

ORCIE Offerings

Summer 2026



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

JOINT ADVOCACY

TURN DEBT INTO HOPE



ORCIE's Role in a Collective Call for Debt Justice

After fifteen months of steady education and advocacy, the Turn Debt Into Hope campaign reached a powerful culmination on April 28, 2026 with a Parliamentary Breakfast Panel for MPs and a galvanizing rally on Parliament Hill in Ottawa.

In 2025 to mark the Jubilee Year the global campaign was launched, thanks to Caritas Internationalis and Development and Peace-Caritas Canada's leadership. In Canada, KAIROS Canada anchored an ecumenical coalition with 4 other core organizations - ORCIE, Development and Peace – Caritas Canada, Citizens for Public Justice, the Canadian Council of Churches.

For ORCIE, these events marked not only the close of a national campaign and a recognition of the strength of coalition work, but also a clear demonstration of what becomes possible when Religious engage their elected leaders with courage and hope.



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Instagram.com/orcie.bcrei/



JOINT ADVOCACY



ORCIE's Contributions (TDIH)

- Members of religious congregations from across Canada joined webinars, education and awareness sessions and collected signatures for the petitions throughout 2025-2026.
- Sasquia wrote Linking Ecological Debt to Financial Global Exploitation exploring the concept of ecological debt in a special deep-dive position paper on the deep-rooted connections between environmental destruction, colonial legacies, and the ongoing economic disparities between the Global North and South.
- Through the Global South Voices project ORCIE incorporated narratives and insights from Religious in the Global South into our political advocacy efforts for Canada to pay its fair share toward adaptation, mitigation and loss and damage funds in the Global South. Perspectives from the Global South are critical for raising awareness in Canada and creating the political will that is necessary for a more robust response to climate change. Notably, testimony from Sister Ligia Molina, CND from Honduras was used for the TDIH press release and rally on April 26, 2026, offering examples of the direct impact of the debt crisis.
- Sasquia was a leading presenter at panel *"Responding to the Global South Catholic Bishops Conferences' Call for Climate Justice"* in Belem, Brazil for COP30.
- Genevieve joined the Civil 7 (C7) Summit in April in Ottawa to strengthen recommendations to G7 leaders in the call for debt cancellation, financial system reform and a fair UN debt framework - see C7 final communiqué,
- Thanks to support from Sarah Rudolph, IBVM, in the lead up to the Fourth Financing for Development Conference in Spain in the summer of 2025, ORCIE met with several high-ranking officials from Finance Canada and Global Affairs Canada, providing recommendations for Canada's position on debt and climate finance. Throughout 2025-2026 ORCIE met with Finance Canada staff three times to build relationships and demonstrate civil society's engagement on the issue of sovereign debt.
- On behalf of religious congregations ORCIE wrote, edited and signed letters from the coalition urging the Minister of Finance Champagne and Prime Minister Carney to take the lead on sovereign debt justice at key global forums, and to meet with the coalition in a timely manner.
- Eight ORCIE congregations took part in the Parliamentary Paper Petition advocacy strategy, gathering signatures and ensuring that the voices of Religious Congregations were present in local MP offices. This local advocacy engagement proved essential.
- Through ORCIE's Learning and Lobby Days, staff meetings and the parliamentary petition advocacy push, ORCIE met with ten different MPs from three political parties to advocate for debt justice, financial system reform and climate finance.



JOINT ADVOCACY

A Crucial Meeting: Sisters of St. Joseph and MP Rob Oliphant



From left to right: Sasquia Antúnez Pineda (ORCIE staff), Vickie McNally (CSJ staff), Sister Pat Boucher (CSJ), MP Rob Oliphant, and Sister Janet Speth (CSJ)

In March, despite extensive work and after months of silence from the offices of Cabinet Ministers the coalition was struggling to find a government representative to receive the petitions on the debt crisis at a planned rally April 28. On March 30, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto, accompanied by ORCIE's staff member, Sasquia, met with MP Rob Oliphant, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, in his local riding office.

