



EDITORIAL: The month of December highlights several significant JPIC issues. December 1st is World AIDS Day, which draws awareness and solidarity with 34 million people living with HIV and AIDS, the majority of whom are in sub-Saharan Africa. December 10 is World Human Rights Day, reminding us of the millions of people around the world whose basic human rights are deprived every day. The United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change took place in Lima, Peru from December 1-12, gathering representatives from 195 countries to address the challenges posed by greenhouse gas emissions, affecting the most vulnerable, increasing poverty and jeopardizing prosperity and the future of many people. Most especially, this month we celebrate the birth of the Son of God who came to save humanity, in a world full of hopelessness. The tragedy of the first Christmas was that very few realized the hope that had been introduced, as is the case today—hope for the forgiveness of sins, hope for a bright future... hope in God, forever.

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1. ROME UPDATES



1.1 English JPIC Promoters meeting addresses human rights concerns in West Papua, New Guinea.

On Wednesday, December 17th, the English JPIC Promoters meeting featured human rights concerns in West Papua, New Guinea, under the rude colonization of Indonesia. The event was attended by about 40 religious men and women mostly from congregations that have a presence in Oceania. Two Priests, Bernard Baru OSA, and Emmanuel Tenau, a diocesan from West Papua, Mr. Octavianus Mote, a journalist and human rights activist in the USA, and Fr. Budi Tjahjono OFM, a member of Franciscan International representing a group of congregations in Geneva, told the moving story of suffering and injustices. They went into details and showed pictures of suffering, marginalization, depopulation of the indigenous Papuans and pollution of the environment by foreign mining companies. Having told their story they asked religious congregations to voice support for their cause so that their human and civil rights may finally be respected by the Indonesian government. They also expressed a strong desire to have Pope Francis pray and announce his support for their cause and freedom.

1.2 Religious leaders commit to eradicate modern day slavery.

Religious leaders of the major world religions gathered in the Vatican on December 2 and signed a declaration in which they committed themselves to eliminate all forms of modern slavery and human trafficking. The declaration was signed by Pope Francis, along with eminent Orthodox, Anglican, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu representatives. This solemn act follows the agreement signed earlier this year on March 17 in the Vatican, under the initiative of the Global Freedom Network, to eradicate by 2020 modern forms of slavery and human trafficking. The full text of the declaration is found at <http://www.news.va/en/news/declaration-of-religious-leaders-for-the-eradication>.

2. OUTSIDE ROME

2.1 Undocumented immigrants in the US free from deportation.

On November 20, US President Barack Obama used his executive powers to allow over [5 million undocumented immigrants to remain in the USA](#). Faith communities in the country applauded the president's decision as courageous despite stern criticism from Republicans. However, there is still a need for the Church and religious men and women to work alongside with the multitude of undocumented immigrant to make sure that the US government is committed to a lasting solution. It is interesting to see that President Obama even quoted scripture as he made his point on this issue: "We shall not oppress a stranger for we know the heart of a stranger—we were strangers once, too."

The US Provincial Ministers of the Order of Friar Minor issued a [letter of support](#) for President Obama's executive action, while endorsing comprehensive and just immigration reform.

2.2 Catholic Bishops statement on climate change on the road to Paris. “Following the evangelical option for the poor, we work closely with the most vulnerable communities and the excluded and as such are closely attuned to how the problem of climate change is affecting them. Our message to political leaders and all people of good will is rooted in the experience and suffering of these poor communities. Humankind on the Planet Earth is ordained to live in equity, justice and dignity, peace and harmony in the midst of the order of Creation. Humankind is ordered to treat respectfully Creation, which has a value in itself...” Full text of the Bishops' statement is available at <http://www.jpicroma.org/#!creation/c5k> in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

2.3 December 1st is World AIDS Day. “Life for people living with AIDS would be much easier if they had clinics within walking distances and if they spent less time in queues that stretch for hours to get their treatment”, says a report published by African Jesuit AIDS Network (AJAN). Although the life of people living with HIV has improved a lot because of accessibility of Antiretroviral Treatment, AJAN joins people living with HIV in calling for ever more accessible and comprehensive treatment. This includes community-based care; better-staffed clinics; constant availability of antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) and related tests; free and available treatment of opportunistic infections; and nutritional support. Gaps in these services were identified, to a greater or lesser extent, by the people who were interviewed.

