



# NEWSBRIEF

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

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We wish you abundant blessings during your Advent days. May there be many opportunities for you to reflect and prepare your hearts in readiness to receive anew the presence of Christ in your lives. Enjoy the Christmas celebrations with all of those dear to you. Our prayers go with you for a fruitful time in every way.

*This November issue of Newsbrief draws together and interconnects many of the reflective actions of our JPIC Promoters. We share our efforts to bring the presence of God wherever we are. Only in this way can we realize the words of Pope Francis to religious "Wake up the world." We hope that our conscious efforts to join together will bring about in some ways the reign of God in our midst.*

## LAUNCHING OF THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING:

On November 17, at 11:30 a.m. Rome time with Talitha Kum of UISG, there was an official public announcement of the February 8, World Day of Prayer and Awareness regarding human trafficking. Video messages posted on Facebook stressed the theme for youth and adolescents: "Kids they are, not slaves". Religious spoke their convictions to end this scourge in seven languages: English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, Swahili, Ghanaian and Tagalog. The message is calling on everyone to unite efforts to end this terrible crime against humanity. More information and a prayer in several languages will be forthcoming.

Click here to listen to the video clips:  
<https://www.facebook.com/talithakum.uisg/>



Preparing for the YouTube are Patrizia Morgante Communications UISG and JPIC Promoters Jaime Campos OFM and Carmen Elisa Bando SSps

## INTERRELIGIOUS PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY DOOR

Nearly three hundred religious men and women and persons of other faiths walked in procession from Castel S. Angelo to the Holy Door in the Basilica of St. Peter. The intention of the pilgrimage was to come together before the end of the Holy Year of Mercy to pray and to ask forgiveness for the sins committed in the name of religion. Once inside the Basilica we circled together and solemnly recited the Peace Prayer of St. Francis. Symbolizing the gesture of

reconciliation was the giving of candles that had been carried in possession to the representatives from the Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, and Bahai faiths. In this way we were asking forgiveness for our wrongdoing towards other religions, and were forgiving the wrongdoing of other religions to us. A letter to Pope Francis was signed by the participants stating our commitments to be instruments of peace, to care for those who are suffering and to be witnesses of hope.



Ignatia Asho TSSF, Alfonsa Kiven TSSF, Marceline Yenmuleh TSSF, Felix Mushobozi CPPS, Marie Puelo FMIC and Rosella Lasi FMIC

"In each of us, the virtues of mercy, nonviolence, love and truth can only be fully evaluated when they are opposed to the ruthlessness, violence, hatred and falsehood [...]. The purpose of our lives is to serve the Force that created us and by whose mercy or approval depends on our own breath, serving with loyalty to His creatures. This means love, which should replace hatred that you see everywhere". (Mahatma Gandhi as in the Hindu reflection).

The event was cosponsored by Service of Documentation and Studies on Global Mission (SEDOS); with the cooperation of Religions for Peace Italy; the Interreligious Dialogue Commission and Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Commission of USG/UISG.

## JPIC PROMOTERS FORMATION WORKSHOP

We welcomed fifteen (15) JPIC Promoters who completed the recent JPIC Formation Workshop. The message of the Jubilee Year of Mercy was well integrated into the experience through the choice of everyday themes and the prayer sessions that were animated by the working groups (WG). All WG's had presented the objectives and mission of their efforts.



*Chika Onyejiuwa  
Executive Secretary of AEFJN*

A number of other organizations also shared their connections with the work of the promoters. Among these was Chika Onyejiuwa, Executive Secretary of the Africa Europe Faith and Justice Network (AEFJN), who challenged the promoters in specific ways to look at how the nations contribute money to address poverty in Africa. The suffering itself can be caused by other interests of the country. The charity does not address the root causes of the problems.

