fuels
- Greater use of renewable energy
- Protecting biodiversity

### Simple Lifestyle

- Sobriety in the use of finite resources and energy
- Lifestyle changes
- Resisting being part of the throwaway culture

### Ecological Education

- Earth literacy
- Educational programs that include concrete actions.
- Integrating ecological education in annual planning



### Cry of the Poor

- Addressing social justice issues
- Advocating for policies
- Providing direct service to people who are poor



### Ecological Economics

- Purchasing Fair Trade
- Ethical consumption
- Ethical investments in people/nature



### Ecological Spirituality

- Creating creation-centered prayer and liturgies
- Spending time in the natural environment
- Developing ecological retreats and formation programs



### Community Participation

- Promote advocacy and involvement in campaigns
- Encourage rootedness in local territory and neighborhood ecosystems

## Reflection

*Which of the Laudato Si' Action Platform goals have you personally and/or the Congregation already addressed?*

*What are some actions you and/or the Congregation have taken to meet these goals?*

*Which of the goals are you most attracted to engage?*

*What are your thoughts about the Congregation of Bon Secours participating in this seven-year transition to integral ecology?*

**The International JPIC Committee would welcome your thoughts on this invitation so please offer input to the members of the Committee in your area by the end of May.**

## Transitioning to an Integral Ecology

### Criterion 1

- Build on what we are already doing

### Criterion 2

- Be simple and gradual enough to be manageable

### Criterion 3

- Be inspiring enough to motivate
- Be flexible enough to suit different contexts and needs of different countries

## Suggested Process

1

### • Public Commitment

- Commit to the Laudato Si' Platform, communicate it publicly, be accountable, celebrate accomplishments

2

### • Transition to Integral Ecology

- Assess your current actions in relation to the goals; design a transition plan; evaluate your journey annually

3

### • Journeying Together

- Participate in global/national/local campaigns and invite others to join in and form partnerships with you.

## International Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Committee

- Sr. Teresa Margot Benites Montero, CBS (Peru)
- Eileen Fernandini, Associate (USA)
- Camille Grippon (USA and France Liaison)
- Sr. Mary Beth Hamm, SSJ Co-chair
- Sr. Mary Leamy, CBS (Ireland)
- Sr. Anne Marie Mack, CBS (USA) Chair
- Rachel Moccia, Bon Secours Young Adult
- Sr. Maria Pintado Peña, CBS (Peru)
- Sr. Katherine Tierney, CBS (Ireland)
- Sr. Yolanda Morales Valiente, CBS (Peru)
- Sr. Chris Webb, CBS (USA)

## Framework for the Laudato Si' Action Platform

- May 24, 2021 – Launch of the Laudato Si' Action Platform Initiative
- October 4, 2021 – Deadline for decision to participate for year 1
- Goals:
  - 7-year journey toward integral ecology
  - Adding new Religious Congregations and other groups each year with the hopes of doubling participation each year
  - Growing a Laudato Si' inspired network
  - Reaching a "critical mass" of engagement for radical ecological transformation

**Note:** This suggested criterion, process and framework were shared at a UISG webinar on the Laudato Si' Action Platform for Women Religious.