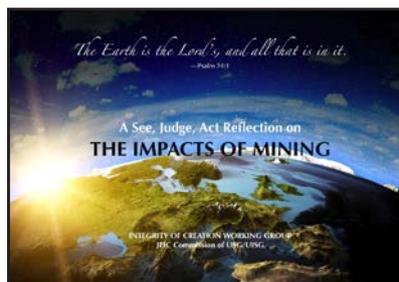
[Read the outcome of research done in three sub-Saharan African countries](#)—Kenya, Tanzania and South Africa. [Read about new findings to simplify the use of the ARV treatment and checkups.](#)

2.4 Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) opposing human feeding trials involving GM banana. The Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) is extremely concerned about a Bill and Melinda Gates funded project, the so called, “Super-banana,” which has been genetically modified to contain extra beta-carotene. The GM banana is currently being tested on students at the University of Iowa, with planned introduction on to the Ugandan and other East African markets. Bananas are not only a staple food in Uganda, they are also profoundly important to Ugandan culture where over 95 varieties are grown, mostly indigenous to East Africa. [Read the AFSA open letter to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.](#)

3. NEW RESOURCES

3.1 Integrity of creation resources. The Integrity of Creation Working Group shares with us the following useful resources: 1) [PPT \(French\) on coltan](#)—a rare mineral used to fabricate electronic devices such as mobile telephones, computers, GPS, etc., and the effects it has on the Democratic Republic of Congo, (DRC), a country possessing 80% of the worldwide supply of coltan. (upload the file); 2) [4-minute video on climate change](#) based on a scientific report; and 3) [15-minute video explaining the connection between mineral extraction and violent conflicts](#), the fifth report on climate change by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

3.2 Climate change and COP 20 Lima, Peru. Sean McDonagh, SSC, an accredited participant and member of the Irish delegation at the recent United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change in Lima, Peru, provides us with [several reflection papers on climate change](#).—Amy Echeverria, Columban Missionaries JPIC Coordinator (2013 JPIC Formation Workshop, Rome)



3.3 The Impacts of Mining. This booklet, published by the Integrity of Creation Working Group, is now available in [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#).

4. JANUARY 2015 JPIC EVENTS

- **Anti-trafficking WG:** Friday, Jan. 9, 15:00-17:00 at Fratelli
- **English JPIC Core Group:** Monday, Jan. 12, 15:00-17:00 at Fratelli
- **Spanish JPIC Promoters Meeting:** Wednesday, Jan. 14, 9:30-12:30 at UISG
- **English JPIC Promoters Meeting:** Wednesday, Jan. 21, 9:00-12:00 at UISG
- **Refugee Migrant WG:** Tuesday, Jan. 27, 15:00-17:00 at Fratelli
- **Integrity of Creation WG:** Wednesday, Jan. 28, 9:00-12:00 at UISG
- **Collaboration WG Seminar “Women in the New Testament”:** Saturday, Jan. 31, 9:30-12:30 at Fratelli, Aula Magna

Happy New Year 2015



The year that is ending has been crowned by many JPIC efforts and endeavors by you friends in Rome and all over the world. We are grateful to Resource Persons who shared with us their expertise and experience during Seminars, JPIC meetings, Way of the Cross and with the inauguration of the Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vatican Ecumenical council at the Catacombs of Domitila (just to mention few). With hearts full of gratitude we look forward to a 2015 full of many and intense collaborative ministry in promoting, animating and communicating the values of God's Kingdom.

Pope Francis calls us to reflect on the tragedy of "Slavery" let us heed his call "To expose the world's greatest crime, challenge the country's strongest vested interest and recruit fellow citizens into their crusade for justice, a small interracial band reshaped a disorderly and turbulent Christmas into a holiday of human liberation". (From the Christmas Tree as an Anti-Slavery Liberation Symbol: Amsterdam News by William Loren Katz on December 17, 2003)

"If more of us could serve as centers of Love and oasis of Peace, we might just be able to turn around a great deal of conflict...Let us be gentle with each other!" (From God Has a Dream: a Vision of Hope for Our Time by Desmond Tutu)

Blessings throughout the new year,

Felix Mushobozi, CPPS

Note: Please send a brief outline of information you think JPIC Promoters might find useful for publication in future issues of *Newsbrief* to jpicusguisg@lasalle.org.

Compiled and produced by the JPIC Commission Secretariat

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*The **Wikispaces** page has been cancelled. All files have been downloaded and slowly being transferred to the new website. If there is any file you wish to retrieve, please contact Celine at jpicroma@gmail.com.*

SAVE THE DATE

March 21, 2015 ■ 9:30-12:30

ICR at FAO Working Group sponsored seminar on

GOVERNANCE OF FOOD SYSTEMS, FOOD SECURITY AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

Nora McKeon, presenter

formerly responsible for overall direction of FAO's relations with civil society

Venue: Generalate of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Aula Magna ■ Via Aurelia, 476 ■ Rome, Italy

Invitation to a Seminar

WOMEN IN THE NEW TESTAMENT: Disciples of Jesus... Community of Equals

January 31, 2015

9.30 - 12.30

Aula Magna, Generalate of Lasallian Brothers
Via Aurelia 476, Rome



Presenter

Prof. Marinella Perroni

Professor of New Testament at the Pontifical University St. Anselmo in Rome.

She was one of the Founders of the Association of Italian Women Theologians (CTI - Coordinamento delle Teologhe italiane). President from 2003 to 2013.

*"In a world of differences, plurality and diversity,
this is the important and qualifying element;
the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council faced an ecumene
which today we call globalisation,
in order to globalise peace and trust."*

Marinella Perroni

Presentation in Italian with English translation.

Donation: € 6,00.

Working Group of JPIC Promoters

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