



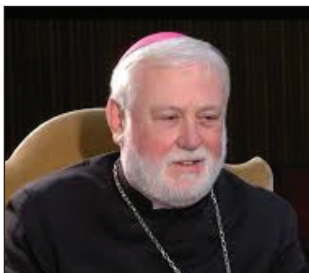
MARCH 2018 Vol. 13 No. 3



*Editorial: The month of March has been for us a journey of intense conversion to a compassionate God of life. It has been an opportunity for us all to renounce our idols of dehumanizing indifference, racism, and slavery to our own egos, and to become more hospitable to the world's most vulnerable members through our contemplation and action. Easter invites us to build community, interconnected within Christ's mystical Body, that challenges us to go beyond barriers to build a global community marked by right relationships, peace, and care for our common home! Let us be surprised by the joyful good news of Easter: "Why do you search for the Living One among the dead? He is not here. He has been raised up." (Luke 24:5-6) **Happy Easter to each one of you and your loved ones!***

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

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE IN THE VATICAN MEETS WITH COP24 PARTICIPANTS



Archbishop Paul Gallagher, Secretary of Relations with States.

On February 26, Archbishop Paul Gallagher, Secretary of Relations with States within the Holy See's Secretariat of State, called a high-level meeting. Approximately forty representatives from the continents, curia offices, a Catholic non-governmental organizations were in attendance. Fr. Felix Mushobozi and Sr. Sheila Kinsey of the JPIC Secretariat represented USG and UISG, respectively.

This session, which was very engaging and interesting, had the purpose of facilitating the integration and coordination of our participation in the Conference of the Parties (COP24) to be held in Katowice, Poland December 3-14. Two main areas of focus were the promotion of the 2016 agreement made in Paris to address climate change and the encyclical *Laudato Si*.

The Paris agreement aims "to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius." In addition, the agreement aims "to strengthen the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change."

Our second consideration was to develop and implement the direction set forth by Pope Francis. The spirituality of *Laudato Si* is necessary to address the important work of COP24. The conference provided

an opportunity to motivate others through spirituality, using the message of *Laudato Si* and other sources of Catholic Social Teaching. Recognizing that our efforts to remember the most vulnerable affected are essential to our spirituality, it is important to stress the work of St. John Paul II who wrote about the importance of ecology and even made St. Francis of Assisi the Patron Saint of Ecology. Building on this foundation and other writings of St. John Paul II, support will be developed for the implementation of *Laudato Si*.

Demonstrating the necessity of this approach is the fact that one of the main sources of income in Poland is the coal industry. The use of coal products is a major contributor to the rise in global temperature. Although the resource will not last forever, a respectful challenge would be to suggest opportunities for transitioning to alternative energy sources; particularly to consider the employment opportunities for future generations. Like Pope John Paul II, Pope Francis holds work in high esteem: "Work is a necessity, part of the meaning of life on this earth, a path to growth, human development and personal fulfilment" (LS, Chapter 3)

The need for education and raising awareness to be held in importance before and after the event, as well as financial support for the programs are essential in both areas. We also felt the need, in particular, to elevate the stories of the most vulnerable.

Our JPIC Secretariat stressed the importance of solidarity and referred to the UISG theme of "Weaving Solidarity for the Sake of the Planet." We are planning ways to offer a range of suggestions that are connected on many levels—internationally, nationally, locally, and with various partners. These ideas respond to the request of Pope Francis in *Laudato Si* that everyone

find a way to be involved, with ideas ranging from limiting the usage of plastic bags to divesting and re-investing in alternative energy sources.

In speaking of the build-up to COP24, Tomás Insua of GCCM, noted the event being planned in Assisi and the pilgrimage that will begin there and go to Katowice, Poland. The idea of pilgrimage from different places drew a positive response from the group. Our JPIC Secretariat is on the Steering Committee of GCCM and is involved in planning this event. We hope that major church leaders, including Pope Francis, will participate.

