

*... To be attuned
to how all of creation
lives and moves
and has its being
in God.*



Ecological Ethics of Place

*Sisters of St. Joseph
Baden, Pennsylvania*

Our Relationship to Place

Acknowledging that everywhere that we find ourselves as Sisters of St. Joseph and Associates is sacred and linked by storied legend, we declare our relationship in this chain of earth, people, and structures as a sacred trust. With gratitude to the Monongahela People, Leni Lenapi, Delaware People, Shawanese Tribe, Scot and Irish settlers and farmers, we step forth now in our time to assume the responsibility of stewardship of the land. Whether it is our Motherhouse grounds or our places of community and ministry, we commit to furthering this legacy of place for those who will come after us, tending to God's creation in ways beyond our imagination. In hope-filled gratitude, we declare for all who have ears to hear.

In every place where we live, pray, and minister . . .

We find in the ground of our being a spirited history that ties us to the people and earth community and contributes to our name as the Congregation of St. Joseph of Baden.

We are invited to live our mission through various ministries, always joining our lives with the dear neighbor and with God.

We are called to create environments of welcome in St. Joseph's spirit of cordial charity so that all life may flourish.

We move always toward deepening our call to "be attuned to how all of creation lives and moves and has its being in God."

Ecological Ethics of Place

Initiative III

Form Congregational structures and commit our energies and resources to implement the values inherent in our Directional Statement, especially social justice and the integrity of creation within the context of global solidarity.

Submitted by Ecological Ethics of Place Committee

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The Earth Charter

is a declaration of fundamental principles for building a just, sustainable and peaceful global society. It seeks to inspire in all people a new sense of global interdependence and shared responsibility for the well-being of the human family and the larger living world.



Respect and Care for the Community of Life

Ecological Integrity

Social and Economic Justice

Democracy, Non-violence and Peace

Each of these principles influence and inform us as we journey to en flesh the Gospel!

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Theological Reflection

Our Directional Statement is a contemporary expression of our charism that responds to disturbing “signs of our times.” Among the disturbing signs is the destruction of the earth, upon which the quality of our lives depends. In response to the on-going ecological problems that plague our planet, our Directional Statement invites us to be ever mindful that not only we, but also “all of creation lives and moves and has its being in God.”

The life orientation expressed in our corporate word affirms some implicit beliefs that are at the core of our identity as Sisters of St. Joseph. Among them are:

1. The belief in a “sacramental universe,” which recognizes that all life forms are imbued with the presence of the triune God and therefore have an intrinsic value;
2. The belief that creation, in all its wondrous diversity, is a gift of God and requires our care and respect;
3. The belief that the land, buildings, and resources entrusted to us by God to be nurtured and enjoyed to sustain the life of all creation for God’s greater glory.



The Directional Statement of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden, Pennsylvania,

surfaced during the Chapter of 1988 as an articulation of the Spirit's active and inclusive love for community and our world. As a congregation, we strive to bring to bear upon our world, the charismatic gifts of union and reconciliation in all that we do.

“We seek to be united to Jesus Christ in his love for God, for all people and for all creation.

Using the discernment mode and collaborative Christian feminist and Womanist modelswe are called to a life of profound union with God and with each other.

We recognize that violence and the abuse of power – fractures relationships, diminishes human dignity and destroys Earth.

We commit ourselves to live non-violently, to work to transform structures, to affirm the dignity of persons, to attend to how all of creation lives and moves and has its being in God. ”

Each of these statements influence and inform us as we journey to en flesh the Gospel!

The tradition of Catholic Social Teaching

offers a developing and distinctive perspective on environmental issues. The following themes drawn from this tradition are integral dimensions of ecological responsibility:

- God-centered and sacramental view of nature
- Respect for human life extending to all creation
- Global interdependence and the common good
- Ethics of solidarity
- Sharing in a world community
- Equitable use of Earth's resources
- Progress that respects human dignity and limits material growth
- Option for the poor

Each of these themes influence and inform us as we journey to en flesh the Gospel!