**Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Augustine, Florida**

**Laudato Si’ Action Platform Reflection**

With a mission of unity and reconciliation based on John 17:21 – “that all may be one” – the Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Augustine state in our ***Constitutions*** that we pledge ourselves “to the pursuit of justice by making our own the teachings of the Church and by a heightened social consciousness among ourselves and those with whom we minister.” (p. 54 of ***Constitutions***)

On Dec. 21, 2021, we made our public commitment to join the worldwide Catholic community in responding to Pope Francis’ appeal to participate in a seven-year journey toward sustainability and integral ecology known as the **Laudato Si’** Action Platform. As a diocesan congregation, we seek to discern how best to follow the challenges from the Vatican and incorporate elements of the Integral Ecology Plan of the Diocese of St. Augustine that focuses on formation, reducing consumption and waste, and advocacy.

In looking back on the first year we have taken several steps along the journey, including the following:

* Identified a LSAP coordinator to animate environmental activities in collaboration with the Congregation’s Leadership Team and members of the On-Going Formation Team.
* Conducted a carbon footprint audit of all St. Augustine SSJ facilities.
* Planned and held an educational session on “Ecological Spirituality: Love of God, of Neighbor, and All of Creation” in April 2022 attended by more than half of the membership of the Congregation. This was an overview of the 2015 ***Laudato Si’*** papal encyclical with a focus on Chapter 6: Ecological Spirituality.
* Encouraged Sisters and Associates to fill out Ecological Self-Assessments to be used in future planning.
* Held educational sessions on Ecological Spirituality and the SSJ Mission & Charism in the spring and summer of 2022 for SSJ Associates.
* Co-sponsored with ***Laudato Si’*** St Augustine of the Cathedral-Basilica a Rosary for the Earth in the Motherhouse Chapel on the evening of Sept. 1, 2022, World Day of Prayer for the Earth, that was open to the public to start the 2022 Season of Creation.

Our first year’s efforts have focused on spiritual formation and education, realizing that we made this commitment in faith, hope, and love, knowing that we are participating in God’s work of transformation, “for we know that all things can change.” (***LS***, 13)

Our mission statement, “Seized by God’s love, we work in collaboration with others to bring union and reconciliation to our world, “that all may be one,” as well as our vision statement, “Centered in contemplation, we work toward changing patterns of relationships which contribute to alienation, poverty and oppression,” both lead us to hear the cries of the earth and the cries of the poor as articulated by Pope Francis in ***Laudato Si’***.

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