

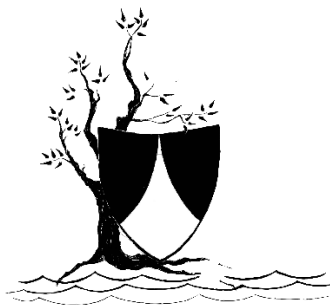


LAUDATO SI'

Action Platform

Laudato Si' 2023 Action Plan Assessment

November 2022 - October 2023



*Assessed by the Dominican Sisters and Associates of Racine
Laudato Si' Action Team*

2023 Laudato Si' Assessment Introduction

In 2022, as Dominican Sisters and Associates of Racine, we made a public commitment to “reestablishing right relationships between the human community and the Earth community.” Formally, we live this commitment by addressing the seven goals of Laudato Si' in our annual Laudato Si' Action Plan (LSAP). Our 2022 – 2023 LSAP ended on October 4, 2023. This document contains the results of our Team's assessment of our progress towards the 2022 - 2023 Laudato Si' Goals.

“Responsibility for God's earth means that human beings, endowed with intelligence, must respect the laws of nature and the delicate equilibria existing between the creatures of this world.”

- *Laudate Deum*, Paragraph 62

2023 Laudato Si' Assessment Goal 1 ***Response to the Cry of the Earth***

The Response to the Cry of the Earth is a call to protect our common home for the wellbeing of all, as we equitably address the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and ecological sustainability. This goal drew on both systemic and individual change activities to achieve progress in this area.

Systemic activities included:

- ❖ Reinstating food composting at Siena (10/5/22);
- ❖ Start of invasive species removal on the Siena Campus in collaboration with Great Lakes Community Conservation Corps (11/15/22);
- ❖ Food Waste Pilot Collaborative for the City of Racine (12/28/22);
- ❖ The “No Mow May” (5/1/23) and “Leave the Leaves” initiatives (9/1/23);
- ❖ Raising nearly \$400 for the purchase of solar panels for Habitat for Humanity during the Season of Creation Ecumenical Prayer Service (9/16/23);
- ❖ The pursuit of installing solar energy for the Siena Campus is on hold pending the outcome of the Siena Campus Strategic Plan.

Activities that supported individual change included:

- ❖ The Plastics Alternative Fair (11/3/22);
- ❖ 27 Sisters and Associates accepted the invitation to participate in the Mileage Awareness Pilot (1/25/23).

Ecological Education for this goal included:

- ❖ Janet Weyker, OP’s “Clean Air and Clean Power Coalition” presentation (10/08/22);
- ❖ Participation in the collaborative “Save the Soil Day” in March (3/21/23);
- ❖ John’s Disposal “Recycling Update”(4/15/23);
- ❖ Ann Pratt, OP’s conversation about “The Recipe for the Perfect Soil”(5/12/23);
- ❖ Michelle Titterton’s presentation “On the Other Side of Plastic” (6/3/23).

2023 Laudato Si' Assessment Goal 2

Response to the Cry of the Poor

The Response to the Cry of the Earth is a call to promote eco-justice, aware that we are called to defend human life from conception to death, and all forms of life on Earth. This Goal was developed through direct action, community relationship building, and education.

Direct Actions included:

- ❖ Justice Team's Advent Food for the Hospitality Center of Racine and Lenten Food Drive for the Congregation of the Great Spirit each raised approximately \$1500 in food and cash donations.

Community Relationship Building presentations included:

- ❖ Carl Fields, Director of Community Engagement at the Hospitality Center of Racine (2/24/23);
- ❖ Sisters tour of Bakhita House (3/9/23);
- ❖ Fr. Edward Cook, Pastor, Congregation of the Great Spirit (4/20/23);
- ❖ Anne Haines, Executive Director of Bakhita House (5/11/23).

Ecological Education for this goal included:

- ❖ Housing Crisis in Racine County Panel Discussion sponsored by the Opening Our Hearts and Minds to End Racism (3/6/23);
- ❖ Participation in the "New England Food Solutions 21- Day Racial Equity Habit building Challenge Pilot that connected to racism in relationship to the food system (4/23);
- ❖ The "New Stories on Sacred Lands" retreat, held in conjunction with Nuns & Nones, designed to increase understanding of the roots of land injustice and the connection to crises of climate and racism (4/13 & 4/14/23);
- ❖ Justice Team presentation on the Debt ceiling that examined the crisis through the lens of poverty and justice 5/4 & 5/5/23);
- ❖ Land Justice Team initiated a study by Jessica Intermill, Lawyer and Treaty Litigator that examines how the Doctrine of Discovery influenced Racine Dominican lands (8/23);
- ❖ Land Justice Team's Racial History Assessment that supports our Community's understanding of BIPOC peoples who have a history with our Community or on our lands (ongoing).

