



# The Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes Laudato Si' Action Platform Year Two Plan January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

On November 15, 2021, the Congregation of Sisters of St Agnes made a public commitment to the Laudato Si' Action Platform and ecological conversion. In year two, we have chosen to assess the ways we are already living this commitment and to determine ways we can improve and have established five additional goals. We will engage our sisters, associates, staff, and other significant organizations with which we are associated along our journey.

We, the Sisters of St. Agnes, embrace our transformative journey with an expanding cosmological awareness. We respond to the needs of God's creation with...

**Contemplative Hearts** grounded in God who calls us to love

**Compassionate Hearts** responding to ecological, ecclesial, societal, and global challenges

**Courageous Hearts** exercising moral authority on behalf of creation, especially those whose faith life or human dignity is threatened

**Caring Hearts** valuing presence and mutual relationships as a way of life

***This journey calls us to...***

Dedicate ourselves to the common good of all creation

Reverence Earth, our common home

Strengthen the bond that unites us

Explore our unfolding future

## **Goal 1**

### **Track Changes of CSA Awareness & Action**

#### **Reverence Earth, our common home**

*We are compelled to awaken to the reality of our nature as creatures of Earth and the responsibilities that flow from it by holding one another accountable to the Laudato Si' Action Platform.*

#### **What will we do?**

Assess the awareness and the response to the seven Laudato Si' goals with a goal to increase both awareness and actions year after year.

#### **This addresses portions of the following LSAP/CSA goals:**

Response to the cry of the earth; Response to the cry of the poor; Ecological economics; Adoption of sustainable lifestyles; Ecological education; Ecological spirituality; Community resilience and empowerment

#### **How & when will we do it?**

1. Create a brief quantitative survey for each of the seven goals in electronic and written formats to collect and document self-reported information about the changes in awareness and action among Sisters, Associates, and Staff
  - Surveys will be conducted in January and analyzed in February.

## **Goal 2**

### **Increase Educational Opportunities**

**We dedicate ourselves to the common good of all creation & Reverence Earth, our common home**

***We commit to nurturing a mind and heart that furthers the common good among ourselves and in our cosmos.***

#### **What will we do?**

*Increase educational opportunities for our internal audiences (i.e., sisters, associates, and lay staff)*

#### **This addresses portions of the following LSAP goals:**

Response to the cry of the earth; Response to the cry of the poor; Ecological economics; Adoption of sustainable lifestyles; Ecological education; Ecological spirituality; Community resilience and empowerment

#### **How & when will we do it?**

1. Encourage sisters, associates, and lay staff to submit their reflections on articles or LSAP-related activities for internal blog sites using a provided “What, So What, Now What” template
  - Distribute in quarter 1
2. Request that CSA circle leaders encourage conversation about recent blog reflections during gatherings
  - Ongoing throughout the year
3. Promote Laudato Si’ Animator training, resulting in at least one new trained animator from internal audiences and, provide links to LSAP resources on a regular basis.
  - Promote for 45 days prior to each of the twice per year offerings: fall session (August to October) and spring session (March to May).

## **Goal 3**

### **Strengthen and Increase Relationships with Sustainability Partners**

**This journey calls us to strengthen the bond that unites us**

***We commit to developing mutual relationships through synodality, education, and awareness of culture, history, and politics***

#### **What will we do?**

Educate external audiences (i.e., civic organizations, educational institutions, and the general public) on Laudato Si' goals, share our achievements, and celebrate theirs.

#### **This addresses portions of the following LSAP goals:**

Response to the cry of the earth; Response to the cry of the poor; Ecological economics; Adoption of sustainable lifestyles; Ecological education; Ecological spirituality; Community resilience and empowerment

