

Church: the People of God

Action	What difference has it made...
Invited Ilia Delio, OSF to address us	Deepened our understanding of new theologies and how they intersect with the issues of our time.
Encouraging Sisters and Associates to preach at community events	Gives us a different perspective on the Word of God. Models what we hope will be normative in the future.
Communicated with Bishop Scharfenberger and when diocesan departments on several issues including department changes.	Reminded people in authority that they need to be aware of “all the facts” before making a decision.
<p>Perhaps better with “Partnering”                      CSR consistently looks at the issue of interfaith dialogue and interfaith prayer.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. “Better Together”...a student group that considers how faith and action go together. They sponsor events such as “speed faithing” where a member of a faith tradition sits at a table and other students can ask them questions about that faith tradition. Or “Faith Crawl”-in a weekend, the group attends an Islamic temple, a Buddhist ritual, a Christian service and visits a Hindu temple.</li> <li>2. The Sidney and Beatrice Albert lectures which take place annually and explore the understanding of a faith tradition. This year a Buddhist monk came and created a sand mandala and there were several programs to better understand Buddhism built around that.</li> </ol>	It helps us to better understand other faith traditions and to appreciate how people can find God through these traditions.
We have encouraged the Sisters to read about evolutionary cosmology and to grow in their awareness of “We Are All One.”	We are trying to see all creation as sacramental and reverence every dimension of it.
We have been encouraged to embrace the teaching of Vatican II about the primacy of conscience in choosing to support candidates for public office.	We find ourselves at odds with some church authorities.
We make it a point to collaborate with people of other faiths and cultures.	This is a public display of our communion.
Our Sisters continue to serve within the structure of the institutional church.	By their leadership and ministry, they present a model of Church which indeed is collegial, collaborative, and call forth the gifts of all the baptized...WE are the Church
Our specific action to speak with the Sisters at the time of the ordination of a local woman to priesthood...and the way we approached the question: respecting Sister’s freedom, providing information regarding possible consequences of attending/participating...all done in consultation with Bishop Hubbard.	A number of Sisters, at the time, expressed gratitude for the consultation and sharing of information, which enabled them to make a decision based on an informed conscience.
The efforts of the Theological Update Committee around the time of the 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of Vatican II (workshop with Richard Gaillardetz...the study of Vatican II with Lois Barton and Katie Eiffe...opportunities provided by the Justice Committee to pray with other faith communities (e.g. visit to the mosque), Sisters attendance at Interfaith prayer services.	Keeping alive the spirit of Vatican II regarding ecumenical and interfaith respect and recognition.
Our support of the CLT and CLG at the time of the Apostolic Visitation.	Provided a model of collegial leadership and respectful dialogue
Our participation in LCWR National Assemblies, and support of the LCWR Presidency as they dealt with the Doctrinal Assessment	Provided a model of humble, courageous, collegial dialogue under the most trying of circumstance.
Community Day speaker of Michael Crosby	Made us more aware of our responsibility to build up the church and the people of God by practicing the Beatitudes.

**Claiming Our Oneness: Relationships and Structures for Mission**

Action

What difference has this made...

<p>We participated in the collaboration of the various Working Groups:</p> <p><u>Archives:</u> We contributed financial and physical support for the consolidation of the Carondelet Archives.</p> <p><u>Formation:</u> Helped create a common Candidate Program and Novitiate.</p> <p><u>Justice:</u> The JPIC personnel in the provinces have been working closely together to form a Congregational JPIC Team. We meet by ZOOM monthly and in person annually. We have agreed to work collaboratively on 4 foci.</p> <p><u>Communication:</u> Worked together on such publications as <u>Carondelet Magazine</u> and <u>We Are Carondelet</u> that are distributed throughout the Congregation.</p> <p><u>ACOF</u> created their own convocation and now see themselves as needing to become more self sufficient and self directed. The province has handed over the Associate finances to the Associates.</p> <p><u>Community Life Teams</u></p> <p><u>Structures:</u> Responding to the Call to Action the Albany Province has been overwhelming supportive of simplifying our governance structures and acting as one.</p> <p>Albany has already simplified many committees and boards.</p> <p>Over the years we have reduced our sponsorships and passed these works on to lay leadership...e.g. Unity House, Joseph House, Vera House etc.</p> <p>Took leadership through our CEO to give an overall picture of the congregational finances at the Extraordinary Chapter</p>	<p>We are committed to promote the good of the whole even as it demands financial resources from us. Witnesses to working together for the good of the whole and claiming our oneness.</p> <p>The Congregational JPIC (justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation) Team has helped the CLT make many corporate voice statements and to sign on to letters and statements of other interfaith and justice entities. We hope this will maximize our resources, avoid duplication and provide new possibilities for our justice ministry. Our message reaches more people than only our members and ACOF.</p> <p>More and more of our publications and communications are written in English, Spanish and Japanese.</p> <p>Greater sense of purpose and ownership of their purpose. Interest in the Agreggee movement has grown out of this effort, opening up one more way to live the charism.</p> <p>On-going meetings provide opportunities to share best practices and learn from one another.</p> <p>Many have participated in the Animation and Innovation Committee activities, such as Retreats, Cong. Gatherings, ZOOM calls etc.</p> <p>Better use of our resources and energy so that we can take on new efforts.</p> <p>Raised up new leadership</p> <p>Gave us a better picture of our resources and what it might mean to pool resources</p>
---	---

