



**Laudato Si'**  
**2022 Action Plan Summary**  
April – October 4, 2022



**LAUDATO SI'**  
Action Platform

*"The call to participate in God's  
Dream for our Earth community."*

*— Pope Francis*

# *Introduction*

On November 14, 2022, our Racine Dominican Community of Sisters and Associates made their 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 first Action Plan will begin in April 2022 and end on October 4, 2022.

In September of 2022, we will submit an evaluation of our progress in the identified areas. Subsequently, for each of the remaining years of our seven-year commitment, we will submit an updated plan in November and will then complete a progress review for that plan the following September.

This Summary provides you with the objectives identified for the first Action Plan and the action steps for each of these objectives. The five objectives for 2022 are:

*Objective 1 - Composting*

*Objective 2 - Plastic Reduction*

*Objective 3 - Rebuilding Relationships*

*Objective 4 - Renewable Energy*

*Objective 5 - Sustainable Investing*

Inquiries about the Summary or the Action Plan can be sent to Ann Pratt, OP, Laudato Si' Promoter at [dcjr@racinedominicans.org](mailto:dcjr@racinedominicans.org).



# Objective 1 – Composting

Please keep this question in mind as you read the following objective:  
*How does my personal commitment to composting change the world we live in?*

## **Objective 1**

To reinstate composting at Siena Center.

## **Guide**

Ruth Schaaf

## **Action Steps**

- A. Identify and become familiar with the composting options available in Racine County;
- B. Provide educational fact sheets that provide information regarding benefits of composting to the Siena Campus entities and Sisters and Associates;
- C. Gain understanding of the history of the composting program at Siena;
- D. Develop a planning team to move composting forward at Siena;
- E. Initiate plan for moving forward with composting on the Siena Center Campus;
- F. Continue moving composting forward
- G. Assess progress on this objective and develop 2022/2023 Action Steps.



## Objective 2 – Plastic Reduction

Please keep this question in mind as you read the following objective:  
*How does my choice to create as little waste as possible impact the climate crisis?*

### **Objective 2**

To explore plastic usage at the Siena Campus and local Racine Dominican residences and identify ways that increasing the implementation of the five guiding principles for reducing waste: refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle, rot, can be encouraged.

### **Guide**

Ann Pratt

### **Action Steps**

- A. Determine which entities housed on the Siena Campus and which RD local communities would be willing to collaborate in the exploration of plastic reduction and identify a contact person in each area for further action;
- B. Survey measures currently in use to reduce plastic and assess impact of this reduction;
- C. Identify educational and promotional strategies that would aid the decrease in plastic usage for use during the 2022 Season of Creation;
- D. Identify possible priority focus areas and strategies that will contribute to the reduction of plastic usage;
- E. Distribute educational and promotional strategies for the Season of Creation;
- F. Assess progress on this objective and develop 2022/2023 Action Steps.



## Objective 3 – Rebuilding Relationships

Please keep this question in mind as you read the following objective:  
*How do I need to transform my heart and mind towards a greater love of God, each other, and creation in light of the interconnection and interdependence we share with all of creation?*

### **Objective 3**

To invite our Community to deepen their ecological spirituality and education.

### **Guide**

Diane Poplawski

### **Action Steps**

- A. Apply for a Call To Action Seed Grant that addresses power and privilege through anti-racist and anti-oppressive lenses and uplifts marginalized people or communities;
- B. Explore engaging Christin Tomy, OP to share her presentation on the "Doctrine of Discovery" as a learning opportunity in the fall of 2022 and finalize these arrangements;
- C. Explore engaging Patty Loew (Bad River Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe) to share her presentation on "Seventh Generation Earth Ethics: Native Voice's in Wisconsin" as a learning opportunity in the fall of 2022 and finalize these arrangements;
- D. Apply for a Victory Knoll Grant Sisters Small Grants Program 2022 to support speaker engagement;
- E. Write articles for Community Connections and provide Sunday Worship Aid Handouts and evaluate their educational effectiveness;
- F. View "For All The Earth: Integrating Charism, Mission & Care of Creation," Sessions I & II presentation by Laurie Brink, OP;
- G. Provide graduates of the Nuns and Nones Spring Land Justice course with a one day Immersion Experience on a working farm operated by a person of color. Participants will explore land transitions that protect land and extend equity, access, and/or tenure to new stewards;
- H. Assess progress on this objective and develop 2022/2023 Action Steps.



# Objective 4 – Renewable Energy

Please keep this question in mind as you read the following objective:  
*Am I willing to reduce my energy use to decrease our dependence on fossil fuels?*

## **Objective 4**

To explore further decreasing the carbon footprint of the Siena Center Campus by employing additional use of renewable energy.

## **Guide**

Fran Hoffman

## **Action Steps**

- A. Explore whether the Siena Center Campus has had a recent energy audit. If not, request that one be completed;
- B. Using the results of the energy audit, determine the sources currently in use for heating, cooling, and lighting etc. For each entity on the Campus;
- C. Provide educational fact sheets detailing best practices for energy management and energy efficiency to the Siena Campus entities and Sisters and Associates;
- D. Based on the data gathered, identify which Siena Center Campus entities would be willing to collaborate in exploring the use of renewable energy resources;
- E. Identify current energy consumption for (by source of energy) each of the entities who choose to collaborate and determine carbon footprint of these sources;
- F. Explore possible alternative renewable energy resources that could be used with current energy sources to move towards decreasing the carbon footprint of the Siena Campus;
- G. Draft a renewable energy plan for collaborating entities that would decrease the carbon foot print of the Campus;
- H. Assess progress on this objective and develop 2022/2023 Action Steps.



# Objective 5 – Sustainable Investing

Please keep this question in mind as you read the following objective:  
*What understanding do I have of how sustainable investment practices support positive societal (environmental and social) impacts?*

## **Objective 5**

To review our investment policies and screens to ensure that investments are ethical, sustainable, prioritize divesting from fossil fuels and investing in more renewable energy resources.

## **Guide**

Janet Weyker

## **Action Steps**

- A. Examine current investment policies and screening criteria and the process for their development using positive environmental, social, and governance (ESG) screening;
- B. Obtain information regarding current investments in fossil fuel and sustainable related businesses;
- C. Provide educational fact sheets detailing best practices for ethical and sustainable investments to Sisters and Associates;
- D. Provide information about current policies and screens including process for their development with LSAT;
- E. Identify ways to increase the Community's understanding of current policies and screens;
- F. Continue increasing the Community's understanding of current policies and screens;
- G. Assess progress on this objective and develop 2022/2023 Action Steps.



# *Notes and Suggestions*

