

## LAUDATO SI ACTION PLATFORM

### YEAR 4 UPDATE

In 2021 we responded to a call from Pope Francis who holds a vision of forming a global community dedicated to integral ecology and healing of our common home. He calls us all to a new consciousness and personal and congregational conversion. We will not lose hope but will continue on this pilgrimage with positive steps for future life.

We have come to the end of Year 4 of the Laudato Si Action Platform. Our update follows:



#### **Goal #1: We hear the cry of the Earth**

Columbus and Kentucky Motherhouses are 95% transitioned to LED lighting. Great Bend Motherhouse still has most of the bedrooms to transition due to tornado recovery from the July 16, 2024 storm. New roofs have been put on every building in Great Bend.

Kentucky Motherhouse replaced Air Conditioning units with more energy efficient models.

Motherhouse grounds use none to minimal weed control on grounds which promotes more bio-diverse growth.

Shepherd's Corner completed restoration of wetland and planting of native vegetation.

For the past three years, the congregation has been divested of fossil fuel extraction.

Joe Scott wisely updated our fleet before Covid, so we have purchased fewer cars in the past three years. With 2 fully electric vehicles and 21 hybrids out of our total of 181 vehicles our percentage of hybrid/electric vehicles is now at 13%. Each of us can evaluate the amount of driving we do and how to combine and reduce travel. Caritas submits a report on carbon emissions for each of our vehicles at the end of the year. We are also aware that every plane trip impacts the effect of carbon emission on climate.

### **Goal #2: We hear the Cry of the Poor**

Our outreach ministry through our Learning Centers and Martin de Porres Center continue to provide information, education, guidance and assistance to our immigrant and low-income communities.

Our Ecological Centers provide organic food to food pantries.

Martin de Porres has done Strategic Planning to build peace, strengthen community relationships, and develop skills in conflict management.

Both Sisters and Associates extend ministry and prayer to those suffering.

### **Goal #3: Ecological Economics**

We continue to monitor investments with our social screens.

We continue to review human resource policy.

We enrolled in the Land Justice Futures and are part of the Prairie Cohort to work toward Ecological and Racial justice.

### **Goal #4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles**

Every little step makes a difference.

Our Motherhouse kitchens and local communities are committed to reduce food waste and recycle and compost remainders.

The Eco-Justice committee has written 10+ blogs to encourage personal behavioral changes to help heal our common home.

### **Goal #5: Ecological Education**

The Eco-Justice Committee has written 10+ blogs to educate Sisters and Associates.

Our 4 Ecological Centers have given programming to educate the public about Laudato Si and ways to reverse the effects of climate change, e.g., Heartland Farm's Spinning workshop to teach creating clothing from alpaca fleece, Shepherd's Corner Wetland session to demonstrate the

purpose of newly restored wetlands and the native plants, St. Catharine Farm's Farm Appreciation Day where families came to experience the Farm, and Crown Point which has a growing Community Supported Agriculture program.

**Goal #6: Ecological Spirituality**

We celebrated the Season of Creation with prayer services and inclusion of ecological concerns in Petitions of the Faithful.

Sisters in Great Bend prayerfully celebrated Season of Creation by planting trees to replace those destroyed in the tornado.

Motherhouses held holy hours for peace.

Some programs and reflections are offered outdoors.

**Goal #7: Community Involvement and Participatory Action**

We raised awareness of social issues with 10+ blogs.

We wrote weekly Action Alerts to advocate for just public policies.

Sisters and Associates engaged with many organizations, for example, those working to end racism, to support common sense gun safety, the relief of hunger, the end of human trafficking, protection of democracy, protection of human rights and worker rights, the protection of immigrants, the end of the death penalty, and the nonviolent resolution of war and conflict – to name just a few.

For Year 5, we will focus on our use of Land to promote justice, peace, and care of creation with a Congregation-wide gathering on June 13, 2025. Webcasts will talk more about this topic.