"When nature is viewed solely as a source of profit and gain, serious consequences affect society. The vision of 'might is right' has created immense inequalities, injustices and acts of violence against the majority of humanity, as resources end up in the hands of the first comer or the most powerful. Completely at odds with this model is the ideal of harmony, justice, fraternity and peace as proposed by Jesus." -Laudato Si (82)

Focus for 2019 - 2020
This year, challenged, but not discouraged by our chaotic world, we IHMs will focus on two concerns: Immigration and the Care of Our Common Home, as confirmed in CST, the Dignity of the Human Person.

Education:
Immigration: In 2019, El Paso's Jordana por la justicia (Workshop for Justice) responded to the inhumane treatment of migrants and refugees at the border and to the August massacre of 22 Latinx in their border community. The US-Mexico border has been the site of abhorrent treatment of immigrants, including cruel conditions in detention facilities, the separation of families, and the "Remain in Mexico" policy, a policy that has trapped asylum seekers in Mexico. (El Paso Coalition was formed after the massacre of 22 Latinx in this border community) (ISN, 10/16/19)

Our Catholic faith demands we be prophetic in these times of oppression, racism, and violence. We cannot stand idle in the face of white supremacy, demonstrated in policies set forth by this administration. Mass detention at the border, a profit-driven detention system, creates targeted mass criminalization of communities of immigrants and refugees. As Catholics and as religious women, we need to stand in solidarity with these communities.


Climate: Climate change multiplies all forms of global social injustice, e.g., hunger, tragic flight from one's country, isolation, poverty, inequality, deadly viruses, war, etc. The church must meet this overwhelming moral challenge. Pope Francis provided a masterful document for all to learn and to act against climate change in Laudato Si. Sharing this document and our seasonal inserts will help to educate those who share our common home.

Climate Facts: 1. In the US, 64 million tons of carbon dioxide are released each year to make meat for dog and cat food--about 33% of the impact of all American meat consumption. (Time)
2. One cloth towel = 7,300 paper towels
3. One reusable water bottle = 167 plastic water bottles (2, 3 from "Unwaste the Planet Study")

Prayer: May God give us the strength and courage to be on the side of justice, mercy, and love. Help us to be advocates for all those whose voices are not heard. Help our church and government leaders take bold action to build communities of welcome as we work together to uphold the dignity of all people. Grace us with the energy to protect and care for our common home. This we ask, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Action: 1. The future of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) will be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court on Nov. 12, 2019. Join a broad Catholic network in "Prayers of Hope" in uniting to defend the dignity of DACA recipients through prayer and action. Suggestions for our prayer and action can be found on the Ignatian Solidarity Network.