The JPIC Secretariat is also working with other partners and the archdiocese of Katowice to plan a side event at COP24. Discussions have begun with Archbishop Victor Skworc, as the Archdiocesan Office has compiled a list of their significant activities with respect to ecological issues.

For more information, please visit: [COP24](#).

UN AND FRANCISCANS INTERNATIONAL MEET ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Early in March, a series of meetings at the United Nations in Geneva was held on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other mechanisms developed by the UN to make this world a better place. Following are the highlights gathered by Sr. Sheila Kinsey, who was in attendance at the events.

Housing as a Human Right

After the UN Human Rights Council discussion on housing as a human right, reports were made by various countries regarding establishing and improving various housing developments, addressing the implementation of SDG11—"Sustainable cities and communities." This aims to:

- Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable,
- Ensure access for all to adequate, safe, and affordable housing,
- Establish basic services,
- Upgrade slums, and
- Provide universal access to green and public spaces which are safe, inclusive and accessible; especially

for women and children, older persons, and persons with disabilities."

For more information on SDGs, please visit: [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#)

[Right to Food Beyond SDGs](#). Organized by FIAN International, an organization for the right to adequate food and nutrition, this side event focused on making adequate and nutritious food available so that this need is met for all. It was identified that the supply of food is sufficient, with the problem being the distribution and assurance of quality and nutritional value.

Children's Rights and the Environment

Focused on the rights of children to have a healthy environment free of air pollution and contaminated water, this report was given by a Special Rapporteur, John Knox, whose role is to support countries in keeping their human rights promises to children by making laws and working together. These rights are found in the UN Convention on the Rights of the child (UNCRC). An alarming statistic was given that "1.5 million deaths of children under the age of 5 could be stopped by reducing environmental health risks." Having the ability to wash their hands in clean water and drink safe water reduces the chances of getting "stomach bugs." For more information, please visit [UNCRC](#).

Human Rights, SDG and Climate Change

This side event, organized by Franciscans International (FI), addressed work that is very important because of the integral human development which needs to take place. It addresses the concern that countries need to make ALL necessary connections for a sustainable and effective development and not just focus on specific aspects

Meeting with Franciscans International

This meeting was held to discuss work they have been doing with the bishops of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Franciscans International have been very supportive of their efforts and will continue to keep the JPIC Secretariat informed of any ways the UN is striving to support their work in dealing with their constitutional rights for elected leadership and the violence occurring throughout the country.



Mr. Budi Tjahjono, Franciscans International, Asia-Pacific Coordinator and Sr. Sheila Kinsey at the FI event.

UN SESSIONS ON THE DRC

Security Council

The session was anticipated and took place in the evening of March 20. This time, both the Holy See and Franciscans International refrained from comment. Franciscans International hopes that with the support from the Episcopal Conference of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (CENCO), they will be more active during the June and September sessions of the Council. CENCO was invited to the Security Council's March session and delivered a statement there on March 19. To review the session, please visit [UN Security Council Session](#).

Human Rights Council

On March 20, the 47th Meeting of the Regular Session Human Rights Council discussed Human Rights in Democratic Republic of Congo. The discussion can be heard in English and French. To view the session, please visit: [Human Rights Council Session](#). You may find the following three presenters particularly interesting.

- Ms. Leila Zerrougui, Special Representative of UN Secretary General in DRC.
- Mr. Bacre Waly Ndiaye, Team leader of the international team of experts appointed by the UN Human Rights High Commission.
- H.E. Ms. Marie-Ange Mushobekwa, Minister of Human rights Minister of the DRC.

In this discussion, the DRC government was accused of the following: not fulfilling the 1996 Sylvester agreement of 31 December 2016; not conducting free and fair elections; use of violence on peaceful demonstrators, political leaders, and journalists; ban on freedom of speech.

