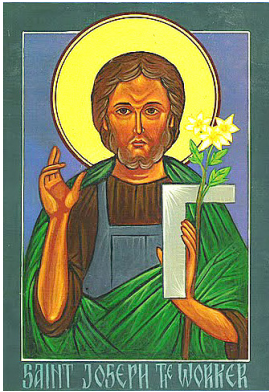




NEWSBRIEF

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

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Editorial: *The Month of May begins with the memorial celebration of St. Joseph, the Patron Saint of Workers. In many parts of the world this feast finds many people amid the increase of unemployment and poverty. Speaking to participants to the international conference organized by Centesimus Annus Pro-Pontefice Foundation in Rome, May 8-10, Pope Francis addressed the roots of current economic crisis. He said, “this is the results of the mentality of the current economic system, in which the word ‘solidarity’ has become uncomfortable and troublesome.” In this month of Mary, let us pray that solidarity and fraternity may be at heart of business decisions.*

Icon image by Daniel Nichols.

[CLICK UNDERLINED BLUE TEXT TO OPEN A LINK.](#)

1. ROME UPDATES

1.1 Talita-Kum launches a counter trafficking campaign at 2014 FIFA World Cup. The campaign aims to put in place preventive measures against trafficking in persons during the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil. TalitaKum focuses its efforts on potential victims, especially young people: students in schools, colleges, boarding schools and young people in youth centers and urban centres, rural and/or urban slums. Activities lined up for the event include a press conference in Rome for a global launch of the campaign on May 20, 2014; press conferences in Brazil and other Latin American countries; an extensive media blitz campaign utilizing social network and radio broadcasts; production and distribution of campaign materials, especially in zones of aggregations (airport, seaport, bus terminals, clubs and restaurants, game venues); and youth camps and gatherings. For more details, visit <http://gritopelavida.blogspot.com.br/> and <https://www.facebook.com/jogueafavordavida> or write to gritopelavida@gmail.com or gaboimcm@gmail.com.

1.2. Towards a mining industry strategy with a preferential option for the poor. On Saturday, May 10, 2014, the Integrity of Creation WG hosted a meeting with International Council of Mining and Metals President, Mr. Anthony Hodge, to discuss the impact of mining on the community and ways in which solidarity with a preferential option for the poor can be achieved. The event was hosted by the OMI Generalate in Rome. The following papers provided background for the discussion: [The language of overlapping consensus: a discussion](#) by R. Anthony Hodge and [Mining within the context of a preferential option for the poor](#) by Jim Cooney. An outcome of the meeting was an ICWG advocacy proposal draft on Solidarity for the Common Good and Poverty Reduction, to be shared with the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace in dialogue with some mining companies.

1.3. International Catholic Child Bureau (BICE) delegation received by Pope Francis. On April 11 a BICE delegation was welcomed in the Vatican by the Holy Father who highlight the importance of the children and the abuse they suffer every day because of labor exploitation, being forced to serve as soldiers and other types of violence. Pope Francis said “I feel called to take responsibility for the horrors committed by a number of priests and to ask forgiveness for the harm caused by the sexual abuse on children...children are to be taken very seriously.” Read more at <http://bice.org/en/news/latest-news/1696-the-message-from-pope-francis-to-bice-children-are-to-be-taken-very-seriously.html>.

1.4. Convention Against Torture and the Holy See. The UN Convention Against Torture, a committee monitoring adherence to an international treaty designed to fight torture, held its meeting in the Vatican on May 5-6. The Vatican delegation was led by Archbishop Silvano Tomasi, representative of the Holy See to UN agencies in Geneva, who stated that “there has been, in several documentable areas, a stabilization and even a

decline in cases[of abuse of minors]...Measures undertaken in the last 10 years on the part of both the Holy See and local churches are bringing about a positive results.” Read more at <http://www.aica.org/11823-aclaraciones-del-padre-lombardi-sobre-la-convencion-contra-tortura.html> and <http://ncronline.org/news/accountability/un-committee-against-torture-asks-vatican-about-sex-abuse-scandal>.

