

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.

ON THE HILL

Invitation: Learning & Lobbying



ORCIE believes in the importance of a renewed dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. With the recent change in Canada's federal leadership and amid a rapidly changing geopolitical landscape, we recognize that facing today's urgent environmental challenges demands stronger collaboration, courageous leadership, and a renewed spirit of non-partisanship—now more than ever.

Connecting the dots between the debt crisis, the climate emergency, cuts to foreign aid and an unjust financial system, ORCIE is calling for Canada to fund our fair share to confront the climate crisis. Using an integral ecology approach the Fair Share Platform gives a detailed breakdown of how Canada can do its part in the global climate fight. The Platform is a living document that is growing and evolving as the Fair Share movement expands within Canadian civil society: https://orcie.org/the-fair-share-platform-for-global-climate-equity/

Will you join us for our upcoming Lobby Day September 25th, 2025 in Ottawa? Our Learning & Lobbying process prepares small teams to meet with Ministers, MPs and members of Standing Committees on Parliament Hill.

Learning & Lobbying Days: Canada for Global Climate Justice

September 20 (Sat): Global Climate Strike, locally across Canada

September 22 (Tue): ORCIE Learning Session, virtual

September 24 (Wed) : ORCIE Preparation for meetings, Ottawa September 25 (Thurs): ORCIE Lobby Day on the Hill, Ottawa

September 29- 30 (Mon-Tues): Meet your MP at local offices

October 13-17 (Mon-Fri): Meet your MP at local offices



Religious are invited to join us in Ottawa for September 24-25, or to work together locally to meet MPs in their riding. For more information and to express your interest please contact Sasquia at **sapineda@orcie.org** or Genevieve at **ggallant@orcie.org** so we can prepare for your participation.

facebook.com/orcie.org Instagram: @orcie.bcrei

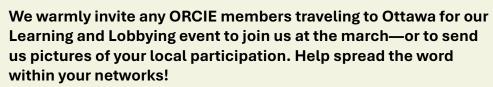




March with ORCIE: Draw the Line - For People. For Peace. For the Planet - Sept. 20!

On Saturday, September 20—part of our Season of Creation—communities across Canada will mobilize for the Draw the Line march, making clear to Prime Minister Mark Carney and the federal government that we will not accept injustice and destruction but a just and safe future for all. A historic alliance of climate, migrant, economic justice, and anti-war movements will take to the streets under shared calls to challenge billionaires dominance, colonialism, racism, war, and fossil fuels—and instead demand for funding of communities, uphold Indigenous sovereignty, and protect Mother Earth. ORCIE, as an endorsing organization for the march, will have staff joining this powerful day of action in Ottawa.





See the event map here: https://drawtheline.world/?r=CA



ORCIE Joins Rally for the Planet: No Faith in Fossil Fuels

On May 12, 2025, the Office of Religious Congregations for Integral Ecology (ORCIE) stood in solidarity with faith-based and environmental allies at the Rally for the Planet: No Faith in Fossil Fuels on Parliament Hill. This powerful, family-friendly event was the final stop of the two-day Pilgrimage for the Planet, a 200 km bike journey from Montreal to Ottawa calling on the Canadian government to endorse the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty—a bold step to stop the expansion of fossil fuel projects.

ORCIE's participation—represented by Executive Director Genevieve Gallant, Advocacy and Communications Officer Sasquia Antúnez Pineda, and Treasurer Joe Gunn—reflects our commitment to working in coalition to demand urgent climate action rooted in justice and the care for creation. With the federal election just behind us, this was a crucial moment to push the next government toward real climate leadership.

Led by the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, the Pilgrimage and Rally brought together a broad coalition of partners including Fridays for Future Ottawa, CAFES Ottawa, OMI Lacombe (Le Centre Oblat), the Mouvement Laudato Si' Movement Canada, KAIROS Canada, and ORCIE/BCRÉI. Learn more here: The Pilgrimage for the Planet





ORCIE Joins Rally for the Planet: No Faith in Fossil Fuels





Together, we're calling for a livable future—because climate justice can't wait!



