

Women Religious: Leading the Way on *Laudato Si'* and the Synodal Process

January 26, 2026



Women Religious: Leading the Way on *Laudato Si'* and the Synodal Process

RECORDING

The webinar is being recorded and a link to the recording will be sent to everyone who registered within the next 24-48 hours.

Questions

Please submit your questions in the Q/A box.

Chat

Please remember to be respectful and civil in all chat interactions.

Women Religious: Leading the Way on *Laudato Si'* and the Synodal Process



Sr. Carol Zinn, SSJ
LCWR



Kasha Sanor
Sisters of St.
Joseph



Sr. Ricca Dimalibot
CCVI
Sisters of Charity of
the Incarnate Word



Sr. Bridget Bearss, RSCJ
LCWR

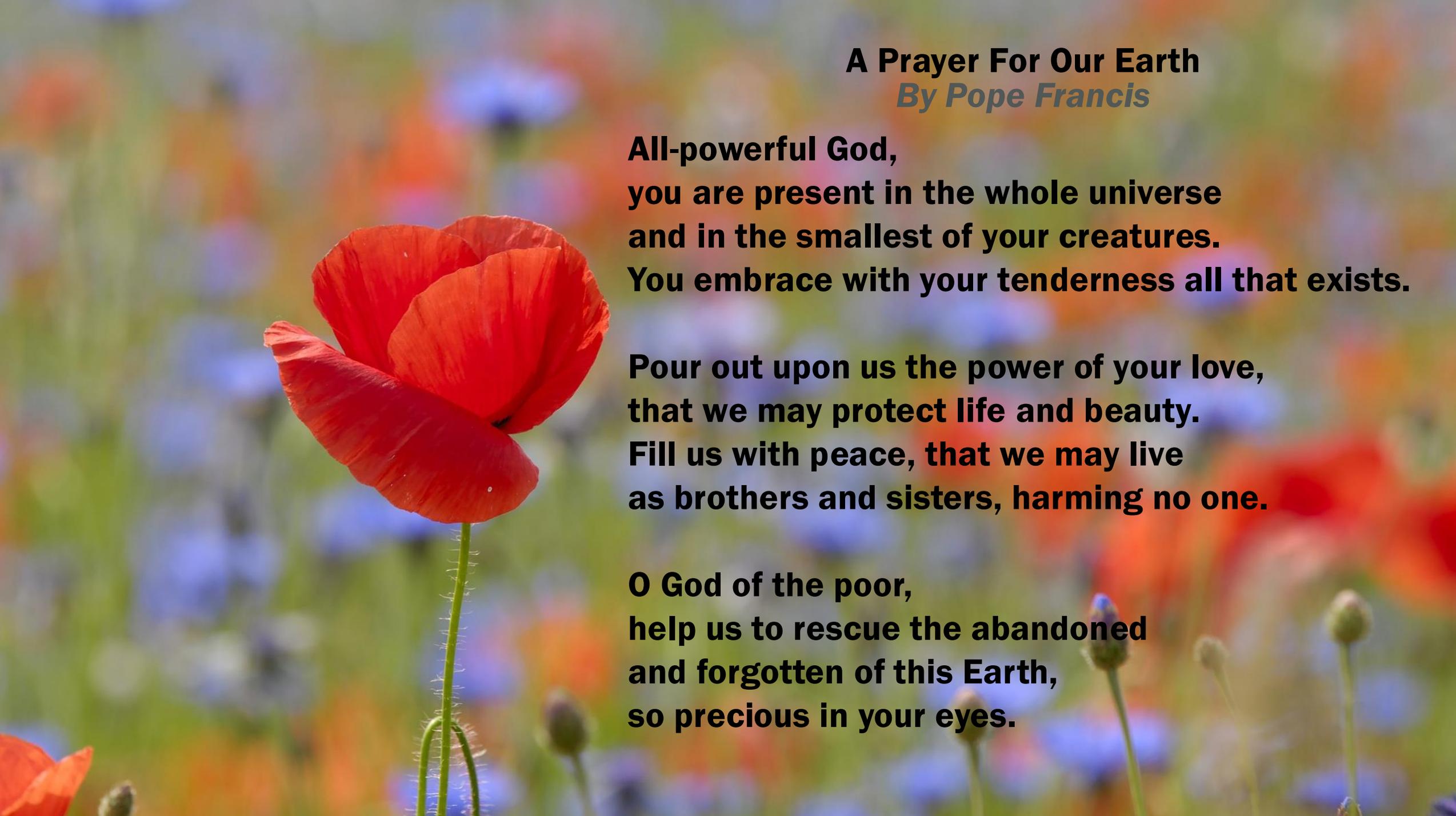


Marianne Comfort
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

Moderator: Dan Misleh, Catholic Climate Covenant

LCWR



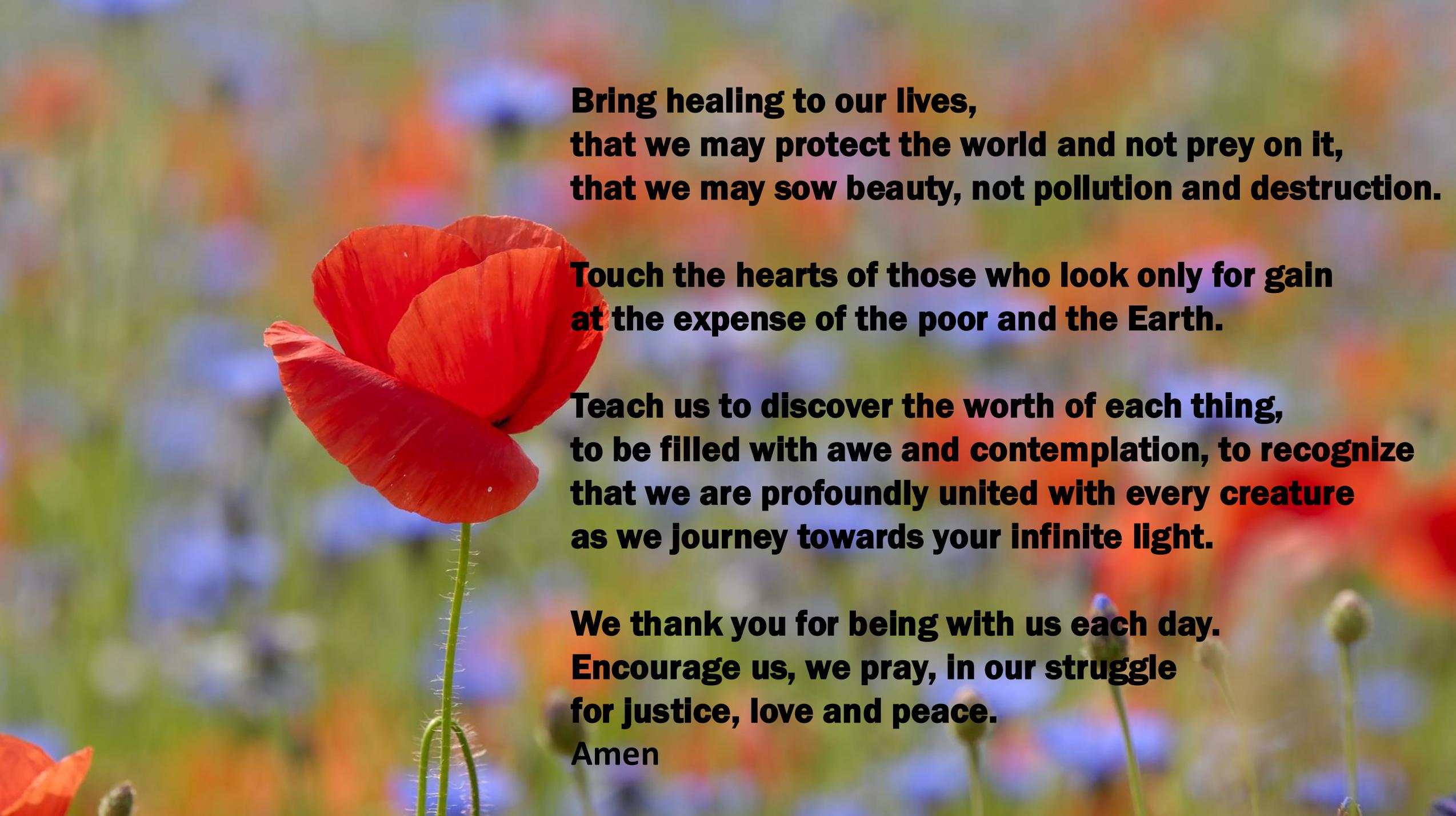
A vibrant field of poppies with a single red poppy in sharp focus in the foreground. The background is a soft-focus field of many other poppies in various colors, including red, orange, and blue, under bright, natural light.