1.5. Integrating Mission and Investments in the Pope Francis Era. The JPIC Commission seminar on June 21, 2014 will feature Seamus Finn, a member of the JPIC Ministry team of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. He is also responsible for the Faith Consistent Investment/Socially Responsible Investment program in the United States and the congregation. He is the Chief of Faith Consistent Investing for the OIP Investment Trust. The seminar will be held at the Aula Magna of the Casa Generalizia, Fratelli delle Scuole Cristiane, Via Aurelia, 476. PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!!!

1.6. Request for prayers. Please keep in your prayers the following Religious Communities who are meeting in these days for their General Chapter: Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit (SSpS); Brothers of the Christian Schools (FSC) and Sisters of the Holy Family of Bordeaux.

2. OUTSIDE ROME

2.1. The International Year of Family Farming (IYFF 2014)

2.1.1. First quarter report. José Antonio Osaba García presented the accomplishments of the first quarter of the IYFF 2014. The objective of this initiative was to improve the living conditions of women and men family farmers, peasants, artisans, fishers, pastoralists and indigenous communities. García reports three major developments, without forgetting the FAO Regional Conferences with their support to Family Farming. These developments are the activities of the 60 IYFF-2014 National Committees, the [Abu Dhabi Declaration](#) signed by farmer organizations of men and of women from five continents and the [Paris Declaration](#) signed by Ministers of Agriculture from 24 countries in the presence of the FAO Director-General.

2.1.2. La Via Campesina celebrates two decades of struggle. Via Campesina, the international peasant movement that brings together over 200 million members through 164 organizations in 73 countries, is celebrating in Jakarta, Indonesia the first two decades of its struggles. “The Jakarta Call” is a 38 minutes film featuring the exchanges, debates and reflections of the movement’s Sixth International Conference that took place in June 2013. To view the trailer, go to <http://tv.viacampesina.org/Teaser-The-Jakarta-Call?lang=es>.

2.1.3. “Building a New Agricultural Future.” World Rural Forum Executive Secretary, Jose Maria Zeberio, shares with us a brief entitled “Building a New Agricultural Future: Supporting Agro-Ecology for People and the Planet,” recently published by Oxfam. This paper represents Oxfam’s contribution to the on-going debate about sustainable agriculture. The topic is relevant for family farmers. Climate change and the injustice of hunger require urgent attention and investment in a model of agriculture that is truly sustainable. The paper looks at the impact of industrial agriculture and explains key concepts behind sustainable agriculture and agro-ecology. It shows how an agro-ecological approach provides a range of social, economic, and environmental benefits that, with the right policy support and associated investments, can be scaled up to enable smallholder farming communities to achieve food security and additional benefits. Click here for the [English edition](#) and click here for the [Spanish and French editions](#).

2.1.4. Farmers in Mozambique fear Brazilian-style agriculture. The invasion of foreign companies is threatening local farmers who just have their little pieces of land to survive. “The triangular agreement, which was reached in 2011 and combines Japan’s import market with Brazil’s know-how and Mozambique’s land, has already proved fertile ground for controversy.” The project Pro-Savana is destroying the environment, apart from the damage that is doing to the people. A lot of organizations are protesting. For more information, visit <http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/12/farmers-mozambique-fear-brazilian-model/>.

2.2 Climate Change and Environmental Issues

2.2.1. Acceleration of anthropogenic climate disruption. Take time to read Dahr Jamail’s article which gives a scientific analysis of the current situation of the human impact on climate change causing global pollution on Earth with obvious impact on water, air, and consequently on agriculture. The author reveals the stunning truth that, while all of this is happening there is a rampant campaign of misinformation and denial of this reality—a work of manipulation of industry and its media arms. Read the article at <http://truth-out.org/news/item/22999-evidence-of-acceleration-on-all-fronts-of-anthropogenic-climate-disruption>.

