

As Franciscans, living the Gospel and trusting in God's providence, we strive to practice hospitality as reflected in our care for every person and care for all creation.



Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi Vision Statement
2023 General Chapter





Open to transformation as our Vision Statement is lived out, the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi commit to a formal personal and communal response, as we are able, to a seven-year journey as part of the global Laudato Si' Action Platform.

In Laudato Si', Pope Francis calls us to cooperate as interdependent members of God's universe. "Because all creatures are connected, each must be cherished with love and respect, for all of us as living creatures are dependent on one another" (Paragraph 42).

This is an ongoing collaborative process as we celebrate the journey towards Integral Ecology and hereby renew publicly our congregational commitment to reduce our impact on the environment, to care for people on the margins of society, and to care for all God's creation. This is at the core of our Franciscan identity.

SPOTLIGHT

Our longstanding seed-to-soil-to-table-to-compost practice, including the gardens, beehives, orchard, and grape arbor touch on multiple goals:

-  Response to the Cry of the Earth
-  Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles
-  Ecological Economics
-  Community Resilience and Empowerment

Convent land is sustainably used in a circular economy based on reuse and regeneration of Earth's resources. Sisters and community volunteers known as Habitat Healers participate in each step of this process.

Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi Laudato Si' Action Platform Year 1 Goals August 1, 2023-July 31, 2024

Response to the Cry of the Poor

Continue resident Sisters' hands-on ministry providing homemade food to serve people in poverty, experiencing homelessness, or healing from sex trafficking. As possible, invite non-resident Sisters, Associates and staff to participate.

In collaboration with LCWR-9 congregations, fund an awareness/information campaign about human trafficking in northern Wisconsin.

Continue developing a bird sanctuary on convent grounds using home-grown gourds to provide nesting habitats for small birds and repurposed lawn signs to establish colonies for purple martins.

Form a committee to explore the feasibility of installing solar panels on convent buildings.

Response to the Cry of the Earth

Ecological Education

Justice and Peace livestream programs are on the fourth Monday of each month. These will continue to feature Laudato Si' content and connections including guest speakers with expertise on ecological issues and/or whose work focuses on specific goal areas.

Begin a resident Sister-led Laudato Si' book study group.

Ecological Economics

Animate Sisters and Associates to contact their legislators urging support of funding aid to farmers, to food programs, and to protect the environment.

Ecological Spirituality

Expand offerings for Sisters and Associates to pray with and in God's creation through Justice and Peace livestreams, Season of Creation, pilgrimages, and outdoor prayer services.

In preparation for September 21 International Day of Peace, refurbish the peace pole on convent grounds and include a land acknowledgment in the 2023 celebration.

Adopt Sustainable Lifestyles

Form a committee of resident Sisters to research sustainable practices in convent food service, housekeeping, and nursing, and write proposals before meeting with the Administrator and appropriate department heads for implementation.

The Office of Justice and Peace maintains ongoing interaction with local, state, and federal representatives and advocates for legislation to support people in poverty, immigrants, refugees and climate justice. Continue to inform the community about legislation, its impact and, as possible, include Sisters and Associates in sign-on and letter-writing campaigns.

Community Resilience and Empowerment