



# ECO-NEWS SSCM

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## Editorial

*The climate is a common good, of all and for all. On a global level, it is a complex system linked to many of the conditions essential for human life. There is a very solid scientific consensus that we are witnessing a worrying warming of the climate system.*

*Pope Francis, Laudato-Sí, 13*

According to the Copernicus Observatory, 2023 was the warmest year in history. Looking at this strange winter we're having, we can fear we'll see new temperature records around the world in the new year of 2024.

Personally and collectively, we are invited to get actively involved in reducing our ecological footprint.

The bicentenary of the birth of our Founding Mother, Marie Moisan, inspires us with hope. Marie Moisan made a commitment to our planet through her preferential love for the underprivileged and her love of the earth.

In this second edition of the green bulletin, we follow our Sisters in France on their journey towards integral ecology. The heritage is still alive, and they are following in the footsteps of Mother Marie Moisan!

Paule-Marie Ndjom, SSCM  
General Secretary

## *Our March Towards Integral Ecology in the Footsteps of Our Founding Mother, Mother Marie Moisan*

We are writing about the actions and experiences of our Sisters at rue Lhomond and the community of the Pères du Saint-Esprit in Paris.



This community includes Sisters Françoise Moreau, Marie-Anna and Marie-Chantal. Their work is admirable!

When I visited these Sisters for a short or long stay, I was amazed by the discreet and efficient work of these women, with their simple, welcoming hearts. At the Spiritan Fathers, given the variable attendance at meals, often have a surplus of food left over. The Fathers take care of putting it in boxes and storing it in a fridge. However, our Sisters at rue Lhomond, imbued with our charism, make us sensitive to the vulnerable. So they offer surplus meals to men, women and families of limited means, such as those at the C.H.R.S Moisan Delaplace (Centre d'hébergement et de réinsertion sociale) of the Cités Caritas association, located at 41 rue Lhomond in Paris.



We appreciate the commitment and cooperation of these two religious families on rue Lhomond. Sister Marie-Anna, assisted by Monsieur Marcel Paulot, transports the boxes to the community kitchen in one or two carts. Each of them carries out a specific task, in a spirit of peace and silence.

Sister Françoise Moreau is in charge of filling the individual boxes with food.

Sister Marie-Chantal labels the boxes and places them in the Centre Moisan Delaplace fridge. Their relationship with residents is one of respect and courtesy.







A resident comes to get her meal.

Sister Marie-Anna takes care of washing up and tidying up. This activity takes place in a friendly atmosphere. They pay special attention to waste, which is deposited in compost bins at the Spiritan Fathers' home. The pigeons of Paris feast all day long: "They neither sow nor reap"!

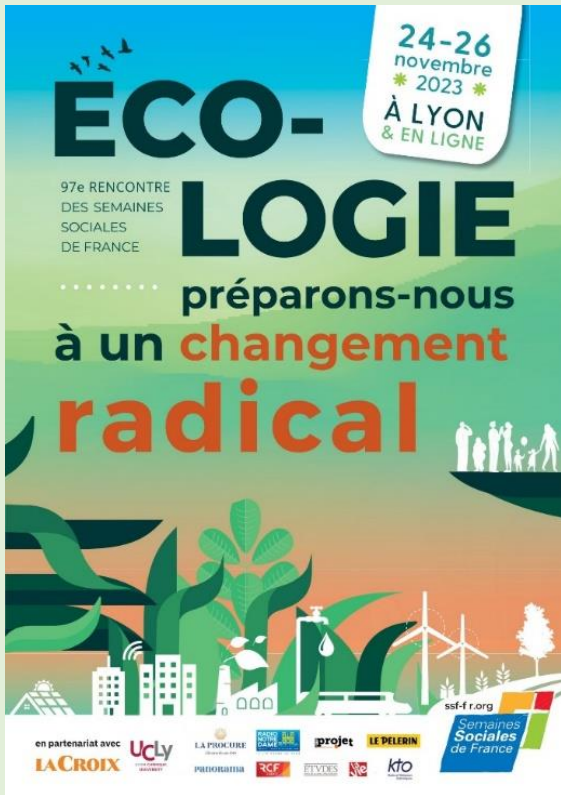


This daily activity is part of our journey towards integral ecology, where everything is linked. They are following in the footsteps of our Foundress. My heartfelt thanks to our Sisters at rue Lhomond for their effective and efficient presence in their environment.



**Virginie Essono Essomba, S.S.C.M.  
France**

## Radical Change: Starting with the Poorest...



I was able to take part in these three days, where debates, presentations of seeds already sown for a better ecology, questioning and observations shake up our way of looking at, analyzing and debating. It's been a rich three days, as I've heard some fine commitments, admired nature and human, ecological nature, and the commitment of several associations and business leaders. It's a bold undertaking to summarize what I've heard, and I don't want to misrepresent what I've heard from the speakers.

