



NEWSBRIEF

A publication of the USG-UISG Commission for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation.

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EDITORIAL: September is the month in which JPIC Roma resumes activities after the summer holidays. Let us begin with enthusiasm with passion for God, passion for and compassion with our sisters and brothers, and passion for the care of the earth, our common home. In this issue, we focus on Networking, featuring the events that took place from July to September.

During the Season of Creation, "We wish to offer thanks to the loving Creator for the noble gift of creation and to pledge commitment to its care and preservation for the sake of future generations... We urgently appeal to those in positions of social and economic, as well as political and cultural, responsibility to hear the cry of the earth and to attend to the needs of the marginalized, but above all to respond to the plea of millions and support the consensus of the world for the healing of our wounded creation". (From the Joint Statement of Pope Francis and Patriarch Bartholomew, September 1, 2017).

LINKS: [Click underlined blue text to open a link or copy and paste the url on your browser window](#)

SPIRITUALITY AND SUSTAINABILITY IN ASSISI



L-R: Fr. John Rausch, and Joe Holland.

In July, the JPIC Secretariat was invited to a visionary conference in Assisi with representatives from a range of ecological-spiritual perspectives, centers and movements. The spirit of the indigenous people

inspired a prayer, expressing gratitude for the many gifts of nature and asking for forgiveness for the ways we mistreated the environment.

Participants spoke of many experiences of transformative global change, rooted in spirituality and sustainability. The [Earth Charter](#) was a foundational document in the discussions. Other connections were made to the moral voice of *Laudato Si*, where Pope Francis quotes the Charter, promotes the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) and encourages collaborative efforts. In addition, other influential leaders were recognized: Thomas Berry, SJ who had heralded the call to take seriously our responsibility for our creation with *The Great Work: Our Way into the Future* and the proposed ethics of care by Leonardo Boff.

Joe Holland, known to social justice promoters and author of *Social Analysis: Linking Faith and Justice* stressed the importance of community in involving everyone in care for the earth. He emphasized the need to go beyond

efficiency to the spirituality representative of the values of many wholesome religious perspectives. Within this context, the group faced the serious challenge of how to discuss well-being that goes beyond the acquiring of more. There have been some efforts to address this sense with the SDGs.

A presentation by Fr. John Rausch of the Glenmary Home Missioners was particularly interesting as he described a pilgrimage experience through the coal mining areas of Appalachia in the US where he has ministered for many years. Fr. Rausch has developed a series of rituals and prayers which are used at various sites, honoring the life of the people by reflecting on the suffering caused by a destruction in the environment and the faith-filled courage it takes to live there.



Stefania Proietti, mayor of Assisi.

The mayor of Assisi, Stefania Proietti, visited our meeting three times, offering her encouragement and acknowledging that Assisi must take a leadership role in the care for the environment because of the heritage of St. Francis in the city.

Many key recommendations resulted from the gathering. The JPIC Secretariat is involved with the initiative entitled "Religious/Faith Communities Response to Climate Change." This would entail networking with various locations around the world impacted by or contributing to climate change. Such a multi-faith dimension complements the work of the Secretariat with the Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM).

[Materials are available in English and Spanish.](#)

OCEANS: CARING FOR A COMMON HERITAGE



Prince Jamie de Bourbon de Parme, Ambassador from the Netherlands, facilitator of the conference.

On July fourth, the Di-castery for Promoting Integral Human Development hosted a conference “Oceans: Caring for a Common Heritage.” The event was sponsored in collaboration with the Embassies of France, Monaco and the Netherlands to the Holy See. Prince Jamie de Bourbon de Parme of the Netherlands, the facilitator,

began the session stating that although the forests are the first lung, the oceans are the second lung for our lives, but the icebergs are melting, water is being contaminated and plastic soup is being created.

During the conference, many cases exemplified adequate tools to address the concerns about the ocean, but there needs to be a will to act. Stress was on the importance of actualizing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources.

