**Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross**

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**Sowing Hope for the Planet Survey RESULTS**

The Sowing Hope for the Planet campaign is jointly sponsored by the Global Catholic Climate Movement, the International Union of Superiors General of women (USIG), and the combined Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Commission of UISG and USG (the International Union of Superiors General of men religious).

As part of the campaign, UISG is gathering information from religious congregations regarding past and potential individual and collective responses to Laudato Si’. We will be happy to receive and collate your responses and forward them to the UISG coordinator of the campaign.

| Name | Email | Current Country | Reflecting on your past engagement with *Laudato Si’*, what individual and/or communal actions have you or the Congregation has taken toward “ecological conversion”? How have these experiences transformed you or the congregation? | After using the “Cultivating a Culture of Care” reflection and prayer during the Season of Creation, to what individual and communal actions do you now feel called, as you deepen your commitment to “ecological conversion?” |
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| Sister Royne Costa, CSC | [rcosta@cscsisters.org](mailto:rcosta@cscsisters.org) | Bangladesh | I personally tried to be aware and use things: such as electricity, water and other non-renewable resources consciously. |  |
| Sister Callista Tetteh, CSC | [ctetteh@cscsisters.org](mailto:ctetteh@cscsisters.org) | Ghana | "There has been a number of actions taken here in Ghana. Which include the following  1 Annual tree planting exercises with our students at Our Lady of Holy Cross School to instill in the students a sense of responsibility toward nature.  2 Educational campaigns in parishes on the harmful effect of plastics on the earth and the need to make choices that reduce the use of plastics.  3 Carbon reduction projects. In Ghana, for three years in a roll, we have had solar projects in the two convent houses to reduce our carbon footprint  These specific projects emanates from a consciousness raise as a result of laudato si. We have encountered a number of people as we talked about some the issues raised in the laudato si and these encounters have helped shaped our consciousness about the interconnected nature of global environmental issues. The use of the integraĺ ecology model has renewed our understanding of how justice issues are connected. | I feel called to be continually engaged in conversation with others about the ecology and to develop and deepen the discipline of moderation in what I do in order to make room for others. |
| Sister Comfort Arthur, CSC | [carthur@cscsisters.org](mailto:carthur@cscsisters.org) | Ghana | We have reduced the use of plastics. We gather plastics for recycling of and minimized use of papers to save the trees. Education on care of for our common home. Distribution of seedlings to parishioners, tree planting on Abor Day and classes on ecology, sanitation exercises. Our awareness has been heightened on the use of plastics and what is happening in the ocean with fishes and plastics. Some Sisters have reduced the use of plastics and use paper products. The kids pick up plastics around the school compound. Some are corporations to address the improper disposal of waste in the environment.  We have engaged in planting of fruits and growing of small vegetables. We eat lower at the food chain. We reuse papers to do decorations. We try not to waste water and be more environmentally conscious  In Takoradi Community,  Toward the ecological conversion, community members take care of plants by watering the flowers, planted more trees. The community does not use chemical to kill the weeds but weed them with cutlass.  Talked with their neighbors on how to clean up the environment.  Justice Committee (CJC) members, Ghana in addition to facilitating the above programs in communities and with neighbors, they have also given education on radio stations on the follow up of Laudato Si and others | To commit ourselves more in using compost for planting. To intensify the education of neighbors, parishes and the public on radios. |
| Sister Areli Cruz Hernández, CSC | [ahernandez@cscsisters.org](mailto:ahernandez@cscsisters.org) | Mexico | The use of washable dishes instead of using disposables. In big gatherings using paper plates. The use of recycle bags when we do the grocery shopping. To recycle the water for watering the plants and cleaning the floors. To avoid the use of straws. To be more aware about the use of our natural resources that we have. | To continue fostering the care of our humanity, our natural resources and our common home |
| Sister Esperanza Jacobo Acevedo, CSC | [ejacobo@cscsisters.org](mailto:ejacobo@cscsisters.org) | Mexico | Nos han hecho mas conscientes de nuestra responsabilidad en el cuidado del medio ambiente y hemos descubierto formas sencillas de contribuir a la educación y sensibilización de las personas acerca de las conexiones con problemas sociales, políticos y económicos que derivan de cuidado del planeta. | hemos compartido las oraciones y reflexiones con los grupos con los que trabajamos, Reciclamos agua, cartón plástico, etc. |
| Sister Noylí Margot Ríos Manzo, CSC | [noyliriosm@hotmail.com](mailto:noyliriosm@hotmail.com) | Peru | Reciclaje, uso de materiales no dañinos o contaminantes, uso de materiales naturales, cuidado del agua, siembra de plantas y arboles, participación de grupos que buscan aprender a cuidar del planeta, oraciones compartidas sobre la creación | hacer algo en concreto en educación para el cuidado del planeta con grupos y personas que no tienen recursos para aprender o recibir información ademas de lo anterior mencionado |