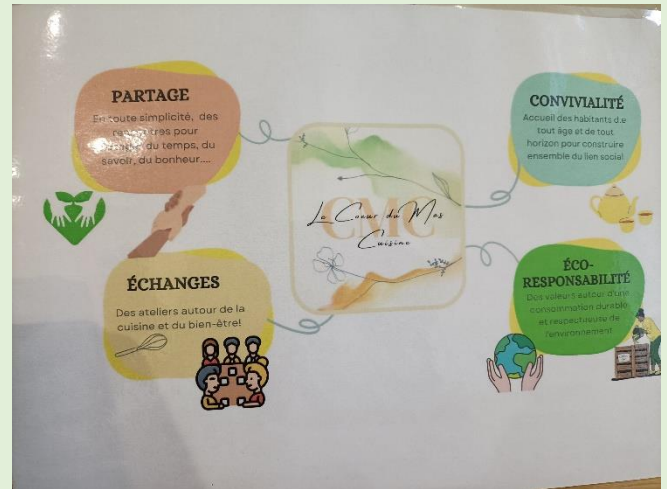
I'd like to share with you what caught my attention, the appeals, the urgent need for us to set off collectively so that the countries concerned take into account not only the disruption of nature but also the consequences of certain actions, debates and decisions that are damaging our common home. While Laudato Si' contributes to a shared awareness, developments in climate, biodiversity and inequality are making the situation worse.

I liked the words of a Franciscan friar: "Laudato Si' shows that we are facing a crisis with multiple dimensions: ecological, economic, social, and even theological...". He quotes Saint Francis, saying: "He could not have composed the Cantic of Creatures without first experiencing the encounter with the lepers: it was there that he discovered the meaning of fraternity. Because Francis discovers in the leper a brother, beyond all that separates, the sun can become a brother, the Earth becomes "Sister to Mother Earth". "Participation is a buzzword, an indispensable attitude, but it's participation to the last that we need to build... The poorest can be unifying figures in our debates. They don't provide the solution, but they help to create the links that make action possible... Poverty kills. We must never forget that. Nature is the place where a gift is revealed... We need to integrate a vision of nature as a partner in our human development and our divine vocation."

On Saturday afternoon, I signed up for the "learning trip to Vaulx-en-Velin". When we got off the bus, I discovered a completely different landscape. It's all grey, there's no tarmac where I'm walking, just a semblance of a parking lot with cars parked in the mud. It was better to watch where I put my feet. There are many migrants and few stores. The story tells me that **Mas du Taureau** is a district of the town of Vaulx-en-Velin, in the eastern suburbs of Lyon, France.

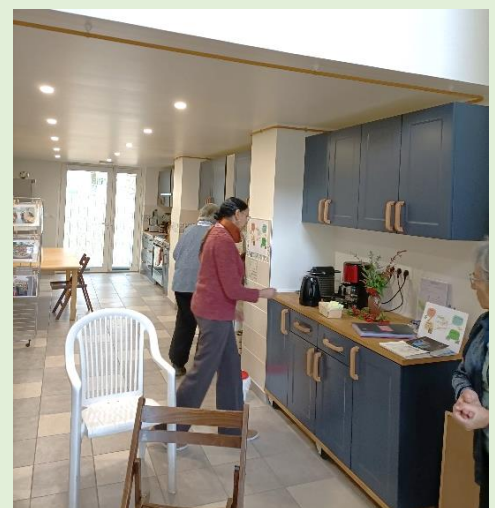


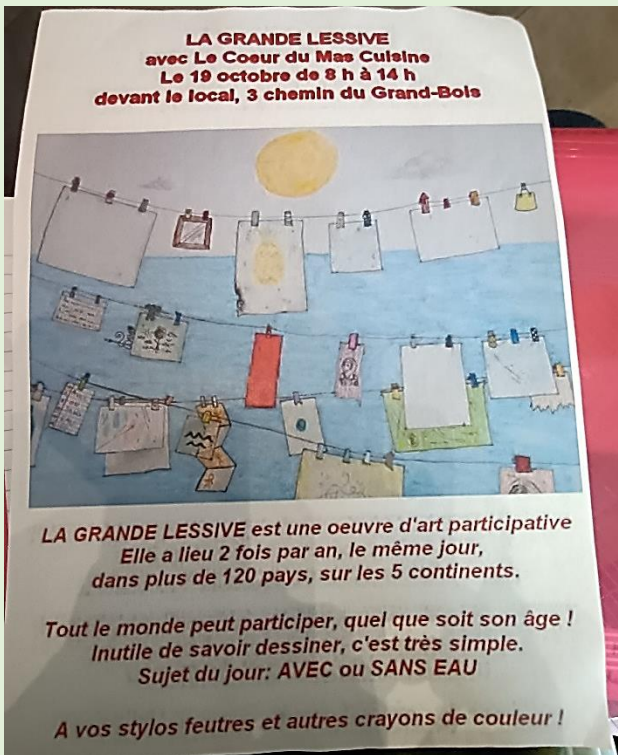
In 1990, riots broke out in this neighborhood following the death of a young motorcyclist who was trying to break through a police roadblock. The riots lasted three nights, causing fires and looting. Since then, the city has launched several renovation projects to transform the neighborhood and improve living conditions for residents. The migrants have all gathered in this neighborhood. Listening to the story, I'm reminded of the Berlin Wall in Germany, destroyed in 1989. East on one side, West on the other. Both were unable to cohabit, leaving little room for the ability to be recognized as a person and not an entity. We are a small group interested in the association "Le Cœur du Mas Cuisine".