The Human Rights Minister of DRC has stated the ban on peaceful protest is lifted, police and army personnel who exercised violence will be prosecuted, political prisoners are being released, and elections will be conducted on December 23, 2018. The international community has put much pressure on the government of DRC to respect the Constitution and to conduct these elections. Demonstrations are expected to take place with the elections.



Sr. Madiamba Kisita Georgine, OV

DRC SOLIDARITY

We continue to follow with prayer and special interest what is happening in the DRC. Sr. Madiamba Kisita Georgine, OV brought the statue of Our Lady of Help to the Bishops Conference in the DRC where she was told the Our Lady of Help would be leading nonviolent processions in the DRC. Pope Francis blessed this statue for the DRC during the November 23rd prayer service "Building Peace Together." During the round table in January, Bishop Paolo Lojudice of Rome and the people of Rome presented the statue as a sign of commitment of solidarity to be in prayer and action for the DRC.

HONORING SR. ANNE GARDINER, OLSH, SENIOR AUSTRALIAN OF 2017



Sr. Anne Gardiner, OLSH

On International Women's Day, Ms. Melissa Hitchman, Ambassador of the Australian Embassy to the Holy See, hosted the event celebrating Sr. Anne Gardiner, who was awarded Senior Australian of 2017, and her religious community, the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. Participants were treated to a delightful sharing by Sr. Anne who received an award as a community champion. For 62 years she "devoted her life to enriching community, enhancing opportunity, and supporting the Tiwi culture." She has been an advocate of peace and love.

Sr. Anne is a compassionate religious for the people and has learned how to listen to the people so she could nourish and strengthen their lives. Her engaging story-telling was full of rich learning experiences and self-revelation.

She spoke of coming to a deep understanding of herself as she was mentoring women to take positions in the school where she was the principal. When it seemed like the right time, she desired to hand over responsibilities to the Tiwi women who informed her that they "could not be a tall poppy like she was." This alerted Sister Anne and she became aware that she was "trying to make the women similar to herself." This awareness drew her into deeper reflection on the culture and established ways of relating that had to be

respected by these indigenous people whom she dearly loved. And, they love her.

Sr. Anne went on to establish a museum that shares valuable stories and traditional customs which is run by the local women in their own way. It has become one of the most outstanding socio-ethnic institutions in Australia and a financial benefit to the people

Sr. Anne simply shared her wisdom as she gave examples of the need to listen and to know that other people's knowledge and skills are as legitimate and effective as ours. For her, the most important message was that she loved them. Obviously, this message has gotten through to the people of Tiwi.

AEFJN 2018 SEMINAR AND PLAN OF ACTION



Members of the Africa Europe Faith and Justice Network (AEFJN) had their 2018 seminar on March 15, focusing on developing a four-year Plan of Action (PoA) for advocacy and lobbying at the EU. AEFJN is a network of 48 male and female religious congregations advocating and lobbying for economic justice between Europe and Africa, at the European Union headquarters in Brussels.

The process started in October 2017, with a questionnaire sent to member congregations. The questionnaire asked each congregation to identify and suggest, from the experience of their members on the ground in Africa, particular areas for advocacy, while bearing in mind EU's economic policies in the continent. Focus suggestions for advocacy will enable AEFJN's secretariat in Brussels to develop concrete strategies that bring out opaque economic policies which are not in the interest of the poor in Africa. It also empowers the secretariat to advance alternative and people-centered economic policies that will intentionally embrace the poor in Africa. The secretariat collated responses from the questionnaire, from which they produced a draft PoA. Focus areas that emerged from the responses were climate change, extractive minerals and corporate social responsibility, food sovereignty, good governance, migration, and trade.

