

*Racine Dominican  
Laudato Si' Action Team*

# **2025 ACTION PLAN SUMMARY**



*November 1, 2024 - October 31, 2025*

# *Introduction of Goals*



## **Goal 1 - 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 draws on both systemic and individual change activities to achieve progress in this area.

## **Goal 2 - Cry of the Poor**

The Response to the Cry of the Poor 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.

## **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, and prioritizing people and the planet over profit.

## **Goal 4 - Adoption of 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.

## **Goal 5 - Ecological Education**

Ecological Education is about providing information that fosters ecological awareness and transformative actions in the spirit of integral ecology.

## **Goal 6 - Ecological Spirituality**

Ecological Spirituality invites the Dominicans 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 to understand the connectedness of spirituality and care for Mother Earth.

## **Goal 7 - Community Engagement and Participation**

Community Engagement and Participation encourages action on behalf of the care of creation at the local, regional, national, and international level.

# Goals Accomplished



**NOTE:** The numbers following each goal accomplished indicates which Laudato Si' goal(s) was addressed by this action.

November 1-6, 2024	The Advocacy Café display during community meetings featured information on plastics – 1, 2, 4, 5, 7
November 1-21, 2024	Sisters, Associates and staff collected food items to support the Hospitality Center – 2, 7
November 15, 2024	Janet Weyker made a presentation to the Food, Faith and Farming Network in Nashotah, Wisconsin on how the grant for food composting was used. To date, we have diverted 10,234 pounds of compost from landfills – 1, 2, 3, 5, 7
November 2024	An article on the “Global Plastics Treaty” by Fran Hoffman was written for the November Community Connections. Nations will come together for the final round of the Global Plastic Treaty (Nov 25 – Dec 1) negotiations in Busan, South Korea – 1, 2, 3, 5
Advent 2024	The Associates created bookmarks with care for the earth actions for consideration during Advent – 1, 6, 7
Dec 1, 2024 – Jan 11, 2025	Sisters, Associates and staff collected socks, hand warmers and Ramen noodle bowls to support the HOPES Center – 2, 7
December 13, 2024	The Racine Interfaith Coalition (RIC) held their annual banquet. LSAT members Maryann McMahon, Diane Poplawski, Janet Weyker and Mary Ann Weyker attended. Janet and Mary Ann coordinated a booth on Racine composting efforts. The Racine Dominicans were the recipients of the “Outstanding Community Service Legacy” award – 4, 5, 7
December 2024	Members of the LSAT worked on 2024 action plan summary and 2025 goals – 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7  The LSAT collaborated with the Southeast Wisconsin Sierra Club and RIC to sign a statement regarding proposed new gas power plants in Oak

Creek and Kenosha County. A letter stating our concerns was sent to the Public Service Commission and the Department of Natural Resources – **1, 2, 4, 5, 7**

The LSAT invited all to be aware of the Dominican month of Peace in support of Haiti – **1, 2, 7**

**January 2025**

The LSAT held on-going conversations with St. Catherine’s High School, Siena Retreat Center and Ascension regarding composting possibilities – **1, 4, 5, 7**

**January 11, 2025**

The Associates hosted a Sock Hop that closed and celebrated the sock collections for HOPES Center – **2, 7**

**February 2025**

An article entitled “Reducing Dependence on Fossil Fuels” was written for the February Community Connections – **1, 5, 7**

**February 5, 2025**

LSAT member attended and spoke at a press conference and public hearing held in Union Grove, opposing the proposed new methane gas plant for Kenosha – **1, 5, 7**

**February 25, 2025**

LSAT co-chairs met with Associate Director, Mare Wheeler, to discuss possible collaborative projects for the year – **5, 7**

**March 2025**

LSAT collaborated with Midwest Associates Group on bookmarks naming integral ecology actions and acts of mercy. Bookmarks available to all Sisters, Associates and staff during Lent – **1, 4, 5, 7**

**March 5, 2025**

LSAT collaborated with the Land Justice Team to submit a request for an out-of-cycle grant to benefit the Congregation of the Great Spirit in Milwaukee – **2, 7**

**March 7, 2025**

Janet Weyker worked with members of RIC and the Racine Food Waste Compost Committee to present a program about composting at Starbuck School – **1, 4, 5, 7**

**March 12, 2025**

LSAT discussed the possibility of creating a Land Acknowledgement display at Siena Center that would include the donated eagle carving – **7**

**March 13, 2025**

Stations of the Cross in the Lakota tradition were held in the Siena chapel. Fr. Ed Cook led the service and several parishioners from the Congregation of the Great Spirit assisted with ceremonial drumming. Funds collected through a free-will offering were given to the CGS – **6, 7**

