



NEWSBRIEF

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

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Photo by Celine A. Quinio

With the New Year, we greet and wish you, our readers, new beginnings. We share with you events in Rome which make 2014 a unique one. For those world citizens who use the lunar calendar, this is the year of the HORSE. With this, we pray that we will gallop with this animal in our efforts to address situations of injustice and un-peace. We greet Pope Francis on his birthday and wish him well, following his good example of inviting four homeless people. Let us take part in the implementation of his New Year's World Day of Peace message, that we may be brothers and sisters to one another MORE than the past years.—Editors

1. ROME UPDATE



1.1. Sr. Teresa Dagdag, MM completes her three-year term as Executive Co-secretary for the JPIC Commission. The JPIC Promoters are grateful for her service, her dedication and her leadership. The English Promoters had a chance to express their appreciation at the January 15th meeting, after which the group gathered for lunch. May the Lord guide her in building understanding, cultivating peace, spreading love and forging new ways for justice and integrity of creation wherever providence calls her to serve.

1.2. Pope Francis' Message on World Day of Peace. Entitled "Fraternity, the Foundation and Pathway to Peace," the Holy Father challenges all of us to work to make this world a community of brothers and sisters by building on this great value. The Pope listed war, globalization, threat to religious freedom, human trafficking, economic disparity and abuses in the financial system as examples of fraternity breaking down and leading to violence against people. Read the Pope's message at http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/francesco/messages/peace/documents/papa-francesco_20131208_messaggio-xlvi-giornata-mondiale-pace-2014_en.html.

1.3 Annual JPIC formation workshop in November. The 2014 JPIC Promoters Formation Workshop will be held November 19–22, 2014. To reserve or register, write to Felix Mushobozi, CPPS at jpicusguisg@lasalle.org.



1.4. JPIC Promoters study Pope Francis' recent Apostolic Exhortation. On January 15, the English speaking JPIC promoters gathered to reflect together on the message of *Evangelii Gaudium* in order to discern ways in which women and men religious can respond to the message of the Pope, whom many consider the "JPIC Pope." Sheila Kinsey, FCJM and Felix Mushobozi, CPPS guided the reflection. The PPT for your reference is available on wikispace: <http://jpiformation.wikispaces.com/file/detail/Apostolic+Exhortation+Consolidated.pptx>. For the index and the text of the Exhortation in English, go to <http://www>.

vatican.va/holy_father/francesco/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20131124_evangelii-gaudium_en.html. For other languages, go to www.vatican.va.

1.5. A reflection on Pope Francis' birthday. Pope Francis invited four homeless people to join him in celebrating his 77th birthday. His action leads us to reflect on how our preaching should be put into practice. "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." (Lk. 14:12-14) Whom did we invite to the banquet during the holidays?

1.6. SEDOS Conference on Ecumenism. Msgr. Juan Usma Gomez of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity was presenter at a SEDOS seminar on "The Ecumenical Journey of the Church since the Second Vatican Council," at Casa Generalizia Fratelli delle Scuole Cristiane last January 18. During his talk, which was preceded by a video presentation, he challenged men and women religious to take their duty for ecumenical dialogue seriously as an integral part of evangelization based on the credible witness of unity, dialogue and truth. The text of the talk will be made available on the SEDOS website.



1.7 Michael Crosby to speak on "Collegiality and the Paradox of Power."

The JPIC Commission seminar on March 20, 2014 will feature Michael Crosby, OFM, Cap at the Aula Magna of the Casa Generalizia Fratelli delle Scuole Cristiane, Via Aurelia, 476. Crosby lectures and writes on promoting a 'roadmap' that he has created which helps individuals, groups and organization move from control and conflicted relationships to greater collaboration and compassion. Please save the DATE!!!

1.8. Ad-hoc committee for IYFF-2014. All religious congregations are invited to establish an ad-hoc committee on family farming as proposed by IYFF-2014 Civil Society Coordinator, José Antonio Osaba Garcia. This is inline with the UN goal of effectively combating poverty and hunger and the search for a rural development based on the respect for environment and biodiversity. For more information, write to Jesus Aristin at chusmi@vocacionpasionista.com. Also, visit the following links: <http://www.familyfarmingcampaign.net/>; <http://www.ruralforum.net/>; <http://www.ruralforum.net/ffwconference>.

Ken Thesing will speak on this topic at the meeting of the English-speaking JPIC Promoters on February 19th.

1.9. National Capacity Building Animators WG. This JPIC project addresses the formation of national and local JPIC Promoters and the establishment of national JPIC Commissions. To participate in this project and/or reflection process, contact Francisco Ó Conaire, OFM at gfconaire@yahoo.co.uk. The group will meet on February 28th.

