

EARTH: *We Are Required to Act*

In 2015, Pope Francis released his second encyclical: *Laudato Si* (Praise Be to You). He wrote to ‘every person living on this planet,’ asking them to enter into dialogue about the care of our common home.

Two years ago, Medical Mission Sisters, in partnership with GCCM (Global Catholic Climate Movement) and many other Catholic and Justice movements, joined the *Laudato Si* Action Platform initiative. Our Society leadership team wrote a Manifesto, committing MMS to an integral ecology, adopting a simple lifestyle, ecological education and spirituality, and journeying with others in contributing to systemic change.

At that time, there were ten MMS already trained as *Laudato Si* animators – individuals who commit to work to bring the encyclical to life, animating their local parishes and communities to “engage in ecological spirituality, sustainable lifestyles and advocacy for climate and ecological justice.” (<https://laudatosianimators.org>). Additional Sisters are becoming certified animators, spreading the word, and leading workshops.

Sister Immaculate Tusingwire, living in Malawi, East Africa, shares that more and more people in Africa and around the world are coming to ecological consciousness and beginning to integrate ecology in their different work areas and



photo: Sr. Immaculate Tusingwire in Adjumani, Uganda

mission involvement. She adds, “Ever since I started giving *Laudato Si* workshops at the Ugandan Religious Secretariat, I have witnessed the restoration in many participants, and I have come to appreciate the power of a conversation. Climate conversation does not leave anyone the same; it re-awakens and restores something within us. No wonder Pope Francis was so clear about the goal of the *Laudato Si* Encyclical – ‘To enter into dialogue with all people about our common home.’” LS 3.

“We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature.” (Laudato Si pg. 139)

Pennsylvania, United States

Sister Philo Morris, of Unit North America, was so moved by the Encyclical Laudato Si that she became an animator. She went on to become an Animator of the Animators for the U.S. region. She has mentored three groups of animator trainees and shares, "I was deeply inspired by the enthusiasm and dreams that were visible in the Capstone Projects of those doing the training to become L S Animators. Their visions were very wide - many were school teachers and professors in Universities. We formed a Laudato Si Prayer Circle consisting of six L S Animators in Pennsylvania Region; we pray for one hour every first Monday of the month and share stories of how we are implementing Ladato Si in our own communities and area of our ministry.



Pune, North India



Sisters Juliana D’Cuhna, Benedicta Soreng, and a gardener plant trees on the property of the Eco-Healing and Health Center in Pune, North India. There are well over 3000 trees now planted on this beautiful, green property, a space that had once been barren and covered with rubble.

Kulmasa, Ghana

Sustainability is at the heart of the integrated health program started by MMS in Kulmasa, Ghana. Keenly aware of the impacts of climate change, the Sisters are using solar power, harvesting rainwater and have established an eco-farm. In addition to providing fresh vegetables for the MMS living there, the garden’s bounty will eventually bring income to support the running cost for the clinic. In the many months of no rain, when many local residents traditionally travel down south for jobs, the farm provides jobs so some men and women can remain home. Sister Rita adds, "We are happy that, in our own small way, we can contribute to food security in Kulmasa such that, when it was difficult to find tomatoes on the market, our small shade house produced some which the people could buy at a reasonable price."

Medical Mission Sisters around the world have committed to living more sustainably. Our pledge has impacted every area of our missions, in our current spaces and in expanding or building new places. We hope you will join us in seeking to care more intentionally for Earth wherever you are living and working. Please also consider offering MMS your support both in prayer and with your donation. We are grateful for you!

Ways to Support Us

Online: www.medicalmissionsisters.org

Mail: Fill out the remittance envelope provided and return with your gift.

Sustaining Gifts: You choose how much your bank automatically deducts from your account each month.

Call Sherri Gannon at 215-742-6100, ext. 163 if you would like to make a credit card donation or if you have any questions about giving.

All information provided to Medical Mission Sisters is completely secure, and is never shared.

Tororo, Uganda

In May 2023, Medical Mission Sisters hosted Permaculture of Uganda to provide a hands-on training on permaculture design at our Eco Education and Healing Centre in Tororo. Local youth joined MMS and Sisters for the training.

MMS are planning to use the newly planted areas as a demonstration garden for the community surrounding them. A week after the training the youth who had attended had already started implementing some of what they learned in their homes and in the village.



Hand-made Lorena stoves are low-cost, fuel-saving cookstoves, made of sand and clay.

Permaculture integrates land, resources, people and the environment through mutually beneficial synergies – imitating the no waste, closed loop systems seen in diverse natural systems. Permaculture studies and applies holistic solutions that are applicable in rural and urban contexts at any scale.

Permaculture (coined by Bill Mollison) is the conscious design and maintenance of agriculturally productive ecosystems which have the diversity, stability, and resilience of natural ecosystems. It is the harmonious integration of landscape and people — providing their food, energy, shelter, and other material and non-material needs in a sustainable way. Without permanent agriculture there is no possibility of a stable social order. <https://www.permaculturenews.org>





Sr. Cligent Tumukunde proudly shows her permaculture training certificate in Tororo, Uganda.



Medical Mission Sisters are grateful to our donors whose support covered the cost of erecting this shade house in Kulmasa, Ghana this past year. Shade houses provide some shading and cooling so plants can thrive even under extreme external weather. Pictured is Sr. Rita Amponsaa.