- March 25, 2025** LSAT members attended and spoke at a press conference and public hearing to express opposition to the proposed gas plant in Oak Creek – **1, 5, 7**
- April 2025** An article entitled “We Compost Because We Care” was written for the April Community Connections – **1, 5, 7**
- April 2-5, 2025** Advocacy Café display featured information on the dangers of glitter as a harmful microplastic; an article from the Dominican Sisters of Springfield was made available, and Sisters and Associates had the opportunity to sign-on to a letter to Gov. Evers asking that microplastics be included in the list of harmful substances monitored in drinking water – **1, 4, 5, 7**
- April 17, 2025** Siena Maintenance Department invited Melissa Tashjian, founder and president of Compost Crusaders, to present a program about composting for the annual Earth Day education event – **1, 4, 5, 7**
- April 22, 2025** Sisters, Associates and staff gathered to celebrate Earth Day and the annual blessing of the Garden of Eatin’. Fresh compost was made available for spreading on the garden or to add to houseplants – **5, 7**
- April 2025** Sisters, Associates, and staff took part in an origami fish folding effort called “Fish for the Future Project.” Sponsored by the Sierra Club and 10 other environmental partners, the project aimed to educate and protect our Great Lakes from the threat of oil spills likely to occur in the Straits of Mackinac if Enbridge is permitted to build a proposed underground oil pipeline. 2,372 fish were folded in Racine and added to the total of over 86,000 fish that were sent to the decision makers; each fish is an expression of “planet over profit” – **1, 5, 7**
- April 28 – May 19, 2025** Sisters, Associates and staff collected food items to support the Racine Hospitality Center – **2, 7**
- May 2025** Letters and memos were sent to all committees, the Associate office and the Executive Committee to invite and encourage the use of the Land Acknowledgement at meetings and gatherings when possible – **5, 7**
- Research began regarding a display to include the Land Acknowledgement statement and the donated tree-carved eagle – **5, 7**

The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Laudato Si' was celebrated with a display in the lobby. A San Damiano Cross painted by Janet Weyker, a picture of Pope Francis and the Laudato Si' book were on display reminding people of the gift of Laudato Si' by Pope Francis and served as a reminder of the work yet to be done to protect our common home – **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7**

An article was written for the May 5 National Day of Awareness for Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls for the May Community Connections – **2, 5, 7**

**May 5, 2025**

Siena on the Lake in collaboration with Helen Pugh of the Hoy Audubon Society of Racine and the Purple Martin Conservation Association installed a purple martin house on the Siena campus; LSAT was consulted about the location of the birdhouse – **1, 5, 7**

**May 21, 2025**

Sisters Associates and staff were invited to gather for an update from Janet Weyker on the Enbridge Line 5 proposal. All were invited to fold and decorate origami fish to serve as symbols objecting to Line 5. The goal of the Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota Fish for the Future Project was to collect and deliver the origami fish to State officials – **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7**

**May 24 – May 31, 2025**

In collaboration with Kyla Mrazek, the Communications Director, a Social Media Plan was developed for daily postings on Facebook during Laudato Si' Week – **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7**

**May 31, 2025**

Pilgrims of Hope Celebration of Mother Earth event. Sisters, Associates and staff were invited to attend. A remembrance handout with suggestions for care of water / care of earth / mindful eating was distributed to participants. It is hoped that these suggestions will invite people to renew their commitment to actions – **1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7**

**June 2025**

An article on Mileage Awareness was written for June Community Connections – **5, 7**

The First Baptist Church on the south side of Racine was approached about becoming a drop-off site for food waste composting – **5, 7**

**June 15-18, 2025**

The Advocacy Café display featured information on the "Rights of Nature." Sisters and Associates had the opportunity to sign a letter to Gov. Evers and Senator Tammy Baldwin encouraging their support for the "Rights of Nature." – **1, 2, 5, 7**

A drawing was held for door prizes, which included a felted mushroom by Janet Weyker and a copy of the book *The Serviceberry* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. During the assembly, a compost bucket was made available for use and a sign was posted on the water fountain calling attention to how many plastic water bottles have been saved to date by using the fountain – **1, 2, 3, 5, 7**

**July 2025**

Planning began for the Ecumenical celebration of the *Season of Creation* (September 1 – October 4) to be held at Siena on October 4 in collaboration with RIC – **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7**

