



Laudato Si' **2024 Action Plan Summary**

November 2023 - October 2024



LAUDATO SI'
Action Platform

*"The world sings of an infinite Love:
how can we fail to care for it?" (LD 65)*

— Pope Francis

Introduction

On November 14, 2022, we, the Dominican Sisters and Associates of Racine, made our Public Commitment to the seven-year Laudato Si' Action Platform. One of the requirements of that commitment is to submit an Action Plan each year that outlines the areas that will be the focus of our work. Our third Action Plan began in November of 2023 and will end on October 4, 2024.

In October of 2024, we will begin the work of assessing our progress in each of the Laudato Si' Goal areas over the past year and share that with the Community. We will then develop an updated plan, based on the October 2024 assessment. Upon completion, we will share the plan with the Community. This process will be ongoing throughout our seven-year commitment. This year's plan engages the participation of many people in and outside of our Community as we work towards building a better future for both people and our common home. As you review this plan, we ask that each of you think about how you choose to make a difference in building this future.

This Summary provides you with the actions identified for the 2023-2024 Action Plan in each of the Laudato Si' Goal areas:

Goal 1 - Cry of the Earth

Goal 2 - Cry of the Poor

Goal 3 - Ecological Economics

Goal 4 - Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

Goal 5 - Ecological Education

Goal 6 - Ecological Spirituality

Goal 7 - Community Engagement and Participation

Please send inquiries about the Summary to dcjr@racinedominicans.org



Goal 1 – Response to the Cry of the Earth

Please keep this question in mind as you read the following objective:

How do my actions help or hurt planet 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.

Action Initiatives:

- Reduction of plastic usage at Siena and in our lives, eliminate the use of Styrofoam, support the Break Free From Plastic Pollution Initiative;
- Reactivation of food waste composting at Siena;
- Presentation by John's Disposal on recycling process;
- Rejuvenation / protection of the ecosystem on the Siena Campus;
- Exploration of renewable energy resources on the Siena Campus to include installation of LED lighting on the Siena Campus;
- Earth Day Presentation 2024 (4/22/24).

Continuation of:

- Development of Food Waste Pilot Program for the City of Racine and North Pointe United Methodist Church, Racine; including education regarding benefits of composting;
- The "No Mow May" and "Leave the Leaves" initiatives;
- Mileage Awareness Pilot Program;
- Blessing of soil and Garden of Eatin'.



Goal 2 – Response to the Cry of the Poor

Please keep this question in mind as you read the following objective:

How do my actions show compassion for 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.

Action Initiatives:

- Advocacy towards improved conditions during solitary confinement;
- Increased understanding of how individuals who are BIPOC are impacted by the food system including food deserts in the City of Racine;
- Associate & Sister Monthly Meeting to include Lea Koesterer “Right in Front of Our Faces” (Gaza) (February 10, 2024);
- Dominican Month for Peace focus on Amazonia (Lent 2024);
- Building Community Series to include: Elena Segura, Pastoral Migratoria, Jeffery Willis, Ukraine Catholic University, Corey Brost, CSV, Viator House;
- Evicted book study (April 2024);
- “Mass Poor People’s & Low Wages Workers’ State House Assemblies” (Madison, WI (3/2/24);
- Speaker regarding opposition to the Enbridge, Inc.’s Line 5 oil and gas pipeline from a representative of Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa;
- “Take Heart Project” – memorial for children’s lives taken by the Gaza war;
- Prayer for our Country: invitation for Community members, family, friends and citizens to pray for our country at this time, especially regarding the November 2024 election.

Continuation of:

- Justice Team’s Advent Food Drive for the Hospitality Center of Racine and Lenten Food and Clothing Drive for the Congregation of the Great Spirit;
- Land Justice Racial History Assessment;
- Housing for All Advocacy Group.



Goal 3 – Ecological Economics

Please keep this question in mind as you read the following objective:
How do my actions show ethical and financial consideration beyond myself?

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, supporting sustainable energy systems and prioritizing people and the planet over profit.

