



SCL Annual Interest Group Report 2022

Interest group: Care of Creation Committee

Chair: S. Rejane Cytacki

Through the lens of integral ecology, we will:

- 1. Tend to the care of marginalized people and the fragile earth;*
- 2. Use spiritual and tangible resources to meet the critical needs of God's people and earth;*
- 3. Broaden collaboration with local and global groups working to achieve systemic change*

*After certain activities below I will use a **1**, **2**, or **3** to indicate which of the 3 integral ecology points above is illustrated.

Processes, events and/or projects accomplished in 2022:

- January- April 2022 Eco-justice subcommittee- Letter writing campaign with local school children. **(3)**
 - At the request of Associate Anne Osdieck, Brad Grabs, SCLA, director of The Learning Club KC,KS, organized the member children in writing letters to their legislators about the importance of climate change legislation. Some legislators did send responses back.
 - At the request of Sisters Nancy and Mary Ann, Janelle Hartegan, principal of Xavier School supported Xavier students in writing letters to their legislators about the importance of climate change legislation.
 - April 22, 2022- Earth Day ad-hoc committee provided online resources via the Daily News to include article and video links related to climate issues with the assistance of Rebecca Metz of the JPIC office. **(1)**
 - April 2022- Anna Totta, SCLA connected our Care of Creation Interest Group with the Green Team Network of the Diocese of Kansas City and St. Joseph. **(3)**
 - January-June 2022- Eco-Justice Subcommittee worked on an additional Systemic Change fund application and was in dialogue with the Interfaith Community of Hope about installing solar panels on their building to offset their electrical needs. The additional funds were declined and it was determined that the Community of Hope was not a good fit. Steve, John, and Rejane worked on this project. **(2)**
 - The Motherhouse Pollinator Garden (2nd year) is maintained by Garden subcommittee- Sisters Susan Chase, Rejane Cytacki, Pat Johannsen, and Shirley Rockwell SCLA, with volunteer support from Ed and Donna Cytacki. **(1)**
 - The SCL Grounds crew expanded the mulched area around the water pump and added additional flowering plants.
 - An anonymous donor gifted a new bench overlooking the garden

- Season of Creation September 1- Oct 4 an ad-hoc committee organized 2 events during the Season of Creation. **(2), (3)**
 - Sept 1-The ad-hoc committee offered a collaborative prayer service in- person and live-streamed in Ross Chapel with the symbol of the burning bush- Sisters Susan Chase, Nancy Bauman, Gloria Solomon and Rejane Cytacki worked with SCL staff members Megan Trout, John Shively, Rebecca Metz, Stephanie Nash.
 - S. Mary Jane Schmitz created three table-top “burning bushes” reusing the lights and twigs from Chapter. These were placed in Ross chapel and sisters’ dining rooms.
 - S. Elizabeth Skalicky worked with Joyce MacDonald, SCL administrative assistant, to reproduce and enlarge the symbol of the burning bush placed on the East Ross Chapel wall during the Season.
 - Ellen and Keith Hustings, SCLA turned a potted tree branch into “burning bush” for the Pollinator Garden.
 - Sept. 8- Season of Creation prayer service in the Motherhouse Pollinator Garden organized by S. Rejane Cytacki and Keith and Ellen Hustings, SCLAs. Attended by sisters, associates, volunteers, SCL ground crew, and Xavier 7th and 8th grades.
 - Oct. 4-Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Xavier Catholic School organized a prayer parade at the back of the Mother house for all sisters.
 - S. Susan Chase led an adapted Season of Creation prayer service for one of the Linger Over Coffee sessions at Marillac Retreat Center.
 - Throughout the season post cards were sent to our federal elected officials about the importance of environmental issues.
 - Sisters Rejane Cytacki and Susan Chase along with Steve Nicely, SCLA attend a Sunday Green Mass at St. Francis Xavier parish, KC, MO.

Process, events and/or projects still in progress:

- Fall of 2022 S. Rejane spoke with Father Mark Mertes about gathering a group of people interested in working on an Archdiocesan Laudato Si' Action Plan for the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas
- In Jan. 2023, the Eco-Justice Subcommittee's Systemic Change funds are designated to Attainable Housing to put in energy efficient windows on a house located at 613 Ottawa St. **(2)**
 - We will continue to be in dialogue with Sister Vickie Perkins to make sure all funds are spent for energy efficiency.
- Continue to stay in touch with the Diocese of Kansas City- St. Joseph Parish Green Team Network. **(3)**
- Pollinator Garden will have a water feature installed in spring 2023. **(1)**
 - Will improve the water collection basin with native plants located southwest of the pollinator garden where there is a drainage pipe.

Up-to-date membership list:

- S. Rejane Cytacki, SCL, Chair
- S. Pat Johannsen, SCL
- S. Susan Chase, SCL
- Anne Osdieck, SCLA
- Steve Nicely, SCLA
- Anna Totta, SCLA
- S. Mary Geraldine Yelich, SCL
- S. Elizabeth Skalicky, SCL
- S. Eileen Marie Johnson, SCL
- S. Mary Ann Theisen, SCL
- S. Nancy Bauman, SCL
- Shirley Rockwell, SCLA
- S. Mary Jane Schmitz, SCL
- S. Gloria Solomon, SCL