ADDING OUR VOICE

ORCIE at the 2025 C7 Summit — Civil Society Unified Call for Debt and Climate Justice

In mid April, Cooperation Canada organized the Civil Society 7 (C7) Summit—a critical gathering of over 100 civil society representatives from across Canada—including Indigenous leaders, Global South activists, youth, and ecological justice advocates—who came together to shape the agenda flowing into the G7 discussions in Kananaskis, Alberta.







ORCIE at the 2025 C7 Summit — Civil Society Unified Call for Debt and Climate Justice

What Was Achieved at the Summit?

- <u>The C7 Communiqué</u>, built around four pillars—Climate & Environment, Economic Justice, Humanitarian Action, and Sustainable Development—was officially handed to Canada's G7 Sherpa, Cindy Termorshuizen, in the presence of diplomatic representatives.
- Strong calls were made for a just transition away from fossil fuels, robust climate finance, debt cancellation, and structural financial reform, all grounded in human rights and global equity.
- Summit panels spotlighted threats from authoritarianism, shrinking civic space, extractive financial systems, Indigenous exclusion, and the need to center global voices.





ORCIE's Key Participation:

- **Genevieve Gallant** and **Sasquia Antúnez Pineda** from ORCIE joined delegates from KAIROS and Development & Peace, among other civil society groups.
- ORCIE's participation was focused on climate, energy and the environment—especially linking climate finance with debt cancellation and reframing foreign aid as a form of global reparations.
- An additional C7 Policy Paper on Debt was produced based on the calls from Jubilee organizations and the urgent nature of this cross-cutting issue: <u>c7-debtpolicypaper.pdf</u>





ORCIE at the 2025 C7 Summit - Civil Society Unified Call for Debt and Climate Justice

ORCIE's involvement in the C7 Summit reinforced our commitment to an integral approach—one that not only links ecological and financial decolonization, but also recognizes the importance of working alongside other civil society organizations to strengthen our collective impact in the broader G7 dialogue. This perspective is central to our role in the Jubilee campaign *Turn Debt into Hope*.

Next Steps & ORCIE's Role

- ORCIE patrolled developments at the G7 Leaders' Summit (June 16–17, Kananaskis) and associated People's Forum activities in Calgary in June.
- Our advocacy will focus on strategic collaboration with partners on how to bring the Jubilee
 petition to world decision-makers, holding them accountable to the commitments outlined in the
 C7 Communiqué.

Read more on our partners KAIROS and Development and Peace participation at the C7 Summit: Civil society presses G7 on debt and climate at 2025 C7 Summit |

G7 Jubilee People's Forum: Connecting the Dots on Debt Cancellation and Climate Justice

From July 12–15, ORCIE was proud to join voices from across the globe at the G7 Jubilee People's Forum in Calgary, where Chair of the Board Sue Wilson and Executive Director Genevieve Gallant represented our shared commitment to integral ecology and economic justice.

Held in the days leading up to the **G7 Summit in Alberta**, the **Jubilee Peoples' Forum** in Calgary brought together people from across Canada to explore how global financial debt, ecological debt, and systemic inequality are deeply interconnected—and why, as Sue Wilson reflects, these challenges must be addressed concurrently. ORCIE joined KAIROS, Development and Peace – Caritas Canada, Citizens for Public Justice, and the Canadian Council of Churches at the Forum to deepen our collective understanding and commitment to these shared concerns.







ORCIE at the G7 Jubilee People's Forum: Connecting the Dots on Debt Cancellation and Climate Justice

"Who Owes Whom?": Understanding the Debt Trap

As <u>Development and Peace vice-president Tashia Toupin</u> aptly put it, the issue of debt can feel overwhelming—politically, economically, culturally, and ideologically. Yet the Forum helped to demystify these dynamics, showing how unjust debt, particularly in the Global South, is both a result of and contributor to structural inequality. ORCIE Chair Sue Wilson helped unpack these complex relationships through a lens of integral ecology.