Thanks to this meeting, which was rooted in the Sisters' ongoing presence and ministry in his riding, a door opened to everything the coalition needed and more. MP Oliphant agreed:

- To present the Parliamentary Paper Petition in the House of Commons
- To be present and receive all 75,500+ petition signatures at the April 28th rally
- To host, with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto, a parliamentary breakfast and panel for MPs on the morning of the rally on the Hill

A big thank-you to Pat Boucher, CSJ, Janet Speth, CSJ, and staffers Sabrina Chiefari and Vickie McNally for their engagement in the advocacy campaign, their diligent work in organizing the meeting with MP Oliphant and for so warmly welcoming ORCIE staff to Toronto.



JOINT ADVOCACY

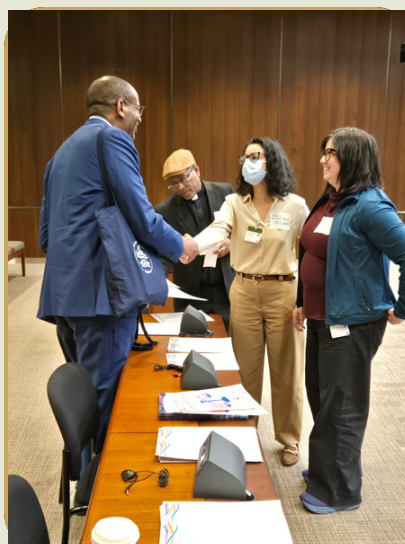
April 28: A Day of Witness and Hope

April 28 was the culmination of the Turn Debt Into Hope campaign, beginning with a Parliamentary breakfast and panel “Turn Debt Into Hope: Why tackling sovereign debt matters for global stability and sustainable development”.

Several MPs attended, including MP Elizabeth May (Green), MP Brendan Hanley (Liberal), MP James Maloney (Liberal) and MP Greg Fergus (Liberal), along with Parliamentary staffers, representatives from civil society organizations including ONE Campaign, Results Canada, the Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability, Climate Action Network Canada, Citizens’ Climate Lobby and KAIROS members. Their presence reflected the broad, cross-party concern for debt justice.



Speakers: Wesley Chibamba (Caritas Africa); Dean Detloff and Kiegan Irish (Development and Peace-Caritas Canada); Caroline Brouillette (Climate Action Network Canada)
Moderators: Beth Lorimer (KAIROS) and Geneviève Gallant (ORCIE)





JOINT ADVOCACY

April 28: A Day of Witness and Hope

At noon, more than 100 people gathered for the rally on Parliament Hill. MP Oliphant accepted the 75,500+ Canadian signatures, joined by MP Judy Sgro. Students, sisters, professors, and coalition partners brought energy and justice calls to the moment.

MP Oliphant spoke about Jubilee's biblical foundations and Canada's past involvement in sovereign debt cancellation, while also underscoring the urgent need to confront today's unsustainable and unfair debt burdens crippling developing countries:

"Canada has led the way for almost seventy years in debt forgiveness. We don't forgive all debt, because the reality is that we want a combination of grants and loans—this helps countries establish sustainability, credit ratings, and it establishes them as full partners in our global world. But debt can be crippling, can be unsustainable and can drop down the level and standard of living that all of us can benefit from. So, I am pleased to receive these petitions."

MP Judy Sgro: *"We are waiting for you to work with us to ensure that we have a better world"*

A Visible Impact, Thanks to Your Engagement

This campaign showed something important: **MPs respond to their local communities.** The engagement of ORCIE congregations – your signatures, your meetings with your MPs, your faithful presence – wove an important thread into the wider coalition effort. Together, this helped nurture:

- A Parliamentary Breakfast Panel for MPs
- A government representative to accept the petitions at a public event
- Engagement with elected leaders at all levels and across parties
- A united coalition voice for debt and climate justice





JOINT ADVOCACY

What's Next (TDIH)

Wrap Up & Next Steps

Over the 15 month campaign the coalition held 26 meetings with Members of Parliament. On April 21, MPs Brendan Hanley and Dominique O'Rourke presented the Parliamentary Paper Petition in the House of Commons, and several other MPs are expected to table petitions by the end of June. Both petitions have received responses from the Minister of Finance. We have also been notified that MP Rob Oliphant has raised the debt issue with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Anita Anand.