A Prayer For Our Earth
By Pope Francis

**All-powerful God,
you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.**

**Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.**

**O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned
and forgotten of this Earth,
so precious in your eyes.**



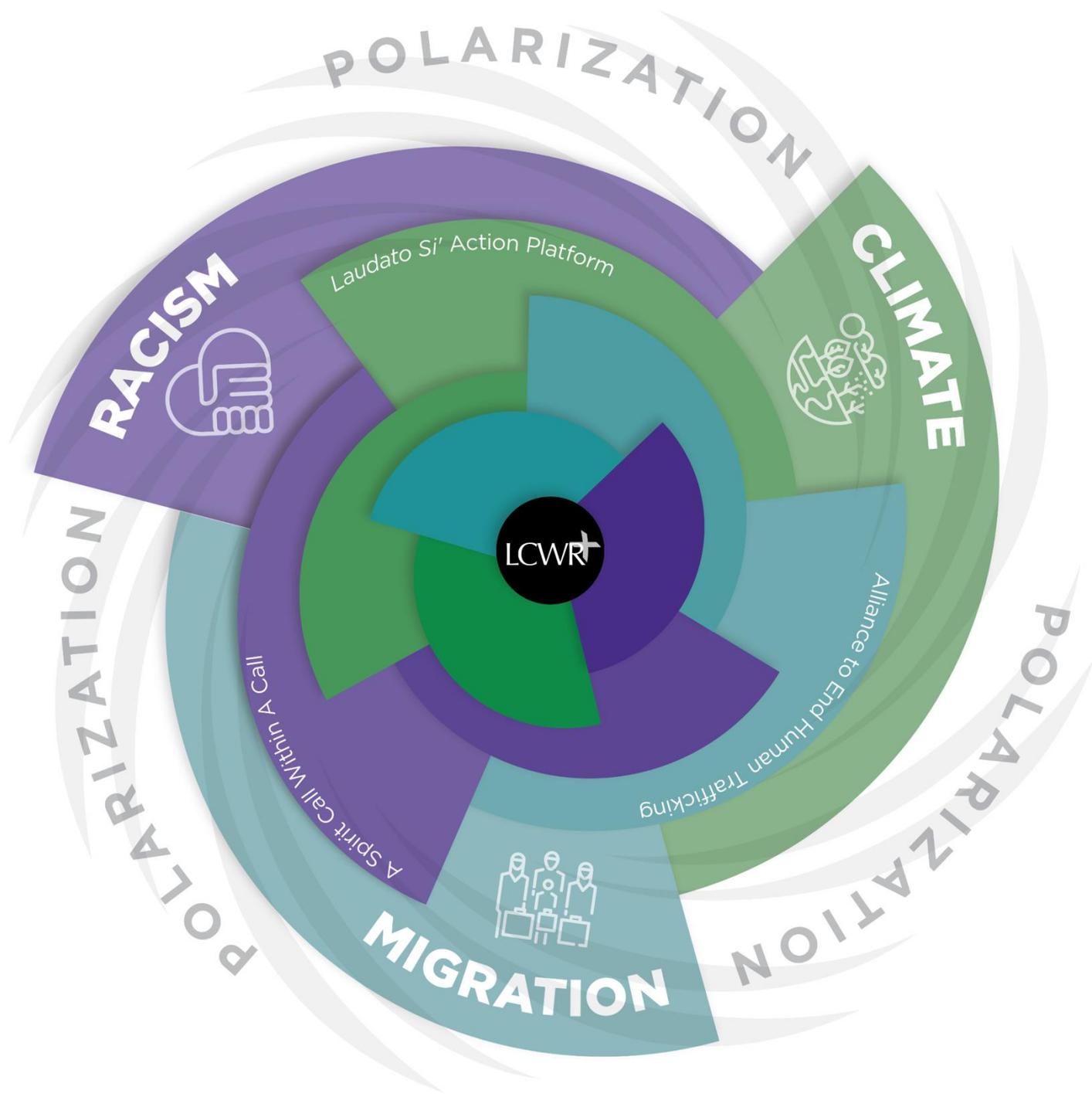
**Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.**

**Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the Earth.**

**Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize
that we are profoundly united with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.**

**We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle
for justice, love and peace.**

Amen



Assembly Resolution 2025-2029

Addressing Racism, Forced Migration and Climate Crisis

We believe that the future of the planet depends upon our making shifts in perspective and changes in our understanding of our interdependence as a global village – both individually and collectively. Our common home, Earth, and all who inhabit it suffer from the impact of racism, forced migration and the climate crisis. As bearers of hope, we commit to live compassion, communion and non-violence as one global community.