| Sister Beatrice Driwaru, CSC | [bdriwaru@cscsisters.org](mailto:bdriwaru@cscsisters.org) | Uganda | We resorted to planting more trees around our convent and at place of ministry and less use of plastics. We are also having organic fertilizer out of our own disposable garbage used in our own vegetable gardens. this has helped with reducing the heat of the sun once under the tree shade, the soil is well conserved and brings us rain too. | I am called to be more sensitive to the needs of the ecology and use the rest of the creation carefully where ever I am. |
| Sister Martha Nambi, CSC | [mnambi@cscsisters.org](mailto:mnambi@cscsisters.org) | Uganda | As a congregation, we have planted trees where we are in Uganda. As an individual I have reminded people around me not to throw polythene bags anywhere . I sometimes go ahead and ask them to give me those wastes so that I can dispose them in the right place for them especially during travels on a bus. At my ministry, I talk yo the learners about taking care of our home. Sometimes I challenge them to imagine they were either grass or any plant around what would they tell the human being who is suffocating them with plastic bottles, polythene and all the waste there is. I always get amazing answers. Sometimes we go ahead and write conversations and poems with them. We have also formed the justice and peace club to that effect. | Create more awareness about the need to take care of our home through workshops and community debates |
| Sister Mary Lou Wahler, CSC | [mwahler@cscsisters.org](mailto:mwahler@cscsisters.org) | Uganda | I have become more aware of the need to conserve on water and to avoid using plastic bags as much as possible. | I have tried even harder with the above and have brought creation into our communal prayer. |
| Sister Spero Muhindo, CSC | [smuhindo@cscsisters.org](mailto:smuhindo@cscsisters.org) | Uganda | Preserving our mother earth by planting more trees, reduce on the rate of air pollution, protect wild life to mention. | Educate people more about the beautiful and importance of our environment to human life. |
| Not provided | Not provided | Uganda | AS a community/country we have planted more trees that has helped not only to the environment but also providing fruits | Committed to create awareness and encouraging communities to be more caring to the environment like not littering paper bags all over the places to spoil the soils and encouraging recycling of plastics since they are cheaper and affordable. |
| Sister Barbara Marie Kleck, CSC | [bkleck@cscsisters.org](mailto:bkleck@cscsisters.org) | United States of America | I have done various things to help in a small way like not wasting paper, throwing recyclable things in correct bins. being careful of lights on and off, etc. | to be careful in EVERY way of wastefulness in every way |
| Sister Catherine Kamphaus, CSC | [sr.catherine@dioslc.org](mailto:sr.catherine@dioslc.org) | United States of America | We do more composting and less use of plastic bags | Grow more of my own food and continue to compost/use the soil and encourage less use of plastic in my workplace |
| Sister Gertrude Ann Otis, CSC | [gaotis@cscsisters.org](mailto:gaotis@cscsisters.org) | United States of America | One thing is I have advocated for positive response to greater respect for the climate. Secondly, praying for greater response to a positive view of the need for change in our lifestyles. | I feel called to a greater sharing of my deep commitment to the need to address climate change issues. |
| Sister Jeanne Clennon, CSC | [jeanneclennon@gmail.com](mailto:jeanneclennon@gmail.com) | United States of America | The Community here at St. Catherine's by-the-Sea recycles everything it can. Since water is a particular concern we use waste water whenever we can to water our flowers, bushes and trees. | Every quarter when I review the accounts with the local community I urge them to be careful not to waste water, electricity or gas.  I have encouraged the house manager to investigate the possibility of using solar paneling when we put a new roof on one wing of our complex.  I also asked him to apply for funding to replace our toilets.  I use my shower 'warm up water' to water a magnolia tree. |
| Sister Joseph Cecile Voelker, CSC | [jcecile@aol.com](mailto:jcecile@aol.com) | United States of America | saving water from the house to water outside plants | continue to read and respond to calls for reducing use, recycling, using up, etc. |
| Sister Mary Ann Pajakowski, CSC | [mpajakowski@cscsisters.org](mailto:mpajakowski@cscsisters.org) | United States of America | Individual: recycling; buying fresh/local; keeping bees; growing vegetables; composting; xeriscaping; tree planting for birthdays; increased use of public transportation; participation in local power company alternative energy plan; rescuing a shelter dog, feeding the birds; removing spiders and bugs without killing them; feeding birds; opting for a green burial; minimal outside water use; fair trade coffee; care in fertilizers and garden products to avoid chemical contaminants in ground water; using personal labor for yard care and snow removal; meditating to acclimate better to temperatures to mitigate use of heating and cooling; bringing own grocery bags; focusing personal recreation on outdoor activities like hiking, snowshoeing, cross country skiing,watching stars and meteor showers, wildlife long enough to learn from them; continuing education to the environment and climate change; trying to be less time conscious to recognize the gift of the present more; accepting the darkness in people to understand the role of death being transformed into life and trying to feel less violently toward people who hurt others intentionally, or are mean, and promote hate, cruelty and discrimination against the most vulnerable; to be less caring about my ego when trying to speak out or speak up for the poor or for justice.  Congregation: continued emphasis on justice has integrated itself into our identity. It makes all of us strive. | Communal actions--how we steward our material resources. Sometimes I think they make us think too much about ourselves. Hard when so many people don't have basic things to see us fret about stuff. Personal--I try to write more, meditate more, be more kind, place all of our world on the same level because we are of God. |