We are warmly welcomed by a retired volunteer who tells us the story of the founding of this association. I'm amazed by the audacity and hope of this woman, who for years has been going out to meet people in this large housing estate. She explains that between two buildings, there was a passageway tagged on both sides. We're in a very working-class neighborhood, with citizens living in very precarious conditions. Our volunteer sits down on a bench and, as the residents approach, she engages them in conversation. With other residents, actions are set up: how to make household products, eat well for cheap, implement zero waste, fetch unsold food and learn to cook. They set up a collective to plant rose bushes, and learned how to make rosewater and prepare a rosewater flan.

Little by little, their actions are being recognized. The social landlord invites them around a table to avoid closing off a passageway. "We wanted to create a living environment for lonely, isolated people. The most important thing was to bring in know-how and interpersonal skills. It took three years to build the new premises, which since January 2023 has offered a wide range of activities focusing on simplicity, zero waste, cooking, sewing, embroidery and drawing. Children are happy to come here, and mothers who don't work come to share their culture. The cultural mix is important to accept and understand each other's differences.





A child's painting on the subject "with or without water"

On Friday evenings, we're invited to watch the documentary "Bigger than Us", which aired on FRANCE 5 on December 11, 2023. A documentary not to be missed, because as the director, Flore Vasseur tells us: it's a film that's been thought up for the world with a spiritual dimension. "For me, everything is linked, because the environment of young people is at war, lacking food, suffering from global warming... But beyond all that, I saw how beautiful humanity is because, on a human scale, we're all the same age. "

The director of this film invites us with these words:

*"There's something inside you that's bigger than you, so set it free".*



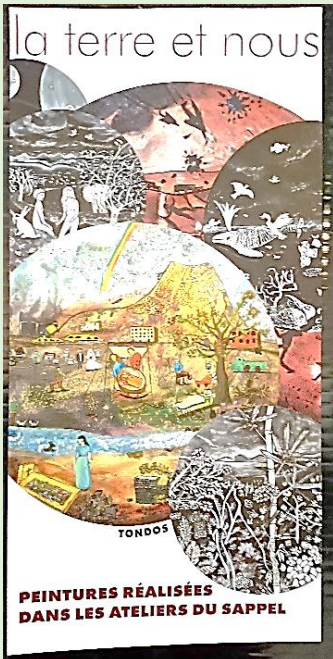
Film synopsis: For the past 6 years, 18-year-old Melati has been fighting the plastic pollution ravaging her country, Indonesia. Like her, a generation is rising up to repair the world. Everywhere, teenagers and young adults are fighting for human rights, the climate, freedom of expression, social justice, and access to education and food. Alone against all odds, sometimes risking their lives and safety, they protect, denounce and care for others. And they change everything.

Melati sets off to meet them across the globe. She wants to understand how to keep going and continue her work. From the favelas of Rio to the remote villages of Malawi, from makeshift boats off the island of Lesbos to Native American ceremonies in the mountains of Colorado, Rene, Mary, Xiu, Memory, Mohamad and Winnie reveal a magnificent world of courage and joy, of commitment to something greater than oneself. At a time when



everything seems to be falling apart, these young people show us how to live. And what it means to be in the world today.

