

SCNY Office of Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation Update – June 2015

Laudato Si (**Praised Be: On Care For Our Common Home**), Pope Francis' first encyclical was released June 18 and is addressed to every person living on this planet. It is a call to reflect on our moral responsibility to take action and care for the Earth. In the first paragraph, Pope Francis recalls Saint Francis of Assisi's Canticle which "reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us." (#1) Pope Francis appeals "for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all." #14



Sisters of Charity and Associates have been in conversations on issues and themes highlighted in *Laudato Si*. The Life Transforming Spirituality Group (on left) reflects on science, faith and spirituality in light of the 13.8 billion year unfolding Universe. The task forces seek ways to address poverty, inequality, water rights, safe clean renewable energy. Members have become aware of Earth and how

exploitation and depletion of its resources connect with poverty, human trafficking, immigration, migration, and displacement of peoples from their homeland. A reflective reading of *Laudato Si* can offer insights on the ongoing mission and charism of the Sisters of Charity in light of these "new" signs of the times. The 2015 Assembly Call to Mission, Call to Community & Membership, and Call to Governance & Leadership reflect what Pope Francis is calling us to in *Laudato Si*. In this Year of Consecrated Life, we are aware of how important it is to *Wake Up the World* by loving deeply, living simply, and seeking the common good.

We seek to continue the conversations in the context of *Laudato Si* and its call to action – with young adults; with the vulnerable and those living in poverty; with those who are in solidarity with them; with business, political, and world leaders; and with Catholics and people of faith. May we listen to the stories of people and of Earth who are affected by war, exploitation, consumerism and indifference. May we be moved to conversion and to action to care for our common home – for ourselves, for our children, for future generations.

Sisters of Charity, steeped in the Eucharistic tradition, can resonate with #236. "It is in the Eucharist that all that has been created finds its greatest exaltation...The Lord, in the culmination of the mystery of the Incarnation, chose to reach our intimate depths through a fragment of matter. He comes not from above, but from within, he comes that we might find him in this world of ours...Joined to the incarnate Son, present in the Eucharist, the whole cosmos gives thanks to God. Indeed the Eucharist is itself an act of cosmic love..."

Share with the PJIC Office a quote from Laudato Si that moves you to action.



Sisters of Charity Federation NGO, a Corporate Witness and Ministry NGO Liaisons in the Sisters of Charity Federation gathered in Moncton, Canada before the Sisters of Charity Federation Leadership June meeting. Sr. Teresa Kotturan (far left), Sisters of Charity Federation NGO Representative, highlighted the Post 2015 Sustainable Development

Goals (which will replace the Millennium Goals) and Agenda to be adopted September 25 by United Nations members immediately after Pope Francis' address to the UN General Assembly.

Sr. Teresa invited each congregation to greater participation in the corporate ministry and witness of the Sisters of Charity Federation NGO:

- ❖ **Social Media Participation** – “like” Sisters of Charity Federation UNNGO on Facebook and “follow” on Twitter @ngoscfederation. Ask how to do if you don't know. Invite friends and colleagues to do. The United Nations looks to see how many “likes” an NGO has and how many “followers” it has on Twitter.
- ❖ **Sisters of Charity Federation October 21 – 23 Orientation** is a great way to meet others in the Federation. Please consider attending. Registration is required.
- ❖ **Commission for Social Development** (February 2016) and **Commission on the Status of Women** (March 2016) – **Participate** even if for a few days. Registration is required. It is a great way to identify the connection between global and local issues. If you cannot be physically present, consider live streaming.

Sr. Teresa will represent us (the Federation) at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, July 13 – 16th in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Important decisions will be made at this conference that will impact financing of the implementation of the Post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals.

In preparation for the adoption of the Post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda on September 25, a *Zero Draft* (with a very long name) was recently released. The Human Right to Water and Sanitation (HRTWS), which Sisters of Charity of New York signed on to, was not explicitly named. The Zero Draft falls short in the following key areas that NGOs, including our own, advocate:

- ❖ Anchor the Post-2015 Development Agenda in human rights.
- ❖ Make poverty eradication the objective over economic growth and prosperity.
- ❖ Explicitly name and include the human right to water and sanitation in priority themes.
- ❖ Safeguard essential public services from public private partnerships (PPPs).
- ❖ Ensure effective participation of affected communities and civil society.