



1922 100 YEARS IN ORANGE 2022

LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLAN

PREAMBLE

We, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, respond to Pope Francis's call to *take to heart the need for an ecological conversion*¹ and commit ourselves to *be instruments of God for the care of the whole of creation*²—concern for nature, justice for the poor and commitment for a just society.

As in the words of Pope Francis, *ecological conversion can inspire us to greater creativity and enthusiasm*.³ In this spirit we, as a Congregation have come together with people of like-heart to reflect, discern and have conversations on how best we can personally and collectively respond to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor that would frame a Laudato Si' Action Plan.

From everyone's responses we chose WATER as our primary focus. Our Action Plan, based on the 7 Laudato Si' Goals, reflects our commitment to the whole of creation.



¹ Laudato Si', 216-221

² Laudato Si', 14

³ Laudato Si', 220



Goal 1

RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE EARTH

GOAL:

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.

STRATEGY:

Implement a plan that impels us to protect water for the sustainability of our Mother Earth.

ACTIONS:

1. Challenge ourselves to listen, learn and act on “environmental issues” that affect Mother Earth.
2. Protect our waterways, rivers and oceans from hazardous materials: (e.g.) plastics, toxic dumping, unsafe chemicals, etc.
3. Commit to purchase bio-degradable and non-hazardous household goods to promote health and protection of Mother Earth.
4. Work with landscapers to protect biodiversity at St. Joseph Center and CSJ local houses by planting drought-resistant native trees, plants and succulents.
5. Educate ourselves on the purchase of water saving devices and products that conserve water for our homes and St. Joseph Center.



Goal 2

RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE POOR

GOAL:

The response to the Cry of the Poor is a call to promote ecological justice, aware that we are called to defend human life from conception to death, and all forms of life on Earth.

STRATEGY:

Adopt a collective plan that addresses water conservation and access to clean water for all.

ACTIONS:

1. Advocate, collaborate and support organizations that give special attention to vulnerable groups and their water needs.
2. Advocate and support organizations who use part of their revenue to bring sanitation to poor areas of our world and neighborhoods, thus improving health for children and families.
3. Be a clear, persistent and outspoken voice/advocate for programs and action plans that promote clean water for everyone, especially the poor and vulnerable.
4. Sign petitions and lend our corporate name to advocacy groups who stand against the environmental control of water in poor neighborhoods and countries.
5. Identify and challenge corporations/companies whose harmful water policies and practices negatively impact the Earth and the poor.
6. Research and assist organizations that are fighting racism in places of the world and within the U.S. where government or corporations control the use of water that contribute to scarcity.
7. Contribute monetarily to the digging of wells in poor countries, and where possible help advocate for access to toilets and sewer lines in remote or poor areas.
8. Walk in solidarity and collaboratively advocate for the *Dear Neighbor* by giving time, money and care in times of economic needs.



Goal 3

ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS

GOAL:

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

STRATEGY 1:

Socially responsible investing (SRI) as an on-going reality.

ACTIONS:

1. Continue to invest with Christian Brothers Investment Services (CBIS) faithful to the moral and Social Teachings of the Catholic Church.
2. Invest in eco-friendly “green” corporations/companies that demonstrate a commitment to an environmentally sustainable future.
3. Invest in corporations/companies that can be influenced to create and maintain sustainable water practices.

STRATEGY 2:

Allocation of funds for water and energy saving appliances.

ACTIONS:

1. Evaluate existing appliances for water and energy consumption.
2. Replace appliances as needed to reduce water and energy consumption.
3. Monitor monthly water and energy usage to determine consumption level.

STRATEGY 3:

Allocation of funds for adequate water filters for health benefits.

ACTIONS:

1. Evaluate existing water filtering systems for water quality.
2. Install or replace adequate filtering systems as needed to promote good health.



Goal 4

ADOPTION OF SIMPLE LIFESTYLES

GOAL:

Adoption of Simple Lifestyles is grounded in the idea of sufficiency, and promoting sobriety (*moderation*) in the use of resources and energy.

STRATEGY 1:

Decrease water consumption where we live and work.

ACTIONS:

1. Track water usage through the monthly water bill.
2. Determine water and energy efficiency of all home appliances, showers, and outdoor sprinklers.
3. Have regular conversations where we live and work about conservation of water practices.
4. Collect excess water in basins to water plants and garden.
5. Collaborate with gardeners for sustainable gardening practices and use of water, including the planting of drought-resistant trees and plants.
6. Take personal responsibility to decrease water usage in daily personal hygiene, kitchen and laundry.

