

Laudato Si' Action Plan
Sisters of St Dominic Amityville, New York
February 1, 2022 – January 31, 2023
Year 1



Note: During Year 1 of LSAP our facilities were on lock-down due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Zoom allowed us to continue our work. Because of the focus of LCWR 2020 Assembly's Resolution, Creating Communion at the ***Intersection of Racism, Forced Migration & Climate Crisis***, we decided to start Year 1 Plan on Feb 1, 2022, the beginning of Black History mon with a focus on Priority #2. We found that our priorities crossed one another.

PRIORITIES FOR YEAR I

Priority #1 – *To listen and respond to the Cry of the EARTH*

Priority #2 – *To listen and respond to the Cry of the Poor*

Priority #3 – *To provide Ecological Education wherever possible*

Plan Priority #1 – To listen and respond to the Cry of the EARTH

Explore the possibilities of working with the Shinnecock Women’s Project. Research other environmental groups on LI; let them know what we are doing and if there is a way for us to work together.

Read "Doing Theology in an Evolutionary Way" by Diarmuid O’Murchu, which sheds light on the care of the earth and care of the poor through an evolutionary lens.

Read the article Top Ten Takeaways from ‘Laudato Si’ by James Martin, SJ. Invite Sisters, Associates and Dominican Young Adults to name places on the grounds where they find the presence of God palpable. Write a brief why. Create and offer sacred contemplative walks-in on our grounds in the spring.

What ‘we’ve’ accomplished

- In October 2021 we held a congregational assembly at which we presented the LSAP and got unanimous approval for engagement and possible priorities. At this meeting the *Top Ten Takeaways from ‘Laudato Si’* By James Martin, SJ was distributed to everyone with a history of our congregation’s engagement with the 7 Goals of LSAP during the years **1995 to the present**, so that we would build on what we were already doing.
- On Oct 4th we celebrated the Feast of St. Francis and livestreamed the Service to all.
- In December, JPIC met with the Molloy College Sustainability Institute to explore ways of collaborating.
- In November we joined with LCWR Regio and specifically the Sisters of St. Joseph, to support the Shinnecock Women’s Kelp Project which will clean up

the waters of Shinnecock Bay, bring back the shell fish and help provide income to these indigenous women. Monthly meetings continue as the project grows. Our congregation is specifically assisting in the production and marketing of a child's book that will educate future generations on this indigenous community and this important work.

- At our December 12th Vespers, the preaching was on Laudato Si' and the state of EARTH. Leadership announced and signed the Public Commitment to LSAP in the presence of those gathered for Vespers.
- We continue to work with The Citizens Campaign for the Environment, Empower, OPSCC, OP North American Peace and Justice Promoters, LCWR Region #2, Long Island Immigration Clinic, and Long Island Jobs for Justice.
- On January 27, 2022 we presented our Year 1 LSAP plan to the congregation. The public commitment and the Year 1 Plan was placed on the homepage of the congregational website.
- In March we planned for The Season of Creation and developed a six-week bulletin insert for parishes.
- In July NCR's Global Sisters project gave an entire page to the Kelp Farming Project, though our community's involvement and the support of LI LCWR was not mentioned.
- In August our JPIC committee, the umbrella under which LSAP works, held a day of evaluation on Year 1 and looked ahead to Year 2 and beyond.
- For the Season of Creation 2022, ***We Move Forward Together Initiative*** hosted a 4 week zoom program where our farmers shared what they have learned from working with EARTH, our UN NGO representative shared what the UN is doing about climate change, a theologian shared what Laudato Si' is calling all to and a panel shared an update and review of the easement we are placing on our motherhouse property.
- Our Opening Word program, a community sponsored literacy effort for immigrant woman served approximately 300 woman at 3 sites this past year.



Plan Priority #2 - To listen and respond to the Cry of the Poor

During the month of February we published weekly in our newsletter (TPC) for the entire community suggested readings, videos and actions on systemic racism.

