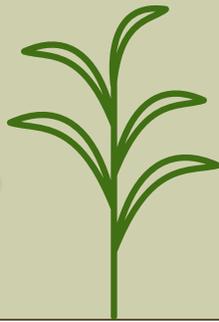


ORCIE Offerings



December 2024

ORCIE is the Office of Religious Congregations for Integral Ecology, where Catholic religious are collaboratively increasing their impact on policy change for ecological justice and reconciliation.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from your friends at ORCIE!

May this season of hope and renewal inspire us in our work for justice and care for creation



Tent City Nativity by Kelly Latimer

twitter.com/eco_socjustice
facebook.com/eco_socjustice



TAKE THE WIN!

Global Divestment Announcement: 27 more faith institutions announced their divestment

At the start of COP29, ORCIE worked with the international Laudato Si' Movement to include news from 3 Canadian organizations - Saint Paul University, OMI Lacombe and the Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary - who recently divested from fossil fuels. Together we are sending a strong signal to negotiators at the start of the UN climate summit in Azerbaijan that fossil fuels are morally unacceptable, given the negative climate, biodiversity and human rights impacts of extracting, transporting and burning fossil fuels.

“Fossil fuel divestment is a powerful and prophetic step, recommended by the Vatican, which an increasing number of Catholic institutions are taking in response to the growing climate crisis” shares James Buchanan, divestment campaigner for the Laudato Si Movement. “The fossil fuel industry has consistently demonstrated that it is not prepared to take the action needed to avert climate chaos, with several major oil companies rowing back on climate commitments in the last year.”

Together we are calling for all faith institutions to divest from fossil fuel companies and invest in clean energy solutions.

Register your commitment here! [Divestment - Laudato Si' Movement](#)

The screenshot shows the Laudato Si' Movement website. The header includes the logo, navigation links (Who We Are, What We Do, Get Involved, Resources, News, Donate, Language), and a search bar. Below the header is a navigation menu with links: Institutions that divested, Steps to make your divestment commitment, Divestment Resources, and Webinars. The main content area features a large image of solar panels with the word "Divestment" in a blue box. Below the image is a green banner with the text: "Join the growing movement of Catholic institutions living out their values by divesting." On the right side, there is a white registration form titled "Commit your institution to divesting from fossil fuels". The form includes fields for Email*, Name* (First and Last), Name of institution*, and Type of institution* (with a dropdown menu currently set to "Religious order"). A "Next" button is located at the bottom of the form.



COP29



We need a 'multilateralism from below': the current system is inadequate to address the multiple crises we are facing

This fall, ORCIE followed with attention the meetings and negotiations for a Global Plastics Treaty, the Global Biodiversity Framework and the COP29 Climate Change Convention. Despite positive outcomes, what did not happen at these international meetings put the implementation of these important accords at risk. When meetings end without an agreement, future negotiations are put to question. It is the same with the global financial system, the business as usual approaches are not working.

Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change (UNFCCC) met in Baku, Azerbaijan for their 29th Conference, this time to focus on climate finance and to determine the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) to meet the needs of developing countries, and set the foundations for climate justice and action for the next decade. When we talk about 'climate finance' we mean local, national or transnational financing—drawn from public, private and alternative sources of financing—that seeks to support mitigation and adaptation actions that will address climate change. Frustratingly, the climate needs of the Global South are in the trillions and the COP29 decision on NCQG only set a goal of \$300 billion USD per year, by 2035.

Disappointed with quantity (\$) in commitments we expected to see improvements in quality, but this modest increase also missed the target of redirecting public finance into grants and non-debt creating instruments, and makes no distinction between mitigation, adaptation and the third pillar to climate finance - loss and damage. The scaling up of climate finance is about the Global North contributing its fair share and to have this shameful result after three years of COP negotiations shows how clearly the needs and priorities of developing countries are being dismissed. The finance conversations cannot end in Baku but must be moved forward with action on multiple levels and include reforming international finance architecture and addressing the debt crisis.