STRATEGY 2:

Moderation concerning the use of water resources.

ACTIONS:

1. Conserve water by taking fewer or shorter showers; turning off water while washing hands and brushing teeth; using dishwasher as necessary and only when full; doing full loads of laundry.
2. Eliminate the use of bottled water by using filtered tap water for drinking, washing fruits and vegetables and cooking, as well as promoting good health.



Goal 5

ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION

GOAL:

Ecological Education is about re-thinking and re-designing curricula and institutional reform in the spirit of integral ecology in order to foster ecological awareness and transformative action, *promoting the ecological vocation of young people, teachers, and leaders in education.*

STRATEGY 1:

Education and action about global water crisis.

ACTIONS:

1. Educate on how usage of water affects others.
2. Examine criteria from the CSJ Educational Network for schools to educate children*.
3. Educate and motivate on the value of protecting fresh and salt water bodies.
4. Educate to boycott brands impacting climate and join with others.
5. Educate the Congregation about companies that distribute water to understand fair practices.
6. Get education on the desalination of ocean water.
7. Research and identify which organizations are making the biggest impact when it comes to water consumption.

STRATEGY 2:

Education and action about local water crisis.

ACTIONS:

1. Educate and learn of local businesses and practices by Congregation (water waste).
2. Educate the Congregation about water issues in our local area through the Orange County Water District Office.
3. Learn about corporations and companies that address food waste.
4. Education on how the usage of water affects others.
5. Bring awareness to public of high levels of lead content of water.
6. Awareness of water saving practices.

STRATEGY 3:

Education and action on how to reduce water locally.

ACTIONS:

1. Educate to be responsible with H₂O usage, showering, laundry.
2. Knowing and following municipal guidelines for water usage (days/hours).
3. Educate and evaluate the Congregation on appliances when buying new ones.
4. Educate on landscaping practices concerning water usage and the care of plants.



Goal 6

ECOLOGICAL SPIRITUALITY

GOAL:

Ecological Spirituality springs from a profound ecological conversion and helps us to “discover God in all things”, both in the beauty of creation and in the sighs of the sick and the groans of the afflicted, aware that the life of the spirit is not dissociated from worldly realities.

STRATEGY:

Ecological conversion through the action of prayer and contemplation that permeates and motivates all we say and do.

ACTIONS:

1. Commit to personally set aside time to walk, gaze, stare, be quiet in nature, recognizing and celebrating that *the world is a joyful mystery to be contemplated with gladness and praise.*¹
2. Take time to see Mother Earth, our Common Home, as sacred, *recognizing that we are profoundly united with every creature,*² and seeking a deeper sense of connection with all of life.
3. Give praise and thanks to God for the gift of Sister Water that sustains all life, and pray for all our brothers and sisters who are the most impacted by water shortages and floods.
4. Open our hearts to find God in all things, both in beauty and in suffering, as we listen and respond to the cry of the earth, the cry of the poor and the cry of the children and future generations.
5. Make discernment an integral part of our conversations and actions as we search for water and energy related best practices for a more sustainable future.
6. Celebrate God’s creation and bring to heart and prayer the needs of our beautiful yet wounded world in our liturgies, prayer services, community and congregation gatherings, and publications.
7. Join and participate in world celebrations, such as World Water Day, Earth Day, the Season of Creation, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi by creating and sharing creation-centered liturgies, prayer services and reflections.

¹ Pope Francis, *Laudato Si’*

² Pope Francis, *Laudato Si’*



Goal 7

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATORY ACTION

GOAL:

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

STRATEGY 1:

Connections with diverse groups and organizations on water issues.

ACTIONS:

1. Contribute, partner with and support organizations that conserve and recycle water.
2. Work in partnership with local groups and other faith traditions that advocate for the conservation of water.
3. Connect with other Religious Congregations to work together in reducing water usage by 25%.

STRATEGY 2:

Connections with the Civic Community on water conservation.

ACTIONS:

1. Collaborate with county and state to bring awareness on what is water conservation and why it is necessary.
2. Petition public officials and candidates to work towards water conservation.
3. Educate, promote and advocate for water issues and conservation through social media.
4. Be aware and vote for propositions that support water conservation.
5. Research and bring awareness to the public about high levels of lead content in drinking water.
6. Pressure local, statewide, national and international agencies to do more in purifying drinking water.

STRATEGY 3:

Promotion of water conservation.

ACTIONS:

1. Use social media to educate, promote and advocate for water conservation.
2. Give practical and creative ideas to reduce water in CSJ Today, CSJ Website and publications.