The days provided the new JPIC Promoters with the tools needed to animate members of their congregation in justice, peace and integrity of creation (JPIC), by giving an overview of a variety of themes: the meaning of JPIC; congregational JPIC structures; the spirituality of JPIC in relation with religious vows; formation in religious life; the role of a JPIC promoter; JPIC Commission organization; networking in JPIC and a JPIC framework for planning in the congregation. One important aspect of this year's workshop was the fact that among the participants there were members of general councils from three congregations. This shows that there is a growing awareness of JPIC as an integral part of animation for their communities around the world. We had a very energizing, thoughtful and spiritually enriching time together in our efforts to promote JPIC in the life of the Congregations. The JPIC Commission Secretariat is grateful for all those who came to share their experiences in various areas of their groups and networks.



**Participants at the Formation Workshop**

**First Row:** Andrienne Bonzangani Epeko ICM, Lieve Stragier ICM, Ida Colombo CMS, Simone Della Monica CM and Mary Sreeja Chittilappilly SND

**Second Row:** Maria Alejandra Dias RJM, Rachel Oommen ICM, Felix Mushobozi CPPS, Emily Jocson ICM, Maria Nonata Aguir Bezerra SND and Stephen Huffstetter SHJ

**Last Row:** Martin Grenier Maf Vincent Anesthasiar CFM, Roberto Clark, Sheila Kinsey FCJM and Andreas Göpfert MAF.

## COP22 CONNECTION WEBINAR

The Global Catholic Movement organized a webinar to keep their members informed of what took place at COP22. This experience provided an encouraging perspective of what happened in the discussions regarding the commitments to reduce the impacts of climate change. The agreements from the countries are expected to be honored for three years and if a country chooses to withdraw this support there is another one year waiting period. The Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM) is working on strategies with other USA organizations to sustain the agreement from the USA. Countries were inspired by the fact that 47 vulnerable countries pledged to go to 100% renewable energy. The JPIC Commission had signed an interfaith letter supporting COP 22.

For more information go to the link for the excellent webinar videoed and resources:

<https://catholicclimatemovement.global/cop22-webinar/>



*David Turnbull Campaign Director Oil Change International; Rev. Fletcher Harper Executive Director GreenFaith; Ciara Shannon Asia Coordinator GreenFaith; Tomás Insua Executive Director Global Catholic Climate Movement; and Giulia Bondi Policy and Advocacy Officer Climate Justice CIDSE*

## FROM ICR-FAO WG ADDRESSES CLIMATE CHANGE

Now one of the major challenges of the COP 22 agreement is to mitigate the effects of climate change in the areas of agriculture in countries around the world. Our efforts need to be coordinated and persistent. By ourselves we cannot stop the change that is happening. All of the issues of climate change are interconnected with agriculture: adaptation, energy, fisheries, forests, greenhouse emissions, livestock, food, soil, land and water.

You are encouraged to look over the various materials in the link provided:

<http://www.fao.org/climate-change/resources/infographics/infographic-booklets/en/>

Much of it is translated into the various languages of Spanish, French, and English.



## REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS WORKING GROUP

The main objective of our working group is to ensure that the plight of refugees and migrants is a visible concern for our religious congregations. We try to provide members and other interested JPIC promoters with an avenue for reflection and deeper understanding of issues related to refugees and forced migrants. We network with agencies working in this area and we try to facilitate awareness among congregations and encourage action on their behalf. We develop and share resources, provide information, advocate, and try to raise consciousness of migration issues among religious around the world. We learn from each other and share our experiences, for example, with migrants in countries where our congregations are present or where we give hospitality and accommodation to migrants in our religious houses in Rome. Our methodology is based on the Church's social justice cycle of 'See, Judge, Act'. Our focus in this working group is on the issue of migration but we emphasise that all the working groups are connected and we work to highlight the interrelationships. The Papal Encyclical **Laudato Si'** has provided important 'See, Judge, Act' insights on the issues of migration.



**Some members of RMWG**  
*From left: Daisuke Narui SVD, Anne McCabe SM, Benard Isanda CMM, Anne Corry RSCJ, Patricia Dorobek SND, Elisabeth Kampe CJ, Jude Nnorom CSSP*

Some recent resources that have been shared in the Refugees and Migrants working Group include the following:

Uprooted: The growing crisis for refugee and migrant children, UNICEF (Executive Summary and key findings)  
[www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org)

Migrant and Refugee Kit: 'Migrants and Refugees Challenge Us. The Response of the Gospel of Mercy' (Australian Catholic Bishops Conference)

<http://www.acmro.catholic.org.au/>

Particularly helpful section on 'Reflections on the Psalms of Mercy'

'Ten steps towards justice for refugees and asylum seekers'. (Australian references but adaptable for other places.)

