

The Laudato Si Action Platform



At a May 25 press conference, the Vatican introduced the Laudato Si' Action Platform. It is an ambitious churchwide initiative in the spirit of Francis' 2015 encyclical, "Laudato Si', on Care for Our Common Home," which emphasizes integral ecology. Pope Francis has told us that we face a “complex crisis that is both social and environmental.” He assures us that there is hope. Pope Francis calls us to develop a “loving awareness” of this home we share and to act on the values we hold dear.

The Laudato Si Action Platform outlines seven categories of sustainability goals in the spirit of Care for Our Common Home. Discerning a response to the ecological crisis of our day is a profound act of care. **At this kairos moment, action is needed.** The Laudato Si' Goals guide our actions. Let's take a brief look at each of these goals and some actions that could be undertaken.

- **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.**

Actions could include the adoption of renewable energies, achieving carbon neutrality, protecting biodiversity, promoting sustainable agriculture, and guaranteeing access to clean water for all.

- **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.**

Actions could include projects to promote solidarity, with special attention given to vulnerable groups such as indigenous communities, refugees, migrants, and children at risk, analysis and improvement of social systems, and social service programmes

- **Ecological Economics acknowledges that the economy is a sub-system of human society, which itself is embedded within the biosphere—our common home.**

Actions could include sustainable production and consumption, ethical investments, divestment from fossil fuels and any activity harmful to the planet, supporting circular economies, and protecting the dignity of workers.

- **The Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles is grounded in the idea of sufficiency, and promoting sobriety in the use of resources and energy.**

Actions could include reducing waste and recycling, adopting sustainable dietary habits, greater use of public transport, active mobility (walking, cycling), and avoiding single use items (e.g. plastic, etc.).

- **Ecological Education is about re-thinking and re-designing curricular and institutional reform in the spirit of integral ecology in order to foster ecological awareness and transformative action.**

Actions could include ensuring equitable access to education, promoting human rights, fostering Laudato Si themes, encouraging ecological leadership, and ecological restoration activities

- **Ecological Spirituality recovers a religious vision of God's creation and encourages greater contact with the natural world in a spirit of wonder, praise, joy and gratitude.**

Actions could include promoting creation-centered liturgical celebrations, developing ecological catechesis, retreats and formation programmes, and praying in nature.

- **Community Engagement and Participatory Action encourage the development of cultures and policies that protect our common home and all who share it.**

Actions could include promoting advocacy and developing people's campaigns, engagement with decision-makers, and encouraging rootedness and a sense of belonging in local communities and neighborhood ecosystems.

We are being invited on a journey!

Invited to make a commitment to transformation for the sake of our planet! This commitment will be public, and part of a larger whole as we join with the universal church in this endeavor.

Our Ursuline journey will be grounded in Angela and our charism and certainly will be rooted in the roadmaps that have been developed by our general chapter and which we are fleshing out in our provinces.

We will begin by looking at what we are already doing. Then we will move on to new action steps.....always keeping it simple, flexible and life giving.



This is not meant to be an added burden but rather **a way to live out our care for our common home.**

As we move into this journey, we will make a public commitment as Roman Union Ursulines of the USA. We will brainstorm and choose doable actions to realize the 7 goals outlines above, and we will have opportunities to network and advocate within our three provinces and across the world.

Religious Orders are only one group that will be involved in this ecological transformation. We will be joined by families, parishes and dioceses, hospitals and health care centers, schools and universities, as well as businesses and farms. Our efforts and actions steps may well overlap many of these, as we all join in this journey of care for our common home.

Pope Francis is looking to religious women and men in our prophetic vocation---- to lead the way in this endeavor for the good of all peoples and all creatures of the earth.

This is not a new journey for us, as we have been traveling this path for many years and our last general chapter called us specifically **“to choose care of our common home as the mindset that pervades all of our decisions, behaviors and actions”**.

The JPIC team has been asked by leadership to guide our journey. Our next steps will be to take a look at what we are already doing in the care of creation. At the close of the Season of Creation in the fall, hopefully we will be ready to make a public commitment and then develop new action steps.

