



## Laudato Si' Action Platform 2025 Update Province of Africa

We thank God for journeying with us over the past ten years of intentionally living out Laudato Si', a call to respond to the cries of our Mother Earth and of the poor. I would like to share with you some of the various ways the sisters in Africa have lived out our Laudato Si' commitment in the context of *Shalom*. The Province of Africa comprises of 6 countries/areas: Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana, Sierra Leone, The Gambia and South Sudan under the care of the General Council. Each area has a sister who serves as the *Shalom* Contact to coordinate all the activities sisters do around JPIC issues – be it in communities, ministry places, as individuals – where ever we find ourselves.

Our response to the call of Pope Francis of blessed memory in his encyclical on *Care for Our Common Home*, is based on our Congregation's seven-year commitment made on the Laudato Si' Action Platform on May 25, 2021 towards an integral ecology. This stance enabled us to deepen and live out our SSND values and priorities, respond to the urgent signs of the times, and our desire to educate, advocate, and act in collaboration with others for the dignity of life and the care of all of creation. It is now almost four (4) years into this commitment and sisters in the province of Africa have responded positively to this call in various ways:

- Sisters embraced the call to intercultural faith living, participating in various workshops as individuals, community and province to deepen understanding and living of intercultural living and continue to strive to make our communities a place of welcome, hospitality and great sense of feeling at home for all.
- Sisters organized educative sessions for employees, colleagues, students, clients, and parishioners using radio stations (Ghana, Sierra Leone, The Gambia and Nigeria) and other gatherings to create awareness around justice, peace, and integrity of creation concerns.
- In our pastoral ministries, Sisters create awareness on issues concerning human trafficking, climate change/crises, safeguarding principles and the need to care for our common home using Laudato Si'. Sisters, together with students, *Shalom* clubs/groups engaged in biogas production and the planting of trees and flowers as some of the practical ways in combating climate change.
- We also educated ourselves by participating in online workshops on Laudato Si', safeguarding principles, and in workshops centered on JPIC issues. One of our sisters is trained in Safe Guarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults and has been organizing workshops for religious groups and priests across the continent. Five sisters received training in human trafficking and carried out a study in that area and shared and involved all sisters in that theme in the province. Some sisters were able to help in freeing victims who were in the process of being trafficked and also journeying with victims of abuse. Five sisters have been awarded certificates as Laudato Si' Animators. Creating *Shalom* Clubs/Groups are another way our sisters pass on the *Shalom* spirit and values.
- As a way of being in solidarity with the poor, we try to make our communities hospitable in such a way that our doors are always open for the needy people around us. We commit to sharing with them foodstuffs, clothing, moral support, presence and monetary

support, when possible. Sisters and students share what they have saved during Lent with the poor and the needy.

- The Sisters also collaborate with other religious groups and intuitions like Caritas, Talitha Kum, Civil Society Forum, institutions in promoting JPIC issues.
- Sisters together with other religious groups have taken part in peace march and creating awareness on how negative practices like cutting down of trees, pollution of all kinds, littering around especially plastic, illegal mining etc. are destroying the Earth, our come home.
- We as sisters in our different Communities are committed to living out Laudato Si' by practicing recycling, proper wastes disposal, organic gardening, energy conservation, proper use of water, use of solar panels for clean energy, using up left overs to avoid waste, driving less and walking more while going to short distance places. Sometimes we use public means to reduce carbon emission, reading labels and checking for expiring dates when buying processed food and strive to avoid them when possible, and take care of personal and communal properties.
- Celebrating the UN Days and committed to observing designated day for Solidarity Prayers are crucial for sisters. Sisters ministering in health care institutions give their utmost best by being present, giving listening ears to their patients, treating them with care and educating them about their health. Our communities in Sierra Leone and Ghana have both directly enrolled in the Laudato Si' Action Platform.

In all of the above success stories, we have equally experienced some challenges in trying to carry out the work of *Shalom*. Such of which ranges from:

- The challenge of poor internet connections during online meeting and webinars.
- Sisters due to tight schedule and few in communities (due to small number of Sisters in the Province) are not able to engage more and follow up as much as they wish on *Shalom* activities and webinars.
- The growing issues of inequality and discrimination based on race, gender, religion, socioeconomic status, tribalism, corruption etc. across the continent sometimes hinders efforts to promote justice and peace.

As a Province and Congregation, we proudly say that, we are resolved to continue to share and to live out the call of Laudato Si', to deepen in us *Shalom* as our way of life, and to creatively find new ways of promoting *Shalom* values wherever we find ourselves. May all our ancestors continue to be with us on this sacred journey.



***Compiled by Sr. Sarah U. Tanjo, Africa Shalom Branch Rep.***

Click on this link to view a video highlighting our efforts –  
<https://youtu.be/cXcmuWnmxzQ>