**Evaluation of LSAP Goal #1 Response to the Cry of the Earth**

**Summary of Process:** The BVM Congregational Assembly approved Goal 1 Response to the Cry of the Earth as our goal for the year October 2023—September 2024.

**Webpage:**

The Care for Our Common Earth Home Committee’s BVM Laudato Si’ Action Platform site: <https://www.bvmsisters.org/social-justice/c4e/>

**Actions:**

Prepare Prayer Services for Earth Day and Season of Creation for Community at Mount Carel Bluffs

Present a Power point on Goal #3: Ecological Education at the BVM Assembly to inform the community of the proposed action for the coming year. The BVM Sisters and Associates discussed the goal, gave input for activities and study, and voted for this goal for the coming year focus. Each table submitted responses for the committee’s consideration for the coming year. These responses were summarized, analyzed, and published for the Care for Earth Committee. The committee chose “water” as the on-going focus for this year’s study as there were many references to this topic from the Assembly and it could serve as a focus for individual action as well as community action. The general focus will be the “education, equality and ecology” of water.

Moving forward, the committee looked at the connection between the Franciscan Sisters’ Water Project WELL, the BVM Board of Directors’ Arabella focus, and the UN 17 Sustainable Developmental Goals. The Committee considered organizations and movements that are focused of “water”. In addition, they reviewed the projects the BVM Community has supported financially. Finally, the committee discussed practical, personal ways of preserving water.

Moving forward, the Committee used the Laudato Deum Examen to examine our upcoming efforts:

* We do not look at the world from without, but from within
* We look at “my actions” as we reflect and respect all of God’s creation, especially, water.
* Are my actions healthy and harmonious

Decisions for “actions” included:

* Show “water” films (for example there are a many films that show that the production of clothing from poorer countries causes the contamination of the drinking water as waste waters from the factories are mingled in municipal waters. Action: use clothes longer, buy less new cotton.
* Use “water” as a theme for monthly petitions at Community prayer.
* Meditations on water
* On-going Water is a “monthly theme” in our BVM publications.
* Consider culminating with a water theme that includes the greater Dubuque area by offering a community class at the Roberta Kuhn Adult learning center. This class would run for ten weeks and include Iowa ecology experts to present the factual realities of a Mississippi River community.
* Develop timeline for the year:
  + March—World Water Day
  + April—begin petitions
  + May—July: Conservation, “Did you Know?” focus, plan class options for the Roberta Kuhn Center.

March:

* Catfish Creek Reflection-- Catfish Creek is a water source that has been used in the Dubuque Area since the time that the Meskwaki Indians began living there. Inf 2011, the Watershed Authority developed a management plan to develop a blueprint for the revival and health of the 9,000-acre project for Catfish Creek water to be brought back to the quality of the time of the Meskwaki.

April: Updates to the Webpage to include interactive offerings:

* April Challenge: Be Like the Hummingbird—today I am doing something small, but I am doing my part
* May Challenge: Avoid Fast Fashion
* June Reflection: Getting to the Root of the Problem: How Trees Fight Water Pollution

May: Laudato Si’ Week:

* Share practical ways to save water in daily life
* Save potable water for plants
* Fast fashion spread the word on buy less!
* Continue developing “Learning to Action Community Course on water Pollution:

June:

* Presentation to the BVM Assembly for Ecological Education; team members create a power point to educate BVM community
* Collect responses and collate them

July, August:

* Collate and analyze the results of Feedback from the Assembly
* Discuss the development of the Roberta Kuhn Water Class and presenters to finalize plan
* Plan for the Season of Creation

September, October:

* Season of Creation celebration: The committee prepared a weekly prayer for the BVM Community to be presented in the chapel each Wednesday.
* Evaluation of Goal Number 1: Cry of the Earth
* Analysis of our year’s emphasis and celebration of the seamless connection between Goal One: Bry of the Earth and Goal Three: Ecological Education with the presentation of the ten-week course on God’s gift: WATER.

SMART GOALS: The work of the *Care for Earth* *Committee* developed a focus on “Water” that was rooted in the Laudato Si’ framework. It provided specific educational presentations, invitations to act, and concluded with a ten-week course that is being taught by Dubuque County experts. This work has been specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time bound.

Submitted by:

Care for Earth Committee

BVMs Marguerite Murphy, Rose Mary Meyer, Carol Spiegel, BVM Associate Lori Ritz, Director of BVM Life and Mission, Pat Maddux

<https://www.bvmsisters.org/social-justice/c4e/>

A picture containing circle

Description automatically generated

[www.bvmsisters.org](http://www.bvmsisters.org)