As we continue to increase our understanding of the root causes of these injustices, we commit ourselves to work toward a transformation of consciousness that will bring about a more loving society and justice for the world. To that end, we will use our collective voice, resources and influence- in collaboration with others – to work for a transformation of consciousness within ourselves and society.

RATIONALE

Our work to continue to examine the deep connections among racism, forced migration, and the climate crisis parallel the call from Pope Francis for an integral ecology approach that sees that “today’s problems call for a vision capable of taking into account every aspect of the global crisis.” LCWR believes it must continue its decades-long work of addressing these global crises via direct service, systemic change, and advocacy. Any strategies developed demand an integrated approach to combatting poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time, protecting nature.

(LS 139).







*transforming
consciousness*

**direct
service**

**systemic
change**

**political
advocacy**

**transformation
of consciousness**



Catholic Climate Covenant
Women Religious: Leading the Way
on *Laudato Si'* and the Synodal
Process

Sr. Ricca Dimalibot, CCVI, MD

January 26, 2026





Care of Creation Journey

CCVI CHAPTER Direction Statement

2018 – Public Stand on Care of Creation

- Study the *Laudato Si'* encyclical
- Area Reflection Centers (ARCs) in all regions on Care of Creation with speakers
- Involvement in UISG, CCC, LSM, LCWR, CLAR, CONFREGUA (Guatemala), SECAM (Africa), etc., initiatives, workshops, and conferences.
- Retreats, Prayer services and liturgy on Care of Creation
- Observance of Earth Day, *Laudato Si'* Week, Season of Creation, etc.

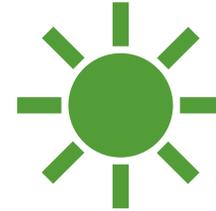
Care of Creation Journey



Waste Audit - led to professional **compost** hauling



Energy Audit - led to switching to energy-efficient appliances and equipment



Energy Provider in Houston uses a renewable energy source



Water Fountains, E-waste collection, proper recycling, solar panels, fair-trade purchases, reducing single-use items, biodigesters, using electric/hybrid vehicles, etc.

Care of Creation Journey

- Partnership with non-profits through grants – Care of Creation as one of the priority areas
- Impact Investments
- Socially Responsible Investment Coalition (SRIC) –CCVIs one of the founding members
- Facilities Assessment of buildings
- We encourage care of the environment in our sponsored and co-sponsored ministries through (Member Direction) and with our co-ministers.



Newsletter articles and social media postings





CONGREGATION of the
Sisters of Charity
of the INCARNATE WORD
HOUSTON, TEXAS



CALLED TO CONVERSION

LAUDATO SI CATHOLIC ECOLOGICAL AWAKENING

A morning of critical reflection on one of the most urgent moral challenges of our time.

Saturday March 16, 2019

9 am - 12 pm

Villa de Matel Convent

6510 Lawndale, Houston, TX 77023

REGISTER: SistersofCharity.org or 713 341 2592

Free event with Spanish interpretation offered.

Evento gratuito con servicio de intérprete de inglés a español incluido.

*150+ talk-style speakers and local Catholic leaders will discuss the responsibility of individual Christians and the role of the local Church to care for our Common Home. Come early for a labyrinth Prayer Walk at 8 a.m.



CONGREGATION of the
Sisters of Charity
of the INCARNATE WORD
HOUSTON, TEXAS

Michael Coombe
Rocio Dimalibor
Matthew Tesague
Sam Dunning
Dan Sam Dunning
Roger Ingersoll
Bill Clark
Monica Fischer



Address the
Houston City Council
to advocate for the
environment



AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH
AND MADE HIS DWELLING AMONG US. JN 1:14

2019 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
FOR THE CARE OF

CREATION

ECUMENICAL OBSERVANCE

SAT., SEPT 7TH

10 AM

VILLA DE MATEL

6510 LAWNSDALE

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

RSVP: SISTERSOFCHARITY.ORG

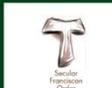
713-341-2611



CONGREGATION of the
Sisters of Charity
of the INCARNATE WORD
HOUSTON, TEXAS

World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation Ecumenical Celebration

- Gathering of Local faith leaders from 10 denominations led by Archbishop Emeritus Joseph A. Fiorenza, Lutheran Bishop Mike Rinehart of the Gulf Coast Synod, local environmental and civic groups, lay faithful and public officials.
- The purpose of the celebration is to give thanks, to repent and to plead for moral courage to address the current ecological crisis.
- More than 300 people attended the hour-long event, which was co-sponsored by 17 community organizations.





