



NEWSBRIEF

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

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Editorial: Persecution of Christians and other religious minorities in Iraq. “The news coming from Iraq seem incredible and leaves us all in dismay: Thousands of people, including many Christians, driven from their homes in a brutal manner; children dying of thirst and hunger during their escape; women seized; people slaughtered; violence of any kind; destruction everywhere; destruction of homes, religious, historical and cultural sites. All this seriously offends God and gravely offends humanity. Don’t bring hatred in the name of God! Don’t make war in the name of God!” (Pope Francis at Angelus prayer, Sunday, August 10, 2014)

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1. ROME UPDATES



1.1 The Impacts of Mining. The Integrity of Creation Working Group (ICWG) has released *A See, Judge, Act Reflection on the Impacts of Mining*. The booklet was inspired by the overwhelming response to the ICWG’s 2013 Impacts of Mining Survey. It is intended to serve as a general introduction to understanding the impact of mining industries on the community and the environment. We invite and encourage each JPIC Promoter to disseminate this among the members of your community and colleagues in your ministry. A PDF copy of the booklet is available on the JPIC website <http://media.wix.com/ugd/e7a99acaa491af54624ddf8e6e9555f57f51a6.pdf>.

1.2 Camaldoli Monastery hosts seminar on A Church of Women and Men. The Camaldoli Monastery in Tuscany, Italy hosted a seminar on A Church of Men and Women on the occasion of Theological Week, August 18-23, 2014. About 70 participants and 10

speakers were present at the event, which consisted of a few men and women religious and a significant number of lay persons. The seminar covered several significant topics on women and men in the Church, including working towards better collaboration in the Church. This means creating spaces where women can express and share their perspective, and where men can do the same. Collaboration means to work as equals in opportunities, liberating our symbolic world from stereotypes that prevent women and men to live their life fully.

Every year, the Camaldoli Monastery celebrates Theological Week with a seminar in collaboration with the Italian Association of Theologies (ATI) and the Women Theologians Committee. In previous years, the themes of the seminars were on the documents of Vatican II. Read the entire reflection on <http://jpicroma.wix.com/jpicroma#!collaboration/clrxo>.—

Contributed by Patrizia Morgante, CWG member

1.3 Africa WG formation seminar in Burkina Faso.

The Africa Working Group organized a formation seminar at Ouagadougou, capital of Burkina Faso, July 6-20. Twenty religious men and women from Algeria, Burkina Faso, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo participated. Sr. Vicky Chiharhula, MSOLA, facilitated the seminar and reminded participants how the issues of justice and peace are inscribed at the heart of religious life and that they are bound by their institutions to be "multipliers", creating awareness at different levels of society. One of the participants at the workshop commented: "It was such a rich experience that will change my missionary life. We need this formation in our congregations and countries. If our leaders are made aware of what we discovered in this seminar, their leadership will be transformed and enriched... I didn't realize how much JPIC is linked with religious life..."

1.4 JPIC Conference for the Congregatio Jesu.

JPIC animators from the 17 provinces and regions of the Congregatio Jesu (CJ) gathered in Rome from July 13-20. The conference strengthened their commitment to JPIC, which is the focal point of their charism as followers of Mary Ward. One important aspect of this conference was that they were able to initiate an eco-audit of the entire Congregation. By October/November 2014, each community around the world would have met and reflected on the eco-audit in the following areas: recycling, transport, food, energy, water and care for the environment. They will evaluate and discover which areas they performed well and which areas need improvement. Each community and each sister will decide on one concrete action for implementation. The Province Level Animators will report back to the JPIC promoters in the General Leadership level, for on-going action and further planning.

2014 JPIC Promoters Formation Workshop Registration

Thank you for registering to attend the 2014 JPIC Promoters Formation Workshop. We want to make the process as easy as possible. You will need to complete a separate registration form for each individual attending.

If you have any questions about registration, please e-mail: jpicroma@wix.com.

Full Name

First Name Last Name

Congregation

Address

Street Address

Address Line 2

City State Zip Code

Country

E-mail Phone Number Cell Number

JPIC Promoter ☐ Full-time ☐ Part-time

How long have you been a JPIC Promoter?