Ambassador Antonius Agus Sriyono of Indonesia, spoke passionately about living in a country of over 13,000 islands. The Indonesian economy depends on the oceans. Fishing has been a sustainable source of economic growth, but is subject to illegal practices and over exploitation. The seas, also rich in oil, gas and bio-diversity, are areas of conflict and challenge efforts to safeguard the ocean.

Speaking within the context of *Laudato Si*, Cardinal Turkson cited the need to extend our care to migrants. He also emphasized the oceans as a heritage of the past and of the future. The seas serve as a principle of unity for humankind as they link our countries.

President Peter Thomson of the UN Assembly thanked Pope Francis for his moral authority and global appeal to promote the cause of the oceans through *Laudato Si*. He stated that we have solutions to the ocean’s problems, but what is essential is the concerted action by humanity to achieve them. He spoke of engaging chief scientists in the analysis of the pollution and the necessary solutions in the traffic on the ocean, for example, where more than 80% of the trade is happening, with 17% of the biggest cargo ships producing as much pollution as all of the cars in the world.

He reaffirmed his conviction by quoting Pope Francis in *Laudato Si*, “we know that things can change.” He also gifted Cardinal Turkson with a copy of the *Earth Charter*, which was cited in *Laudato Si*. For more information, visit <http://www.un.org/pga/71/2017/07/04/oceans-caring-for-a-common-heritage-conference/>.

In closing remarks, Archbishop Tomasi called on the

participants of the meeting to collaborate in our response to collect the waste, to connect with one another and to commit a contribution to this effort.

In response to this call, there are some areas to consider. A [clean up the ocean initiative](#) is being undertaken by a group from the Netherlands. So far there has been incredible results. It is estimated that in five years these technologies will clean-up 50% of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. The Netherlands has plans to make use of the [recycled plastic waste](#) from the ocean.

[Other initiatives](#) from the Netherlands include the creative genius of making boats from plastics as well as paving their roads.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN WEST PAPUA



Thirteen religious men and women, representing seven religious congregations which are mostly present in West Papua, gathered on July 10 at the Generalate of the Augustinians in Rome to discuss collaboration for the promotion of human rights in that part of the world.

The indigenous population has been suffering human rights violations in the areas of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly. They have low standards of health and education, and experience economic marginalization and land grabbing. There is military oppression in the form of torture and killings.

A West Papuan religious who is an expert in the defense of human rights of people there on an international level shared her experience with the participants. Sr. Sheila Kinsey, executive co-secretary of the JPIC Commission of USG/UISG, who joined the meeting, expressed the importance of networking. After hearing from these perspectives, the participants shared their thoughts about the need to be proactive as religious congregations. The meeting acknowledged that the history of West Papua and its current situation is quite complicated and sensitive, but the desire of the congregations is very simple—to accompany the indigenous West Papuan people in the promotion of human rights. The congregations have decided to form a network in Rome to share information, to im-



Mr. Budi Tjahjono, Asia-Pacific Program Coordinator of Franciscans International, and Sr. Maria Theresia Hörnemann, SSps, Congregational Leader, share a lighter moment.

prove networks and relationships in West Papua, particularly in health and education ministries, to raise awareness and train their members, and to network with religious NGOs.—*Contributed by Daisuke Narui, SVD, JPIC International Coordinator*

JPIC SESSION IN CALAVI 2017



For 12 days, from July 17 to 28, 23 JPIC promoters from Mali, Burkina Faso, Benin, Togo, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Liberia and Benin answered positively to the JPIC Capacity Building Session, organized by the African Working Group. They gathered in the town called Calavi, 20 kms. from Cotonou in the Republic of Benin.

The Vice President of the Conference of the Major Superiors of Benin, Sister Monique Oni, gave the opening speech after Fr. Francois de Paul welcomed all the participants.