Ongoing research regarding possible outside signage for a Land Acknowledgement on campus continued and meetings were held with Fast Signs, Siena on the Lake, the Communications Office and Maintenance staff – **5, 6, 7**

**July 7-25, 2025**

Sisters, Associates and Staff collected school supplies to support students at the Congregation of the Great Spirit. The collection concluded on July 25. Donated supplies helped to fill 160 new backpacks with school supplies – **2, 7**

**July 12, 2025**

A representative from Calvert provided an educational program on “Socially Responsible Investments” via Zoom for Associates. Sisters were also invited to attend – **3, 7**

Several members of LSAT attended the celebration event held at Milwaukee’s Urban Ecology Center where the record-breaking 86,262 origami fish were displayed; each fish represented a voice calling for the protection of our Great Lakes and objecting to Enbridge Line 5 – **1, 7**

**July 15, 2025**

Sharon Simon and Janet Weyker were invited to attend and give a presentation about the Food Waste Composting program at a “cluster” meeting of eight Catholic parishes at Sacred Heart Church – **1, 4, 5**

**August, 2025**

An article entitled “Plastic Reduction” was written for the August Community Connections – **1, 4, 5, 7**

**September, 2025**

A note in the September Community Connections reported the success of the school supply drive to support students at the Congregation of the Great Spirit. Donations contributed to the distribution of 160+ backpacks filled with school supplies. Cash donations helped purchase additional needed school supplies – **4, 7**

**Sept. 1 – Oct. 4, 2025**

The Season of Creation was celebrated with a display in the back of chapel. Each week, pictures and quotes from front-runners in the struggle of creation were featured. They included: Aldo Leopold, John Muir, Rachel Carson and Jane Goodall. Information was also included in the weekly liturgy program. Collin Flesch created a display focusing on the theme “Peace with Creation” and it was on display in the front of Siena Chapel – **1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7**

**September 21, 2025**

A white elephant exchange co-sponsored by the Associate Office, Justice Team and LSAT took place – **4**

**September 24, 2025**

A Zoom presentation and discussion entitled “From Debt to Hope” with Tim Hall was held to show the connection between debt relief and care of creation. The event was co-sponsored by the LSAT and the Justice Team – **4, 7**

**September 30, 2025**

A note was posted at Siena to remind people to wear ORANGE on September 30 for the National Day of Remembrance for Boarding School Survivors and those that didn’t Survive – **7**

**October 2025**

Notes in the October Community Connections invited people to make use of the 5calls.org and to be conscious of Indigenous Peoples’ Day on October 13<sup>th</sup> (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of October). Information was also posted on the bulletin board at Siena – **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7**

Sisters and Associates in southeastern Wisconsin were alerted to programs sponsored by the Racine Public Library related to Indigenous rights, the environment and Line 5. The Documentary film, “Bad River” was also shown – **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7**

**October 4, 2025**

An Ecumenical Prayer Service was held at Siena to mark the closing of the 2025 Season of Creation. Participants had the opportunity to sign letters to legislators asking for debt relief for poor countries and to make financial donations for Haitian hunger relief. The event was co-sponsored by the LSAT and the RIC Environmental Justice Task Force. – **1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7**

Continued practice of “Leave the Leaves” – **1, 4**

# *Collaborations*



Racine Dominican Justice Team  
Racine Dominican Associates, Sisters and Staff  
Racine Dominican Finance Office  
Siena on the Lake (SOTL)  
Land Justice Futures Team  
Racine Interfaith Coalition (RIC)  
Racine Interfaith Coalition (RIC) Environmental Justice Task Force  
Racine Urban Garden Network  
Compost Crusaders  
North Pointe United Methodist Church  
Christ Church United Methodist  
Sierra Club  
Unity Racine  
350.org  
Great Lakes Community Conservation Corps  
Dominican Leadership Conference (DLC)  
Dominican Sisters Conference (DSC)  
HOPES Center  
Hospitality Center  
HALO  
Congregation of the Great Spirit  
Wisconsin for Environmental Justice  
Midwest Dominican Associate Group  
Sinsinawa Dominicans  
Springfield Dominicans  
Hoy Audubon Society and the Purple Martin Conservation Association  
The Purple Martin Nesting Project  
5Calls.org



## ***RACINE DOMINICAN LAUDATO SI' ACTION TEAM***

Kathleen Bohn, OP

Fran Hoffman, OP

Associate Gail Jacobsen

Maryann McMahon, OP (Executive Committee Liaison)

Diane Poplawski OP (Co-chair)

Sharon Simon, OP

Janet Weyker, OP (Co-chair)

Mary Ann Weyker, OP