**Sisters of Notre Dame, Our Lady of the Assumption Province, Patna**

Reflection on Laudato SI’

As Sisters of Notre Dame, our charism of experiencing and sharing the goodness and providence of God and our spirit of joyful simplicity have become more alive as we started to focus the spirit of the encyclical Laudato Si’ in our day today life of the province. The Congregation’s General Chapter of 2010 and 2016 had one of the major themes on the promotion of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC). In the year 2016 our province had formulated a JPIC Policy based on Laudato SI’ and was carrying out a certain JPIC oriented activities in all our communities and ministries. The social action ministry of the province initiated leadership in promoting JPIC in all our communities and ministries through an integrated approach and making JPIC a way of life in the province. In the Laudato SI’ Special Anniversary year (May24, 2020- May24, 2021) the Holy Spirit inspired 13 of our sisters to get trained in Laudato SI’ by Global Catholic Climate Movement now known as Laudato SI’ Movement. The trained Sisters formed a team in the province as Laudato SI’ Animating Team. The in-depth study and reflection of Laudato SI’ led the sisters to realize the complex socio-ecological crisis that the whole world is facing and how little we are in being and doing as consecrated women committed in the mission of saving the planet earth and the humanity. The team often met and reflected together how to mobilize the whole membership in living the spirit of Laudato SI’ in personal, community and ministry level. We met the province administration and discussed the idea of integrating Laudato SI’ Study in the initial formation on and also annual celebration of Laudato Si’ Week, Season of Creation, Earth Day, Environment Day and, Bio-Diversity Day in the province to create awareness and educate the members and others in the care of our common home. Each SND community has opened a ‘positivity bank’ for mother earthto reduce the communities’ carbon footprint by promoting eco-friendly practices like organic kitchen gardens, organic manure making, proper waste management, reduction of use and throw culture, conscious use of water and energy etc. The province administration is whole heartedly supporting the team to empower each sister of the province by the spirit of Laudato SI’ by a six day Laudato SI’ Immersion Retreat to all its members. The team has also conducted a base line survey in each of the SND communities to measure where we stand in the seven goals of Laudato SI’ as we begin our journey to integral ecology as envisaged by the Laudato Si’ Action Platform.

We consider it as a privilege to become part of the critical mass for bringing transformation in the world by renewing the face of the earth and to proclaim God’s goodness and providential care to the whole humanity as our charism calls for. Our General Chapter Theme 2022 is ‘Renew the face of the earth by cultivating a culture of encounter and caring’ gives us hope and synergy to face the challenges of living the Laudato Si’ goals and journey into integral ecology. We also trust in the guidance and support of the Laudato SI’ Action Platform, its ‘see, judge and act’ process and the collective effort of all those people of good will sharing the resources to make the integral ecological journey a reality in the life of the Catholic Church.

As a province we commit ourselves to integral ecological journey by preparing and implementing a well designed plan in the following Laudato SI’ goals meeting the criteria of the Laudato SI’ Action Platform:

1. **Responding to the Cry of the Earth** to protect our common home for the wellbeing of all, as we equitably address the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and ecological sustainability.
2. **Responding to the Cry of the Poor** is a call to promote eco-justice, aware that we are called to defend human life from conception to death, and all forms of life on Earth.
3. **Ecological Economics** acknowledges that the economy is a sub-system of human society, which itself is embedded within the biosphere–our common home.
4. **Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles which** is grounded in the idea of sufficiency and promoting sobriety in the use of resources and energy.
5. **Ecological Education in** re-thinking and re-designing curricular and institutional reform in the spirit of integral ecology in order to foster ecological awareness and transformative action.
6. **Ecological Spirituality** springs from a profound ecological conversion and helps us to “discover God in all things,” both in the beauty of creation and in the sighs ofthe sick and the groans of the afflicted, aware that the life of the spirit is not dissociated from worldly realities.
7. **Community Resilience and Empowerment** envisages a synodal journey of community engagement and participatory action at various levels.

**As the designated Laudato SI’ Animating** **Team** of the province we commit to support the Province leadership for:

1. Animating and accompanying local communities in their efforts towards integral ecology.
2. Promoting opportunities for the personal formation of membership.
3. Pooling financial resources and support to engage in, for example, alternative energy plans and new investment strategies.
4. Developing policies and guidelines essential to sustainable ecology.

Trusting in God who makes all things new we move into ecological conversion as a province by participating in this integral ecological journey of Laudato SI’ Action Platform in the mission of Caring for Our Common Home. May Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology accompany us in every step of our journey and Pope Francis and the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development be a continued source of inspiration and guide to the world for a sustainable future.