Since participants came from various backgrounds, it was necessary to have a group dynamics and teamwork session first. Every day, various presenters and experts came to give their session.

With Fr. Goudjo, an expert in Social Teaching of the Church and rector of one of the major seminaries in Benin, participants experienced a good doctrinal foundation. The Social Teaching of the Church, said Fr. Goudjo, is at the service of Integral Human Development, and invites us to an evangelical promotion of the Common Good. He took time to explain the principles of solidarity and subsidiarity and then went on to explain how the *Africae Munus*, *Laudato Si* and *Evangelii Gaudium*, challenged us today to reconsider our idea and attitude toward the Common Good. These documents call us to reflect more on our encounter with Christ with whom we integrate our human development with one another.

After this doctrinal foundation, Mr. Gino Brunswijck, one of the secretaries of Africa Europe Faith and

Justice Network (AEFJN in Brussels, explained the social analysis based on the See Judge and Act method. He used a local NGO called 'Synergie Paysanne', with whom he had provided tools for a good and solid advocacy, to raise an awareness on land grabbing, agriculture and integrity of creation. Another NGO that promotes agro-ecology was also invited to show the participants the link between agriculture and ecology, feeding and illnesses.

Mr. Michel Savadogo, the executive director of REST-COR (Shalom Network of Transformation of Conflict and Reconciliation) based in Abidjan RCI, shared the skills to build peace and to transform conflict with the nonviolent method. He emphasized, there is no integral development without peace.

The second week began with a visit to the museum of Ouidah and the meditative journey of the slave path that leads us to the 'door of no return' and we were able to come back through 'the door of life', the path of the first missionaries, the Society of African Mission (SMA) in Benin.

Some other speakers for the sessions continued to develop the theme:

- Mr. Julien and Mr. Fidèle, on Human Rights and the Political Commitment.
- Mrs. Diane, Egue made us aware of the evils that threaten the environment, in order to plan concrete actions to safeguard it.
- The reflection continued with Fr. Colbert on *Laudato Si* on the call for the coherence of an integral ecology that invites us to adopt an attitude, a lifestyle and a spirituality that protects our common home.
- We went to the diocese in Porto-Novo, to drink at the source of Songhai Center where participants saw *Laudato Si* in practice. Songhai Center is an ecological project that promotes the development of Africa through agricultural projects, and recycling initiatives.
- Br. Auguste, a Franciscan friar, followed by Mr. Sotome Félicien, dealt with the phenomenon of 'wizad children' (children with malformation or born in an abnormal way) who are accused to be a wizard and, therefore, must be eliminated.
- With Fr. François de Paul, SMA, participants learned about the role of a JPIC promoter in his or her congregation, in their country. He underlined that the activities of a JPIC promoter are transversal and permeates all activities of a pastoral agent. He went on to stress the urgency of promoters at all levels to be organized in networks. AEFJN and Vivat International are tools at their disposal.

Francois de Paul Houngue, SMA and Michel Savadogo SMA, were facilitators of the session. For more information on **Songhai**, visit <http://www.songhai.org/index.php/en/home-en>.

HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT



Benard Isanda, CMM gives a talk on livelihoods to the community.

Improved livelihoods are clear indications of a transformed Self, Family, Community and Society. The Catholic Social Teaching, the UN-SDGs and other teachings rightly point to holistic development as a vision, a goal and a mission to be achieved by all through the spirit of solidarity. What then can impel us towards realizing holistic development? In my opinion, two words answer this question—passion and training.

