

**2023 US Mary Ward Action Plan
November 2022 thru October 2023**

The IBVM US Region and its JPIC Circle are committed to carrying forward in our actions the implementation of the seven goals put forward in Laudato Si'. This year the goal emphasized by the Mary Ward JPIC was Ecological Economics. We looked at the definition below taken from the Laudato Si' Action Platform and tried to incorporate its essence in many of our activities, missions, projects and the end results of partners we cooperated with.

ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS

Ecological Economics acknowledges that the economy is a sub-system of human society, which itself is embedded within the biosphere—our common home. Actions could include sustainable production and consumption, ethical investments, divestment from fossil fuels and any activity harmful to the planet and the people, supporting circular economies, and prioritizing care labour and protecting the dignity of workers.

<https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/laudato-si-goals/>

This has been a busy year regarding the US Region Mary Ward Action Plan. The promotion of Ecological Economics has been a central theme to many of our actions. We share with you a partial calendar of our activities which represent the efforts of Sisters, Companions of Mary Ward, friends of the US IBVM Region and new and old partners.

You'll see our ongoing commitment to education through the Mary Ward Center in the immigrant community to attain language and computer skills thus allowing them to gain meaningful employment.

Our efforts in cooperation with other religious to leverage our impact in the world around us be it at the Joliet Franciscan's Bluestem Earth Festival, meeting on environmental issues with other orders that participate in the Leadership Conference of Women's Religious or the multiple women's religious orders we partner with in the fight against human trafficking.

Sister Christa Parra, IBVM, supported by both the US IBVM Region and the Wheaton Franciscans, continues to carry on at the border mission.

Throughout the year, we have promoted the ideas of recycle, reuse and substitute products we may be accustomed to for more environmentally friendly products. On October 1, 2023, on the last Sunday of the Season of Creation, we hosted at the Wheaton Franciscans a presentation after Mass on Environmental Sustainability. It has started a whole new conversation and way of thinking amongst many.

We hope you find the calendar and photos inspiring.

One's commitment to changing our ways that impact the environment starts with small actions at home and slowly build into a committed way of living. Encourage those you meet on the journey to walk slowly with you and do not give up.

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Monthly		JPIC Monthly Meetings	
Monthly		JPIC Monthly Calendar with thoughts, issues, prayer suggestions for the day.	https://ibvm.us/jpic-calendar-october/
Monthly		The IBVM,s of Western Springs, Il. Hosts a "SPRED", (Special Religious Development) group monthly.	https://www.spredchicago.org/welcome
Monthly		IBVM CASA Prayer Shawl Ministry	
Quarterly		JPIC participates in Mary Ward JPIC Zoom meetings	
Annually		JPIC Presented Program to Assembly	
Annually		JPIC Coordinates with "LCWR", (Leadership conference of Women Religious) Region 8 on important issues.	https://www.lcwr.org/
Ongoing		IBVM Companions of Arizona, California & Michigan projects	
Ongoing		Sisters continue to provide ongoing Spiritual Direction	
Ongoing		Mary Ward Center , Empowers volunteers to teach English and computer skills in the immigrant community, allowing them to gain better employment.	https://ibvm.us/about-us/our-ministries/mary-ward-center/
Ongoing		Anawim Arts , Where artists and would-be artists of written, visual, and media arts support and inspire each other to find joy in the creative process and deepen their spirituality	https://anawimarts.com/
November of 2022	5	Illinois Women Religious against Human Trafficking. Human Anti-Trafficking Collaborative IL Conference. An Event that allowed victims and experts to share personal stories and possible solutions.	https://ibvm.us/living-in-the-shadows-human-trafficking-conference/
	15	IBVM JPIC food assistance to Mary Ward Center's Community.	
December of 2022	10	IBVM donates assistance to Chicago area shelters.	

