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



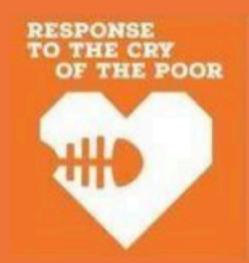
Developing and maintaining Native Gardens (Brazil, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, US/NY, UK)

Planting trees (Zimbabwe, Zambia)

Planting drought resistant crops (US/NY)

Appreciating nature (Everywhere)

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



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)

- 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.



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)

- 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.



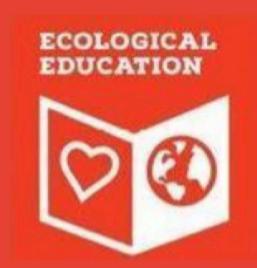
Goa | 4

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)

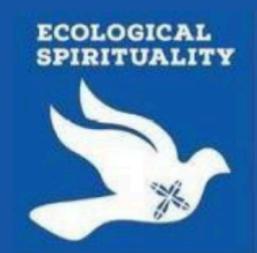
- Minimize the use of plastic.
- Adopt a plant-based diet.
- · Have a Zero Waste campaign.



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)

- 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.



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

Monthly Prayer Calendar (Everywhere)

Prayer in nature (UK, Brazil, Zambia) Participating in interfaith prayer for Care for the Earth

> Retreats focused on Laudato Si (UK)

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

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

- Encourage greater contact with the natural world in a spirit of wonder/praise/joy and gratitude.
- Promote creation cantered 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



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.

- 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. adopta-district to pass the Earth Bill in the US).