The coalition has also submitted a request to appear before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development as part of a study on the debt crisis. ORCIE hopes to submit statements and act as witness on the issue of ecological debt and global financial exploitation.

- Watch MP Brendan Hanley read the Parliamentary Paper Petition in the House of Commons: [ParlVu](#)
- Read the government response from the Minister of Finance to the parliamentary paper petitions: [Petition 451-00919 - Petitions](#)

Geneviève meets Senator Mary Coyle

On June 16, 2026 Genevieve met with Senator Mary Coyle, Nova Scotia, along with Beth Lorimer from KAIROS and Kiegan Irish from DP-CC to look at how to advance the issue of the debt crisis in the Senate spaces. A long-time friend of many religious congregations, Senator Coyle offered suggestions on who to reach out to and advice on the work on the Senate committees.



Notably she is very involved with the Senators for Climate Solutions, and is the Standing Senate Committee on Energy, Environment and Natural Resources where they are focused on domestic climate policy and the importance of Canada meeting GhG targets. See recent statement: Federal government must do more to ensure Canada achieves net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Mary appreciated the framing of debt as an issue closely connected to climate, where Canada needs to contribute its fair share with mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage. Next steps include a potential briefing for MPs and Senators who are attending COP31 in the fall.



FROM OUR CONGREGATIONS

Reflections from ORCIE Members: Parliamentary Paper Petition

Across provinces and congregations, ORCIE members have been engaging their MPs in creative, persistent, and hope-filled ways. Here are a few glimpses into their efforts.

A Reflection from the Martha Justice Ministry (Nova Scotia)

“Earlier this spring, members of the Martha Justice Ministry Core Group had a chance to meet with our MP Jaime Battiste (Cape Breton – Canso – Antigonish) to discuss a range of justice issues of concern, including the Turn Debt into Hope Campaign. We talked about the great support the campaign had across Canada and asked MP Battiste if he might consider tabling the Parliamentary petition calling for action from Canada to end unjust global debt that cripples countries and prevents needed climate action.



While MP Battiste could not table the petition, due to his role as Parliamentary Secretary, we appreciated his openness to hearing from us and assured us of his shared commitment to the intersecting issues of poverty eradication, climate action, and reconciliation. We were grateful for the opportunity to share our concerns and to promote this important campaign with our MP!

Along with supporting the Canadian campaign, the Marthas collected over 30 signatures in support of the Parliamentary petition that will be tabled in the coming month. The Marthas continue to bring together the local and global in their commitment to justice and, as the UN Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2030 state, ‘to leave no one behind’”.

– Darlene, O’Leary, Coordinator, Martha Justice Ministry, Sisters of St. Martha, Antigonish, Nova Scotia



FROM OUR CONGREGATIONS

Reflections from ORCIE Members: Parliamentary Paper Petition

New Brunswick

Denise Lirette, Filles de Jésus

Through this experience, Denise gained a clearer sense of the persistence advocacy often requires. She made two attempts to secure a meeting with MP Ginette Petitpas Taylor, and when scheduling proved difficult, she went in person to leave the campaign materials and later delivered the signed petition sheets. A couple of days later, she received an email saying that any petition to be put forward needs 500 signatures, a surprise since this is not the House of Commons procedure. Nonetheless Denise anticipates 'a way in' to see MP Petitpas Taylor might be through the work she is doing with some youth in their area. Her persistence reflects the steady, often unseen work that strengthens national advocacy.

Québec

Danielle Julien, Les Soeurs Franciscaines Missionnaires de l'Immaculée-Conception

Danielle invited MP Emmanuella Lambropoulos to meet the sisters at their residence, but the MP was on maternity leave at the time. Undeterred, she gathered the signatures from her congregation and mailed them to Development and Peace staff in Montréal, who committed to deliver them during their meeting with MP Carlos Leitão, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Industry. Her efforts ensured her community's voice was included in the coordinated national push.

Nova Scotia

Karen Kelly, Congregation of Notre Dame – Visitation Province

With the CNDs, who also endorsed the TDIH campaign, Karen collected signatures on the parliamentary petition and forwarded them to MP Braedon Clark. After repeated requests to his office her community continues to await a response, embodying the patience and perseverance that advocacy often requires.