2. OUTSIDE ROME



2.1. Pope Francis on the cover of *Rolling Stone* magazine. Pope Francis has now joined the ranks of American popular culture icons by appearing on the cover of *Rolling Stone* magazine with the headline, "Pope Francis: the times they are a-changin'." The article by Mark Binelli reveals how Pope Francis is making a noticeable break from Vatican tradition, facing political issues head on and presenting a more all-inclusive attitude toward human rights. For the full article, go to <http://www.rollingstone.com/culture/news/pope-francis-gentle-revolution-inside-rolling-stones-new-issue-20140128-ixzz2rsCw1ptf>.

2.2. Papal message to the World Economic Forum. Cardinal Peter Turkson read the Pope's message to about 2,500 the participants at the 44th World Economic Forum held

in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland. The Pope challenged world business leaders to put their wealth at the service of humanity instead of leaving most of the world population in poverty and insecurity. To read the Pope's message, go to http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2014/01/21/pope_francis_message_to_world_economic_forum_in_davos/en1-765901.

2.3. Climate Summit 2014. As part of a global effort to mobilize action and ambition on climate change, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is inviting heads of state and government along with business, finance, civil society and local leaders to a climate summit in New York, September 2014. Follow up this event on <http://www.un.org/climatechange/summit2014/>.

2.4. Anti-Trafficking of persons

2.4.1 Social Analysis for anti-trafficking of persons. The US Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking (US CSAHT) has a tool to end the crime of human trafficking and make an impact in life-affirming and life-enhancing ways for the victims. For more information, visit http://bakhitainitiative.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/10_13_introtosocialanalysis1.pdf.

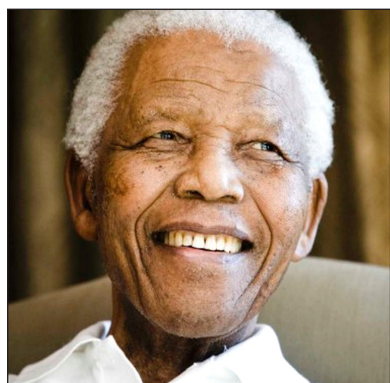
2.4.2. S.O.A.P partners with NJ Coalition Against Human Trafficking. Save Our Adolescents from Prostitution (S.O.A.P.) helps provide support to victims of human trafficking through a hotline phone number. At this year's Super Bowl, S.O.A.P. has partnered with the NJ Coalition Against Human Trafficking and will distribute to identified motel rooms free soap bars with the hotline phone number. Read more at <http://www.njhumantrafficking.org/#!soap/c1gbh>.

2.5. Nonviolence

2.5.1. Pace e Bene's Nonviolent initiatives. JPIC international promoters are encouraged to consider joining Pace e Bene's Nonviolent initiatives which include a week's campaign from September 21 to 27, 2014. In this campaign, Pace e Bene invites everyone to build a long-term flourishing movement for a nonviolent world to end wars, poverty and the climate crisis. Read more about this campaign at <http://paceebene.org/campaign-nonviolence>.

2.5.2. Mahatma Ghandhi's legacy of peace. January 30 is the anniversary of the assassination of Mahatma Ghandi, a life-long pacifist and a fearless promoter of nonviolence, who died shortly before India attained its independence from Britain. Along with India's independence came the partitioning of the sub-continent into two separate states—Muslim-based Pakistan and Hindu-based India—an action he thoroughly opposed. What is the fate of the values Ghandi died for today? How do we continue Ghandi's legacy? "The dignity of the human person and the common good rank higher than the comfort of those who refuse to renounce their privileges. When these values are threatened, a prophetic voice must be raised." (Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, # 218)

2.5.3. Martin Luther King, champion of civil rights. Best known for his role in the advancement of civil rights, Martin Luther King used nonviolent civil disobedience based on his Christian beliefs. King's birthday (b. January 15, 1929, d. April 4, 1968) is observed on January 20th as a federal holiday in the United States to commemorate his contribution as pastor activist and leader of the African-American Civil Rights Movement. He visited Mahatma Gandhi in 1959 and learned from his nonviolent strategy. He was killed for his advocacy for racial justice. For more, go to www.martinlutherking.org/ and www.bbc.co.uk/history/people/martin_luther_king.shtml.



