



Laudato Sí Action Plan July 2023 to June 2024

The Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton, Iowa, Sojourners, and Associates have committed to a mission of living and promoting active nonviolence and peacemaking. We are inspired by the words of the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative (CNI) which points out that the theology and practice of nonviolence offer a foundation for the long-term work of building the future envisioned in *Laudato Si'*.

Nonviolence combines unconditional love in action with a constant effort to oppose violence. It is a spirituality, a way of life, a strategy for bringing about social change, a method for protecting the vulnerable, and a universal ethic.

Nonviolence recognizes that all of Creation is interdependent: what affects one, affects us all. It is a force for good that can propel the crucial, historic shift to a world where our common home, and all who dwell in it, are honored and protected.

In furtherance of our mission and commitment to active nonviolence, we will continually be guided by, and advocate for, nonviolence in all efforts to protect and heal the earth and all of Creation in our journey to a *Laudato Si'* future.

ECOSPIRITUALITY

1. Hold at least four prayer services that highlight ecospirituality throughout the year.
2. Expand our exposure to and appreciation for ecospirituality through prayer and educational opportunities.

CRY OF THE EARTH

1. Hire a contractor to conduct solar panel efficiency audit for The Canticle. Establish a plan to increase efficiency of the solar power generated to 40%-60% at The Canticle by December 31, 2023.
2. Engage a contractor to evaluate the ratio of land cover to the needs of wildlife habitats on The Canticle property. Develop a plan by June 2024. The changes in land

cover will include long-term restoration practices, along with land preservation, which will be completed by June 30, 2027.

3. Continue to educate ourselves on sustainable alternatives to single-use plastic. Review the Single-use Plastic Plan by December 31, 2024.
4. Partner with Catholic Climate Covenant and other organizations to advocate for climate justice, including legislation around the Farm Bill and the Forest Act.
5. Advocate against the proliferation of fossil fuel use in Iowa and elsewhere in the U.S. Ongoing.
6. Create or partner with others to sponsor an educational program for Earth Day 2024.

CRY OF THE POOR (Immigration Reform)

1. Join the coalition IA NICE to support Ukrainian refugees. Continue to support for up to two years (ending in December 2025).
2. Advocate for federal immigration reform legislation supported by Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC) and other organizations. Ongoing.
3. Monitor Iowa state legislation and governor's actions to restrict immigration or violate the human rights of immigrants in conjunction with the Iowa Catholic Conference and other organizations. Ongoing.
4. Provide funding to support organizations that assist immigrants of color. Ongoing.
5. Create or partner with others to sponsor at least 3 educational programs/materials to educate the public on facts regarding immigrants in 2023-2024.

CRY OF THE POOR (Income Inequality and Basic Human Rights)

1. Support efforts to establish permanent supportive housing units and an emergency shelter in Clinton through coalition-building, providing start-up costs or other resources as determined by the Leadership Team. Ongoing.
2. Join advocacy efforts of NETWORK and other organizations to address income inequality by signing on and encouraging others to support. Ongoing.

3. Monitor state legislation and advocate against violations of human rights and cuts in social support programs. Ongoing.
4. Advocate for national voting rights legislation. Ongoing.
5. Sponsor at least 3 public educational programs in 2023-2024 about systemic racism and efforts to address it.
6. Address food insecurity by supporting volunteers to ensure the future of Share Our Sandwiches.
7. Partner with Pace e Bene to organize events, including the International Day of Peace celebration, as part of the Campaign Nonviolence Days of Action.
8. Partner with Nuns Against Gun Violence to raise awareness of the causes of gun violence and to advocate for an assault weapon ban and other gun violence prevention legislation.
9. Re-start the Clinton Community garden. Partner with Clinton Parks and Recreation to assure that this initiative is properly implemented and promoted.

CRY OF THE POOR (Anti-Trafficking)

1. Continue monthly meetings of and expand membership on the Clinton Anti-trafficking Committee. Ongoing.
2. Strengthen ties with the Iowa Network against Human Trafficking and U.S. Catholic Sisters against Human Trafficking. Ongoing.
3. Hold at least 2 educational programs about trafficking in 2023-2024.
4. Hold at least one major educational program about human trafficking in January 2024.

CRY OF THE POOR (Nuclear Disarmament)

1. Contact staff persons of both U.S. senators and our representative in 2023-2024 regarding no-first-use policy, limiting presidential power to launch a nuclear attack, and legislation to endorse the nuclear ban treaty.

2. Research companies that support the production and use of nuclear weapons. Examine our investments and purchases and create a plan to change our current practices as needed.
3. Hold an annual event commemorating the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Ongoing.
4. Create or partner with others to sponsor at least one educational programs/materials to educate the public on nuclear disarmament in 2023-2024.

CRY OF THE POOR (Death Penalty)

1. Continue prayer vigils when executions are scheduled. Ongoing.
2. Select and sponsor 1-2 people in 2023-2024 to be trained in restorative justice.
3. Hold at least 2 public educational sessions in 2023-2024 about the process of reconciliation and repair of harm.