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At the rally, a bystander came up to me and said, 'Your group is concerned about a lot of issues.' I looked at the signs the people around me were holding: Turn Debt into Hope. Climate Justice. Reform the Financial System. People before Profit. Who owes whom? Where he saw different issues, I saw the multifaceted and interconnected aspects of the Jubilee Debt Campaign."—Sue Wilson, CSJ

Sue emphasized how unsustainable debt in the Global South is often driven by:

- Global economic shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic and war in Ukraine;
- Predatory lending practices by private financial institutions;
- · International systems that force countries to prioritize debt repayments over development;
- · Lack of global rules on responsible borrowing and lending.

Debt cancellation, then, is not charity. It's a form of justice—especially when viewed through the lens of **ecological debt**, the concept that the Global North countries, including Canada, owes a climate and resource debt to the South and Indigenous communities due to centuries of exploitation and emissions.

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"This is not charity, but a commitment made in the 2015 Paris Agreement which states that countries must fund global climate actions according to their responsibility for the climate crisis and their ability to pay. Countries like Canada (wealthy, large historic climate polluter, and a key producer of crude oil and gas) must contribute our fair share towards addressing the impacts of climate change in the Global South (Canada's Fair Share Platform)."

Read Sue's full analysis here: <u>Connecting the Dots: Jubilee People's Forum and The Debt Cancellation Campaign | Sue Wilson</u>

Let us continue connecting the dots—between faith, finance, and the future—and transforming systems that exploit into systems that heal.





Forging the Path Ahead: Insights from the People's Forum and ORCIE's Fall Advocacy

What are we calling for?



The Global North can make payments on this climate debt by funding climate adaptation and mitigation in the Global South and by contributing to the Loss and Damages fund. The cancellation of unsustainable debts is another way of freeing up money so countries badly impacted by climate change can invest in climate adaptations and mitigation. If the Global North cancelled debt payments to low and lower-middle income countries, it could free up approximately \$109 billion for climate action globally (Canada's Fair Share Platform)."

— Sue Wilson, CSJ

Participants at the Jubilee People's Forum went beyond critique to present clear, actionable solutions—many of which will shape ORCIE's upcoming advocacy with the federal government. These proposals include:

- Cancelling unjust and unsustainable debt without conditions;
- Supporting the creation of a UN Global Debt Framework for transparent and fair resolution;
- Tripling Canada's climate finance pledge to \$15.9 billion/year, with a focus on grants over loans;
- Enacting windfall taxes on oil and gas companies instead of continuing public subsidies;
- Reforming trade rules to protect human rights, land, and ecosystems over corporate profit.

Who can we act with?

Additionally, during the Forum, a key highlight was deepened collaboration with the Calgary Interfaith Council, a 30-year-strong alliance of diverse religious communities. This relationship opens new pathways for ORCIE to expand its interfaith advocacy work on economic and climate justice.

Genevieve Gallant, shares this reflection on two key moments from the Forum that offered grounded, forward-looking direction for the campaign—rooted in both inter-faith collaboration and Indigenous leadership.





Forging the Path Ahead: Insights from the People's Forum and ORCIE's Fall Advocacy

How can we expand our reach with the Jubilee Turn Debt Into Hope campaign?



At the G7 Jubilee People's Forum in Calgary this past June, ORCIE joined over 100 participants, social justice activists and people of faith from across Canada to call for global debt justice. How were we able to build up the Jubilee Turn Debt Into Hope movement and what did we learn about advancing debt justice in 2025?

Beyond workshops, planning sessions and fruitful discussions, the program included two key elements that demonstrated innovative yet practical ways forward for the campaign.

The G7 Jubilee People's Forum began with a dynamic Interfaith Service where multiple faith traditions prayed for justice in the Jubilee year. Led by the Calgary Interfaith Council, the service included voices and elements from Muslim, Hindu, Indigenous, Jewish, Buddhist, Bahai, Sikh, Unitarian and Christian traditions, followed by a meal from the community kitchen of the Calgary Sikh gurdwara.

The Calgary Interfaith Council, 30 years strong, not only focuses on deepening relationships across faith traditions, but they also urge members of their community to educate themselves, become advocates for peace and justice, and pave the way for integrated coexistence for future generations.

