



*We are connected, like branches to the tree.  
We all walk the planet, let's walk with dignity.  
No matter our color, no matter our creed.  
All of us are gifted and all of us we need.*  
(Chris Skinner)

## INTERNATIONAL MOTHER EARTH DAY – 22 APRIL

### *Celebrating with Aguchita and our Position Papers*

“The world is God’s wonderful creation.  
Humans have the task of shaping it and preserving it.  
Concern for “Mother Earth” is not among the many questions,  
but the essential issue to the planet’s survival!”

Prayer Network for April 2019 - <http://rgs.gssweb.org/en/jp/gs-ngo-prayer-network/prayer-network-april-2019>

Mother Earth is a common expression for the planet earth in a number of countries and regions, which reflects the interdependence that exists among human beings, other living species, and the planet we all inhabit.

“The discord we experience within the very air we breathe, the water we drink, and among our communities calls for a response consistent with our mission of reconciliation which calls us to “join together to bring forth a sustainable global society founded on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice and a culture of peace.” (Quotes excerpted from the Earth Charter, 2000) (*PP- Integral Ecology 2*)

Sr. Agustina Rivas, affectionately known as “**Aguchita,**” has shown through her life how to be a

**“Sign of conscious commitment to Integral Ecology.”**

Aguchita embraced the earth whole-heartedly like a Mother challenging us through her life to see “the world as a source of deep contemplation and sacred activity, calling us to the heart of what it means to be inclusive and reconciled in all ways with the Whole. (*PP-Integral Ecology1*)

“In this sense, Aguchita loved nature and promoted recycling. The seminarians called her “Sister Lettuce” in reference to a photo that shows her carrying a head of lettuce. It was only a symbol of her conscious commitment to an integrated care of creation.” (<http://rgs.gssweb.org/en/content/aguchita-sign-ecological-conscience>)

“She worked at the Good Shepherd program in Florida, Peru, which focused on young women and women farmers in the local jungle areas – the poorest in the valley. She was a

simple minister who taught cooking, made candy and supported the dignity of girls in Florida's poor jungle region."

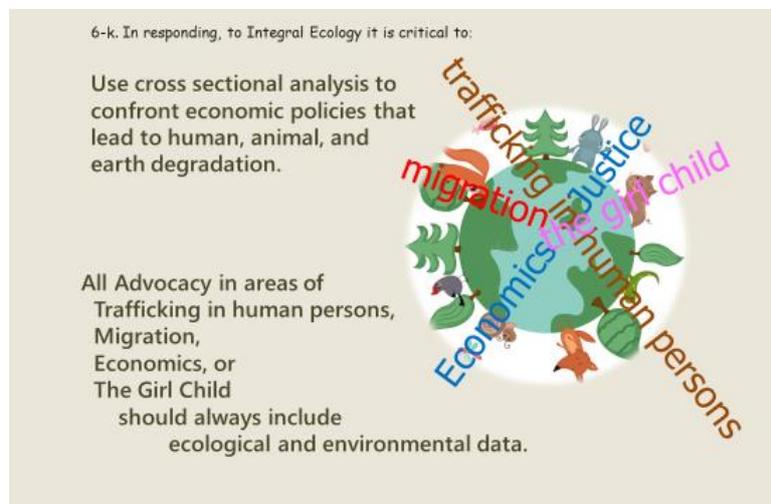
(<https://sistersofthegoodshepherd.com/aguchita-considered-beatification-holy-martyr/>)

### Memory of her Commitment to Creation

**Aguchita:** "The reality of the spiritual life is a continuous imitation of the Lord, our model; because he has felt fatigue, thirst, pain, and hunger...the disciple cannot be more than her Master...May our life be like the wear and tear of the candle that illuminates and diminishes!" (*Caminamos Contigo, Aguchita, 2018*)

In our time, **our Commitment to Creation** is reinforced through our Congregational Position Papers which state:

**"Our first response is to contemplate reality.** We learn from the natural world and from groups, such as women and indigenous communities, who are most adversely affected by ecological violence." (*PP- Integral Ecology 4*)



### CONGREGATIONAL POSITION PAPERS IN POWERPOINT FORMAT

To read more comprehensively about our Congregational Position Papers (PP's) we invite you to visit our website as we present our **Position Papers in PowerPoint (ppt) format** prepared by Sr. Clare Nolan. We express our gratitude to Sr. Clare Nolan and all who have translated her work to be used personally, communally, and with wider groups. You are requested **to translate the PowerPoints into your local languages** for wider participation with all partners in mission.

Website: <http://rgs.gssweb.org/en/jp/jp-static-pages/position-papers-2018>

Zelma  
M. Susana  
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Ellen  
FINNES  
Jude Allen  
Lilly  
Josiba  
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