2.4.4. Nelson Mandela Madiba's legacy: He gave us a living example of our Christian vocation of nonviolence and forgiveness. We are told many times in scripture not to seek revenge or to nurture a grudge against others but to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. In fact, we are told something even more radical by Jesus: "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." (Mt. 5:44) Mandela wrote: "It was during those long and lonely years (in prison) that my hunger for the freedom of my own people became a hunger for the

freedom of all people, white and black. I knew as well as I knew anything that the oppressor must be liberated just as surely as the oppressed. A man who takes away another man's freedom is a prisoner of hatred, he is locked behind the bars of prejudice and narrow-mindedness... The oppressed and the oppressor alike are robbed of their humanity. When I walked out of prison, that was my mission, to liberate the oppressed and the oppressor both.” (Nelson Mandela, *Long Road to Freedom*, 1995).

2.6. Pax Christi International Statement on the situation in the Central African Republic. Stronger commitment needed to prevent further human suffering in the Central African Republic. Read the statement and suggestions for solutions to the conflict at <http://www.paxchristi.net/news/pax-christi-international-statement-conflict-central-african-republic/2907>.

3. USEFUL RESOURCES

3.1. Prayer for Christian Unity based on the MDGs. Sr. DeSales Tonero shared with us a prayer for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity from the JPIC perspective. Please visit <http://jpicformation.wikispaces.com/home> to download a PDF file for your use. This year's theme is “Has Christ been divided?” (1Cor. 1:13) The text of themes and prayer services as accessible at: http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/chrstuni/weeks-prayer-doc/rc_pc_chrstuni_doc_20130528_week-prayer-2014_en.html

3.2. January 19 is World Day for Migrants and Refugees. This initiative which began in 1914 celebrates its centenary anniversary. A prayer composed by the Canadian Group of “Becoming Neighbors” in the Archdiocese of Toronto is available at <http://becomingneighbours.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/World-Day-of-Prayer-for-Migrants-and-Refugees-January-19-2014.pdf>. Please share and acknowledge the authors of the prayer. Translations are needed in other languages.

3.3. The Global War on Christians. *Dispatches from the Front Lines of Anti-Christian Persecution* by John L. Allen Jr. One of the most respected journalists in the United States and the bestselling author of *The Future Church* uses his unparalleled knowledge of world affairs and religious insight to investigate the troubling worldwide persecution of Christians.

3.4. Human trafficking. There are more victims of human trafficking in the European Union area, but the EU Member states are slow to respond. On April 15, 2013, the European Commission published the first report on human trafficking in Europe which is available in English and other languages on http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-is-new/news/news/2013/docs/20130415_thb_stats_report_en.pdf. Other useful materials are http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-322_en.htm and http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/e-library/multimedia/infographics/index_en.htm#0801262488c18d4a/c. Also see the Report from Save the Children in Italy on “Trafficking Minors,” published August 23, 2013: <http://risorse.savethechildren.it/files/comunicazione/Ufficio%20Stampa/DOSSIER%20TRATTA%20%28V%20bozza%29.zip>.

3.5. Sachs to teach online course on Sustainable Development. Earth Institute Director Jeffrey Sachs recently launched a free, global, online course titled “The Age of Sustainable Development.” The course aims to spread to an international audience a broader understanding of the need for economic development that is socially inclusive and also protects the environment. The course is part of a more general education program of the [Sustainable Development Solutions Network](http://unsdsn.org) (SDSN). Those interested in joining the course can register at <http://unsdsn.org>. Thanks to Camille Piche, OMI for sharing this.

4. JPIC MEETINGS: FEBRUARY 2014

- **Spanish/Portuguese Promoters Meeting:** February 5, 9:00–12:00 at UISG
 - **Integrity of Creation Working Group:** February 10, 9:00–12:00 at UISG
 - **Economic Justice Working Group:** February 12, 15:30, place to be announced.
 - **Refugee/Migrant Working Group:** February 13, 15:00–17:00 at Fratelli
 - **English Promoters Meeting:** February 19, 9:00–12:00 at UISG
 - **Anti-trafficking Working Group:** February 19, 15:30–17:35 at Via del Casaletto, 115
 - **ICR–FAO Working Group:** February 25, 9:30 am at ICR office, Passionist Curia
 - **Africa Working Group:** February 26, 15:30 at Missionaries of Africa
 - **Collaboration Working Group:** February 27, 15:00–18:00 at Fratelli
 - **National Capacity Building Animators Working Group:** February 28, 9:30-12:00 at OMI Generalate
 - **Prayer for Peace:** February 28, 19:00 at Chiesa di San Marcello, Via di Corso, 15
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Note: Please send to jpicusguisg@lasalle.org a brief outline of information you think JPIC Promoters might find useful for publication in future issues of *Newsbrief*.

Felix Mushobozi CPPS, Via Aurelia 476, CP 9099 Aurelio, 00165 Roma, Italy

Tel: (39)06.6622929 (direct); (39)06.665231 (reception)

Mobile: (39)3314348103

Email: jpicusguisg@lasalle.org