



Laudato Si' Action Plan Reflection Monastery Immaculate Conception

We, the Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand, Indiana, are monastic women seeking God through the Benedictine tradition of community life, prayer, hospitality, and service to others. By our life and work, we commit ourselves to be a presence of peace as we join our sisters and brothers in the common search for God.¹

To be aware of and responsive to the needs of our world.²

Listening with the ear of our heart, as monastic women, we publicly commit to join the worldwide Catholic community in responding to Pope Francis' appeal to participate in a seven-year journey toward sustainability and integral ecology by developing a Laudato Si' Action Plan.³

Listen is the first word in the Rule of St. Benedict. It is with Benedict's stance of listening that Benedictines approach the world and all who live in it. Pope Francis calls us to listen to hear "the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor". (LS 49)⁴

We read in the Rule that we are to care for everything we handle "as sacred vessels of the altar, aware that nothing is to be neglected" (RB 31:10)⁵. As we ponder this statement regarding what we have, the planet cries out as well. Pope Francis tells us that everything is interconnected. (LS 202)⁴

Our vow of conversion requires "simplicity of life and communal sharing of goods and resources."⁶ "Many things have to change course, but it is we human beings above all who need to change... A great cultural, spiritual and educational challenge stands before us, and it will demand that we set out on the long path of renewal" (LS 202)⁴

Rather than pursuing what you judge is better for yourself, choose what is better for others and the common good. (RB 72:7)⁵ "The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change." (LS 13)⁴

¹ Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand, In Mission Statement

² Direction Statement #3, May 2019

³ Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand, In Laudato Si' Action Plan Public Commitment

⁴ Pope Francis. *Laudato Si'*: Encyclical on the Environment. Origins, June 25, 2015

⁵ *RB 1980*. Collegeville, Minnesota: The Liturgical Press, 1982

⁶ Ethic for Land Stewardship for Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand, Indiana