

THE INSTITUTE OF THE RELIGIOUS OF THE SACRED HEART OF MARY



We, the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary are an international congregation of women religious founded in Béziers, France in 1849. Our lives are grounded in our mission “that all may have life,” the words engraved on our Institute’s cross.

In diverse ministries we work to promote fullness of life and dignity for all whom we serve, and we welcome collaboration with those who share our vision for mission. We are strengthened by living in community and enriched by a spirituality that is expressed in the Parable of the Good Shepherd, who came,

“That all may have life” (John 10:10)

EXPANSION OF THE INSTITUTE

Since its founding this missionary spirit has inspired the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary. Today, we are present in 14 countries and we are involved in the United Nations (UN), through our RSHM-NGO.



Since *Laudato Si* was published in 2015, we have been actively caring for the earth in our personal and community lives, ministries and involvement in the wider society.

We are happy to officially share our commitments on the *Laudato Si* Action Platform, encouraged by the renewed urging of Pope Francis **as** expressed in *Laudate Deum*.

We believe that our sharing with one another will inspire us to continue to carry forward our 2019 General Chapter priorities, in the context of our world and Church on a synodal journey. Together as women of prophetic hope, “impelled to go out” we proclaim that all have a place in our “Common Home” (RSHM Gen. Ch. Doc 2019).

In relation to each of the *Laudato Si* Goals we will now share some of our achievements to date and our commitments for the year 2024.

Laudato Si' Action Plan



Goal 1: Response to the cry of the earth

Goal 2: Response to the cry of the poor

Goal 3: Ecological economics

Goal 4: Adoption of simple lifestyles

Goal 5: Ecological education

Goal 6: Ecological spirituality

Goal 7: Community engagement & participation action



Goal 1

Developing and maintaining Native Gardens (Brazil, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, US/NY, UK)

Planting trees (Zimbabwe, Zambia)

Planting drought resistant crops (US/NY)

Appreciating nature (Everywhere)

COMMITMENTS FOR 2024

- Continue establishment of native gardens.
- Continue to reduce, reuse, recycle.
- Eliminate use of plastics.
- Separate organic waste.
- Work to phase out fossil fuels.

**RESPONSE
TO THE CRY
OF THE POOR**



Goal 2

Building mobility
aids for adults and
children with
disabilities
(Zambia)

Sponsoring Social
Programs in
underserved
neighbourhoods (Brazil,
Portugal, Columbia,
US/NY)

Servicing
migrants

RSHM immigration
lawyers (US/NY
and FL)

Sister missioned
to receive
immigrants
Italy/Lampedusa

Provided housing
to refugee
families (US/FL,
Ireland)

Provided pay for a
staff member at
Legal Aid
Immigration office
(US/FL)

Aided trafficked
persons (Zambia
and
US/CA)

Impact
Investing
(US/NY,CA)

COMMITMENTS FOR 2024

- Respect for life at all levels from cradle to the grave - especially vulnerable groups.
- Support Immigrants displaced by war, violence, conflict or climate change.
- Work to pass legislation which will aid refugees and migrants.

ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS



Goal 3

Buy fair-trade and
biodegradable goods
(Everywhere)

Investing with a social
conscience
US/CA, NY

Installing solar panels
(in US/CA, Zambia)

Installing on site
charging stations for
cars (US/CA)

Participation with IASJ,
Investor Advocates for
Social Justice
(US/CA, NY)

Projeto Vida (Brazil)

Purchasing energy
efficient appliances
(US/CA, Ireland)

Purchasing hybrid and
electric vehicles
(US/CA)

COMMITMENTS FOR 2024

- Support the PARIS AGREEMENT (2015) as we engage with COP 28 and 2.
- Collaborate with other groups addressing the climate Crisis.
- Defend developing countries from exploitation of their Resources.



Goa | 4

Da Casa Community
Living (Brazil)

Reducing, recycling,
reusing in everyday life
(Everywhere)

Reducing the car usage
(Everywhere)

Walking and using
public transportation
when possible
(Everywhere)

COMMITMENTS FOR 2024

- Minimize the use of plastic.
- Adopt a plant-based diet.
- Have a Zero Waste campaign.

ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION



Goal 5

RSCM Eco Schools
(Portugal)

Laudato Si Week
with showings of
"the Letter" in
parishes and
communities.
(Ireland, UK)

Studying the
Laudato Si
Document with
Novices, Sisters
and Parishioners
(Brazil, Zambia,
US/NY, UK)

Incorporate music
in ecological
education (Brazil)

Participating in
JPIC parish teams
(UK, US/NY
)

COMMITMENTS FOR 2024

- Advocate for climate justice.
- Have workshops for all sisters, novices and affiliates on Climate Justice.
- Promote ecological education in the Global Network of RSHM Schools, in our parishes and with our affiliates and extended families.

ECOLOGICAL SPIRITUALITY



Goal 6

Special Prayers for Earth Day, Earth Week, Laudato Si Week and the Season of Creation (Everywhere)

Monthly Prayer Calendar (Everywhere)

Participating in interfaith prayer for Care for the Earth

Presenting prayer services in schools, parishes and community gatherings (US/NY, UK, Portugal, Brazil, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique)

Prayer in nature (UK, Brazil, Zambia)

Retreats focused on Laudato Si (UK)

Leading prayer in the local parish for ecological awareness and action (US/NY, UK, Ireland)

COMMITMENTS FOR 2024

- Encourage greater contact with the natural world in a spirit of wonder/praise/joy and gratitude.
- Promote creation centered liturgies.
- Establish a common prayer throughout the Institute for justice and peace on Earth & in each of our nations.
- Continue to Celebrate UN Days in our daily prayers and special prayers for Earth Day, Earth Week, Laudato Si Week and the Season of Creation

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PARTICIPATORY ACTION



Goal 7

Active engagement as a Non-Governmental-Organization (NGO) at the United Nations and a member of the Justice Coalition of Religious (JCoR).

Participation in local and national groups, parishes and dioceses, and groups such as Pax Christi, Conferences of Women Religious, Talitha Kum, TAKUSA, Laudato Si Movement and others.

Leading programs in local parishes for ecological awareness and action.

Taking advocacy initiatives for policies that address the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

COMMITMENTS FOR 2024

- Strengthen organized advocacy opportunities at local, national and global level in relation to the Care of the Earth and the Laudato Si Goals.
- Collaborate with representatives of other religious congregations, faith groups and civic groups in organized legislative advocacy on environmental issues.
- Continue active engagement as an NGO at the United Nations with participation in thematic Working Groups relating to Care of the Earth and JPIC priorities.
- Take fuller advantage of our membership of the Justice Coalition of Religious (JCoR) to raise awareness about the climate crisis and advocate for sustainable and people- centered economies, human rights and care of the earth.
- Take effective actions both locally and globally to stop violence and counter societal divisions through dialogue and synodality.
- Call for Governmental action in favour of Earth (e.g. adopt a-district to pass the Earth Bill in the US).