The U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph joins with Rise St. James, in opposition to the construction of a $9.4 billion industrial plastics complex by Formosa Industries. The complex will consist of 16 facilities and is expected to double emissions in St. James Parish – a town where 14% of the land is already owned by chemical companies. Our partnership with Rise St. James is motivated by our commitment to fighting environmental racism, and focusing on the ways in which racism, migration, and the climate crisis intersect.

St. James Parish is located along the Mississippi River between New Orleans and Baton Rouge, a strip of land also known as "Cancer Alley" due to the high number of industrial and chemical plants and the inordinately high cancer rates – 2nd highest in the United States.

Census data from 2019 states that 48.8% of the population in St. James is Black. "[Putting these complexes in St. James] is a decision based on 'we don't want it in the white area but we don't mind it being in the black area,"' said Clyde Cooper, the 5th District Parish Council Member.

To further complicate the matter, Rise St. James has found evidence that the proposed construction site is on the slave cemeteries for the former Acadia and Buena Vista Plantations.

Since 1930, Louisiana has lost 1,900 square miles of costal land due to pollution, driving out wildlife, agriculture, and the families that have lived there for generations.

The industry is booming with half of all the plastic ever made being created in the last 13 years. There is 6,400 million metric tons of plastic waste; 79% are in landfills or the environment, 12% has been incinerated, and only 9% has been recycled. It's in our food, our water, our soil, and our air— one study has indicated that just by eating, drinking, and breathing, Americans ingest at least 74,000 microplastic particles every year.

We are asking all of you to join us in action, prayer, and advocacy. We commit to standing in solidarity with Rise St. James to fight against the systems contributing to these intersecting injustices.
U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph
Adorers of the Blood of Christ, U.S. Region
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
Creation Justice Network of American Baptist Churches
Franciscan Action Network
Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, USA
Ignatian Solidarity Network
Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Leadership Conference of Women Religious
Medical Mission Sisters and Women’s Circle, Inc.
Mercy Ecology
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
Northwest Coalition for Responsible Investment
Pax Christi, USA
Sisters of Bon Secours, USA
Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary
Sisters of the Humility of Mary
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
ACTIONS WE CAN TAKE
CORPORATE VOICE STATEMENT | APRIL 2021

• ASK THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO REEVALUATE AND PERMANENTLY REVOKE FORMOSA PLASTICS’ PERMIT

• PHONE BANKING FOR RISE ST. JAMES EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM 5:30 TO 6:30 PM EST. REGISTER HERE

• LEARN MORE ABOUT RISE ST. JAMES

• DONATE TO RISE ST. JAMES

• SIGN THE PETITION TO TELL LOUISIANA GOVERNOR JOHN BELL EDWARDS TO STOP THE CONSTRUCTION OF FORMOSA PLASTICS

• LEARN MORE WITH THE FORMOSA FACT SHEET

• LEARN HOW THE FOSSIL FUEL/PLASTICS INDUSTRY IS ACTIVE AND INFLUENCING POLICIES IN YOUR AREA
The U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph, driven by Gospel values, our commitment to care of Earth, and by our heritage to be responsive to the "dear neighbor" without distinction, call on elected officials to stop the construction of the Formosa Plastics complex. We call on President Biden to hold true to his promise to focus his environmental policy on hard hit areas like Cancer Alley. We urge our community to take action, advocating for national, state, and local officials in Cancer Alley to make changes in their community.

● ADVOCATE FOR H.R. 1512 CLEAN FUTURE ACT

● STOP FORMOSA PLASTICS FROM BEING BUILT

● GRANT BETTER HEALTH CARE ACCESS FOR THOSE WHO LIVE IN AREAS WHERE CANCER RISKS ARE INCREASED DUE TO CHEMICAL PLANTS

● MAKE REAL-TIME EMISSIONS INFORMATION MORE ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC

● DEMAND THAT PLASTIC MANUFACTURERS BE RESPONSIBLE FOR RECYCLING EVERY PIECE OF PLASTIC THAT LEAVES THEIR FACTORIES

The U.S. Federation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph is a dynamic union of all the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the United States who claim a common origin in the foundation at Le Puy, France in 1650. Today there are approximately 3,351 vowed members as well as 3,076 associates and 46 agréées in the United States. Worldwide there are over 10,749 Sisters of Saint Joseph and 4,399 associates in over 50 countries.