1.5 Invitation for the JPIC Annual Formation Workshop November 19-22. All USG and UISG members are invited to register their newly appointed JPIC Promoters and others engaged in JPIC-related ministries to the JPIC Formation Workshop on November 19-22. A fee of €250 will be collected

from each participant at the registration table upon arrival. This will cover a three-night stay at the **Casa Generalizia dei Passionist, Piazza S. Giovanni e Paolo, 13 Rome**, including breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks. For directions and other details, and to register online, visit <http://jpicroma.wix.com/jpicroma#!registration-form/c1s1o>.



1.6 New JPIC website. We invite you to visit the new JPIC website at <http://jpicroma.wix.com/jpicroma>. The website offers a wide-range of information and resources on justice, peace and integrity of creation. It also serves as a forum for interaction among JPIC Promoters on issues and concerns regarding their ministry, and features a calendar of JPIC Commission events that you can link to your personal calendar, plus online registration. Bookmark <http://jpicroma.wix.com/jpicroma> on your browser and stay informed about JPIC.

1.7 Arrivederci, Fr. Camille Piche, OMI. Thank you to Fr. Camille for all of his work as OMI JPIC Director for the past six years. We are especially grateful for his valuable contributions to the JPIC Commission and his energy and commitment as a member of the Integrity of Creation Working Group. Welcome to Fr. Kennedy Katongo, the new Director of OMI JPIC.

1.8 Prayer requests for September. Prayers are requested for the following religious communities celebrating their General Chapter in this month of September: The Maryknoll Sisters, September 7–21; Institute of Blessed Virgin Mary (Loreto), September 7–30; and the Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco known as Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (FMA), September 7–November 30.

Remember in your prayers the three Xaverian sisters killed in Burundi: Sr. Lucia Plici, Sr. Olga Raschiatti and Sr. Bernadetta Boggiani, May their blood shed become the seed of hope to build true fraternity in Burundi. Amen.

2. OUTSIDE OF ROME

2.1 Do something for the persecuted people in Iraq. Aside from our obligation to be in a prayerful and concrete solidarity with the persecuted minorities in Iraq, there is a way we can do something to help them. Religious women and men in the USA are urging elected leaders in Congress to make sure that every action taken by the US regarding Iraq considers



these basic principles of human rights: includes the protection of human rights and religious freedom in Iraq; provides maximum humanitarian assistance to Christians, Muslims, and other minorities displaced by the Islamic State and those who have remained displaced since the war; rejects more US military intervention and convenes a conference to establish a comprehensive arms embargo to Iraq and the region; brings the threat posed by the Islamic State to the UN Security Council and seek a united global response that identifies the group as an international terrorist threat to peace and security; considers actions that need to be taken to speed the resettlement of Iraq's persecuted minorities in the US; and provides adequate funding to meet the needs of those refugees upon their arrival. (Acknowledgment to Sr. Toni Harris, OP for this content.)

Wherever you are, you can adopt this call and urge your government to intervene in restoring justice and peace in Iraq.



A woman infected with Ebola virus lies in the streets of Freetown, capital of Sierra Leone. Hours of calls by anti-Ebola volunteers had produced no ambulance.— Credit Samuel Aranda for *The New York Times*

2.2 A call for concrete solidarity with the victims of Ebola in West Africa. In the course of 2014 Ebola epidemic spread in West Africa from Guinea to Liberia and Nigeria and now is reported in Congo DRC. As

of last month, this disease has claimed over 1500 lives. The church and other health agencies are working to help the victims and international measures are being taken to try to halt the spread of this epidemic. The challenge is to find volunteers who can take care of those affected but also there is a need for professional response in order to contain the disease, already 4000 people are tested positive. Religious men and women are in the front line in doing this, one of those is the Salesian Missionaries who have launched a fundraising to help their sisters and brothers in Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone. This is an emergency which requires our immediate response. See what your community can do to be in concrete solidarity with our sisters and brothers in the affected countries. Read more: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2014_West_Africa_Ebola_virus_outbreak; <http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-29245149>.