Chika Onyejiuwa CSSp, the network's executive secretary, presented the draft PoA to the participants, highlighting some contextual changes in the economic rela-

tionship between Europe and Africa. Last year, through the initiative of the government of Germany, the EU proposed a Marshall and compact plan with Africa, which is put forward as a "new partnership for Development, Peace and a better Future" in Africa. Another economic bloc, the BRICS nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa), presents another emerging and interesting economic context in Africa: lobbying the EU involves knowledge of the economic policies of the BRIC nations in Africa. It is also essential to pay attention to the actions of Trans National Companies (TNC) in Africa, some of whom neither follow due process in their business deals nor respect human and environmental rights. Aided by corrupt and rent-seeking African elites, these TNCs continue to impoverish millions in the continent which produces the raw materials that propel global post-modern industrialization. The Executive Secretary emphasized that AEFJN's new PoA should take these and other emerging issues on board in designing efficient and effective strategies for advocacy and lobbying at the EU.

Twenty-two participants representing different male and female religious congregations participated in the seminar. They worked in three language groups on the draft PoA and identified priority areas for the network's advocacy in the next four years. Participants agreed that many of the issues in the PoA are interconnected, since one issue is necessarily linked to others, and effective advocacy on one issue will affect others. Underlying these issues is the question of poor governance and oversight responsibility on the part of governments in Africa, not forgetting the greed and profit-driven business initiatives of TNCs. Given the complexity of the context and the multifaceted nature of the actors, the participants advised the secretariat to focus on one or two areas.

Participants emphasized the need for formation and training on the use of advocacy to advance the mission of member congregations. They also emphasized the need for formation and training in the use of advocacy to advance the mission of member congregations. The suggested establishing more local antennae of member congregations at the grassroots. These antennae will form the bedrock of local AEFJN advocacy while assisting to provide the secretariat with credible information for advocacy at the EU. Member congregations were invited to the antenna meeting in Namur Belgium, from the 11–13 May 2018. The meeting will bring together representatives from different European antennae. Representatives from Africa will join the meeting via skype. Religious congregations who wish to join AEFJN's initiatives are invited to contact François de Paul Hounigue, SMA by [email](mailto:francois.hounigue@aejfjn.org).

For more information, please visit [AEFJN](http://aejfjn.org).—Contributor: Jude Nnorom CSSp, member of the General Council of the Spiritans, with focus on JPIC..

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: THE GLOBAL AGENDA



Presenter, Hno. Álvaro Sepúlveda, FMS.

“Our inability to think seriously about future generations is linked to our inability to broaden the scope of our present interests and to give consideration to those who remain excluded from development.” The decision of doing something against this risk, noted by Pope Francis in *Laudato Si* (N° 162), has guided the reflection of the Spanish and Portuguese JPIC Promoters, with the collaboration of Álvaro Sepúlveda, a Marist, during the formation meeting held March 7 on “Sustainable Development Goals” (SDGs) or the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”

The purpose of the meeting was to realize a first approach to the meaning and content of these goals that lead the global agenda through 2030, including a variety of subjects such as ending poverty, quality education, gender equity, and the life of the earth’s ecosystems.

The SDGs are a follow-up of the Millennium Development Goals (2000-2015), but unlike these, the SDGs are based on the co-responsibility of all the countries, both rich and poor. They seek to improve present living conditions without jeopardizing the human and environmental resources of future generations.

These international agreements often seem too distant for those who live on a day-to-day basis, however, it is important that all of us feel involved and have our voices heard.

For this reason, a simple dynamic was used during the meeting to engage some boys, girls, and teenagers in the discussion. Different groups reflected on questions such as: “Which goal will enable us to reach development with greater speed?” and “Which goal helps us to ensure a life in dignity for all?” Finally, there was discussion on which goals we were motivated to carry forward, and how our congregations could contribute more from their charisms and apostolates.

While the SDGs are not a perfect agenda, and much will likely need to be discussed thereon, they are, however, the best agenda that 194 countries could agree upon for this limited period of time. It is a common ground for dialogue and for agreements between vastly different cultures, religions, and political priorities. The following materials are posted on the [Spanish JPIC website](#): *Objetivos-De Desarrollo Sostenible* (video); *Objetivos De Desarrollo Sostenible* (PPT); *Link O Mundo Que Queremos*—Contributor: Hno Álvaro Sepúlveda, FMS, *Fundación Marista de Solidaridad Internacional (FMSI)*.

