

You are invited to ACTIONS FOR OUR OWN DEAR PLANET — October 1, 2020

*I have set my rainbow in the clouds,
and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth.*

Genesis 9:13

THE HOLY CHILD EXTENDED FAMILY WILL SOON BEGIN ITS YEAR-LONG CELEBRATION of the 175th anniversary of the Society's founding on October 13/15, 1846 in Derby, England. Cornelia Connelly and her companions made their courageous and humble beginning in a context which included the industrial revolution, the English Catholic revival, and the potato famine that drove waves of immigrants from Ireland to England.

Today, we celebrate this anniversary in a post-modern, global context that includes three inter-connected realities: environmental collapse, a pandemic so menacing as to be a new marker of "time-before and time-after," and the long-overdue awareness by the global community of racial injustice that might lead to real reform. This, then, is our time of thankful celebration, mindful as we are that things are different now from how they were in Cornelia's day, different even from how they were just last year.

Though Cornelia's times and our times do differ, there are also continuities. Cornelia's encouragement to "**meet the wants of the age,**" her exhortation to "**actions not words,**" and her prayer for "**a love full of action**" move and challenge us as we accept the vision and values empowering the anniversary year's theme: "**love and serve.**" How, then, will we love and serve our earthly home in the face of today's enormous challenges, and in the orbit of our daily lives?

Cornelia spoke of her "**own dear country**" and we can also speak of "**our own dear planet.**" Our home planet is in the throes of an environmental crisis that is a major "want of the age." It calls us every day to love and serve by making creative and generous choices for sustainable living, some of them very simple, others more demanding. The aim, therefore, of "**Actions for Our Own Dear Planet**" is to renew and strengthen our commitment to take concrete action to care for what Pope Francis calls "Our Common Home."

To aid us in this effort, a brief weekly call to action will be posted to SHCJ in the American Province Newsnotes, and sent also to U.S. ASSOCIATES. **Please consider these weekly suggestions your personal invitations to love and serve our home planet in solidarity with many others, and feel free to share them with friends.** Occasionally, in a weekly note, there will be an additional opportunity for those who want to delve deeper into the action by a click on the link provided, and we thank Kathleen Dullea for these. We also thank Professor T.J. Murphy and the sisters and associates who added their ideas and advice in an advance reading of these notes. **We thank you ALL!** Mary Ann Buckley & Terri MacKenzie

The following Guiding Principles apply to all the actions →

Guiding Principles

- * **Laudato Si' calls us to on-going ecological and spiritual conversion.** (LS 216-221) *Actions for Our Own Dear Planet* and *A Retreat in Daily Life Together* (which is another way the Society is celebrating the 175th anniversary) are intended to complement and enhance this conversion. Some action suggestions will appeal to “right brains,” others to “left brains,” some to extroverts, others to introverts, etc. The love and awareness we invest makes each action more powerful in reducing global problems.
- * **Creation's chief problems include** climate change, pollution, extinctions, destruction of water, soil, air, forests, loss of biodiversity, decline in quality of human life, pandemics, and unjust distribution of goods. The chief causes of these problems include fossil fuels and plastics, factory farmed produce, industrial meat production, exploitation of resources, and not fully realizing the sacred intercommunion of all life.
- * **Pope Francis emphasizes “how everything is interconnected.** Time and space are not independent of one another, and not even atoms or subatomic particles can be considered in isolation.” (LS 138) People includes planet; planet includes people; God lives and acts in every part — the essence of Incarnation and the SHCJ mission statement! Each action, regardless of its immediate focus, affects every person, every life form, every other creation issue. An ecological consciousness instinctively considers the welfare of the entire global family.
- * **“If applicable” applies throughout.** Many will already be doing the suggested action and can rejoice that others will be joining them. When actions are recommended that you cannot do, read *Laudato Si'* or be creative! Please, no stress, no guilt!
- * **If repeating a practice for more than a week is more helpful to you** than taking the next week's actions, feel free. But please note the actions you miss and try them later.

“Our critical task today is to open the minds and hearts of all to seek a renewed planetary life through a new spirituality and a new way of engaging the divine mystery.”

Ilia Delio, OSF — <https://omegacenter.info/>

What time and energy will you give to this shared endeavor?

Print this Invitation for future reference as the actions are posted from week to week.

It would be helpful to have the following available for actions during the year:
Laudato Si', *Born with a Bang* (J. Morgan), and *Braiding Sweetgrass* (R. Wall Kimmerer)



175TH
LOVE AND SERVE
1846-2021