| Sister Mary Louise Deroin, CSC | [marylderoin@gmail.com](mailto:marylderoin@gmail.com) | United States of America | The experiences have made me much more aware of how to care for Creation. | I need to deepen my commitment to "ecological conversion" with specific things to do in my own home area. I must be aware of the use of water, electricity, and the use of materials that would be detrimental to care of our part of creation. In  my home area, we save water from showers to put on our trees and bushes. We are in a drought. |
| Sister Patricia Cornell, CSC | [pcornellcsc@gmail.com](mailto:pcornellcsc@gmail.com) | United States of America | Recycling is a habit. Straws are requested not used at restaurants; bottled water is limited; writing to congress persons about ecological issues on internet when notified is a practice. | continue to read and share in a group current issues and what actions are possible; submitting climate change as a key issue to our general chapter for continued growth within all areas |
| Sister Rachel Anne Callahan, CSC | [Rcallahan@cscsisters.org](mailto:Rcallahan@cscsisters.org) | United States of America |  | Water conservation, trying to eliminate use of plastic, advocates in my workplace for ecological stewardship, opting for fossil free energy even though it costs more |
| Sister Theresa Streif, CSC | [theresacsc@gmail.com](mailto:theresacsc@gmail.com) | United States of America | Our Congregation has taken steps toward "ecological conversion" before "Laudato Si" was written. We converted our coal-fired steam plant at the Motherhouse-College campus to natural gas, set up a carbon footprint fund for projects aiming to reduce our carbon footprint, purchased some hybrids for our fleet, etc. We are restoring a prairie in the back part of the campus, have set aside land as part of a flood plain for a nearby river, donated land for a county park and donated other land for a wetland reserve, etc. Some convents are experimenting with composting or using compost and mulch from a city composting facility. The Congregation is also using environmental concerns to make investment choices.  These experiences slowly transform us. Laudato Si did not start this transformation but revealed that we were on the right track, that the formal Church is catching up, and has encouraged us to intensify our efforts. We now recognize that the poor and the rich share responsibility for this "ecological conversion" and both will benefit. In fact, they may be brought closer together by the common effort. | I want to get more involved with groups that are actively working to help people understand how all the little things they do, the products they buy, how they dispose of "stuff" are all part of saving the environment for ourselves and future generations. As just one person, I am not changing myself or the world fast enough. |
| Sister Veronica Fajardo, CSC | [vfajardo@cscsisters.org](mailto:vfajardo@cscsisters.org) | United States of America | We have tried to move more towards using renewable energy resources - eg. changing to either solar or other forms of energy, driving hybrid cars if possible, having a grant sisters can apply for to plant more trees or reduce the production of carbon. | Continuing with our composting efforts, harvesting bees, recycling, carrying reusable bags to store. |
| Not provided | Not provided | United States of America | 1. I have tried to be more conscience of the use/re-use of paper, especially when using the computer for running information off for reflection, etc. 2. I have been more aware of the need for recycling items rather than throwing them in the garbage that goes in the dump. 3. I am more aware of the use of water, air conditioning, etc. 4. Really working on keeping myself more up-to-date on what people in other countries and areas of our country are going through who have lost so much...family members, shelters, homes, schools, health, life, etc., etc., and what my response could be with more thought. I know we, as a community, are also doing many things and joining others in  how we, together, can make a difference in our world. | See previous answer. |
| Not provided | Not provided | United States of America | Our Congregation Justice Committee took this document as a priority. I, also personally gave workshops on the document to a group of Associates of the Sisters of the Holy Cross. In addition when appropriate I have called State Senate and Congressional representatives on climate change concerns. | This year I will be looking for personal actions to limit use of plastic bags and wasting of paper products. In additional, I will be watching State action in areas that affect climate change. |
| Not provided | Not provided | United States of America | We try to be careful about everything we throw away . | To keep aware of the new ways of using recyclable materials to make usable objects for the future and spread the word.(ex.) I just received a reusable tote bag made from recycled plastic bottles. Think how many bottles that will keep out of our oceans. |

Survey data prepared submitted by:

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