Ontario/Quebec

Tara Hurford (Oblates – OMI Lacombe & NDC) and Sasquia (ORCIE staff)

Together, Tara and Sasquia have been tireless in their efforts to meet MP Greg Fergus and have now received confirmation of a meeting this summer. Their ongoing engagement supports the broader coalition effort as the campaign wraps up but the debt justice issue remains an ongoing concern.



ADDING OUR VOICE

ORCIE Denounces the Elimination of the Office of the Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise

We are deeply troubled by Prime Minister Carney's decision to eliminate the CORE, an office that was created after over a decade of faith-based and wider civil society advocacy.

Earlier this year, multiple cabinet ministers pointed to the CORE as an example of Canada's approach to meeting its international human rights obligations. The government now claims it can be replaced by new forced-labour legislation introduced under U.S. tariff pressure. This is misleading. The CORE had a much different and broader mandate to investigate a range of abuses, including environmental harm, land dispossession, and human rights violations tied to Canadian mining operations abroad. These mechanisms are not interchangeable.

Dismantling the CORE undermines Canada's commitments to human dignity and international human rights. ORCIE calls for the immediate reinstatement of a strengthened, **fully empowered CORE** capable of delivering the accountability and justice this moment demands.

We stand in solidarity with communities that have experienced human and labour rights and environmental violations by Canadian companies abroad. They deserve a real path to accountability and justice.

As members of the Canadian Network for Corporate Accountability, ORCIE joins our partners in a **shared call for accountability and for the reinstatement of a CORE with genuine independence, one capable of protecting human rights and equipped with the investigative tools the government promised but failed to deliver.**

Read ORCIE's letter to the Prime Minister Mark Carney, and then we encourage you to take a moment to write to your local MP, affirming that Canada must stand firm in protecting dignity and justice for communities worldwide: [ORCIE Denounces the Elimination of the CORE – The Office of Religious Congregations for Integral Ecology](#).



ADDING OUR VOICE

ORCIE Joins Call for an Excess Profits Tax on Big Oil

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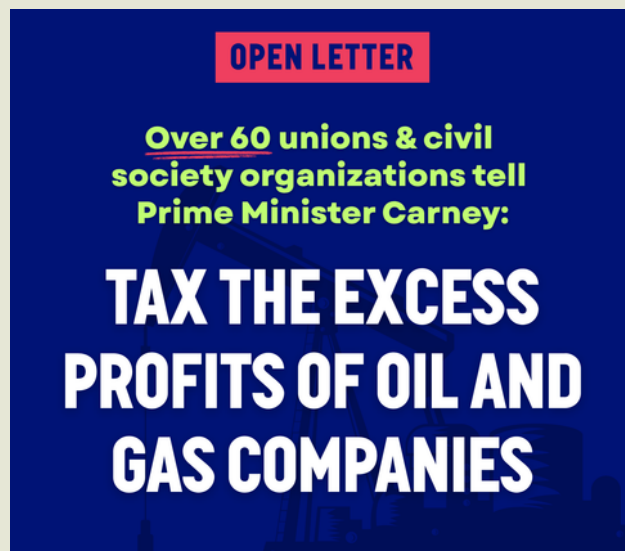
ORCIE joined over 60 unions, civil society organizations, Indigenous and faith groups that have signed an open letter to the Prime Minister calling for an excess profits tax on oil and gas companies.

Polling released last week shows that two thirds of Canadians support taxing the windfall profits of oil and gas corporations, with the revenues used to address the cost of living crisis and lower our energy bills.

The scale of corporate profiteering by the fossil industry while people across Canada contend with high fuel bills is staggering: oil companies are set to make \$10 million per hour based on conservative estimates. A 75% tax on excess profits 120% above pre-crisis profit levels would generate more than \$40 billion that could be given back to Canadians. The writing's on the wall: an excess profits tax is a feasible, practical, and popular solution. Read the open letter: <https://350.org/ept/>

What's Next?

As we prepare for our September lobbying day, ORCIE is working on the development of a proposal urging members of the Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development to study the creation of an excess profits tax.





