

August 15, 2016



Dear Sisters and ACOF,

In 2013, an ad hoc committee was mandated by Congregational Chapter to do these things:

- ✦ Recommend processes and experiences that engage the mind, heart, and will for conversion;
- ✦ Identify potential partners who share our goals;
- ✦ Name collective actions to advance these ecological goals;
- ✦ Design the ways we will be accountable to one another.

Since 2014, the Ad hoc Committee for Communion within the Earth Community has fulfilled two of our four tasks. We have:

- ✦ Conducted a congregation-wide “survey of readiness” to ascertain what Sisters/ACOF attitudes, needs, and desires are concerning Communion within the Earth Community
- ✦ Created and posted on the Congregational website [modules for information, prayer, reflection, and action](#):
  - ☐ An Invitation to a Lenten Earth Practice
  - ☐ Food: What We Eat Connects Us
  - ☐ The Same Water Flows through Us
  - ☐ Prayer and Action on Laudato Si.
  - ☐ A list of Potential Partners for Action
- ✦ Celebrated the anniversary of Laudato Si with a special flier reminding us to look again to this important document, publicizing the Potential Partners for Action list, and offering a Desk Sign to remind us to consider Earth in every deliberation.
- ✦ Encouraged our communicators across the congregation to place ads in diocesan and national Catholic media honoring this first anniversary and offering a link to our resources for ongoing study.

We realize that we have not completed our mandate from Chapter. However, we know that from now until April 2017 the Congregation will be immersed in preparations for the extraordinary Congregational Chapter. Therefore, we are taking a hiatus from our work so that everyone can give full attention to the Design Team retreats and the preparations for the extraordinary chapter.

We thank you for all of your efforts to deepen our commitment to communion within the whole Earth community. We encourage you to continue your engagement in the ecological conversion that Pope Francis calls us to in Laudato Si.

In celebration of a sacred Earth,

*The members of the Ad Hoc Committee for Communion within the Earth Community*  
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