2023 Laudato Si' Assessment Goal 3

Ecological Economics

Ecological Economics acknowledges that the economy is a sub-system of human society, which itself is embedded within the biosphere—our common home. We are encouraged to trade and invest ethically by divesting from fossil fuels and support sustainable energy systems, prioritizing people and the planet over profit. This goal used both monitoring and education to achieve progress in this goal area.

Monitoring included:

- ❖ Investment in fossil fuel industry and renewable energy is accomplished through on-going communication with the Finance Office. Since 2014, there has been a 3.4% decrease in total funds invested in energy and utility companies. Over the past year, there has been a .5% decrease (ongoing).

Education

- ❖ Chris Cox, from Seventh Generation Interfaith provided a training to the Socially Responsible Investing Committee and the Laudato Si' Action Team on “The Anti ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) Movement”(2/20/23);
- ❖ The Laudato Si' Action Team hosted “Dominicans Embracing the Heart of Laudato Si'” that featured Dr. Lorna Gold, Catherine Devitt, and Elizabeth Garlow for the larger Dominican Community. This topic explored was the benefit to people and the planet of making financial decisions through the lens of ecological economic (9/20/23).

2023 Laudato Si' Assessment Goal 4 ***Sustainable Lifestyles***

The Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles is an invitation to look for ways to use less, to share more, and to focus on relationships instead of things. This goal was developed through actions. This Goal was addressed through Actions and Education.

Actions included:

- ❖ Weekly Care of Creation Challenges that are shared in the Racine Dominican Associates' Friday Night Check-In;
- ❖ Lenten Opportunity Book Marks created by the Associate Crew that help increase awareness of how individual actions can help us care for our Common Home;
- ❖ Laudato Si' Commitments were shared with Sisters, Associates, Staff, family and friends to remind all of us to be mindful of our responsibility and needed commitment to help "Care for Our Common Home" (3/17/23);
- ❖ The Great White Elephant Swap organized by Associates to help repurpose items that would otherwise be thrown away (4/15/23).

Education opportunities:

- ❖ In January, Sisters and Associates across the Dominican Family were invited to discuss via Zoom "Under the Sky We Make: How to Be Human in a Warming World" by Dr. Kimberly Nicholas;
- ❖ During Laudato Si' Week, copies of "Our Common Home: A Guide for Our Living Planet" were distributed to the Community to increase understanding of how we can take action to build a more sustainable and socially just future (4/15/23).

2023 Laudato Si' Assessment Goal 5 ***Ecological Education***

Ecological education was so important that we added educational opportunities to each of our individual goals. You will see education reflected in each area throughout the plan and assessment documents.

2023 Laudato Si' Assessment Goal 6 ***Ecological Spirituality***

Ecological Spirituality invites the Dominican Sisters of Racine, Wisconsin and beyond to move towards a more passionate concern for the protection of our common home and recognize the ecological crisis as an opportunity for conversion. This Goal entailed numerous Education and Prayer opportunities to help us as Community understand the connectedness of spirituality and care for Mother Earth.

Education opportunities included:

- ❖ Christian Tomy, OP presentation on the “Doctrine of Discover (10/15/22);
- ❖ “Honoring the Land: Seventh Generation Earth Ethics” presented by Patty Loew (12/03/22);
- ❖ Dr. Robin Wall Kimmerer’s sharing on “Braiding Sweetgrass, Healing Our Relationships With the Earth (12/18/22);
- ❖ Caring for Our Common Home in Light of the Cosmic Story with Niamh Brennan (6/29/23).

Prayer opportunities included:

- ❖ Lenten Today’s Stations of the Cross presented by the Midwest/Tacoma Dominican Associate Directors and Dominican Sisters Conference that provided reflections on care of creation;
- ❖ Distribution, during Laudato Si’ Week of the “Hope for Humanity Laudato Si’ Prayer Cards” (5/21/23);
- ❖ Journey to the Sacred Places at Siena during Laudato Si’ Week (5/27/23);
- ❖ Celebration of the Season of Creation including the opening and closing liturgies and the Ecumenical Prayer Service and Walk to Celebrate Mother Earth (9/1-10/4/23).

2023 Laudato Si' Assessment Goal 7

Engagement and Participation

Community Engagement and Participation encourages action on behalf of the care of creation at the local, regional, national, and international level. This goal was developed through external collaborations.

Collaborations included:

- ❖ Creating a Food Waste Composting Pilot Proposal for the City of Racine that included Laudato Si' Action Team (LSAT) members (12/28/22), Greening Greater Racine, Unity Racine, and Racine Urban Gardens;
- ❖ LSAT members participate in the Racine Interfaith Coalition's Environmental Task Force to help support solutions that support our Common Home (ongoing);
- ❖ LSAT members work in collaboration with University of Wisconsin Parkside's Environmental Workgroup to identify funding that supports caring for our Common Home (2.13.23);
- ❖ Planned participation in Eco-Fest, that involved numerous ecological partners efforts to encourage a sustainable lifestyle was cancelled due to an untimely winter storm (3/25/23).