2.3 The first observation of World Day against Trafficking in Persons. The United Nations marked its first-ever World Day against Trafficking in Persons on July 30, 2014, by calling on the international community to end impunity for perpetrators and help victims, especially women and children, who continue to be particularly vulnerable to the perfidious trade. Read Ms. Navy Pillay's opening speech on the occasion in Geneva at: http://article.wn.com/view/2014/07/29/statement_by_the_un_high_commissioner_for_human_rights_navi/.

2.4 UN International Day of Peace, September 21. This year's observance of International Day of Peace falls on the 30th anniversary of the General Assembly Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace. This is the unique opportunity to reaffirm the UN commitment to the purpose and principles for which this organization was founded. In his message for this Day, Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon calls on all to observe a minute of silence at noon, including the ceasefire by all armed conflicts all over the world "so that all can breathe the air of peace." Full text on <http://www.un.org/en/events/peaceday/2014/sgmessage.shtml>

2.5 September 21 is the Zero Emission Day. A global 24 hours moratorium on the use of Fossil Fuel, a genius initiative to call all people of good will to reconsider their habits and the effects they have with regard the use of Fossil fuel. Some simple practices are suggested: don't use or burn oil or gas or coal; minimize (or eliminate) your use of electricity generated by fossil fuels; don't put anyone in harm's way; all essential and emergency services operate normally; do your best, have fun, enjoy the day! Source: <http://zeroemissionsday.org/>.

2.6 2014 UN Climate Summit. On the occasion of the UN Climate Summit which took place in New



Climate Change March in NYC, September 21, 2014. Photo by John Minchillo/AP for AVAAZ.

York on September 23, 2014, Fr. Sean McDonagh, SSC wrote a piece to underscore how climate change is adversely affecting people's lives and lives of other species. According to him, this means that we have to act urgently by dramatically reducing carbon emissions in order to mitigate against the worst effects of climate change. We thank the author for sending this article to us. <http://jpicroma.wix.com/jpicroma#!creation/c5k>

2.9 Join Walk Free to call on Ban Ki-Moon to prioritize modern slavery in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). "With 29.8 million people enslaved today, the curse of modern slavery is a significant barrier to the wellbeing and economic prosperity of the world at large. Victims of modern slavery are often prevented from receiving an education, receive little or no pay, and cannot speak or move freely. This is not only a grave injustice for those experiencing these conditions but the knocks on effects are unfathomable—the world is missing out on the potential of millions of people. Unbelievably, ending modern slavery is not yet a clear priority in the proposed SDGs—a transformative action plan which will help shape governments' policies for years to come." Source: http://www.walkfree.org/prioritise-slavery-in-sdgs/?utm_source=taf&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=prioritise-slavery-in-sdgs.

3. USEFUL RESOURCES

3.1 Food and Agriculture

3.1.1 Future of Family Farming, Providing Resources to Women and Young Farmers. Family farming and the role of women in agriculture around the world are two of the most important topics currently under discussion in world forums, including FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization). FAO is now initiating an online discussion on these issues. See how you or members of your congregation can join online—in English, French or Spanish. <http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/forum/discussions/FF2>

3.1.2 FAO Report: State of Food Insecurity in the World 2014. This is an eight-page summary of The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2014. Each year at the October Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) at FAO Headquarters in Rome, this Report is featured at the beginning of the Session. There are many interesting statistics in the Report, including that this year the number of food insecure people is put at 805 million as compared to last year's figure of 842 million. At the October CFS Session the full report will be out in English, Spanish and French, as well as the other UN languages of Arabic, Russian and Chinese.