Members of the Council did not just participate in the first evening but stayed throughout the Forum and deepened their engagement with the Jubilee campaign. It was a vivid example to the ecumenical movement of the need to expand our relationships and work beyond our own faith and cultural communities. In Christian communities we often invite one or two other faith traditions to join the existing group, expecting newcomers to adapt to the group's own history and way of doing things. Instead, what if we reach out to local interfaith groups, to create and build relationships that could lead to collaboration? Or what are the local Christian cultural communities, not necessarily part of the mainline churches, who we have neglected to include in our ecumenical work?







Forging the Path Ahead: Insights from the People's Forum and ORCIE's Fall Advocacy



The city of Calgary is on the traditional territories of the Peoples of Treaty 7, which include the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprised of the Siksika, the Piikani, and the Kainai First Nations), the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Goodstoney First Nations). Calgary is also home to the Métis Nation of Alberta.

With a desire to go beyond land acknowledgements, each day of the Forum included dedicated time for an opening session by an Elder from the three main nations. A high point of the weekend was travelling to Mînî Thnî for an interfaith prayer meeting on sacred ground at the **Stoney**Nakoda First Nations Medicine Wheel. Leaving the classrooms to see the stunning mountains, the prairie flowers and the Bow River allowed for deeper integration of mind, heart and spirit. Reverend Tony Snow and Elders from the Bearspaw, Chiniki and Goodstoney First Nations joined the interfaith circle at Mnî Thnî to lift up prayers for the Jubilee vision for the world. Rev. Tony: "Built by Elders from the Ecumenical circle, the Medicine Wheel commemorates the journey of restoration that our people have traveled to honour the wisdom of our ancestors. In this space we invite interfaith prayer and ceremony to lead us. In this sacred space we bring hopes and dreams, guided by the wisdom of many traditions."

Alongside education and strategizing at the Forum, creating space for Indigenous Elders to share their wisdom and for each person to set foot on sacred Indigenous land provided us a chance to catch our breath, to taste a decolonized Christianity, and be stunned by the glory of creation. This time of integration set a strong foundation for the action steps where participants spoke about debt justice in local churches and rallied in the streets of Calgary.

Hope in Action: A Global Movement

The Forum offered more than analysis—it fostered relationships, re-energized commitments, and created space for a shared vision. As our partners at Development and Peace beautifully reflected in their post-event summary, "Hope was created, nurtured, and shared" through this collective gathering. Their thoughtful reflection captures the spirit of the Jubilee People's Forum and the momentum it generated.

Also check out this reflection by Development and Peace: <u>Creating Hope at the G7 Jubilee People's</u> Forum





ORCIE Sponsors Global Dialogue on Debt Justice



On July 14, ORCIE was proud to co-sponsor the global webinar Beyond Default: The Liberating Power of Debt Reform, an official side event of the 2025 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). Hosted by the Congregations of St. Joseph NGO to the United Nations, this timely conversation brought together global voices to explore pathways toward long-term debt sustainability, justice, and ecological accountability.

The event focused on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 17.4, addressing the urgent need to confront unjust global debt burdens that hinder the flourishing of communities across the Global South. Participants engaged with key themes including health equity (SDG 3), gender equality (SDG 5), and decent work (SDG 8), all through the lens of debt reform and ecological justice.

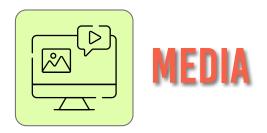
We heard from inspiring speakers who are working at the intersection of economics, justice, and faith, and who are mobilizing around the Global Jubilee Year Campaign—a call to transform unjust debt structures and reimagine global solidarity:

- Sr. Ludibina Hernández, Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Honduras
- **Dr. Martin Guzman**, Columbia University's Initiative for Policy Dialogue and the Jubilee Commission
- Anjali Appadurai, Director of Campaigns, Climate Emergency Unit and Director of the Padma Centre for Climate Justice
- Dr. Grieve Chelwa, Associate Professor of Political Economy and Chair of Social Sciences, The Africa Institute, Global Studies University, Jubilee Commission Co-Sponsors:

Alongside ORCIE, this event was co-sponsored by the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary–Loreto Generalate, Caritas Internationalis, and the NGO Committee on Financing for Development. Canadian partners included Development and Peace – Caritas Canada, CSJ Federation Office for Systemic Justice, Centre Oblat, and the Mary Ward Centre.