2.2.2. Myanmar wakes up to climate change. Due to Myanmar's isolation from the rest of the world, its situation it is not well known. That country is suffering because it has been hit by eight major natural calamities that killed more than 141,000 people and affected 3.2 million. According to Jaiganesh Murugesan, a disaster risk specialist with UN-HABITAT, "Different geographical areas of Myanmar face different kinds of risks. The Delta Region, as we have seen from Cyclone Nargis, could suffer from the impact of cyclone and coastal flooding. Rakhine State in the northwest is facing threats of cyclones, river and coastal flooding, earthquakes. The Central Plain along the Irrawaddy River faces not only the risk of flooding, but also earthquakes." Read more at <http://www.ipsnews.net/2014/05/myanmar-wakes-climate-change/>.

2.2.3. Intergovernmental climate change report shows unprecedented rise in greenhouse gases. A new report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) shows that global emissions of greenhouse gases have risen to unprecedented levels despite a growing number of policies to reduce climate change. Emissions grew more quickly between 2000 and 2010 than in each of the three previous decades. The IPCC is the international body for assessing the science related to climate change. It was set up in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Program to provide policymakers with regular assessments of the scientific basis of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation. The story is available in English, French, Spanish and Arabic at <http://www.elmundo.es/ciencia/2014/04/13/534a5c88e2704ecb3c8b456d.html> and <http://www.elmundo.es/blogs/elmundo/elporquedelascosas/2014/04/13/por-que-la-energia-solar-es-la-solucion.html>.

2.3. Peace and Nonviolence

2.3.1. 'Recommitment' to allow aid access in South Sudan, while a genocide is about to happen. In that region of Africa where a new genocide is really about to happen, the two main parties of the conflict signed an agreement in Addis Ababa, allowing humanitarian aid. The Solidarity with South Sudan is constantly reporting the development of the conflict. Alexander Rondos, the European Union's special envoy to the region, highlights how the situation is quickly getting worse and that the crisis "risks becoming an ethnic conflict." Many people are leaving because of "systematic killing." Read more at <https://radiotamazuj.org/en/article/document-%E2%80%9898recommitment%E2%80%9999-allow-aid-access-south-sudan>; <http://www.europeVOICE.com/article/2014/april/eu-warns-of-genocide-in-south-sudan/80748.aspx>; and https://secure.avaaz.org/en/ceasefire_in_south_sudan_euro_gen/?bOOQmdb&v=39633.

2.3.3. Central African Republic faces the conditions of pre-genocide. Ambassador Robin Renee Sanders reports that the situation in Central African Republic is degenerating into genocide. Like South Sudan, an ethnic cleansing is about to happen here. The words of the Ambassador explained the reason of his Commission's mission: "whether or not the Central African Republic is already in the throes of a pre-genocide atmosphere or already embroiled in genocide." He added that, "Because of the continued instability and not being on the radar screen of the international community for more than a decade until the rise of the Seleka in December 2012, the events since then have set in motion...revenge killing by the anti-Balaka Christian groups, which has now spawned into sectarian violence." Read more at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201405051973.html> and http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/05/06/central-african-republic_n_5248198.html.

2.3.4. Campaign to free Marwan Barghout and all Palestinian political prisoners. U.S. Citizens for Peace and Justice in Rome has endorsed the international campaign to free Marwan Barghout and all other Palestinian political prisoners detained in Israeli jails. As of March 2014, there were 5,224 Palestinian political prisoners in Israeli prisons and detention centers, including 183 being held under administrative detention (without having been charged or sentenced), 210 children (28 of whom are under 16), 21 women, 11 members (for "security reasons") of the Palestinian Legislative Council and 381 Gaza prisoners who, for the most part, have been denied visits from family members since June 2007 (<http://www.addameer.org/etemplate.php?id=672>). According to the Palestinian Authority, over 10,000 Palestinian children have been arrested and over 1,500 killed by Israel since 2000 (<http://www.haaretz.com/news/diplomacy-defense/1.583928>).—Source: Camille Piche, April 13, 2014