3.1.3 Smallholder farmers/family farmers and hunger. A new multi-part film series on Roger Thurow's *The Last Hunger Season*, which will be useful for presentations on issues of Family Farming. There will be more videos coming until World Food Day, marked each year on October 16. <http://outrageandinspire.org/2014/09/16/the-expanding-possibilities-of-family-farmers/>

3.1.4 Agro-ecological solutions for climate smart agriculture. A paper presented at the Global Food Security Symposium 2014 by Lauren Pincus, PhD candidate in horticulture & agronomy at the University of California, Davis and 2014 Next Generation Delegate. The author looks at agro-ecology as a ways to meet the challenges of producing enough food even as climate change makes many more diverse 'micro-climates' developing in which to do agriculture. Solutions have to fit **locally**, not the major solutions that the 'Green Revolution' of new seeds and fertilizers offered 40 years ago. <http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2014/09/beyond-plant-breeding-agro-ecological-solutions-for-climate-smart-agriculture.html>

3.1.5 Concerns about Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture. Many civil society organisations have manifested their rejection of the proposed Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture to be launched at the UN Secretary-General's Climate Change Leaders' Summit.

This proposed alliance is a deceptive and deeply contradictory initiative. It will not deliver the solutions that food producers and providers and food systems urgently need. By endorsing the activities of the planet's worst climate offenders in agribusiness and industrial agriculture, using a green-washing label of "Climate-Smart Agriculture," the Alliance will undermine the very objectives that it claims to aim for. See their letter of concerns previously expressed <http://www.climatesmartagconcerns.info/open-letter.html>; <http://www.climatesmartagconcerns.info/rejection-letter.html>; <http://www.climatesmartagconcerns.info/english.html>; <http://media.wix.com/ugd/e7a99affbee8eed97842b9af6cab31a6671424.pdf>.

Please consider signing the protest letter against "Climate-Smart Agriculture". Signatures must be sent directly to signon@climatesmartagconcerns.org with the name of the organization and its location (name of country) or if an international organization, state 'international'.

3.2 The Earth missed a potentially catastrophic Solar Superstorm by hair's breath. Fr. Sean McDonagh, SSC explains a phenomenon unknown to most of us. On July 23, 2012, the earth narrowly missed, by one week, a massive solar super-storm which could have done enormous damage to global communications and electrical grids and, as a consequence, created havoc across the globe. <http://jpicroma.wix.com/jpicroma#!creation/c5k>

3.3 Advent and Lent resources. Sr. Terri MacKenzie, SHCJ offers her Advent and Lent resources which combine a focus on Christianity within the new scientific understanding of the world with practical concern for the ecological issues facing our planet. Her Advent reflection is a four-session resource for those interested in deepening their understanding of the Christmas/Incarnation reality in the context of the new creation story. Her Lent resource draws prayerful attention to the extinction of plants and animals and the interconnecting cause and effect of habitat loss. To access the resources, visit <https://ecospiritualityresources.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/adventinthenewuniversestory-9-9-14.pdf>; and <https://ecospiritualityresources.files.wordpress.com/2012/05/lent-2015-creation-covenant.pdf>.

3.4 Women in the Church. There is a very interesting website dedicated for women by the Pontifical Council for the Laity which can be an enriching source of reflection, especially the article by Helen M. Alvaré professor of Law at George Mason University of Law Arlington VA, USA - Consultant, Pontifical Council for the Laity: <http://www.laici.va/content/laici/en/sezioni/donna/tema-del-mese/Complementarita.html>.

4. JPIC UPCOMING EVENTS

- NCBPA Group Meeting: Sept. 24, 15:00-17:00 pm at Fratelli
- JPIC Commission Strategic Planning Seminar (Spanish): Sept. 29-30, 9:00 am-15:00 pm at UISG
- SEDOS 50th Anniversary: Oct. 4, 16:00-19:00 pm at Fratelli
- English Core Group: Oct. 6, 15:00-17:00 pm at Fratelli
- Economic Justice WG: Oct. 8, 15:00-17:00 pm at Fratelli
- Spanish Promoters Meeting: Oct. 8, 9:00-12:00 noon at UISG
- JPIC Commission Strategic Planning Seminar (English), Oct. 9-10, 9:00-15:00 pm at Fratelli
- English JPIC Promoters Meeting: Oct. 15, 9:00-12:00 noon at UISG
- Prayer at S. Marcello: Sept. 29, 19:00-20:00 pm

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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