## Albany Province – 2013 Calls to Action Accountability Report

### Communion within the Earth Community

Action	What difference has this made...
Province published and encouraged the use of the modules from the Ad hoc Earth committee	Participants considered our use of water, food, our ecological conversion; also considered our reflections on Laudato Si and our partnering w/ other Earth focused groups
HomeLand Committee did prayer and ambiance at a Province Assembly to focus on the Chapter question: "How does this decision/action impact the Earth Community?"	Our awareness of ecological needs and doing actions that help these concerns has grown. (Informal and forum reports would indicate – yes!)
Stopped the use of Styrofoam at the PH Purchased biodegradable paper and plastic dishes, cutlery, etc.	We are not contributing to the waste and pollution Styrofoam causes. (see commitment 2, p.6); we are doing positive purchasing to save the environment
HL offered yearly events that focused on climate change, Laudato Si, connection of Earth problems and the poor (Poor People's Campaign)	Created awareness of these concerns and fostered concrete actions
Celebrated the Season of Creation with information, programs and prayer	Offered experiences that "engage the mind, heart and will for conversion"
Coordinated the timing of mowing of the meadow to support bird, butterfly and moth populations	Means a lot to these species to have a home! Supports chapter call to act on the interdependence of humanity and nature.
Justice Committee sponsored Peace Retreat: A Communion of Subjects; HL partnered with Justice	Retreat deepened consciousness of our interrelatedness with the whole community of life
During Lent HL sponsored Stations of the Suffering Earth Also offered prayer in Advent	Stations deepened consciousness of our interrelatedness with the whole community of life; "recognizing our culpability for her (Mother Earth's destruction."
Donated to the Nature Conservatory for carbon offsets for the travel foot print of the 2013 Chapter	Consciousness raising about our carbon footprint from travelling.
Many groups do electronic meetings	Saving on travel and reduces carbon footprint
Recycling stressed at PH: CD's batteries, plastic, furniture, electronics, printer cartridges, etc.; decluttering	This is ongoing work but there is some improvement.
*Partnered with Catholic Climate Covenant, Sierra Club, NRDC, Union of Concerned Scientists, The Nature Conservancy and Heifer International,	These organizations, each in its own right, advances awareness and action that is compatible with Communion with the Earth
Encouraged collaboration with local parishes re their Care of Creation efforts	Partnering/supporting all who are concerned helps the consciousness and actions/ movements grow
We have collaborated with Women Against War—vigils and actions about climate change and war	Consciousness raising re the connections between military activity and destruction of climate and the earth
Speakers—Ilia Delio OSF and others have been available to Province; Lin Neil, from this Province is available and does retreats and talks nationally	Providing education and inspiration for our sisters and others can effect change
Province sponsored Ken Scott as a Green Scholar	Ken now leads a group called "earthpeace" which presents rituals and workshops for the college and larger community; also works as a minister of the Methodist church and works with college students—all are influenced by his study
Raised awareness of LED lighting, LEAD Certification, biodegradable materials, energy efficient equipment, etc. for PACE construction, Shaker Pointe construction etc	Using energy wisely.