Action Initiatives:

- Finance staff members participating in Faith Invests' Faithful Finance: An Introduction to Aligning your Investments with Faith Values four-part seminar (2/24 -3/24);
- Participation in educational opportunities through the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ongoing);
- Update on the 2024 Racine Dominican Mission Grant Program in collaboration with Forward Community Investments;
- Encourage the usage of the Sustainable Purchasing Standards for Siena Campus.

Continuation of:

- Monitoring of investment in fossil fuel industry and renewable energy through on-going communication with the Finance office.



Goal 4 – Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

Please keep this question in mind as you read the following objective:

How do my actions show a commitment to sustainability?

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.

Continuation of:

- Advent book marks that include Care of Creation actions;
- Weekly Care of Creation Challenges that are shared in the Racine Dominican Associates' Friday Night Check-In;
- Laudato Si' Commitments renewal;
- The Great White Elephant Swap organized by Associates to help repurpose items that would otherwise be thrown away;
- Celebration of Laudato Si' Week 2024 May 19 – May 26.



Goal 5 – Ecological Education

Please keep this question in mind as you read the following objective:
How do my actions show a commitment to furthering my ecological education?

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

Action Initiatives:

- Associate & Sister Monthly Meeting to include Lea Koesterer “Right in Front of Our Faces (Gaza)” (February 10, 2024);
- Dominican Month for Peace focus on Amazonia (Lent 2024);
- Faithful Finance: An Introduction to Aligning your Investments with Faith Values four-part seminar (2/24 -3/24);
- Break Free From Plastics Advocacy/Education (April 2024);
- Evicted Book Study (April 2024);
- Blue Paradox Exhibit (Fall 2024);
- Benefits of Composting education (May 2024);
- Presentation by John’s Disposal on recycling process;
- Participation in educational opportunities through the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ongoing).

Continuation of:

- Advent book marks that include Care of Creation actions;
- Weekly Care of Creation Challenges that are shared in the Racine Dominican Associates’ Friday Night Check-In;
- Laudato Si’ Commitments renewal;
- The Great White Elephant Swap organized by Associates to help repurpose items that would otherwise be thrown away;
- Save the Soil Day 2024;
- No Mow May Education;
- Celebration of Laudato Si’ Week 2024 May 19 – May 26;
- Leave the Leaves education.



Goal 6 – Ecological Spirituality

Please keep this question in mind as you read the following objective:

*How do my actions show an understanding of the
connectedness of spirituality and our planet?*

Ecological Spirituality invites the Dominican Sisters and Associates of Racine 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.

Action Initiatives:

- “The Wild and The Sacred: Earth Speaks...We Listen”, Dr. Niamh Brennan (January 26, 2024);
- “Laudate Deum: A Dominican Perspective”, S. Sharon Zayac, OP (February 17, 2024);
- “Stations of the Cross in the Lakota Tradition”, Fr. Ed Cook (February 22, 2024);
- Spring Gathering: Morning Prayer including Laudato Si’ Commitment reflection process and closing blessing.

Continuation of:

- Advent book marks that include care of creation actions;
- Laudato Si’ Commitments Renewal;
- Laudato Si’ Week (May 2024);
- Distribution of the Laudato Si’ Movement’s Monthly Prayer Guide;
- “Walk for Mother Earth” (Spring 2024);
- “Ecumenical Walk to Sacred Spaces” (Fall 2024);
- Season of Creation celebration 2024.



Goal 7 – Community Engagement and Participation

Please keep this question in mind as you read the following objective:

How do my actions show my commitment to encouraging community participation in ecological issues?

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

Action Initiatives:

- Interactive Climate Crisis Displays in the Siena reception area for Sisters, Associates, employees, and visitors. (Jan. & Feb. 2024)

Continuation of:

- Creating a Food Waste Composting Pilot Program for the City of Racine that included Laudato Si' Action Team (LSAT) members, Unity Racine, Racine Urban Gardens, Racine Interfaith Coalition, and North Pointe United Methodist Church;
- Racine Interfaith Coalition Environmental Task Force participation.



Notes and Suggestions