<http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/publications/ten-step-leaflets/827-ten-steps-towards-justice-for-refugees-and-asylum-seekers>

Providing Hope, Investing in the Future: Education in Emergencies and Protracted Crises Jesuit Refugee Services.

[https://en.jrs.net/assets/Publications/File/Ed\\_Policy\\_web1.pdf](https://en.jrs.net/assets/Publications/File/Ed_Policy_web1.pdf)

Contributor: Anne Corry RSCJ, International Congregational JPIC Promoter

## THE THIRD WORLD MEETING OF POPULAR MOVEMENTS

What an energizing experience to participate in this third meeting where the persons at the grassroots were making such important inter connections with their lives and issues. It was inspiring to see all of the networking and collaboration around the major concerns for: land, labor and lodging as well as the environment, refugees and migrants. Powerful witnesses included slum dwellers, farm workers, displaced persons, refugees and the unemployed. Women were very involved in sharing their stories as panel members. Every panel discussion was based on the experience of the people who suffered the condition; then, the small groups continued to discuss their experiences in order to gather ideas and proposals. These were later shared in the plenary session as a way of coordinating their efforts and helping one another. Through this solidarity the popular movements are finding the confidence to articulate their needs and advocate for their rights. On the last day, Pope Francis affirmed the efforts of the people and boldly encouraged them to continue to advocate for their rights.

[http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2015/07/10/pope\\_francois\\_speech\\_at\\_world\\_meeting\\_of\\_popular\\_movements/1157291](http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2015/07/10/pope_francois_speech_at_world_meeting_of_popular_movements/1157291)



*Pictured here is President Lulienne Lusenge of SOFEPADI in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).*

Her organization has received international recognition at the United Nations. SOFEPADI offers a number of services for Congolese women and girls. These include responding to the needs of victims of violence and gender based violence, offering empowerment through education and income generated activities, encouraging political participation and promoting peace.

For more information go to <http://www.sofepadirdc.org/>

## REPRESENTATIVES OF CHURCHES AND MINING IN LATIN AMERICA



Br. Rodrigo Peret, OFM.  
Sr. Sheila Kinsey, FCJM,  
and Mr. Pablo Sánchez

*looking at the letter from Churches and Mining*

Br. Rodrigo Peret, OFM of Franciscans International and Mr. Pablo Sánchez met with the JPIC Office to provide an update on what was happening with the mining situation in Latin America since the meeting with the Pontifical Council of Justice

and Peace and the representatives of the communities of those affected by mining worldwide. The meeting had occurred fifteen months ago. In most cases the problems had worsened. Churches and Mining had prepared a letter for Pope Francis and Cardinal Turkson. The hope is that the Catholic Church will awaken the critical vision of the people and find ways to respond to the cry of the dispossessed.

Also at the meeting there was the desire from this church group to connect with the bishops in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They wish to coordinate and to share their efforts with the DRC bishops who also have been outspoken about the devastating effects of mining in that country. The hope is that there could be established a similar Churches and Mining there.

### “ONE FOR ALL” CAMPAIGN

Fr. Fletcher Harper director of this inclusive campaign met with the JPIC Office to request our input into the development of this effort. His proposal is to bring together leaders from faith, philanthropic and development sectors in order to mobilize new forms of capital, advocacy and technical support to end energy poverty and to promote clean energy. Through various personal meetings, he hopes to consider all of the factors necessary for us to work together. Our contributions to the discussion were related to concerns for the types of job retentions that are vital to the stability of the communities, the need for education in this time of transition, care for the environment, community engagement in decision making, promotion of nonviolence practices and that this not become a new corporate endeavor that excludes viable local employment.

Fr. Harper is an Episcopal priest and the Executive Director of Green Faith, interfaith partners for the environment. The organizational staff—inspire, educate and mobilize people of diverse religious backgrounds for environmental leadership.