1/2



COP29



Meanwhile, how do we articulate the growing need for these multilateral processes? We must get back to the focus on a just transition for workers, and skip the UN conference tourism, the fossil fuel lobbyists and the elected leaders flying in for a day instead of truly participating in a process. We must commit to a successful process because, while flawed, civil society and countries of the Global South are able to participate in the UNFCCC, compared to other international institutions or spaces (like the World Bank) that are playing a reinforcing role for the Global North.

It is clear the current **international financial system** is inadequate to address the multiple crises we are facing: climate and ecological justice with growing poverty and inequalities worldwide. Yet, finance is central to development and climate action. COP29 should have been about new and additional public grants-based climate finance that is adequate, predictable, needs-based, rights-responsive and most of all provided by developed countries to fulfill their obligations under the Paris Agreement. Building political will and public pressure will be crucial to ensure the next negotiations don't fall apart and multilateral spaces are strengthened so we can get back to work. Pope Francis challenges us to see climate action as a means to strengthen democracy and to renew, recreate and reconfigure multilateral processes.



“The demands that rise up from below throughout the world, where activists from very different countries help and support one another, can end up pressuring the sources of power. It is to be hoped that this will happen with respect to the climate crisis. For this reason, I reiterate that “unless citizens control political power - national, regional and municipal - it will not be possible to control damage to the environment.” --Laudate Deum, 38. (2023)

Let's pray and work for an increase in a 'multilateralism from below' in 2025. It may be the only thing we have to save the UN conferences.

**See also: [Reflections on COP29: No deal is better than a bad deal and Kevin Moynihan's educational video on COP29:](http://kmproductions.ca/laudate-deum.html)
<http://kmproductions.ca/laudate-deum.html>**



ADDING OUR VOICES



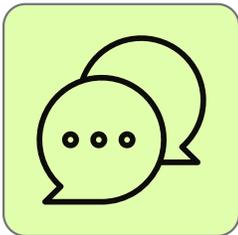
ORCIE joins Interfaith Call to Action for Climate Justice at COP29

This fall, ORCIE proudly endorsed the Interfaith Call to Action issued by the Interfaith Liaison Committee ahead of COP29. Rooted in the shared moral responsibility to care for creation and safeguard vulnerable communities, ORCIE added their voice to this international initiative to urge world leaders to act decisively on the climate crisis. Ahead of COP29, the petition urged global leaders to take ambitious, moral, and urgent action to address the climate crisis. It demanded stronger commitments to keep global warming below 1.5°C, prioritizing the phase-out of fossil fuels, equitable climate finance, and loss-and-damage funding for vulnerable communities.

This endorsement reflects our commitment to faith-inspired action, advocating for ambitious policies that prioritize justice, equity, and the flourishing of all life on Earth.

Read the petition here:

https://www.change.org/p/cop29-interfaith-call-to-action-by-the-interfaith-liaison-committee?utm_medium=custom_url&utm_source=share_petition&recruited_by_id=c6c4f6a0-92a9-11ef-8c8e-71ca05a06683

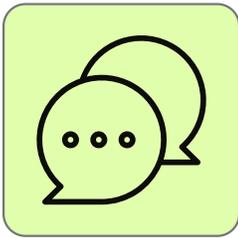


ON THE HILL

ORCIE joins coalition of organizations in advocating for \$1 billion Youth Climate Corps investment

Over 180 faith-based organizations and civil society groups have officially endorsed the Youth Climate Corps open letter launched on December 4, 2024. The launching event hosted by the Youth Climate Corps campaign and Climate Action Network Canada (CAN-Rac) on Parliament Hill brought together a broad coalition advocating for a transformative Youth Climate Corps to address Canada's climate and workforce challenges. Over 180 organizations, including ORCIE, are calling on key ministers to commit to an initial \$1 billion investment for the program's national, large-scale rollout.

See Open Letter and ORCIE's endorsement here: [An Open Letter to Federal Political Leaders in Support of a Youth Climate Corps](#)



ON THE HILL



ORCIE was present at the launching event along partners from KAIROS.



