**Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand Indiana**

**Second Year Action Plan Review and Assessment**

**(2023-24)**

**RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE EARTH**

1. Explore the possibilities of using electric lawn mowers.
An electric mower (used in courtyard and other small areas) was purchased.
2. Assess and enhance biodiversity on our property.
This is an on-going project that we will continue to work on.
3. Continue removal of invasive species by seeking grant funding, recruiting volunteers and exploring other possible resources.
The only removal has been done by pulling up small plants. Some spraying has been done as well. This action is something we will continue to pursue.

**RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE POOR**

1. Continue to serve meals at Dove House.
2. Continue our support of the immigration office.
3. Continue the Humanitarian Fund and donate to agencies in our local community that provide material service and goods to those on the periphery (e.g. Blessing Cabinet, Trials Tribulations, Redemption Haven Over the Hilltop, at southern border of U.S. and Mexico, natural disasters, etc.)
These three actions continue.
4. Each sister will set aside time each day to pray for those adversely affected by climate change.
This action has been difficult to measure.

**ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS**

1. Continue investments in renewable energy.
The transition to a divested fossil fuel investment portfolio continues. We are not completely there.
2. Research and purchase local meat based on sustainable and ethical production.
Local purchases of meat is 13% of our total purchases of meat as well as 13% of the total amount spent for meat.

**SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES**

1. Continue to share resources and educate sisters on sustainability via a formation day to prepare the community to take concrete steps in a more sustainable direction.
Video links were provided via the community’s bi-weekly announcements
2. Increase plant-based dietary options.
While vegetarian options have increased, we do not regularly provide plant-based dietary options on a regular basis.
3. Continue reduction of single-use plastic by continuing to buy items in larger or non-plastic containers.
We are not using less single-use plastic as some in-house programs have actually increased the use of single use plastics. There are times when silver ware is provided in lieu of plastic ware. We want to continue and expand efforts to reduce single-use plastic.

**ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION**

1. Develop a list of resources for further study on ecology.
A list has been prepared with resources from our library. We will maintain the list with a copy in the library as well as on-line. We will consider including on-line resources as well. For example, Catholic Climate Covenant and Laudato Si’ Movement.
2. Undertake an inventory of the flora and fauna found on our grounds so that we can care for what we have, and eventually broaden our biodiversity.
This action is still in process. In the meantime, we have uncovered a booklet created by an MHA biology class. That may be a way to share information with sisters and visitors.

**ECOLOGICAL SPIRITUALITY**

1. Design, print, and share Laudato Si’prayer card to share with community, guests, and the public.
This action has been complete.
2. Construct a “Cosmic Walk” (25-30 stations based on the story of creation).
This is completed. There was a Blessing Ritual at the end of July
3. Celebrate the Season of Creation and Laudato Si’ Week, including a time of prayer outside.

Sr. Jeana developed a prayer service and shared it with the community. Deaneries were invited to use at a time that suited them.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATORY ACTION**

1. Continue to put opportunities before the community, utilizing action alerts from the USCCB, Indiana Catholic Conference, Network Social Justice Lobby, Catholic Climate Covenant, Interfaith Power and Light, and the Citizens’ Climate Lobby.

Since last October, there have been over 30 entries to our announcements. Approximately 2 have requested signing a petition. The remainder consists of opportunities to watch films dealing with environmental issues or invitations to programs for Laudato Si Week, Season of Creation, etc.

During this past year, the community decided to transition to geo-thermal energy. Renovation projects have provided opportunities to replace windows that are more energy efficient. We will continue to look for opportunities to collaborate as opportunities present themselves