*Fr. Fletcher Harper*

<http://www.greenfaith.org/>

## MR. FLORINGTON OF THE NONVIOLENT PEACE FORCE (NP)

The JPIC Office met with Mr. Aseervatham Florington head of the Peace force mission in South Sudan where he has been involved for five years. He described how the Peace force becomes engaged in an area of conflict. Initially, there has to be an invitation from a civil organization requesting their presence. Then, the Board of Directors of NP needs to approve the involvement based on an assessment of the situation. An agreement has to be made between the civil society and the team based on the principles of nonviolence. Messages are sent to all sides of the conflict. The team maintains a neutral presence but seeks the protection of human rights. The members live among the people in the area. This helps them to know what is happening in the community and to dispel rumors as they surface. Mr. Florington spoke of the importance of the role of the Church and of the pastoral community groups.

He also said that NP has received the request to go to the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in North Dakota in the United States. This situation is now being assessed for their possible involvement. The conflict is over the blocking of the Dakota Access pipeline. The Sioux say that the project will contaminate natural resources and destroy sacred land. Although the NP has worked in other countries, this would be the first to be considered in the US where they have their office.



*Mr. Aseervatham  
Florington*

For more information go to  
[www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org](http://www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org)

The main reason for Mr. Florington's visit was to support the Appeal to the Catholic Church to re-commit to the centrality of Gospel Nonviolence. The NP was represented at the Nonviolence and Just Peace Conference where the appeal was drafted. The appeal can be found on

<https://nonviolencejustpeace.net/>

If you have not done so, we encourage you to consider signing it.

### CATHOLIC NONVIOLENCE INITIATIVE WEBINAR

There has been a four-part series on the nonviolence conference and contributions on nonviolence. Fr. Felix and Sr. Sheila were presenters for Webinar four which addressed the outcomes and the implementation of the nonviolence appeal. In our section, we described ways that the JPIC Office was promoting the initiative and we spoke about value of our Vatican connections. Participants used a chat box to ask questions of the panelists. A couple requested leadership on an international level regarding all of the unrest with elections, disregard of truth and the marginalization of immigrants and other minority groups. We have taken these concerns to prayer and are reflecting

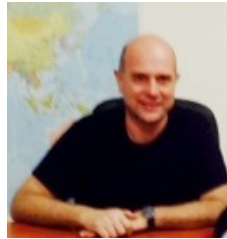


on how best to respond to these difficult situations. Our JPIC Office is making our contributions to the CNI where we can. For access to resources go to

<https://nonviolencejustpeace.net/>

## FAITH BASED COMMUNITIES AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE UPDATE

The master course for persons involved in crisis relief services is ready and we look forward to two full months (March and October) in Rome and 5 seminars around the world. We are waiting for the official reply of the Lateran University. The JPIC Secretariat has been involved in the development of this program. This first one is for persons who can speak English.



Marco Iazzolino  
of the Camelians,  
Coordinator of  
the project

## VIGIL FOR PEACE AND THE END OF VIOLENCE

The prayer at San Marcello focused on the need for peace around the world. The beautiful painting of Jesus as the Good Shepherd concerned with all of the continents helped us all to focus on our need for peace. We prayed for all peoples in the world in the words of Pope Francis: "We want a world of peace, we want to be men and women of peace, we want peace in our society, torn by



divisions and conflicts, to not break the peace. Never again the war! Never again the war! Peace is a gift that is too precious, it has to be promoted and protected."

With the prayer of St. Paul VI we asked the Lord to strengthen our efforts to bring about peace in the world through our humble and

sincere efforts. Lighting the candles we petitioned for special guidance and care for all of the troubled areas. United in the words of the Our Father as one family of God we asked for the guidance to understand more fully what it means to live this prayer. Everyone connected to us in any way was remembered in a special way at this vigil.

**Advent Resource:** Maryknoll theme for Advent focuses on nonviolence. The guide contains reflections, questions, prayers and actions based on each week's Gospel reading and the discussion of Catholic peacemakers.

<https://social-spirituality.net/advent-2016-reflection-guide/>

This Advent will tackle the problem of consumerism, encouraging individuals and communities to celebrate an ecological Christmas. The campaign will include a webinar, weekly reflections and an invitation to participate in a "reverse Advent calendar."