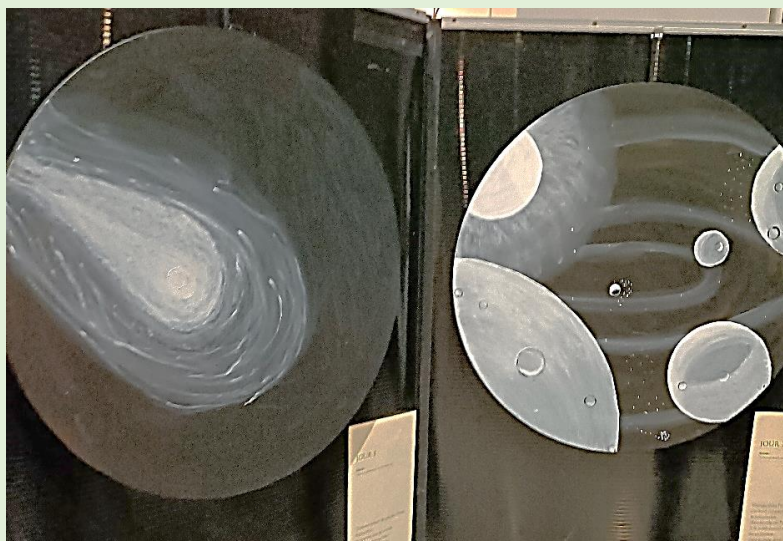
If you'd like to see it, please get in touch with Sister Paule-Marie, who will be sure to let me know how many DVDs to buy. You can then discuss it and why not write an article! I invite you to talk about it around you, to buy it and distribute it, as it will make "third parties". The director will be delighted to hear from you.



### My "Coup de Cœur"

I'd like to end this article with my "coup de cœur" of the three-day session. I was moved by this original creation of the hymn of the 7 days of Creation, which was presented to us by an association that takes in people in very precarious situations.

Rarely have I heard so much applause in the room. It took three years of painstaking work to put it into words. "We wanted to give up the drawings, the colors, our ways of thinking, of looking at the world as we see it today, and paint it. They succeeded, and today they are proud of it because they've used their senses to touch this link with life, to show the beauty of the world through photography and painting, in front of life in all its forms.



#### ↑ DAY 1

*God said: Let there be light, and there was light!*

*The beginning of great things. Today, on the first day of the world, the light is too strong! Oh creation, you are beautiful, mysterious, frightening, magnificent and sublime!*

#### ← DAY 2

*God says: Let there be lights in the vault of heaven!*

*Journey into immensity. I'm cold, I'm scared, I'm lost in the emptiness of the universe. If only the sun would give me some of its light, otherwise, I would stay in the dark and no one would see me.*



**↑ DAY 3**

*God said, "Let the waters under heaven be gathered together and let the earth appear!*

*You mountains, what are you doing there, so high, so beautiful?*

*Climbing! Climbing! Climbing!*

*Breathless!*

*On this cold, icy moonlit night, the sky and sea are revealed. "*



**↑ DAY 4**

*God says: Let the earth give seed-bearing greenery and fruit-bearing trees!*

*Like a treasure, the canopy teems with light-feeding life, a drop of the universe bearing fruit. At its feet, a rose gives its perfume.*



**← DAY 5**

*God says: Let the waters produce living creatures in abundance, and let birds fly above the earth, across the expanse of the heavens!*

*On the surface of the sea, seaweed floats, full of little creatures that delight me. I wait for the coral bouquet to tell me the color of the sea there.*



**DAY 6**



*God said: Let the earth bring forth cattle, creeping things and wild beasts! Then God said: Let us create man in our image to reign over the earth!*

*Like a shining star, I see a light in your eyes. Follow me into my secret garden, I'll show you my love, your paradise will be a surprise! Adam's voice soothes Eve, fear remains behind.*



**DAY 7**

*On the 7th day God rested from all the work he had done.*

*Light shines through everything, through the ancestors moving gaily forward, through the tigers rolling in the grass, the birds, insects and butterflies! Oh, God! I love this universe full of strength and beauty!*

When they started this hymn, the war in Ukraine prompted them to add two colored TONDOS. They didn't want to stick with the Tondo of destruction, alluding to the war in Ukraine. It was important to create the Tondo of rebirth. How wonderful to share it with you in pictures!

**PAINFUL DAYS** →

**Tondo of destruction**

*Indescribable, heart-stopping turmoil, rumbling, threatening, exploding. No more birdsong, no more flapping wings. A woman flees, clutching her child, not knowing where she's going.*





## ← DAYS OF HOPE

### *Tondo of rebirth*

*We've lost the thread, how can we start again together? The light wakes us up to make ourselves beautiful again.*

*This morning, I sowed my land with grains of wheat, and the skylark returned.*

*Gifts are given to us: life, animals, people.*

A tondo (plural: tondi) is a painted or sometimes sculpted work on a round support. Throughout these three years of work, they used the term "tondos", and we've kept it in the text. Thanks to these women for allowing us to experience this magnificent moment with them. Thanks to Luc DAVIENNE, who has led this artistic and human adventure over the past three years.

It's fascinating and at the same time questioning to see how the earth can become a "paradise" and, in certain places, to discover this fragile land, fractured in places and experiencing climate change with all the consequences we know about. Entire countries will be forced to migrate northwards, as the rise in temperature will be unbearable, and some will be submerged by rising seas. The theme is "Ecology: let's prepare for radical change". Radical" may seem a strong word, but we urgently need to take responsibility for every one of our actions, whether large or small, not as "individuals" but as a community.

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