



SISTERS OF
ST. JOSEPH
OF NORTHWESTERN
PENNSYLVANIA

Connecting with God ✚ Connecting with You

Laudato Si Reflection

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania are committed to Pope Francis' Laudato Si Action Platform in which he invites all Catholics to develop a seven-year plan to help achieve the platform goals: *response to the cry of the poor, response to the cry of the Earth, ecological economics, adoption of a sustainable lifestyle, ecological education, ecological spirituality and community resilience and empowerment.*

The mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania is to respond to the ever-changing needs of the world, serve the neighbor without distinction, and unite all people with one another and with God. Living our charism of unity, we join with all Catholics in response to the Pope's call to rebuild our relationship with each other and with our planet.

Through a 2016 strategic planning process, our congregation committed to focusing on our impact on the environment. Two goals were established to address that: create a 3-to-5-year plan to reduce the carbon footprint of our congregational buildings and reduce the carbon footprint of each individual Sister, Associate, and Agrégée.

In the years since 2016, we re-insulated our Community Living Center, installed a new HVAC system in the common areas, actively utilized 10-12 gardens to grow our own produce, reduced the use of plastic, and recycled cooking oil. We also became a member of the Green Building Alliance, a regional organization which advances innovation in the built environment (human-made structures, features, and facilities viewed collectively as an environment in which people live and work.) We became a property partner in the Erie 2030 District, a private-public collaborative focused on reductions in energy, water, and transportation emissions and committed to reduce the carbon footprint of our partner properties by 50% by the year 2030.

Going forward, and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will discern each goal of the Laudato Si Action Platform and build on what we have already accomplished to work toward integral ecology (the connection between humans and our environment). We will create a 7-year plan with measurable goals based on input from our constituents: Sisters, Associates, Agrégées that takes into consideration our charism and present realities. Each year, we will evaluate our progress and adjust the goals where necessary.

Pope Francis stated, "Since everything is closely interrelated, and today's problems call for a vision capable of taking into account every aspect of the global crisis, I suggest that we now consider some elements of an integral ecology, one that clearly respects its human and social dimensions." (LS 137)