<http://catholicclimatemovement.global/2017-upcoming-moments/>

## DECEMBER PRAYER INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS

**Universal: End to Child-Soldiers** that the scandal of child-soldiers may be eliminated the world over.

**Evangelization: Europe** that the peoples of Europe may rediscover the beauty, goodness, and truth of the Gospel which gives joy and hope to life.

A video on the intention becomes available the first Friday of the month.

<http://apostleshipofprayer.org>

**1 January World Day of Prayer for Peace--** Nonviolence: A Style of Politics for Peace:

<https://nonviolencejustpeace.net/world-day-of-peace-2017/>

## INTERNATIONAL DAYS OF OBSERVANCE

**1 December** [World AIDS Day](#) is an opportunity to show support for people living with HIV and pray for those who have died.

**2 December** [International Day for the Abolition of Slavery \(A/RES/317\(IV\)\)](#) has the focus of eradicating contemporary forms of slavery.

**5 December** [World Soil Day \(A/RES/68/232\)](#) aims to connect people with soils and raise awareness of their critical importance in their lives.

<http://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/world-soil-day/wsd2016/en/>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B0ezvt7UmjxZbENiMGkSElrMFE/view>

Short videos in English and some in Spanish.

**9 December** [International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime \(A/RES/69/323\)](#) seeks to raise awareness of the Genocide Convention and its role in combating and preventing the crime of genocide.

**9 December** [International Anti-Corruption Day \(A/RES/58/4\)](#) brings awareness that to end poverty and ensure lives of dignity we need to fight corruption in all aspects in all countries.

**10 December** [Human Rights Day \(A/RES/423 \(V\)\)](#) reminds us to promote and protect human rights.

**18 December** [International Migrants Day \(A/RES/55/93\)](#) stresses the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants.

**20 December** [International Human Solidarity Day \(A/RES/60/209\)](#) focuses on the need to work together to fight poverty.

## MEETINGS OF JPIC PROMOTERS

**2 December** A conference—Dreaming a New Future for Women in the Church at 4 pm at UISG (Translations in English and Spanish) organized by the Collaboration Working Group

**3 December** Workshop—A Time for Fruitfulness and Mercy for women and Men 9:30 am to 5 pm at Via Val Cannuta, 136 (Translations in English and Spanish) Organized by the Collaboration Working Group

**5 December** English Speaking CORE Group from 3 pm to 5 pm at the Fratelli

**6 December** Integrity of Creation Working Group (ICWG) from 3 pm to 5 pm at the Fratelli

**13 December** Anti-Trafficking Working Group (ATWG) from 3 pm to 5 pm at the Fratelli

**14 December English Speaking Promoters Meeting** “Promoting the World Day of Prayer Theme: Nonviolence: A Style of Politics for Peace” and “Discussion about the Elections/ Brexit and Similarities in Other Elections”. Pat Gaffney, General Secretary of Pax Christi in the United Kingdom. “COP22 and where to go with Divesting in Fossil Fuels and Reinvesting in Renewal Energies. Tomas Insura, Executive Director of Global Catholic Climate Movement. *The session will be from 9 am to 12 pm at UISG.*

**14 December** Spanish Portuguese Promoters meeting and Christmas party, at the Salvatorians Via Conciliazione 51

**15 December** Refugees and Migrants Working Group (RMWG) from 3 pm to 5 pm at the Fratelli

**16 December** Africa Working Group meeting, 3:30 at Missionaries of Africa

**18 December** English Promoters Christmas party at Maryknoll College Via Saldegna 83

**13-15 January** Workshop in English for International JPIC Promoters “Living and promoting just relations (JPIC) with oneself, with others, with creation and with God.” Francisco O’Conaire, OFM

**27 January** An International Conference on Divestment from Fossil Fuels and Investment in Clean Energy at the Pontifical Lateran University, Rome. The conference will examine the links between fossil fuel divestment, investments in community-based renewable energy and Catholic organizations. A JPIC Commission Co-sponsored event.

<http://catholicclimatemovement.global/2017-upcoming-moments/>



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