

Women of Faith – Intro

Hello and welcome everyone. I am Agnes Richard, Coordinator of the Global Catholic Climate Movement Canadian chapter.

While many of you join us from situations of isolation and distancing, we can find joy that technology enables us to join with others all over the world as we celebrate the 5th Anniversary of the papal encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, On Care of Our Common Home. This webinar is part of a week of programming from the GCCM, and culminates with an invitation to participate in a global moment of prayer on Sunday, May 24th, local time to each of us

This is the 3rd webinar offered by the GCCM Canadian. In each we seek to update you on current news and activities of Pope Francis' relating to *Laudato Si'*, and connect those with our specifically Canadian context.

Sr. Priscilla will share her understanding on how the Synod for the Amazon, the first of its kind, and Pope Francis' reflections follow directly from the encyclical *Laudato Si'*, and how we can apply that dialogue in Canada.

Sr. Linda will then highlight the work that has been done by Women religious in Canada for decades in moving towards an ecological conversion and sustainable future. It is our hope that you will find inspiration in these presentations and encouragement to plan to take actions of your own in this year's Season of Creation, Sept 1 to Oct 4.

Finally, we will ask you to participate in two petitions that will help move our Canadian leaders to enact policies to transition our society to the more just, equitable and healthy world that we want to help build together.

There will be time for questions after our speakers, but you must place your questions in the chat box. A link to the recording of this webinar, and a PDF list of the resources mentioned, will be sent to you for review and sharing.

Traditional Land Acknowledgement for the office of GCCM Canada

As a community we have the responsibility to honour, care for and respect all that Creator God gives to provide us with life. This includes the land, water, air, fire, animals, plants and our ancestors.

As a settler, I am grateful for the opportunity to live and work here, and I thank all the generations of Indigenous people, First Nations, Inuit and Metis who have been stewards of this place for thousands of years. I respectfully acknowledge that I am on the traditional lands of the Anishnawbeg and Houdenosaunee people.

Here, near Caledonia, Ontario, I acknowledge Treaty 4 – the Haldimand Proclamation of 1784, where land ten kilometers on both sides of the Grand River, from its mouth to its source was set aside for use of the people of Six Nations ".....which them and Their Posterity are to enjoy forever".

Today people of the Six Nations have use of less than 5% of that promised land.

A prayer for our earth (excerpt)

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.

Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.

Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

Encourage us in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

Amen

Sister Priscilla Solomon, CSJ, is an Ojibway woman of the Anishinabek Nation and a Sister of St. Joseph in Canada from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. As the coordinator of the Faith and Justice ministry in her congregation, with special attention to ecological justice, Indigenous rights and right relations, she has recently focused on healing and reconciliation between Indigenous Peoples and Settler Peoples in Canada. She also worked with Sister Eva Solomon in the Western Assembly of Catholic Bishops' Building Bridges program which is focused on Indigenous inculturation and interculturalization of faith. As the Synod of Bishops for the Amazon heard pleas to defend the rights of the region's Indigenous people and of the land they hold sacred, Indigenous and church leaders from Canada and the U.S.A. went to Rome to support them. Sister Priscilla Solomon was among the Jesuit-sponsored delegation to the simultaneous Tienda de la Casa Comùn symposium.

Sister Linda Gregg, CSJ

Sister Linda's roots are in the West Coast of Canada where a deep love of God's creation was nurtured in her. She brings to her ministry a market gardening and farming background from Saanich, a rural area of Victoria, British Columbia.

Through her years with the Congregation of Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada she has served in parish ministry, university and hospital chaplaincy and as Co-Administrator of the Catholic parish, of the M'Chigeeng (Pronounced Shi-geeng) First Nation on Manitoulin Island. Today she coordinates an 80 plot Organic Community Garden on the site of Villa St. Joseph in Cobourg, Ontario along with extensive Sister's organic gardens. She ministers as an experienced Retreat Director, Spiritual Director, and as an Organic Master Gardener.

Sister Linda has a B.A. in Indigenous Studies from Trent University, and both a Masters of Divinity and a Doctorate of Ministry in Eco-Theology from Toronto School of Theology at the University of Toronto, where she is now a part-time faculty member.