USG AT THE 18TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF UCESM



Fr. Felix Mushobozi, CPPS represented the USG at the General Assembly of European Conferences of Superiors General of Religious and Societies of Apostolic life (UCESM), held in the Monastery of the Carmelites of Snagov, Cioflăeni, Romania from March 5-10, 2018. Some 90 delegates from nearly all European Conferences, as well as representatives of UISG, USG and CCEE, gathered under the theme “Widen the space of your tent” (Isaiah 54:2), with the current development being in regard to Migration and Integration both within our religious communities as well as in civil society.

Usually such Assembly gathers the presidents, vice-presidents and secretaries-general of the national Conferences of religious that takes place every two years alternately in a country of Eastern and Western Europe, preferably in a place of pilgrimage (Fatima, Czestochowa, Lourdes, Tirana). UCESM has been set up to allow the European Conferences to meet and exchange their experiences of consecrated life and mission.

Participants from 34 Conferences of 27 countries were challenged on their liability in the issue of the refugees, but also on the internationalization of religious institutes, new evangelization, and the cooperation between them and with the bishops. The speakers addressed the theme from different perspectives.

Fr. Lucian Bobarnac, OFM outlined a Franciscan project for training and supporting Roma people in the north of Romania. Fr. José García SJ spoke about the Jesuit Refugee Service, founded in 1980, that brings aid to migrants by being at their service or simply by being there. Sr. Cécile Renouard, Assumption sister at the head of a research group on ecology at Paris University, linked our life with *Laudato Si*. All speakers underlined that the cry of the poor and the cry of the earth are not separated from each other. Sr. Adina Balan, CJ of Romania, member of RENATE (European network of religious against trafficking), told a story about the especially horrible situations of women and children who are victims of trafficking. Fr. Alois of Taizé developed the theme of integration in ecumenism.

From Rome, Archbishop José Carballo, Secretary of the CICLSAL, joined the participants and enthusiastically made a lengthy presentation about the importance of religious life in Europe, based on the document issued by the Dicastery for consecrated life entitled “For the New Wine in the New Wineskin,” which are guidelines for the administration of property recently translated into several languages. The delegation from UISG, Sr. Carmen Sammut, MSOLA and Sr. Patricia Murray, IBVM spoke of the Survey done among women religious to find out how they are engaged in Migration around the world, the establishment of the Migration Desk at UISG to respond to the needs of Sisters engaged at the service of the Migrant and Sicily Project. As a delegate from USG Fr. Felix Mushobozi, spoke about the Fratelli Project in Lebanon which is a joint venture of the De La Salle Brothers and Marist Brothers. He also spoke about the Semi autonomy Project of welcoming Migrants by Religious congregations in Rome.

The richness of religious life in Europe revealed itself by its opening to different cultures, each with its own directions. The purpose of UCESM is to exist. It facilitates meetings between the Conferences in Europe, and can, if the desire arises, form working groups of national Conferences and address issues that are important to all. UCESM has a small office in Brussels with Dutch Sr. Marjolein Bruinen, Dominican Sisters of Bethany, as Secretary General and Mrs. Nicole Jacqué as Executive Secretary. Registered members are 39 Conferences from 28 countries, representing about 230,000 religious.

On the last day, the election of the new president took place. The Marist Fr. Zsolt Labancz (43), President of the Hungarian Conference, will bring to end the mandate of Fr. Giovanni Peragine, who was appointed Bishop in Southern Albania last August. Sr. Danièle Faltz, dc, of Luxembourg remains Vice-President. The next will be new elections in 2020.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS 2018



On March 24, over 300 persons gathered for the Stations of the Cross at Castel Sant'Angelo. The theme for our prayer was “Migrants and Refugees, Men

and Women in Search of Peace,” from Pope Francis’ World Day of Peace message. Originally, the route was planned along the Tiber River, symbolizing that many persons in migration had died in the water crossing to another country. This route became impossible due to water covering parts of the pathway of the Tiber river and the alternative route along the river being denied police security due to the perception that our procession would be considered as a demonstration in support of migration; an issue that has become politically divisive in Italy during the campaign political elections. Instead we were urged to take our Stations of the Cross to the nearby park around Castel Sant'Angelo, which we did.