RESOURCES

Earth for Sale — The Financialization of Nature with Maude Barlow

On June 25, ORCIE hosted a rich and timely online conversation with author and activist Maude Barlow on her newest book, *Earth for Sale: The Fight to Stop the Last Plunder of the Planet*. We were blessed to count with the presence of over 75 participants joining us live. This conversation came at a pivotal moment, just after the Bishops of the Global South released their manifesto ahead of COP30, *A Call for Climate Justice and the Common Home: Ecological Conversion, Transformation and Resistance to False Solutions*, raising the urgent question: “**Who is destroying the Earth, and who is offering false solutions?**”

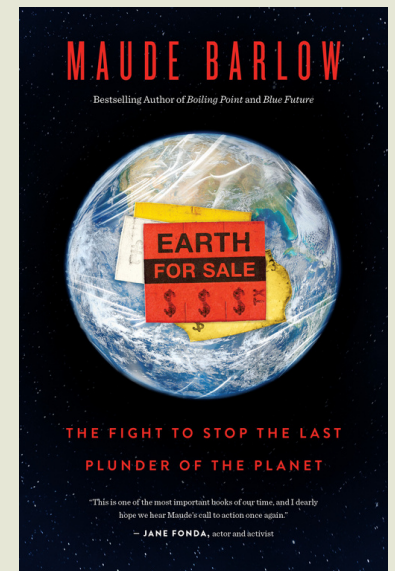
Together, we explored how the **growing financialization of nature** is reshaping decisions about land, water, forests, and biodiversity, highlighting why protecting the commons is essential to safeguarding our shared future.

Maude reminded us that, from an Integral Ecology perspective, human rights and the rights of nature are inseparable as each depends on the other for true justice and sustainability. She spoke of promising legal developments, where rivers, forests, and ecosystems have been granted legal personhood and recognized as rights-bearing entities, like the Magpie River in Canada. These “rights of nature” affirm that ecosystems have the inherent right to exist, regenerate, and evolve.

Maude’s reflections underscored the importance of beginning a deeper dialogue in Canada about how the principles presented in the book might inform our own environmental and moral commitments. As Maude reminded us so poignantly, “we owe it to our kids” to ensure that the natural world they inherit is not commodified, but cherished and protected as part of our shared home.

We invite our members and partners to explore these themes further through *Earth for Sale* and ORCIE’s reflection summary: <https://orcie.org/protecting-our-common-home-orcies-reflections-on-earth-for-sale/>

This conversation will serve as a valuable reference point as ORCIE continues discerning future advocacy directions around nature and the commons. If you were unable to join us, or would like to revisit the discussion, **you can watch the full recording here:** <https://youtu.be/V8ILwYvWOZ4?si=OPNLI5Ftn8kmCsfl>





RESOURCES

Excerpts from Integral Ecology: How the Concept of Integral Ecology is Evolving in the Canadian Context

Meeting the Moment

There are so many social, political, economic, environmental, religious, and cultural events interacting with each other that we hardly know where to look, let alone act.

This moment has been described as a time of polycrisis, suggesting that we're not so much living through many distinct crises as one multi-dimensional crisis.

Herein lies the hope: If we can get to the 'unity' underlying the polycrisis, or the crux of what's going on, we can create transformative change.

Of course, it's not just about understanding the crisis. It's also about **tapping the inner drive to transform ourselves and the world** --- and doing so in collaborative ways.

And therein lies the rub: We also live in a time of fractured worldviews (narratives for understanding ourselves, the world, the planet, the universe). So much so that we might, at times, feel that different social groups are living in alternate worlds. As a result, collective and collaborative action is becoming rarer, even though such action, on local, national and global scales, is exactly what the world needs.

It becomes clear that 'meeting the moment' will present both spiritual and ethical challenges.

What needs to shift in our understanding of humanity's place in the universe?

What creative role are we being urged to play in earth's story?

What is the transformation that we must undertake?