All change agents, especially religious and church ministers with a prophetic call and passion for humanity, have a duty and a responsibility of immersing themselves into the hard realities of the ‘sheep’ for real seeing and understanding of their situation, behavior and attitudes which are dehumanizing. Through training, capacity building, workshops and seminars, in small but practical ways and together with the ‘sheep’, we can create alternatives that are humanizing and liberating, thus contributing to the realization of holistic development through Training for Transformation.—Contributed by Benard Isanda, CMM, Congregational JPIC Coordinator in Kenya

UPDATE ON SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS, TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS AND CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY

A report from the fifth thematic consultation on the global compact on migration held at the United Nations Headquarters, Vienna, Austria, September 4-5, 2017

Discussions on a Global compact on Migration are being held in various locations (New York, Geneva, Vienna, Mexico). The purpose of these informal thematic discussions is to identify the actions that are essential to the type of refugee response directed at improving the way in which the international community responds to large movements of refugees and migrants as well as to protracted refugee situations.

Approximately 500 people attended the session in Vienna, mostly representatives from UN Member States with several representatives from NGOs and religious congregations. Each of the three main sessions began with input from a panel of three experts. Their role



Anne Corry RSCJ, International JPIC Coordinator, with Sheila Smith, RSCJ, UN-NGO Representative.

was to provide relevant facts and figures related to the issues to be discussed, to highlight gaps in policy and implementation and to identify priorities for action. At the end of the panel discussion, speakers from the floor could present three-minute interventions. They were encouraged to provide examples of good practices and to present commitments which will inform the ‘global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration’.

Several members of religious congregations contributed important interventions during the session with the NGOs. They spoke from their practical experience at the grassroots amongst vulnerable migrant groups and urged the moderators to take their concerns and suggestions into account for the global compact. During the two days, the issues that were most frequently addressed were the following:

- the need to address the root causes of migration
- the need to strengthen protection measures for children and unaccompanied minors, especially through birth registration and protection of traditional cultural practices
- the need to address the gender perspective because of the high degree of exploitation of women in migration
- concerns about education for young people
- improvement of data collection in the identification, protection and assistance to migrants and trafficking victims
- more inclusive, holistic and multidisciplinary approaches to trafficking in humans
- commitment to the rule of law which is already enshrined in current treaties and protocols

Contributed by Anne Corry, RSCJ, Congregational JPIC Coordinator

JPIC PROMOTERS CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF CREATION



JPIC promoters stand before the statue of St. Catherine of Siena at the corner of the Castel Sant' Angelo Park, reflecting as to how Catherine could do what she did?

JPIC Promoters celebrated of the Season of Creation on September 20 in the Park at Castel Sant' Angelo. Standing before the magnificent statue of St. Catherine of Siena at the corner of the Park, the participants reflected as to how Catherine could do what she did? How could a young illiterate woman, in Medieval Italy, become a doctor of the Church, turn the world on its axis and become a great spiritual teacher of the faith and counselor of leaders of the Church, pope and princes? The answer, of course, to Catherine was that she, and we, are loved infinitely by Christ.



Sr. Cecilia Espenilla, OP, of the community of Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena, in individual reflection.

Following this prayer, the group moved inside the Park and there, after introducing themselves, prayed A "Prayer for our Earth" as taken from *Laudato Si'* and a "Psalm of Praise". Then came a time for reflection as the individuals moved around the Park at their own pace reflecting on sections taken from the joint message of Pope Francis and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew released on the World Day of Prayer for Creation. Gathering

once again to share their reflections and intercessory prayers, the time concluded with a "Franciscan Prayer of Blessing".

VIA PACIS MARATHON FOR SOLIDARITY WITH SOUTH SUDAN

On Sunday September 17, the JPIC office participated at the Half Marathon co-organized by the Pontifical Council for culture, Solidarity with South Sudan, Jesuit Refugees Service in collaboration with the City of Rome and the Federation of Athletics. Some church



Congratulations, Fr. Felix, CPPS, for making it to the finish line!

and Rome city authorities were present at the event among them the Mayor of the City of Rome, Mrs. Regina Raggi. and the Undersecretary for the Pontifical Council of Culture, Msgr. Melchor Sanchez de Toca Almeida. The marathon was held to promote the values of peace, integration, inclusion and solidarity. Among the six thousand participants there were also priests, nuns and groups of families and people of all

ages. Felix Mushobozi co-secretary of the JPIC Secretariat was among the non-competitive five kilometers marathon runners, which was held to support of the Teachers Training Center in Yambio, South Sudan.



