



SCNY PJIC Office Update, September – October 2025

Picture on left is ROAR (Religious Organizations Along the River) members with colleagues in front of sloop Clearwater just before embarking on their September 5, 2025 Hudson River Pilgrimage on Hope for Creation.

Raising Hope for Climate Change Conference

The recent international [Raising Hope Conference](#) facilitated by the Laudato Si' Movement was a powerful gathering of people from around the world celebrating the 10th anniversary of Laudato Si' while also speaking to the urgency to act now for the climate. The Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development was one of many partners.

Click [HERE](#) to view the opening session on October 1st which included moving rituals, songs, talks, especially Pope Leo XIV's address (54 minutes into video).

To read Pope Leo XIV's address to participants at the conference, click [HERE](#).

Click [HERE](#) to view October 2nd Session 1; click [HERE](#) for Session 2 (reflection begins 35 minutes into video).

Click [HERE](#) to view October 3rd Session 1; note Dr. Katharine Hayhoe's short video at 30 minutes; click [HERE](#) to view Session 2.

Reflection: The rituals, prayers, music, songs, presenters and panelists were moving and inspiring, deepening in me a desire to live into ecological conversion and transformation, and the realization that the grassroots movement of like-minded people is alive, growing and making a difference. The Conference was a call to act for climate NOW, not alone but in solidarity, especially with those most affected by the climate crisis. I invite readers to listen and reflect on the sessions (in part or all) and share insights, inspiration and ways we can personally and communally act on behalf of our Common Home and those in need. The Sisters of Charity of New York at their 2023 joint Assembly with the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth committed to live deeply the call of Laudato Si'. As a Congregation, our engagement in the Laudato Si' Action Platform continues to call us to ongoing ecological conversion, transformation and moving towards zero emissions. Join us in praying for the upcoming COP30 (UN Climate Change Conference) which will meet in Belem, Brazil from November 10 – 21. *May we keep in prayer ourselves, world leaders, civil society, and corporations ... that we face the urgency of climate change with resilience, hope and actions that address the urgency and needs of those most vulnerable.*



Care of Creation / Environmental Justice Issues PJIC Office raises awareness, educates, advocates (partial)

1. Stopping pipeline infrastructure / expansion of fossil fuels Leeanna Varga (OP-Hope) and Carol De Angelo (SCNY) represented ROAR at the October 4th March / Rally Against Fracked Gas Pipelines in Peekskill, NY!

2. Save the Hudson – dumping of tritiated water from Indian Point into Hudson River. A federal court has sided with Holtec International, ruling that a 2023 New York state law banning the company from releasing tritiated water into the Hudson River is preempted by

federal authority. The decision, issued in late September 2025, effectively allows Holtec to proceed with its plan to discharge treated water from the decommissioned Indian Point nuclear power plant into the river, subject to federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) standards. *Action: SCNY and ROAR signed on to letter to Governor Hochul asking her to appeal the Federal Court's decision.*

- 3. Great Lakes and New York Waterways Bill of Rights** NYS Representative Burke will reintroduce it next legislative session. Tell him (518-455-4691) you support the bill. For information, click [HERE](#). To listen CELDF's podcast on why many religious women and people of faith are advocating for this bill and rights of nature click [HERE](#).
- 4. Leachate Loophole** – landfill leachate is a toxic effluent and contains forever chemicals; it is dumped into municipal wastewater treatment plants that aren't equipped to handle it. SCNY and ROAR join others in advocating to close loophole.
- 5. The NYS Packaging Reduction & Recycling Infrastructure Reduction Act** passed in the NYS Senate but never got out of NYS Assembly Committee. Urge NYS Assembly Leader Carl Heastie (518-455-3791) to move it out of committee and on to the floor for a vote.
- 6. No to Nuclear – there is a push in NYS for nuclear modular reactors** Click [HERE](#) to read about this issue.
- 7. Climate Impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI)** Click [HERE](#) to read Food & Water Watch's Fact Sheet. Two SCNY PJIC Office groups are discussing ethical and moral implications of AI.
- 8. Fossil Fuel Nonproliferation Treaty** SCNY are working towards zero emissions.