We thank all members of congregations, advocacy networks, and justice-seeking communities who attended and came together to reframe the conversation on global debt and embody a new vision rooted in justice, sustainability, and solidarity.





Jubilee People's Forum: A Voice Amid Global Headlines



Media coverage of the G7 events in Alberta were largely dominated by pressing geopolitical developments, including Trump's arrival (and departure) and the ongoing genocide in Gaza. Yet ORCIE's message at the People's Forum was present and reflected a growing call to recognize ecological debt and lift the burden on low-income countries. As Genevieve Gallant, shared in The Catholic Register:



The Jubilee 2025: Turn Debt into Hope campaign is calling on Canada to be at the forefront of a solution to tackle ecological debt. Canada has an opportunity to continue being a leader in international development assistance. This is a way they can make a huge difference: to reduce the debt and set up a UN framework for negotiating a debt. That is not an expensive thing. It is just making a way for the debtors and creditors to come together and figure out what to do when there are crises."

CTV News also captured the grassroots mobilization unfolding in Calgary—amplifying the voices of those calling for a more just global financial system. **Read and watch** more about the Jubilee People's Forum and the G7 in the media:

<u>The Catholic Register – March to protest G7 leaders</u> <u>CTV News Calgary – Protesters Gather at Designated Zones</u>

ORCIE response to Catholic Register opinion piece, "Naïve nuns play squarely into Hamas'hands"

The Office of Religious Congregations for Integral Ecology (ORCIE) has issued a response to the opinion piece published in The Catholic Register on July 12, titled "Naïve nuns play squarely into Hamas' hands." The article misrepresents the intent and integrity of a letter signed by many ORCIE members, addressed to Prime Minister Mark Carney, which called for humanitarian aid to Gaza and an end to ongoing violence:



"We support your insistence that military operations in Gaza must stop, and humanitarian aid must increase greatly. Likewise, we call on Hamas to release immediately the remaining hostages...The continued existence of this humanitarian crisis diminishes the humanity of us all."

Our response letter expresses deep disappointment over the decision to publish such a dismissive and divisive opinion, and reaffirms the faithful and justice-rooted witness of religious congregations calling for peace.



"It is in this spirit that we offer our complete support for the letter sent by religious congregations to Prime Minister Carney. The opinion piece that you have chosen to publish is deeply insulting to the religious congregations and to all of those globally who are calling for a ceasefire and for an end to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, including Pope Leo XIV, UN Secretary General António Guterres, and many others." ~ Darlene O'Leary

READ THE FULL LETTER HERE: ORCIE response to Catholic Register opinion piece, "Naïve nuns play squarely into Hamas'hands" – The Office of Religious Congregations for Integral Ecology





Spring Advocacy

As part of our work on the <u>Jubilee 2025 Turn Debt Into Hope</u> campaign, ORCIE-BCRÉI sent a <u>letter to the Honourable Dominic Leblanc</u> in February, during his short time as <u>Finance Minister</u>, as well as a <u>letter to PM Mark Carney</u> when he became the newly elected leader of the Liberals in March. These moments may seem like flashes in a pan (was this only a few months ago?) but they are part of setting the stage for in person meetings and keeps the urgent issue of debt cancellation and climate justice front and centre.

On the issue of climate finance and ecological debt, staff from ORCIE-BCRÉI and other Jubilee 2025 organizations met with Associate Assistant Deputy Minister Steven Kuhn from Finance Canada and a few other Directors as they were preparing for the 4th International Conference on Finance for Development https://financing.desa.un.org/ffd4. They were very encouraged by the conversation about both financial debt and ecological debt as Canada prepares for G7, G20 and COP30.

Laudato Si 10th Anniversary



For the 10th anniversary of Laudato Si, KAIROS invited people to visit the new ORCIE website to learn about what Religious in the Global South have to say about the intersections of ecological debt, colonialism, and the responsibilities we hold to respond with reparations.

