**Laudato Si’ Action Platform Reflection**

**The Sisters of St. Joseph, Watertown, NY**

**To Embark on a Seven Year Journey to Promote Integral Ecology**

The Sisters of St. Joseph of the Diocese of Ogdensburg by their vowed lives, express their love of God through the pursuit of a closer union with God and the dear neighbor. Through the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy, the Sisters proclaim and live this great love in a spirit of unity and reconciliation.

Implicit in living the spirit of unity and reconciliation is a commitment to integral ecology and to restoring our common home to be in consonance with God’s original plan of creation. To this end, this past decade has seen the development of community sponsored Social Justice and Faith and Ecology groups as well as outreach to networking and sponsoring activities for engagement and education. These groups have led in issues surrounding human trafficking, fracking, clean water initiatives, recycling, education of women and children as well as victims of abuse, homelessness and poverty.

As a religious congregation, we have taken the steps to sign on to solar energy and to divest from investments in fossil fuels while taking steps to engage in investment in renewable energy. A community-wide process determined the goals that have been set for the next five years as our Action Platform. A community- wide process likewise determined the activities that will be undertaken over the five-year period.

The Sisters of St. Joseph will embark on a plan over the next five years as they engage in practices to protect ‘our common home’ as they implement their chosen goals of

**Response to the Cry of the Earth**

Goals

* To reduce the our use of water and support clean water initiatives
* To support biodiversity locally and globally

**Response to the Cry of the Poor**

Goal: To use our resources to bring about systemic change for the destitute and for victims of violence

**Ecological Economics**

Goals

* To reduce our use of fossil fuel energy
* To reduce investments in fossil fuels to zero and to invest in renewal energy

**Adapt a Simple Lifestyle**

Goal: To adopt a simpler lifestyle

**Ecological Education**

Goal: To use the Seven Principles of Catholic Social Teaching to promote ecological awareness

**Ecological Spirituality**

Goal: To revitalize a vision of God’s creation

**Community Engagement**

Goal: To network with groups whose purpose is caring for all creation