

Statement of ROAR (Religious Organizations Along the River)
on the Special Synod of Bishops on the Amazon

ROAR (Religious Organizations Along the River) wishes to express its joy and solidarity with the October 6-27 Special Synod of Bishops on the Amazon, *New Pathways for the Church and for an Integral Ecology*, called for by Pope Francis. We are heartened by the willingness of this body to listen to a river, its lands, and its peoples. Our organization and its members advocate for the region of another river, the Hudson. We recognize that all the waters of Earth are one and inter-connected. In our listening to the Hudson and our advocacy for its well-being, we have discovered the truth of the words found in the working paper for the synod: “Territory is a theological place where faith is lived, and also a particular source of God’s revelation: epiphanic places where the reserve of life and wisdom for the planet is manifest, a life and wisdom that speaks of God,” (*Amazonia: New Paths for the Church and for an Integral Ecology*, #19). Just as the world has failed to listen to the voices of the indigenous peoples of Amazonia, we confess that our work has not attended to the voices of indigenous peoples of the Hudson River Valley. We commit ourselves as an organization to a deeper listening and a closer collaboration going forward. Together may we work for “a full and integral life, a life that sings, a song to life, like the songs of rivers,” (*Amazonia: New Paths for the Church and for an Integral Ecology*, #11).



ROAR, initiated in 1996, is a network of religious congregations and organizations concerned with the sustainable and regenerative use of land in the Hudson Valley Bioregion.

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