BELIEF

Photos by Annie Mulligan / Contributor

Houston faith leaders from Catholic, Lutheran, Methodist, Episcopalian, Unity, Baptist, Evangelical and Serbian Orthodox churches gathered at Villa De Matel Chapel to address ecological crisis and climate change on World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.

FAITH

Sisters of Charity are up for a challenge

Nuns at the Ruah Spirituality Center help others seek enlightenment in troubled times

By Lindsay Peyton
CORRESPONDENT

When Pope Francis asked the world to unite in prayer for the environment and to address climate change, a group of nuns in Houston heeded the call. The Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, Houston, organized a local event for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation last week.

In his message from the Vatican earlier this month, Francis wrote, "Egocism and self-interest have turned creation, a place of encounter and sharing, into an arena of competition and conflict. In this way, the environment itself is endangered: something good in God's eyes has become some-

Sisters continues on F2



The Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word hope to encourage others to re-evaluate their choices regarding food, energy usage and consumerism.

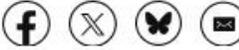
REFLECTION

BUSINESS // ENERGY

Evangelicals see the light on climate change

By James Osborne, Staff writer

Updated Oct 1, 2019 5:00 a.m.



Attendees slowly exit after the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation event at Villa De Matel Chapel on Saturday, Sept. 7, 2019, in Houston. Houston faith leaders from Catholic, Lutheran, Methodist, Episcopalian, Unity, Baptist, Evangelical and Serbian Orthodox churches gathered to address ecological crisis and climate change.

Annie Mulligan, Contributor / Houston Chronicle

YouTube video to
celebrate
Laudato Si' Week

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ayTVFJFPN94>



Houston Chronicle Op Ed (09/06/2020)

ENVIRONMENT

Caring for our common home in this Season of Creation

By Sister Ricca Dimalibot

A little over a year ago, as I walked a prayer path in the East End of Houston, I pondered the long, black plume hanging ominously over a clear blue sky, smoke from the ITC plant fire and a signal of changing times. Years ago, the land in this area was swampy and undeveloped, but the air was fresher. Now, the area sits in Houston's urban core and mere miles from one of the largest petrochemical centers in the world that experts say is ever more vulnerable to severe weather caused by climate change.

With the growing body of scientific evidence showing that



Jon Shapley / Staff photographer

“God reveals himself to us through nature,” says Sister Ricca Dimalibot at Villa De Matel Convent in Houston.

climate change could pose an existential threat to our species, as a Catholic nun and a family physician I find myself treading the thin line between the spiritual and material worlds. I see humanity as the culmination of billions of years of evolution that have brought us to this unrepeatable moment in time. I also believe that the origin of our existence is Divine and intrinsically ordered toward goodness, beauty and communion. This dual prism convinced me that my abiding faith that “all will be well” is simply insufficient – morally and spiritually – in the face of mounting evidence that human behavior is having disastrous effects on the planet and,

in turn, a disastrous effect on us.

Advocacy for the environment demands radical changes in industry and consumerist behavior, especially in the most developed nations. But more than that, effective climate activism must also inspire respect for the inherent dignity and interdependence of the natural world and human beings, and the cultivation of deep charity towards others. As children of God, we belong to each other and we have kinship with the natural world.

This month, the global Christian community seeks to animate this reverence and love during the Season of Creation, a

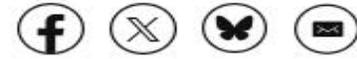
Season continues on A24



LOCAL // HOUSTON

From sermons to recycling, growing number of Houston-area churches going 'green'

By **Perla Trevizo**, Staff writer
Updated March 2, 2020 5:00 a.m.



