

America

Constellation: AM North C3

United States



NEEDS

Continent: **America**

Constellation: **AM North C3**

Country: **United States**

Cry of the Earth

- air pollution
 - large emitter of carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels
- water pollution from runoff of pesticides and fertilizers
- limited natural freshwater resources in much of the western part of the country require careful management
- Deforestation
- Mining
- Desertification
- species conservation
- invasive species

Cry of the Poor

- The criminal justice system—from policing and prosecution through to punishment—is plagued with injustices like racial disparities, excessively harsh sentencing, and drug and immigration policies that improperly emphasize criminalization
 - As a result, the United States has the largest reported prison population in the world.
 - Specific policies often have a particularly harsh impact on youth, racial minorities or low-income populations accused of or victimized by crime.
 - Jail and prison conditions are in many respects unsafe and inhumane
- The US has frequently invoked national security as a justification for policies that violate international law -- the torture of detainees in the US “war on terror,” secretive targeted killings abroad, and indefinite detention without trial at Guantanamo Bay.
 - large-scale surveillance by the National Security Agency is hampering the ability of journalists and lawyers to do their work and corroding US democracy

Commitments

Constellation 3 USA

1. We commit ourselves to “Sowing Hope for the Planet” and will make sure there is a contact person from every congregation.
2. We commit ourselves to focus on migration.
 - The USA is a great destination country for migrants
 - We encourage our congregations to send sisters, associates, volunteers and others to work for a time on the US/Mexico border
 - We will work with the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) to better coordinate our efforts.
 - We will meet on Aug. 15 at our larger constellation meeting to share the information from this Plenary Assembly and to be more concrete about the actions we will take.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ineffective detention and deportation policies<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ migrant families forcibly separated at the border (sending assistance and workers to the border)• stagnation of wages for lower-income families<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ gradual development of a "two-tier" labor market in which those at the bottom lack the education and the professional/technical skills of those at the top and, more and more, fail to get comparable pay raises, health insurance coverage, and other benefits• inadequate investment in deteriorating infrastructure• rapidly rising medical and pension costs of an aging population<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ | |
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