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January of 2023	8	IBVM JPIC Participates & Supports Interfaith Peace Day In Naperville Illinois.	https://www.napervilleinterfaith.org/worldpeaceday
January of 2023	12	IBVM's and students at S.S. Jude Phoenix, sponsor fund & friend raiser in support of Sr. Christa IBVM @ the border.	https://www.simonjudeschool.org/
February of 2023	9	IBVM JPIC attends & supports CRTI, "Chicago Regional Tree Initiative" recognition dinner.	https://chicagorti.org/
March of 2023	8th to 14th	IBVM supports LCWR Region 8 campaign to boycott single use plastics.,National Catholic Sisters Week.	https://catholicsistersweek.org/lcwr-region-8-catholic-sisters-week-action-refuse-to-use/
	18	"Lisle Sustainable Saturday", IBVM JPIC Community wide recycling collection, in participation with this event.	https://www.villageoflisle.org/430/Sustainable-Saturday-Recycling-Event
	25	IBVM JPIC Collects Styrofoam to recycle at Dart Industries Aurora Il.	ontainer.com/why-dart/sustainability/foam-recycling
April of 2023	1	IBVM JPIC collected donations for "Catholic Relief Services", Earthquake Relief / Turkey & Syria.	https://www.crs.org/
	23	IBVM JPIC Coordinated "Our Lady of Guadalupe Pantry" food collection at Wheaton Franciscans.	
	26	IBVM JPIC attends SCARCE.org "The ABC's of Recycling" at "St. John of the Cross", Western Springs, Il.	https://www.scarce.org/
	29	IBVM Development's "Stepping ForWARD" Walk & Picnic, benefitting Mary Ward Center, Pantry Collection for "Our Lady of Guadalupe" food pantry.	https://ibvm.us/stepping-forward-2023/
May of 2023	6	IBVM JPIC attends Scarce.org Growin Green Garden Market. 800 S. Rohlwing Rd. Addison, Il.	https://www.scarce.org/growin-green/
	13	IBVM Participating in Wheaton Area Shredding Event	

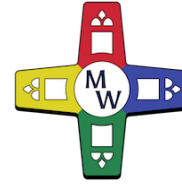
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	20	IBVM JPIC attending The Joliet Franciscan's Bluestem Earth Festival @ Bronkberry Farms in Plainfield Illinois	https://www.bluestemearthfestival.com/
June of 2023	4	IBVM JPIC were at the Wheaton Franciscan Ministry Fair, sharing information regarding our mission, ministries and Laudato Si'.	https://wheatonfranciscan.org/event/coffee-and-5/
June of 2023	21	Celebration of 2nd Anniversary of launch of Laudato Si' Action Plan 1:30 PM CET, by Zoom	
July of 2023	7	US Region JPIC, Companions Zoom with Sr. Carmel Swords	
August of 2023	13th thru 18th	JPIC & guests attend the 130th anniversary of the Parliament Of The Worlds Religions, @ McCormick Place Chicago. The Parliament brings together people of various faiths across the globe to promote issues of mutual concern regarding Social Justice, Environment and Women & Childrens issues to name but a few.	https://parliamentofreligions.org/parliament/2023-chicago-2/
	20	JPIC Hosts UN representatives, Sr. Janet Palafox, IBVM & Sr. Cynthia Mathews, CJ at the Wheaton Franciscans to inform the Sisters and Companions of both communities of the vital work taking place at the UN.	https://www.ibvm.org/mission/ibvm-at-the-united-nations/
September of 2023	1st thru October 4th 2023	"Season of Creation" Let Justice & Peace Flow	
	1st Week of September	Culmination of IBVM Companions 4 month collection of much needed supplies for "Hessed House" of Aurora Il.	https://www.hessedhouse.org/
	9	Attendees from the Mary Ward Family Celebrate the Parliament of the Worlds Religions through a Webinar sharing issues & experiences.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lz68NE-KV44&t=28s

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	16	SPRED, Intellectual Disabilities Drive, Sponsored by Knights of Columbus. IBVM Sisters & Companions, St. John of the Cross Volunteers, Raise funds for Western Springs SPRED group among others.	https://www.spred-chicago.org/welcome
	24	Sister Christa, IBVM gives reflection at Wheaton Franciscan Sunday Mass and reports on mission to congregation.	https://ibvm.us/christa-parra-ibvms-ministry-reflection/
October of 2023	28 thru 30	US IBVM attends "Alliance To End Human Trafficking" Conference. Formerly U.S. Sisters Against Human Trafficking", USCSAHT"	https://alliancetoeendhumantrafficking.org/
	1	IBVM JPIC sponsors @ the Wheaton Franciscan's a "Scarce.org" Presentation on Environmental Sustainability	https://ibvm.us/scarce-presentation/
	22	JPIC attends Bethany House Luncheon to recognize the work they are doing and that IBVM supports. Bethany House of Hospitality offers housing and support services to young immigrant women as they journey to independence.	http://bethanyhouseofhospitality.com/
	24	IBVM donates collected gently used medical devices to "Project Cure".	https://projectcure.org/location/chicago/
November of 2023	3	Mary Ward Family celebrate the Season of Creation/launch of another LS goal conversations 1:30 CET, Zoom	

J P I C US Region



SPRED Collectors and Teachers



Bethany House



SCARCE Presentation



Trafficking Conference



Mary Ward Center tutoring



Presentation table, one of many events



One of many knitters—scarves and hats for Mary Ward Center and Hesed House.



Silver and gold have I none, but what I have I give to you



Prayer Shawl ministry, Northlake



California Companions repurposing items for immigrants and the homeless.



Community Sustainability Day in DuPage County