2022 Chapter Direction Statement



Continue to commit to lovingly coexist with God's creation through:



· education on the current environmental crisis and potential solutions



· concrete actions as individuals, in our local communities, and as a congregation in line with the ***Laudato Si'* Action Platform**



LSAP Commitment Statement

We, the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, Houston, TX, hear with heartrending clarity the cry of the earth in the unfolding environmental crisis of humankind's making. Our charism to manifest the presence of Jesus Incarnate in our world compels us to respond to the Holy Father Pope Francis' call to ecological conversion whereby our tender and personal love for Jesus more deeply transforms our interconnected relationship with all of creation. It is the Holy Spirit that nurtures within us a loving awareness of this sacred interdependence that leads to more purposeful and sacrificial action to tread more gently on this Earth where *the Word became flesh and dwelt among us*.

In our Congregation's traditional spirit of charity, dependence, simplicity of life, hospitality and joyful service to the poor and suffering, we commit ourselves to the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform and join with our brothers and sisters throughout the world on its seven-year journey toward integral ecology and total sustainability. We commit to deepen our conversion, educate ourselves and others on the current environmental crisis and take concrete actions individually and communally to care for the Earth.



Sisters of Charity of
the Incarnate Word

Laudato Si' Action Platform

- Annual enrollment since 2022*
 - LSAP Year 4 - Focus on Plastics
- Bishop Ndingi Schools in Kenya
 - 2022 & 2023 - Sisters and students planted 5,000+ and 1,300+ trees, respectively.
 - Bishop Ndingi Ecosystem Initiative
 - School Environment Club
 - World Environment Day
 - Arbor Day (Nat'l Tree Planting Day)



Earth Day
celebration
every year with
activities and
speakers
organized by
the
**Environment
Committee.**

Laudato Si' Action Platform
Nature Walk at the VDM
woods.

26 Apr. 2022

**Common Ground:
Cultivating Connections
Between Our Faith, Our
Food and the Climate.**

Speakers were Danny Wilson
(Farm Dirt Compost), Tommy
Garcia-Prats (Small Places).

25 Apr. 2024

20 Apr. 2023

Bee the Change. Sr. Helena
Adako Ogbuji, a certified
beekeeper in Nigeria.

25 Apr. 2025

**Health Implications of
Microplastics Exposures**
presentation by Melissa Suter,
Assistant Professor in the
Department of OB/Gyn at
Baylor College of Medicine.

Galveston-Houston Archdiocesan Ecological Concerns Committee (AECC)

Initially led by the Galveston-Houston Director of Secretariat for Social Concerns

Supported by Cardinal DiNardo



LAUDATO SI'
FAITH IN ACTION FOR OUR COMMON HOME
In Houston & Beyond

A half-day conference on environmental issues and our duty to respond as Church.

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 1, 2022
8:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**ST. DOMINIC'S CHANCERY
AUDITORIUM
2403 Holcombe Blvd.
Houston, TX 77021**

FREE



REGISTRATION
ONLINE: WWW.ARCHGH.ORG
OR BY PHONE: (713) 741-8769

INVOCATION AND OPENING REMARKS

**DANIEL CARDINAL DINARDO,**
ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON

**FIGHTING FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR PLANET:
SCIENTIFIC AND FAITH PERSPECTIVES**

**SR. LINDA GIBLER, OP, PH.D.,**
VICARESS, HOUSTON DOMINICAN SISTERS

**PHIL SAKIMOTO, PH.D.,**
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY,
UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

AIR, LAND, & WATER IN HOUSTON

**SR. RICCA DIMALIBOT, CCVI,**
M.D.

**TOMMY GARCIA-PRATS, FINCA**
TRES ROBLES

**ROBBY ROBINSON,**
BUFFALO BAYOU PARTNERSHIP

FAITH IN ACTION PANEL OF LOCAL LEADERS

**CHRIS TOMLINSON**
HOUSTON

**DEANNA ENNIS**
ARCHDIOCESAN

**ALEXA RIVAS-GASSAN**
ST. CATHERINE'S

**GABRIELA PALMER**
ST. CATHERINE'S

**ROGER INGERSOLL**
PARISHIONER &

**RHONDA SEPULVEDA**
CATHOLIC CHARITIES



Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Office of the Cardinal

August 9, 2023

Dear Brother Priests,

In his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis provides insight into the ongoing conversation surrounding the responsible care of the environment. As this summer continues to bring warm temperatures, it is difficult to ignore the fragile interdependence between humanity and the natural environment.

