

Dominican Sisters Conference - Area Meeting in Amityville February 1, 2014

Regional Action Proposals:

Education:

- ❖ Fracking & importance of organic gardens
- ❖ Water issues on Long island
- ❖ Regular feedback regarding our investments (TRI-CRI & ICCR) – what progress have we made?
- ❖ Booklet available through Presentation Parish, Upper Saddle River, NJ – excellent resource
- ❖ Speakers on national issues to raise our awareness & help position ourselves to make commitments/stances
- ❖ Share the DVD far and wide : schools; parishes; senior citizens; other women's congregations and the men religious who work with us; sponsored works; co-workers; local TV Channels , Religious networks, & major networks (Channel 12; Telecare; EWTN; PBS; Bill Moyers; 60 Minutes)

Internal Policy:

- ❖ Evaluate how we come together – greater use of technology
- ❖ Establish Earth-friendly policies for meetings / vehicles / purchasing
- ❖ Increase use of hybrids; shared auto travel
- ❖ Encourage “zero waste initiatives” in Motherhouses, sponsored works – use only biodegradable/compostable cups, plates, napkins; no plastics
- ❖ Bring own mugs/water bottles to congregational meetings
- ❖ Set congregational goals to reduce waste & set a time-line for doing so
- ❖ Keep the topic in front of us at all gatherings
- ❖ Create waste-free areas
- ❖ Energy audits at Motherhouses & sponsored works
- ❖ Encourage local communities to be attentive to their carbon footprint
- ❖ Empower our new Justice Promoter to gather and unite us around issues

Policy Participation:

- ❖ Does Brookhaven National Lab need an energy audit?
- ❖ Engage in Sandy relief efforts; be part of local Chamber of Commerce; lobby local/state government; attend civic meetings

Corporate Advocacy:

- ❖ Establish a Regional Portfolio Advisory Board
- ❖ We need to screen our investments
- ❖ Support the work of TRI-CRI

Advocacy on behalf of Earth:

- ❖ Actively support and participate local groups working to mitigate the effects of global climate change.

- ❖ Work with at least one local organization, such as Citizens Campaign for the Environment here on Long Island that is involved in energy, food, water issues

A question: Where are the Friars on this issue?

National Action Proposals:

We encourage the DSC office to develop a statement from the results of the Area Meetings, giving public voice to the reality that Dominican Sisters nationally are acting individually, congregationally and nationally to mitigate the effects of global climate change, and ask other individuals/networks to sign on.

Education:

- ❖ Fracking
- ❖ Corporate responsibility / portfolios / proxy votes
- ❖ Keystone Pipeline
- ❖ Global climate change as a Respect Life Issue – keep it on all of our agendas
- ❖ Disseminate the DVD to wider audience
- ❖ Issue of energy & corporate stance
- ❖ Help create and/or administer a process for an energy audit in each congregation, and work with leadership teams to make this happen.

Transportation/Meeting:

- ❖ Establish Earth-friendly meeting/vehicle/purchasing policies

Corporate Advocacy:

- ❖ Stance on fracking
- ❖ Use Simone Campbell's influence to move this topic

Advocacy on behalf of Earth:

- ❖ Learn more about the national/international Rights of Earth movement, and Civil Rights for the Earth. Connect with League of Women Voters re: policy, legislation and regulation.
- ❖ Consider windmills on Motherhouse properties

Communication:

- ❖ We need to be more aware of the success stories that have been the result of a community decision. Perhaps the office to gather information regarding what we have done, and what still needs to be done.

A question: Where are the Friars on this issue?