
Initiatives (Cont'd)

- Education / advocacy on Indian Point issues in collaboration with many organizations.
- November 16, 2005 Conference on "Land Preservation: How & Why" at Garrison Institute.
- Worked closely with Garrison Institute's Initiative on the Hudson River Project: participated in the Hudson River Conversations; helped develop for Earth Day 2007, *Our Shared Nature: A Transformational Ecology Compact for the Hudson*.
- Published "Grounded in the Gift of Our Lands: A Resource Book for Making Land Use Decisions" (October 2007)
- November 7, 2007 Conference "Listening to Earth and Making Earth-friendly Decisions Regarding Land Use" facilitated by Sisters Margaret Galiardi, OP and Pat Siemen, OP.
- Collaborated with local and national organizations to address environmental issues around water, waste management, land use, etc.
- Coordinated viewings of "Renewal" with local environmental groups and places of faith

ROAR member congregations offer retreats, workshops, education and advocacy initiatives in areas of eco-spirituality and environmental

ROAR Members

- Carmelite Sisters – Beacon
- Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary
- Catholic Worker Farm – Marlboro
- Sisters of Charity of New York
- Edmund Rice Christian Brothers, N.A.
- Sisters of the Divine Compassion
- Dominican Sisters of Hope
- Sisters of St. Dominic, Blauvelt, NY
- Dominican Sisters of Sparkill
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace
- Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement
- Society of St. Ursula
- Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers
- Maryknoll Sisters
- The Religious of Jesus and Mary
- Ursuline Sisters, Roman Union, USA Province



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Religious Organizations Along the River



Who Is ROAR?
Initiated in 1996, ROAR (Religious Organizations Along the River) is a network of religious Congregations and organizations with property in the Hudson Valley of New York State.



ROAR Mission Statement

As members of religious communities, conscious of our communion with the land we own in the Hudson River Bioregion, we believe:

- *that we share kinship with all creation;*
- *that human beings and the natural world must go into the future as a single sacred community or both will perish*
- *and that the ecologically sound care of our lands is a God-given mission.*

Impelled by these beliefs and recognizing a time imperative, we come together to:

- *support one another in using our lands with an attitude of respect for the beauty and integrity of earth;*
- *collaborate with each other and learn together;*
- *address the interrelated issues of poverty, justice, and ecology in this bio-region.*

Drawing from our community traditions and experience, as well as from the new cosmology, we will channel our mutual efforts into education, motivation and advocacy. Grounded in the movements of contemplation and action, we will seek to collaborate with others who share common concerns and values.

(May 20, 1998)

General Statement of Commitment

ROAR and its member congregations have been gifted to live along the majestic Hudson River and / or in the beautiful Hudson River bioregion rich in beauty, natural and spiritual resources. We strive to promote right relationships among all God's Creation, especially in this area we call home. The Hudson River calls us to respond to the pressing issues and needs that it and the communities of life, including the human, face. We commit to:

- Continue educating ROAR member congregations and their leadership on land use, conservation and easement rights with the goal of preserving land that is owned.
 - Inform, educate and advocate for local issues that address: rights of land, water and air; water quality; Indian Point Nuclear Plant; sustainable practices; use of land "owned" and / or used by ROAR member Congregations.
 - Strengthen partnerships and collaborative efforts with appropriate national and local environmental groups and people of faith on above issues.
 - Plan periodic educational and inspirational programs / workshops / retreats that bring together the membership of ROAR congregations, people of faith and environmentalists on above issues and in celebration of the Hudson River and its bioregion and the Great Work that is being done.
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Major Initiatives Since 1996

- Formal and informal education among ROAR members on: history and use of land owned by ROAR member congregations; deepening understanding of land use and ways to conserve and preserve land; networking and sharing information with ROAR member congregations on environmental assessments and steps taken to assure sustainability
 - Development of ROAR Land Ethic Statement and advocating for / educating and assisting ROAR member congregations and other groups to develop their own land ethic statement and land use policy
 - November 8 – 10, 2000 Conference, "Bridging Faith and Environment" convened religious leaders (clergy and lay) from different faith denominations to reflect together on the spiritual and ethical vision needed to address the ecological issues of our times, especially those of the Hudson River bioregion. Dr. Larry Rasmussen, author of *Earth Community*, *Earth Ethics*, was presenter.
 - Advocating for the removal of PCBs in collaboration with many organizations.
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