Arrange for frequent feedback and sharing on LSAP across the entire community.

Use every congregational meeting to bring attention to LSAP.

Maintain an active connectedness with the Sustainability Institute of Molloy College.

Encourage local Communities to have meatless Mondays (or any other day) and view a video on this issue together.

Continue to work with and attend ERASE Racism on LI.

What 'we've' accomplished

- "Where one of us is, all of us are." One of our sisters has worked with the Hispanic immigrants on the north fork of Long Island for the past 25 years. Housing, job placement, health resources, legal advocacy, as well as church access and worship are just a peek at some of what she does in our name.
- Another sister, an attorney, initiated an Outreach to the Homeless through her local parish. Neighboring parishes and a plethora of volunteers have joined her. Food, clothing and referrals help approximately 60 persons in an ongoing effort.
- In March, April and May we scheduled Casual Conversations on Zoom to engage anyone interested in sharing on LSAP. We celebrated and live-streamed Earth Day to the entire congregation.
- In April we welcomed Shannen Williams for our Assembly. As a result, we now have an ARCH committee that is developing a written, though anecdotal, history of our congregation's history with women of color.
- In June we celebrated Juneteenth and World Refugee Day on the lawn in front of the main building of our motherhouse with the intention of inter-acting with the local community.
- Throughout the year one of our sisters exhibited and sold her Asian Brush Paintings. \$6,000 in donated funds from this "Contemplative Arts Ministry" was given to Dominican Convents in Europe who have opened their doors to

care for Ukrainian Refugees. The goal of raising awareness regarding the plight of the Refugees through art exhibits was well-received at many sites.

- For ten Monday nights through Lent and Easter we prayed the Rosary via Zoom for the people of Ukraine.



Plan Priority #3 – To provide Ecological Education wherever possible

Offer a program that will help all understand and appreciate the connection between food consumption and the fate of the planet.

Sharpen the reality that we live on an island and how this impacts our LSAP goals.

Sustain our involvement with the other Religious Congregations and their Justice Promoters on Long Island.

Provide education on LSAP to the Boards of our Sponsored Ministries.

Use our influence in parishes on LI and others where we have a connection by providing a six-week bulletin-ready blurb in English and Spanish covering Laudato Si' and Laudato Si' Action Platform. Have this ready and in parishes the week before Sept 1.

What 'we've' accomplished

- The centerpiece of this goal and Priority is HOMECOMING FARM which celebrated its 25th Anniversary during Year 1 of LSAP. The Farm, a NOFA NY certified organic CSA, is committed to the understanding that the human and natural world is One Sacred Community of Life. All those who work at, members, and even classes of school children who spend time at the farm, are brought to understand that when we care for Earth, we care for ourselves, each other, and future generations, while creating Sustainable, Regenerative Communities. Besides educational programs, and opportunities for young people, including over 50 Eagle Scouts, to get involved in multiple service efforts, the farm shares fresh produce with The INN, an organization that feeds

the hungry and homeless on Long Island, and the immigrant women of The OPening Word, another Sponsored Ministry of the Sisters of St. Dominic.

- Our congregation and our efforts with LI LCWR achieved financial support for The Long Island Immigration Clinic; we serve on its board and participate in its activities.
- We continue to work with the Sisters of St. Joseph on the Kelp Farming Project and continue to work with other related groups on Long Island.
- We used our influence to educate people in the pews about Laudato Si and Laudato Si Action Platform by providing 6 ready to insert bulletin blurbs, one for each week of The Season of Creation. These were prepared in English and Spanish and sent to the parishes with a cover letter before August 20th.
- Two of our Sisters presented a workshop “Becoming Laudato Si’ – Seven Years Later” at the St Alphonsus Retreat Center in Long Branch Sept 6th- 8th.
- We are presenting an update on the Easement on the Motherhouse property on Sept 25th as part of a 4 week zoom program on The Season of Creation. We also are planning to update the community on the easement at the next Assembly.

9/24/2022