

Celebrating Our Laudato Si' Journey

Sisters,

Thank you for your endeavors in responding to our community appeal to help save our environment for future generations.

We have reason to celebrate, for we have completed our first year of the Laudato Si' journey to which Pope Francis called us, as consecrated religious, and the entire Church. Throughout these past nine months, we have introduced ourselves to the seven goals of the Laudato Si' Action Platform:



We reflected on one goal each month, discussed the goals with our local communities, and have tried to adjust our lifestyles to live in a manner reflective of our vowed consecration and our desire to care for our common home.

After reviewing the responses submitted by local communities and reflecting on our IHM charism, the Laudato Si' Committee came to the consensus that our focus for the 2022-2023 academic year will be on the goal of Ecological Education. We will share with you how we hope to direct that goal in our fall Laudato Si' Sharings,



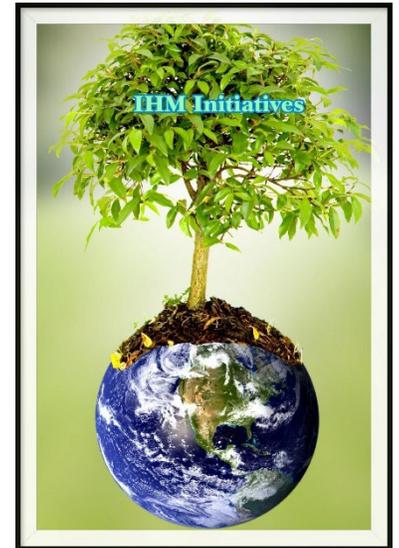
Below are three gifts which we want to leave with you for your summer ponderings:

1. [A Prayer of Celebration and Gratitude](#)
You may use this for personal prayer or with your local community to celebrate the conclusion of this first year of the Laudato Si' Journey.
2. A [Google presentation](#) that summarizes the responses that were submitted from the local communities in response to the monthly Reflections and Sharings.
3. A list of initiatives taken by our Congregation to reduce our carbon footprint.

Reduction of Carbon Footprint

Energy Modifications at Villa Maria House of Studies

- LED Lighting upgrades interior & exterior
- Utility incentives from PECO and clean energy opportunities
- Removal of oversized steam boiler
- Removal of underground fuel tank
- Improvements to building envelop (roofing, masonry)
- Replacement/insulation of AC conduit lines
- Preventative maintenance on all building systems
- Upgrades to efficient kitchen equipment
- Installation of building Access control system in Generalate
- Energy Audit conducted by Rich Energy
- Electric charging station
- Organic cleaning products
- Repairing leaking faucets throughout the building
- Environmental audit of all trees on the property
- Implementation of sustainable farming practices
- Educating staff



One electric vehicle has been added to the IHM fleet. The IHM Council will use this car.

Vehicle Purchase

An electric vehicle (EV) is one that operates on an electric motor, instead of an internal-combustion engine that generates power by burning a mix of fuel and gases.

Hybrid Purchases

A hybrid combines at least one electric motor with a gasoline engine to move the car, and its system recaptures energy via regenerative braking. Sometimes the electric motor does all the work, sometimes it's the gas engine, and sometimes they work together.



All new cars that are purchased for the IHM Fleet will be hybrid.

Socially Responsible Investing

ESG investing is a form of sustainable investing that considers environmental, social and governance factors to judge an investment's financial returns and its overall impact. The Congregation continues to be intentional about Socially Responsible Investing as well as Impact Investing.