2.4. Anti-trafficking

2.4.1. Human trafficking affects nearly 6 million children in the world. Despite the constant work of many associations to fight this plague of humankind, it is still present and nearly 6 million of those people are children who are exploited and sold. The most recent incident was in Nigeria by Boko Haram (a Muslim terrorist group). Africa has been one of the areas where human trafficking has been prevalent for many years, according to a BICE video report (French). Read more at <http://bice.org/fr/actualites-du-bice/actualites-bice/dernieres-actualites/1702-la-traite-un-fleau-qui-touche-pres-de-6-millions-denfants-dans-le-monde.html>.

2.4.2. UNICEF report on the status of children's rights in 2014. This year is the 25th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and UNICEF is preparing its report on how the situation has been developing since 1989, but most particularly these last years. Even if the condition of children seems to be better in some countries, the mortality rate of those under five years old around the world (18,000 per year) is alarming. Thus, BICE, in collaboration with UNICEF and other organizations, works to eradicate poverty and provide nutrition and education to all children and to guarantee their rights. Read more at <http://bice.org/en/news/news/latest-news/1697-unicef-report-a-status-on-childrens-rights-in-2014.html>.

2.4.3. Disabled people forced into labor in Zimbabwe. The National Association of Societies for the Care of the Handicapped reports the treatment people with disabilities are receiving in Zimbabwe, where they don't get any kind of help, so that they are forced to work and sometimes even ferried out from remote areas to work for able-bodied persons in the city. Read more at <http://www.ipsnews.net/2014/05/disabled-forced-labour-zimbabwe/>.

3. RESOURCES

3.1. Notes from Anti-trafficking Working Group. The [fourth note](#) in the series prepared by the Anti-Trafficking Working Group has recently been released. These notes present short, up-to-date information on Human Trafficking which are useful for information and training, and can be used together with the [Trafficking in Women and Children Information and Workshop Kit](#). (<http://jpicroma.wix.com/jpicroma#!anti-trafficking/c224> or http://jpicformation.wikispaces.com/EN_antitrafficking)

3.2. Handbooks on anti-trafficking and human rights. The following links provide tools you can download or consult online about anti-trafficking and human rights (click on the title) : [International Organization for Migration handbook on "Direct Assistance for Victims of Trafficking"](#); [guidelines from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights](#); [World Health Organization on help can be given to trafficked women](#).

3.3. Just Economics Study Guide. The Economic Justice Working Group is inviting JPIC Promoters and all who are interested to read through the booklet entitled Just Economics. The purpose is not so much to begin an adaptation, but to "get our feet wet" with the material and help us develop a consultation process for involving all parties to begin the adaptation for a global audience. The booklet in PDF is accessible on <http://jpicroma.wix.com/jpicroma#!justice/c1zq1>. A Word version is also available for translation.

4. JPIC EVENTS IN JUNE 2014

- **Collaboration WG meeting, 15:00-17:00 on Thursday, May 29 at Maryknoll Missionaries, Via Sardegna 83**
- **English JPIC core group meeting: 15:00-17:00, June 2 at Fratelli**
- **Spanish-Portuguese JPIC Promoters meeting: 9:00-12:00, Wednesday, June 4 at UISG offices**
- **Integrity of Creation WG meeting: 9:00-12:00, Monday, October 13 at UISG offices**
- **Collaboration WG: Third Conversation with Mary McAleese, 15:00-17:00, Friday, June 13 at Fratelli**
- **ICR-FAO meeting, 9:30-12:00, Tuesday, June 24 at Passionist Generalate**
- **Economic Justice WG meeting: 15:00-17:00, Tuesday, September 10, venue to be determined**

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.

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