Therefore, to help raise awareness of these important issues during these warm months, I encourage you to host a viewing of the film "The Letter." This documentary, which premiered at the Vatican last year, explores the intersection of the Church's social teaching with environmental concerns through the experiences of five individuals invited to speak to the Holy Father about their work.

If you would like to host a viewing, please email Ms. Blanca Cruz at bcruz@archgh.org so that she may assist you in arranging a screening. You may also find more information about hosting a screening of the film by following this link: <https://www.theletterfilm.org/>.

Lastly, I would like to extend an invitation to attend a Mass for the care of creation on October 3rd, 2023, at St. Theresa Parish in Memorial Park at 6:30pm, which is sponsored by the Archdiocesan Secretariat for Social Concerns.

With gratitude for your priestly ministry in the local Church of Galveston-Houston, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Daniel Cardinal DiNardo

Daniel Cardinal DiNardo
Archbishop of Galveston-Houston



- **"Green Mass"** was celebrated at St Theresa Catholic Church, Oct 4, 2023
 - Archdiocesan office for Social Justice promoted this Mass to youth and young adult groups, Texas Catholic Herald, and the G-H website
- Over a dozen parishes showed "The Letter". Cardinal DiNardo helped promote showings by sending a letter to all parish priests

TAIZE *PRAYER* FOR CREATION



Come and join us

For a beautiful evening of moving, contemplative candlelit prayer, followed by a...



7:30 PM FRIDAY
OCT. 25, 2024

Villa de Matel Chapel

March 2025

**Solidarity tour
(Toxic Tour) in
Freeport, Texas**



**Climate Revival
and Solidarity
Sunday Festival**



**March for Future
Generations** during
CERAWeek (March
2025) - annual
conference of the
largest companies in
the energy sector,
heads of state, and
government officials
from dozens of
nations



LCWR Region XII Catholic Sisters' Advocacy Day at the Texas Capitol

Senator Carol Alvarado and Texas State Rep. Christina Morales

Primarily to advocate for immigrants, but we also talked about our concern for the

2023

environment

2025



Participation in the advocacy work of various organizations focusing on climate change or care of creation

- Calling or sending letters to state or city government officials and signing petitions urging officials to address various climate-related issues that affect the poor.
 - **Religious Life for Climate Justice: Turning Hope Into Action by UISG**
 - **Support the FOREST** (Fostering Overseas Rule of Law and Environmentally Sound Trade) **Act**
 - **Indo-Pacific Economic Framework** from **NETWORK**



Season of Creation Retreat Sept 18 – 20, 2025

*Silent retreat at our
Ruah Retreat
Center*

- *Centering prayer*
- *Personal and communal prayers*
- *Ecological examen*
- *Creation walk*
- *Sound Bath*
- *Mass*

 CONGREGATION U.S.A.
Sisters of Charity
of the INCARNATE WORLD
HOUSTON, TEXAS

RUAH SPIRITUALITY CENTER

Peace with Creation

A Silent Retreat & Ecological Pilgrimage

Thurs., Sept 18 -
Sat., Sept 20, 2025

 Villa de Matel
6510 Lawndale
Houston, TX 77023

The Season of Creation (Sept. 1- Oct. 4) is a time to renew our relationship with God, our Creator, and of all Creation, through celebration, conversion and commitment together. This year, as humanity faces the urgent need to care for our planet, we will unite around the theme "Peace with Creation." Join us for a silent, contemplative retreat and Pilgrimage of Hope.

Register at
www.SistersofCharity.Org
Confirmation of registration and
overnight accommodation will
be sent to registered
participants.

 **PEACE
WITH CREATION**
SEASON OF CREATION 2025

CREATION Walk

- Installation of **Creation Walk** at the convent woods in observance of the Season of Creation 2025 and to commemorate the 10th anniversary of Pope Francis's Encyclical *Laudato Si'*. It consists of 30 stations that tell the story of the Universe, adapted from a booklet by an Irish priest, **Fr. Brian Grogan, SJ**, called **Creation Walk: The Amazing Story of a Small Blue Planet**.





Pilgrimage of Hope Bus Tour

Bus Tour of the East Side of Houston Near Petrochemical Plants and Houston Ship Channel - 4 Stops:

Environmental Justice & Listening to the Cry of the Poor (TEJAS Environmental Justice Group)

Planting Seeds of Peace and Hope (Finca Tres Robles Farm in 5th Ward)

Denver Harbor - neighborhood next to Ship Channel and Refineries (Neighbors in Action Community Group)

Manchester Community (St. Alphonsus Catholic Church)

Pope Leo XIV added the **Mass for the Care of Creation** to the formulary of Masses for civil needs in July 2025.