ORCIE-BCRÉI's very own **Darlene O'Leary**—Coordinator of the **Martha Justice Ministry with the Sisters of St. Martha in Antigonish**—explores the enduring wisdom and prophetic urgency of Pope Francis' encyclical. She draws out its core message of integral ecology, showing how its vision of interconnectedness deepens and strengthens our pursuit of economic justice—especially in this year of Jubilee.

Watch the video here: <u>Ten years after its release</u>, <u>Laudato Si' continues to inspire and challenge us |</u>





The Path to COP 30: Climate Leadership from Churches of the Global South



It has often been remarked that, in the days before the 2013 Conclave that elected him as pope, Jorge Bergoglio told the Cardinals that, "The church is called to come out of herself and to go to the peripheries, not only geographically, but also the existential peripheries..."

Over a decade later, these "peripheries" turned the tables – they arrived at the metropole to deliver their own historic challenge to all Christians, especially those of us in the Global North. Could anyone have predicted what topic would be their churches' utmost priority?

Global warming has been defined as "an existential issue of justice, dignity and care for our common home."

In a press conference at the Vatican on July 1, 2025, three Cardinals, presidents of their regional organizations, presented a message from the Catholic Episcopal Conferences and Councils of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean on the occasion of COP30 (the UN conference on climate change, scheduled for Brazil in November 2025.) Their 30-page text is titled, "A Call for Climate Justice and the Common Home: Ecological Conversion, Transformation and Resistance to False Solutions."



This year marks the 10th anniversary of the publication of Francis' encyclical, Laudato Si, as well as the legally binding treaty at COP21 in Paris that famously committed 196 nation signatories to limit global warming to an increase under 1.5 degrees Celsius. Nonetheless, the bishops call for a profound ecological conversion because global warming already reached a 1.55 degrees C increase in 2024.

Read more on the Bishops calls to action here in this blog post by ORCIE Treasurer Joe Gunn: Climate Leadership from Churches of the Global South – The Office of Religious Congregations for Integral Ecology





WHO IS ORCIE?

Be Not Afraid (Matthew 28:5): Religious Congregations Embracing the Call to Conversions, by Joe Gunn



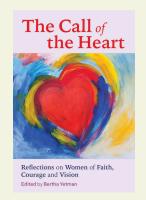
Who are the people who envisioned the need, and since 2021, do the work, to fulfill the mission set out as: "skillfully engaging with policymakers creating maximum impact for change."

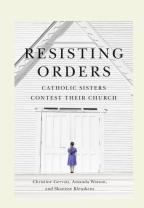
Among the <u>over two dozen Catholic religious congregations</u> that have donated to the initiative, only two "institutes of consecrated life" are comprised of males. By far, the majority of ORCIE members, supporters and activists are female members of religious congregations.

In the early summer of 2025, two new books were published that reveal detailed accounts of the contributions of female religious in Canada, as well as their on-going struggles to remain true to their various charisms.

The Call of the Heart: Reflections on Women of Faith, Courage and Vision (Novalis 2025)

Resisting Orders: Catholic Sisters Contest Their Church (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2025)





Read Joe's full reflection and explore both books in our website:

https://orcie.org/be-not-afraid-matthew-285-religious-congregations-embracing-the-call-to-conversions/

This piece is part of ORCIE's growing collection of reflections by members whose stories and reading journeys shape the heart of our mission. We invite you to reflect, respond, or suggest your own reading here: **Contact Us**



WHO IS ORCIE?

- Congrégation des Filles de Jésus, Région
 Canada
- Congregation Notre Dame, Visitation
 Province
- Congregation of Sisters of the Holy
 Name of Jesus and Mary
- Grey Sisters of the Immaculate
 Conception
- · Jesuits of Canada
- Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate
- Presentation Sisters
- Soeurs franciscaines missionnaires de l'Immaculée-Conception
- Sisters Faithful Companion of Jesus
- Sisters of Charity, Halifax
- 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
- School Sisters of Notre Dame

JOIN US!



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

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