CALL TO ACTION

ORCIE joins KAIROS urging Canada to pay its fair share to the Loss and Damage Fund

KAIROS urges Canada to pay its fair share to the Loss and Damage Fund, recognizing the devastating impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities. This ORCIE infographic highlights the urgent need for Canada to address its historical role in climate harm and contribute equitably to the global climate finance effort. Explore the key facts and calls to action for a just and accountable response to loss and damage—and take action by signing the letter to urge the Canadian government to increase its support for those most affected by climate change.

Click here to see the INFOGRAPHIC we created!

[ORCIE Infographic Link](#)



CALL TO ACTION

Long-awaited emissions cap for Canada's fossil fuel sector

On November 20th ORCIE sent a letter to Steven Guilbeault, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change at the release of the draft Oil and Gas Sector Greenhouse Gas Emissions Cap Regulations. We recognized its importance as the first emissions regulation of Canada's oil and gas sector. Faith groups and environmental organizations, like ORCIE, have long campaigned for these regulations and we welcome this plan to limit the emissions from the largest contributor to the current climate emergency.

Congregations are invited to participate in the Consultation: Proposed Oil and Gas Sector Greenhouse Gas Emissions Cap Regulations, open until January 8th, 2024.

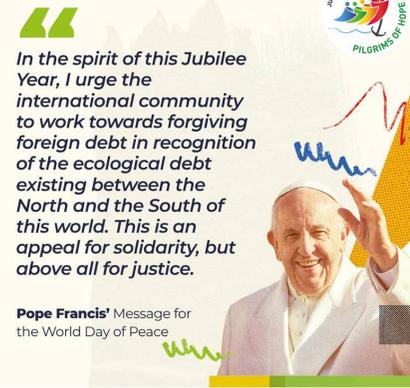
www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/climate-plan/oil-gas-emissions-cap/consultation-2024.html

ORCIE's letter and submission includes these notes:

- We cannot allow the oil and gas industry to continue to produce pollution and cancel out efforts made by other parts of the economy.
- We need to ramp up the ambition, with rules that take effect sooner than the proposed 2030 timeline and align these regulations with Canada's climate commitment of a 40-45 per cent emissions reduction by 2030.
- ORCIE calls for a 60 per cent reduction of GHG emissions below 2005 levels by 2030, because of the urgent need for fossil fuel companies to cut production and emissions.
- We are pleased to see the emissions cap regulations are shifting the responsibility for addressing pollution back onto industry. Let's ensure the regulations have zero compliance flexibility, offsets, and loopholes.
- Faith groups have long supported regulating pollution, and we appreciate the hard work needed to protect Canadians from worsening climate impacts.
- We want Canada to remain a leader amongst nations, putting binding limits on oil and gas pollution, and demonstrating how the Paris Agreement's five-year cycle of increasingly ambitious climate action or, ratcheting up, actually works.
- Canada can show its increased ambition nationally by finalizing these regulations and implementing them immediately, ahead of the federal budget and the 2025 election.



UPCOMING



Answering Pope Francis's Call: Join ORCIE in Preparing for the Jubilee 2025 with Bold Action for Debt Justice and Hope

“ I have repeatedly stated that foreign debt has become a means of control whereby certain governments and private financial institutions of the richer countries unscrupulously and indiscriminately exploit the human and natural resources of poorer countries, simply to satisfy the demands of their own markets. In addition, different peoples, already burdened by **international debt**, find themselves also forced to bear the burden of the **“ecological debt”** incurred by the more developed countries. Foreign debt and ecological debt are two sides of the same coin, namely the mindset of exploitation that has culminated in the debt crisis. In **the spirit of this Jubilee** Year, I urge the international community to work towards forgiving foreign debt in recognition of the ecological debt existing between the North and the South of this world. This is an appeal for solidarity, but above all for justice.”

– **Pope Francis, World Day of Peace (December 8, 2025)**

As we approach **the Holy Year of Jubilee 2025**, Pope Francis has called for bold and creative action to address the deep injustices of our time. Highlighting the intertwined crises of ecological and external debt, he reminds us that these burdens “mortgage the future,” particularly for the global South, and urges the global community to pursue justice, solidarity, and ethical reform in the international financial system. In response to this urgent appeal, ORCIE is eagerly preparing to support the Global Ecumenical Jubilee Campaign initiatives inspired by the Pope's prophetic message. In preparation for Jubilee 2025, we will share opportunities for you to engage directly in efforts to support the campaign.