With the help of our imagination and the pictures of the designated stations along the Tiber we were enabled to prayerfully remember everyone involved in the ministry of migration. Each station highlighted the dire situations in need of justice, racism and prejudice, deaths, searching for safety, unaccompanied minors, and human trafficking. We also honored their movement toward liberty; humanitarian assistance, welcome, protection, care, and their hope of resurrection to new life.

After this heartfelt experience, we journeyed to Santa Maria della Luce Church in the Trastevere for an enthusiastic Eucharistic celebration and a memorial honoring Bl. Oscar Romero in the Mass for Palm Sunday. The main celebrant was Fr. Fabio Baggio, CS from the section on Migrants and Refugees in the Dicastery of





Integral Human Development. The celebration was enriched by songs and symbols from the Latin American community whose chaplaincy of the Scalabrini takes care of the pastoral and spiritual needs of migrants and refugees.

To help you participate in the spirit of the event, visit [JPIC Roma- Stations of the Cross](#) to access the text of the stations and [pictures](#) from the event.

BUILDING THE REIGN OF GOD THROUGH CONTEMPLATION IN ACTION



In the past few months, JPIC Promoters have been considering the connection between contemplation and action in our justice, peace and integrity of creation efforts. Our working definition has been “JPIC is the conscious prayer and action to transform the world in the spirit of the Gospel through lives of justice, peace and care for the integrity of creation.”

The engagement in JPIC concerns is characterized by SEE, JUDGE and ACT, an established methodology promoted for JPIC efforts. We are challenged to see with the eyes of God, to judge reality with the compassion of God and to act with the presence of God.

Through contemplation, we take the time to reflect more deeply on the issues which we are to address and the relationships we are to develop. We strive to deepen our consciousness of who we are in relationship with God, others, and all of creation.

In contemplation, we turn towards Christ as he accompanies us on our journey to explore our own motivations and desires in areas needing social change. By knowing ourselves, we are better able to organize and network with others so that our strengths are integrated in faith-filled efforts to build the reign of God as we care for all of creation.

“The ideal is not only to pass from the exterior to the interior to discover the action of God in the soul, but also to discover God in all things.” (LS 233)

We create space to hold the conflict in a special powerful way and to ponder the many facets of the conflict that require action. By contemplating and studying the interconnecting systems that keep a conflict alive, we can direct our attention and action in specific ways towards building the reign of God.

When our rootedness in God through contemplation goes deep enough and our understanding of reality is clear enough, contemplation expands into a prophetic attitude. The prophet is one “whose eye is opened, and who hears and speaks the words of God; [...] a person of three times: the promise of the past, the contemplation of the present, the courage to point out the path toward the future.” (41) REJOICE! (A letter to consecrated men and women. A message from the teachings of Pope Francis)

Our Blessed Mother provides us with an example of how this is done. After the annunciation and Mary’s acceptance of God’s request, she went immediately to be with Elizabeth. The presence of God within her was honored by both Elizabeth and John the Baptist. Mary’s song of praise for the work of God in her was the Magnificat. (Lk 1:46-50) she continued to ponder many experiences in her heart.