RESOURCES

Excerpts from Integral Ecology: How the Concept of Integral Ecology is Evolving in the Canadian Context

Growing numbers of members of religious congregations recognized that, in an era of ecological crisis, a profound shift in worldview is essential. People needed a new overarching narrative to support humanity's shift from economic, cultural, and **spiritual relationships of dominance over the earth to transformed relationships of solidarity and communion within the Earth community.**

For inspiration, we turned to authors such as Mary Evelyn Tucker, Swimme, and Thomas Berry, Brian Heather Eaton, each of whom has advanced this transformation by articulating holistic ecological visions that integrate science, spirituality, and ethics, while fostering a reverence for all life.

Likewise, religious orders have recognized the affinity between **the ecological visions of these authors and the ecological wisdom in Indigenous teachings.** One example is the principle of “Two-Eyed Seeing” or Etuaptmumk developed by Mi'kmaw Elder Albert Marshal from Eskasoni First Nation in Unama'ki (Cape Breton). Two-Eyed Seeing recognizes that the complementarity of Indigenous worldviews and knowledge with western worldviews provides fuller insights and perspectives. Seeing through both eyes allows us to deepen understanding and shift toward a more relational and interconnected approach that aligns well with integral ecology. The work of Indigenous biologist Robin Wal Kimmerer beautifully demonstrates using both eyes to explore and embrace this deep relationality.

When the encyclical Laudato Si' was released its primary focus on integral ecology reinforced earlier ecological visions. Collectively, the insights and narratives from these sources provide a foundation for systemic justice by linking ecological wellbeing with social and economic equity.

Read the full paper here: [Resources – The Office of Religious Congregations for Integral Ecology](#).



UPCOMING

JOIN US: ORCIE Advocacy Meetings with MPs – September 22, 2026

ORCIE has invited religious congregations to participate in a series of meetings with Members of Parliament in Ottawa on **Tuesday, September 22, 2026**, just ahead of the ATRI Conference (Sept 22–24). **These meetings, taking place between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.** will bring participants into dialogue with MPs from the Liberal party's Climate Caucus and the Standing Committee on the Environment at a critical moment for climate policy in Canada.

The meetings will be shaped in part by the Environment Committee's recent report on Canada's Emissions Reduction Plan, which highlights serious concerns that current government decisions are not aligned with stated climate commitments and lack the urgency required to address the crisis. Participants will have an opportunity to reference and respond to these findings in conversation with MPs.

Earlier in June, ORCIE also shared our Integral Ecology paper with members of the Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development to help ground our upcoming meetings in the values and analysis that shape our work and to open space for meaningful dialogue in the months ahead. [Read the paper](#)

This is a meaningful opportunity for congregational leaders, staff, and associates already planning to be in Ottawa for the ATRI Conference to engage and strengthen relationships with federal decision-makers. **We warmly encourage ORCIE members to consider participating, and ORCIE staff will provide preparation and support.** Please reach out to Genevieve at [ggallant@orcie.org](mailto:gallant@orcie.org) if members of your congregation are interested in joining.





WHO IS ORCIE?

- Congregation Notre Dame-Visitation Province
- Congregation of Sisters of the Holy Name of Jesus and Mary
- Jesuits of Canada/Jésuites du Canada
- Les Soeurs Franciscaines Missionnaires de l'Immaculée-Conception
- Presentation Sisters
- OMI Lacombe and Notre-Dame-du-Cap
- Sisters Faithful Companions of Jesus
- Filles de Jésus
- Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception
- Our Lady's Missionaries
- School Sisters of Notre Dame
- Sisters of Charity, Halifax
- Sisters of Holy Cross/Sœurs de Sainte-Croix
- Sisters of Mercy
- Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions
- Sisters of St Joseph Canada
- Sisters of St Joseph Toronto
- Sisters of St Martha, Antigonish
- Sisters of St Martha, Charlottetown
- Soeurs de St Joseph de St Vallier
- Sisters of St Joseph of Sault Ste. Marie

JOIN US!



ORCIE is a small organisation that relies entirely on the annual contributions of Religious Congregations to sustain its work. These contributions—whether large or small—make it possible for the moral and ethical voice of religious communities to be present in critical climate policy discussions where it is urgently needed.

The support of Religious Congregations has been essential to ORCIE's growth and impact, and we are deeply grateful for the way you continue to walk with us on this shared journey of ecological justice.

We warmly invite any Religious Congregations interested in joining ORCIE's network of supporters to reach out to:

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