The **Mass for the Care of Creation** was celebrated for the first time at our motherhouse on 09/07/2025.



**Sisters of Charity of
the Incarnate Word**

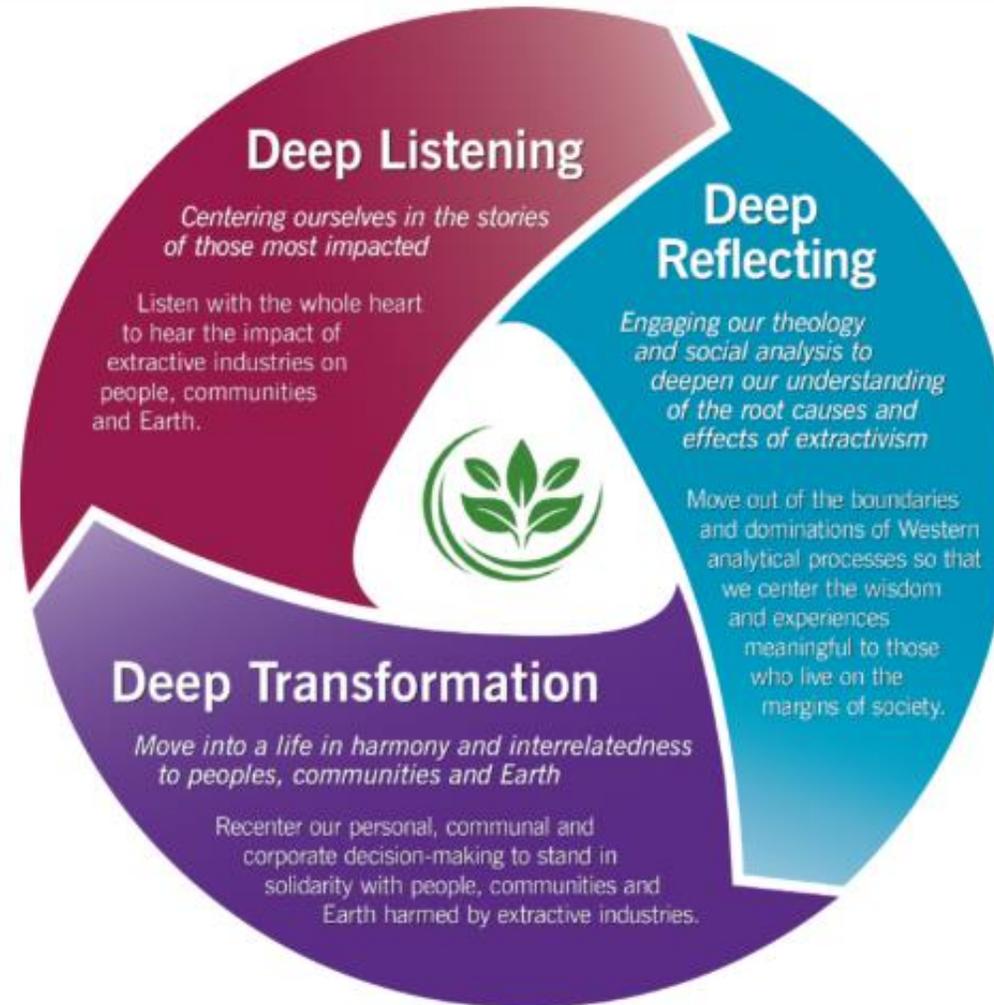
Listening to Sisters Throughout the Congregation



Listening to Sisters Throughout the Congregation

“to pursue education and action against practices of extractive industries that are destroying people, communities and Earth”
-- statement out of 2017 Chapter

Awakening to a New Consciousness on Extractivism





Advocacy on the harms of Extractive Industries

- Opposing deep sea mining in the Marianas
- Educating and advocating for safeguards with oil and gas drilling off the coast of Guyana
- Reforming the 1872 mining law in the U.S. for the 21st century
- Accompanying Native communities in New Mexico dealing with the legacy of uranium mining
- Naming dangers of rush to mine minerals in the name of “national security”

2026 LSAP Goal

Extractivism Advocacy Toolkit