**Living the CSJ Charism**

Action	What difference has this made
The Associates spent a year in reflecting on their identity and commitment and then invited Sisters to converse with them. Supported our Associates to participate in the first ever convocation for Carondelet ACOF members in the summer of 2017.	A clearer understanding of who Sisters and Associates are collectively and individually. Made a difference to those women and also encouraged interprovincial unity around this issue
Exploring the Agreee movement in light of continuing the mission of the csjs.	Opens possibilities to other forms of commitment.
The work of the LRP subgroup on Membership that provided articles and other readings regarding religious life and vocation ministry, including a series of conversations about the radical nature of religious life ...that culminated in finally addressing the question “Are we willing to invite, accept, and support new members entering our community?”	This deepened the Sisters’ shared understanding of this gift of vocation and energized the Sisters to work for vocations.
Have supported those who wish to explore the Agreee movement	Made a difference to those women and also encouraged interprovincial unity around this issue
Continue to support Mission Integration at the College of St Rose, St. Mary’s Hospital, Shaker Pointe at Carondelet, and the Provincial House.	Keeps the mission of the csjs alive and in the spotlight.
As we get further into the PACE program, we have discovered that this partner (SPHP) in particular shares many aspects of our charism	Will make a difference to all who participate in PACE at the PH and in the neighborhood.
CSR sponsored two students to participate in a pilgrimage to LePuy and Lyon. Two Albany csjs led the pilgrimage.	Had a profound effect of the students who participated and an effect on all those with who they share their story.
Hosted college students and other young people (CCHS students) at the PH for a prayer group and discussion for several years. Continue to host activities in the Syracuse area. Invited high school students for a day long retreat where older sisters shared their vocation story.	Hard to tell what effect this might have in the future-but at least it is awareness for some young people.
Discussion and presentations at Community Days and CSJ Days that challenged us to live fully and live our charism in the present moment.	More hopefulness and emphasis on what we can do rather than on what we can no longer do.
Sandra Schneider’s study day on the vows (Theological Updating effort)	Direct response to the Call to Action to “deepen our living and understanding of the radical nature of consecrated life as csjs

Participated in public celebrations of Religious life- Concert for Vocations, preaching for vocations, celebration of the Year of Consecrated Life.

**Partnering With New Eyes**

Action

What difference has this made...

Using the Calls to Action from Chapter 2013 as themes for our annual community days and assembly prayers.	This kept the Calls to Action on our radar screens and provided ways to participate in action related to these goals.
Partnering with St. Peter’s Health Partners to provide a PACE program here at the Provincial House and in Albany and Rensselaer counties.	This provides for our infirm Sisters and the dear neighbor in Albany and Rensselaer counties. It may also provide volunteer opportunities for our Sisters.
St. Joseph’s Place partners with an inner-city parish to provide a drop in center for the homeless and marginalized. We use our ministry fund to pay for a T Coordinator.	It provides both a welcoming place for those who have no other place and it provides to those in the parish and others in the city about what can be accomplished when we collaborate. Having this place also gives the directors access to other groups in the Schenectady area with whom they partner.
Many Sisters partner individually by volunteering with organizations that work for the same values that we work for-food pantries, regional food banks, and homeless shelters. They also join committees and make a difference there.	Both the work and the witness value as well as the change in attitude which often occurs when we work with others.
Through the leadership of the Justice Committee led by a FT Coordinator, we have partnered with many organizations and groups in working to address racism, poverty, violence, immigration, human trafficking, etc. through the Poor People’s Campaign, Polaris, Eyes Wide Open Shop, CLINIC, Ecumenical Advocacy Days, Bread for the World, Heifer International, and the Spirits on Fire program.	We have come to recognize the importance of listening to the stories of those who are directly affected by the injustices in the world and then doing something to effect change, however small the action may be.
Greater participation of Sisters with Associates and exploring interest in the Agregee Movement.	Joint meetings and discussions resulting in a better understanding of our relationships. Further education planned.
The “extra” ministries of those who serve on Boards of Directors for St. Mary’s Hospital, the College of St. Rose, Shaker Pointe at Carondelet and others.	This gives us a voice in effecting change. e.g. The Veteran's Center at CSR...the work at St. Mary's Hospital with Amsterdam Memorial...the presence of our Sisters at Shaker Pointe.
Participation with Nuns on the Bus	We are working with others to address unjust systems in our government.
Joining with local and national organizations to establish "Food as a Human Right" (province goal)	Advocacy action to effect change.
Sale of a donated house and money donated to Catholic Charities to help provide housing for the homeless.	Contributing assistance to support the homeless.
Making CSJ public statements on issues of immigration and injustice.	Making the public aware of injustice.
Partnering with members of the Shaker Pointe Residence for refugees and the hungry.	Making the legislators more aware of those in need.
Sisters volunteering on the border to help the refugees.	Being a visible sign of Christ to those who are weary and persecuted.