Stay tuned for new campaign opportunities to join ORCIE in living out the spirit of the Jubilee through bold actions. Together, we can answer this call through intentional participation!

Read Pope Francis addressings here: [To the Participants in the Meeting “Addressing the Debt Crisis in the Global South” \(5 June 2024\) | Francis \(vatican.va\)](#)

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/20241208-messaggio-58giornatamondiale-pace2025.html#_ftn5



WHAT CAN WE DO BETTER?

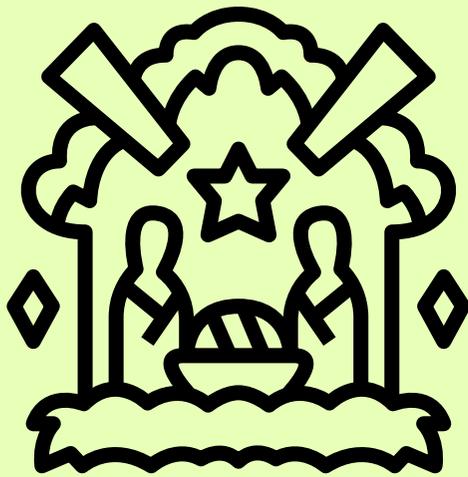
As we wrap up the year, we want to hear from you!

As the year comes to a close, in this Advent season, we invite you to share your thoughts with us. Your feedback is valuable and will help us improve our efforts.

Would you take a quick five-minute survey to share your thoughts on our ORCIE Offerings and let us know what you'd like to see in 2025?

Your feedback is essential and will help shape our future newsletters. What do you want to see more of, what do you want to see less of?

Let us know by completing the survey here: <https://forms.gle/FiNyaRHeufB2irc8>



Christmas Prayer: Help Us See You

Child Jesus, help us to hold you in refugees,
Those seeking protection from persecution and the effects of climate change,
Those wounded and killed by U.S. drone attacks,
Those tortured and held in indefinite detention,
And those assassinated for their commitment to protect Mother Earth.

Child Jesus, rejoice with us as we celebrate you in the peacemakers,
Those who have the courage to speak truth to those in power,
Those who refuse to stand on the sidelines but rather act for change,
And those who protect Earth from desecration.

Help us to know our sisters and brothers breathing,
Living, and struggling in a world in crisis,
And help us to be beacons of hope as You are.

Amen

- Dianna Ortiz, O.S.U.

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Have a Happy New Year!



WHO IS ORCIE?

Congregation Notre Dame-Visitation Province

Congregation of Sisters of the Holy Name of
Jesus and Mary

Jesuits of Canada

Les Soeurs Franciscaines Missionnaires de
l'Immaculée-Conception

Les Ursulines de l'Union Canadienne

Presentation Sisters

Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

Œuvres Marie-Anne-Lavallé (Franciscan
Oblates St Joseph)

Scarboro Missions

Sisters Faithful Companion of Jesus

Sisters of Holy Cross

Sisters of Mercy

Sisters of our Lady of the Missions

Sisters of St. Joseph Canada

Sisters of St. Joseph Toronto

Sisters of St. Joseph, Sault Ste. Marie

Sisters of St. Martha, Antigonish

Sisters of St. Martha, Charlottetown

Society of the Sacred Heart

Soeurs de St. Joseph de St Vallier

Sisters of Charity, Halifax

Congrégation des Filles de Jésus- Région Canada

The Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

JOIN US!



**ORCIE invites religious
congregations who are interested in
joining to reach out to:**

**Genevieve Gallant,
ORCIE Executive Director
Tel. 613-400-1631
Email: GGallant@orcie.org**

**Sasquia Antúnez Pineda,
ORCIE Researcher
Tel. 647-782-8068
Email: sapineda@orcie.org**

ORCIE  **BCRÉI**