Scripture tells us that she continued to ponder many experiences in her heart. Pope Francis provides us with this insight today: “Mary is able to recognize the traces of God’s Spirit in events great and small. She constantly contemplates the mystery of God in our world, in human history and in our daily lives. She is the woman of prayer and work in Nazareth, and she is also Our Lady of Help, who sets out from her town “with haste” (Lk 1:39) to be of service to others. This interplay of justice and tenderness, of contemplation and concern for others, is what makes the ecclesial community look to Mary as a model of evangelization.” (EG 288)

Andreas Göpfert, M.Afr and Anne McCabe, SM are developing materials that integrate contemplation and action which will be posted on the website. Their first resource is the story of the [Good Samaritan](#). Also, the [prayers at San Marcello](#), prepared by the Spanish and Portuguese group highlight this integration, in the spirit of their formation sessions held each month. Our annual [Stations of the Cross](#) is another example of contemplation in action.

APRIL INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS

1 April—Easter Message of Pope Francis of joy and hope in the Resurrection of Jesus.

April—For Those who have Responsibility in Economic Matters. That economists may have the courage to reject any economy of exclusion and know how to open new paths. The [video](#) becomes available the first Friday of the month.

[Responsibility in Economic Matters](#)

INTERNATIONAL DAYS OF OBSERVANCE IN APRIL

4 April—[International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action](#) (A/RES/60/97). Mine Action Day calls for continued efforts by States, with the assistance of the UN and relevant organizations, to ensure that landmines and explosive hazards in war torn countries are found and destroyed. Mines pose a serious threat to the safety, health and lives of citizens in those areas.

6 April—[International Day of Sport for Development and Peace](#) (A/RES/67/296). Sport for Development and Peace signifies the positive influence that sport can have on the advancement of human rights, and social and economic development.

7 April—[World Health Day](#) [WHO] (WHA/A.2/Res.35). World Health Day will focus on establishing and scaling up mental Health Services.

22 April—[International Mother Earth Day](#) (A/RES/63/278). Mother Earth Day stresses the interdependence of all of creation. JPIC is preparing a PowerPoint presentation for Earth Day, 2018 which includes education about climate change and plastics pollution, church teaching and prayers, and suggested action for individuals and communities. A Mass will be celebrated 10 am in Rome with Fr. Vincent Anes, cmf, a JPIC Promoter. More information will be forthcoming.

Many resources are available on the [JPIC website](#).

[Click here for a listing of the international days for the year.](#)

JPIC PROMOTERS MEETINGS IN APRIL

9 April—English Speaking CORE Group, 3 pm to 5 pm at the Fratelli.

10 April—Anti-trafficking Working Group, 3 pm to 5 pm at the Fratelli.

11 April—Spanish and Portuguese Speaking Promoters Meeting “JPIC, Nonviolence and New Generations” 9 am to 12 pm at UISG.

11 April—Integrity of Creation Working Group (ICWG), 3 pm to 5 pm at the Fratelli. At 4 pm there will be a skype call with the UN Mining Group in New York. Other JPIC Promoters are invited to participate.

12 April—Meeting at 11 am with Fr. Lambert Tonamou from the section on Refugees and Migrants of the Dicastery of Integral Human Development. Fr. Tonamou is also the coordinator of an African region.

13 April—Africa Working group, 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm at the Missionaries of Africa.

18 April—English Speaking Seminar, 9 am to 1pm in the Sala Giovanni Paolo II, at the Fratelli delle Scuole Christiane Via Aurelia, 476, Room. The meeting, hosted by the Anti-Trafficking Working Group, will explore the theme “Consumerism: A Push Factor in Human Trafficking” The seminar will discuss Church Teachings against consumerism, the supply and demand cycle, sexual exploitation, forced labor, and the response of governments. More information will be forthcoming.

23 April—ICR at FAO, 3 pm to 5pm at the Passionists.

26 April—Collaboration Working Group, 3 pm to 5pm at UISG.

27 April—Prayer “Nonviolence and New Generations,” 7 pm to 8 pm at San Marcello.

SAVE THE DATES

14-17 November—JPIC Promoters Formation Workshop with the theme “Building Right Relationships,” located at Casa per Ferie Enrico De Osso, Via Val Cannuta 134 Roma. This 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 click here.](#)