#### **How & when will we do it?**

1. Encourage sisters, associates, and lay staff to submit their reflections on articles or LSAP-related activities for internal blog sites using a provided “What, So What, Now What” template.
  - Distribute in quarter 1
2. Train new tour guides for the solar array and CSA conservancy.
  - Recruit & train in quarter 1
3. Promote solar array and CSA conservancy tour sign up with local civic organizations, educational institutions, and the general public.
  - Distribute information in quarter 1 and again in quarter 3.
4. Create and distribute a pre-packaged presentation for sisters and associates beyond the Fond du Lac area with talking points about Laudato Si' and CSA.
  - Develop and distribute during quarter 2.
5. Have a presence at community events.
  - Determine opportunities in quarter 1.
  - Delegate attendance and ensure CSA presence throughout the year.
6. Speak to local civic organizations about CSA's Laudato Si' efforts including how to put their own land into a conservancy.
  - Reach out in quarter 2.
  - Present throughout the year.
7. Offer an Earth Day Fair in Founders Hall
  - Plan during quarter 1
  - Saturday, April 22
8. Continue writing letters of support and gratitude to local businesses and groups in response to their environmental/sustainable efforts
  - Monitor news throughout the year.
  - Send letter within 30 days of learning about the effort.
9. Celebrate with Indigenous ceremonies and develop ongoing relationship by inviting to CSA events and attending their events
  - Determine opportunities open to the public in quarter 1 (ongoing).
  - Delegate attendance and ensure CSA presence throughout the year.

- Reach out to local tribes to invite to CSA events at least 30 days prior to the event.
10. Promote Spiritual opportunities open to the public on CSA grounds
- Generate list of opportunities in quarter 2.
  - Generate marketing materials and distribute in quarter 3.

## **Goal 4**

### **Assess Viability and Work Toward Becoming Net Zero**

**We dedicate ourselves to the common good of all creation**

*We value the dignity of all creation and commit to engaging in collaborative and transformative processes*

#### **What will we do?**

Benchmark our sustainability performance and create a long-term plan to continue measuring and reducing congregational use of energy, carbon, water, and plastics.

Make short term adjustments to reduce use of energy, carbon, water, and plastics.

#### **This addresses portions of the following LSAP goals:**

Response to the cry of the earth; Ecological economics; Adoption of sustainable lifestyles; and Ecological education

#### **How & when will we do it?**

1. Develop eco-friendly purchasing guidelines for CSA
  - Develop during quarter 1.
  - Implement in quarter 2.
2. Whenever individual sisters are willing, transition to alternative products and packaging such as shampoo bars, bamboo paper products and clothing, and 100% eco-friendly cleaning products.
  - Ongoing as products are used up and replaced.
3. Evaluate the need for additional rain barrels and add where needed.
  - Complete during quarter 3
4. Evaluate the ability to reduce or phase out gas-powered maintenance equipment and fleet vehicles and leaf blowers of all varieties.
  - Audit during quarter 3 and as vehicles reach end of life.
5. Research best practices in calculating our carbon footprint and potentially hire a consultant if determined appropriate and financially feasible for this budget year.
  - Research in quarters 1 and 2.
  - If feasible, implement in quarter 3.

## **Goal 5**

### **Develop a Land Management Plan**

#### **Exploring our Unfolding Future**

*We face the future with courage and hope, embracing our journey of transformation so that the unimagined can emerge*

#### **What will we do?**

Benchmark current conditions of the CSA property and determine goals to preserve and/or improve the conservation values on the property, noting that action on goal activities will be necessarily modified based on available budget each year.

#### **This addresses portions of the following LSAP goals:**

Response to the cry of the earth; Response to the cry of the poor; Ecological economics; Adoption of sustainable lifestyles; Ecological education; Ecological spirituality; Community resilience and empowerment

#### **How & when will we do it?**

1. Work with Glacial Lakes Conservancy & Fond du Lac County Land & Water Conservation to determine the best land management planning method for our needs and implement a plan.
  - Research in quarter 1.
  - Confirm method by end of quarter 2.
  - Implement method during quarter 3.
2. Explore county farming experiments and/or hemp farming
  - Research in quarter 2.
  - Evaluate potential for including in future land use in quarter 3.
3. Audit our current land management processes for maintaining the property
  - Complete during implementation of item 1 in quarter 3.
4. Explore gardening capacity and potential to support a community garden or composting.
  - Complete during implementation of item 1 in quarter 3.