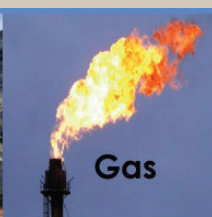
THE SEASON OF CREATION Care for Our Common Home

September 1-October 4, 2017

DIVESTMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

on **October 4** regarding fossil fuel
by Catholic Institutions

<https://catholicclimatemovement.global>



OCTOBER INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS

For workers and unemployed: That all workers may receive respect and protection of their rights, and that the unemployed may receive the opportunity to contribute to the common good. Pope's video message is due on the first Friday of the month.

INTERNATIONAL DAYS OF OBSERVANCE

2 October: [International Day of Nonviolence](#) marks the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of nonviolence. The UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/61/271 established the international Day to "disseminate the message of nonviolence, included through education and public awareness".

11 October: [International Day of the Girl Child](#). The theme is "Girl's progress is Goals' progress". Highlights the preponderance of disadvantage and discrimination borne by girls everywhere on a daily basis. A/RES/66/170).

13 October: [International Day for Disaster Reduction](#). Celebrates how people and communities around the world are reducing their exposure to disasters and raising awareness about the importance of reining in the risks that they face. (A/RES/64/200)

15 October: [International Day of Rural Women](#) recognizes "the critical role and contribution of rural women, including indigenous women, in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty." (A/RES/62/136)

16 October: [World Food Day](#) [FAO] This year's theme is "Change the future of Migration, invest in Food Security and Rural Development". Visit their website: <http://www.fao.org/world-food-day/2017/home/en/>. (A/RES/35/70)

17 October: [International Day for the Eradication of Poverty](#) The theme for this year's commemoration reminds us of the importance of the values of dignity, solidarity and voice underscored in the Call to Action to fight to end poverty everywhere. These values are also evident in the United Nations' Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development Goals. (A/RES/47/196)

24 October: [United Nations Day](#) United Nations Day 2017 marks the 72nd anniversary of the UN Charter's entry into force, and celebrates everything that the UN represents and has achieved since its establishment in 1945. (A/RES/168 II: A/RES/2782, XXVI)

For a listing of the international days for the year go to <http://www.un.org/en/sections/observances/international-days/>.

JPIC PROMOTERS MEETINGS IN OCTOBER

2 October: Core Group meeting, 3pm-5pm at the Fratelli

4 October: Spanish/Portuguese Promoters meeting, 9 am-12 pm at UISG

4 October: Integrity of Creation WG, 3pm-5pm at the Fratelli

10 October: Anti-Trafficking WG, 3pm-5pm at the Fratelli

18 October: English JPIC Promoters Meeting, 9 am-12 pm at UISG hosted by the Refugees and Migrants WG

19 October: Refugees and Migrants WG, 3pm-5pm at the Fratelli

23 October: Africa WG, 3:30 pm-5:30pm at the Missionaries of Africa

24 October: ICR at FAO WG, 3pm-5 pm at the ICR Office, Passionists

26 October: Collaboration WG, 3pm-5pm at UISG

SAVE THE DATES

15-18 November—JPIC Promoters Formation Workshop with the theme "Nonviolence: a Style of Politics for Peace". At Casa per Ferie Enrico De Osso, Via Val Cannuta 134 Roma. The four-day workshop provides new JPIC Promoters with the tools needed to animate members of their congregation. Others engaged in JPIC-related ministries are welcome to attend the full workshop or individual sessions. The workshop is in both English and Spanish. For registration and the flyer, please go to <http://www.jpicroma.org/jpic-promoters-workshop>.

Compiled and produced by the JPIC Commission Secretariat

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