EDITORIAL: September is the month in which JPIC Roma resumes activities after the summer holidays. Let us begin with enthusiasm with passion for God, passion for and compassion with our sisters and brothers, and passion for the care of the earth, our common home. In this issue, we focus on Networking, featuring the events that took place from July to September.

During the Season of Creation, “We wish to offer thanks to the loving Creator for the noble gift of creation and to pledge commitment to its care and preservation for the sake of future generations...We urgently appeal to those in positions of social and economic, as well as political and cultural, responsibility to hear the cry of the earth and to attend to the needs of the marginalized, but above all to respond to the plea of millions and support the consensus of the world for the healing of our wounded creation”. (From the Joint Statement of Pope Francis and Patriarch Bartholomew, September 1, 2017).

SPIRITUALITY AND SUSTAINABILITY IN ASSISI

In July, the JPIC Secretariat was invited to a visionary conference in Assisi with representatives from a range of ecological-spiritual perspectives, centers and movements. The spirit of the indigenous people inspired a prayer, expressing gratitude for the many gifts of nature and asking for forgiveness for the ways we mistreated the environment.

Participants spoke of many experiences of transformative global change, rooted in spirituality and sustainability. The Earth Charter was a foundational document in the discussions. Other connections were made to the moral voice of Laudato Si, where Pope Francis quotes the Charter, promotes the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s) and encourages collaborative efforts. In addition, other influential leaders were recognized: Thomas Berry, SJ who had heralded the call to take seriously our responsibility for our creation with The Great Work: Our Way into the Future and the proposed ethics of care by Leonardo Boff.

Joe Holland, known to social justice promoters and author of Social Analysis: Linking Faith and Justice stressed the importance of community in involving everyone in care for the earth. He emphasized the need to go beyond efficiency to the spirituality representative of the values of many wholesome religious perspectives. Within this context, the group faced the serious challenge of how to discuss well-being that goes beyond the acquiring of more. There have been some efforts to address this sense with the SDGs.

A presentation by Fr. John Rausch of the Glenmary Home Missioners was particularly interesting as he described a pilgrimage experience through the coal mining areas of Appalachia in the US where he has ministered for many years. Fr. Rausch has developed a series of rituals and prayers which are used at various sites, honoring the life of the people by reflecting on the suffering caused by a destruction in the environment and the faith-filled courage it takes to live there.

The mayor of Assisi, Stefania Proietti, visited our meeting three times, offering her encouragement and acknowledging that Assisi must take a leadership role in the care for the environment because of the heritage of St. Francis in the city.

Many key recommendations resulted from the gathering. The JPIC Secretariat is involved with the initiative entitled “Religious/Faith Communities Response to Climate Change.” This would entail networking with various locations around the world impacted by or contributing to climate change. Such a multi-faith dimension complements the work of the Secretariat with the Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM).

Materials are available in English and Spanish.
On July fourth, the Di-\n\cstasy for Promoting \n\ntegral Human Develop-\n\mment hosted a conference \n\n“Oceans: Caring for a \n\nCommon Heritage.” The \n\nevent was sponsored in \n\ncollaboration with the Em-\n\bbassies of France, Monaco \n\nand the Netherlands to the \n\nHoly See. Prince Jamie de \n\nBourbon de Parme of the \n\nNetherlands, the facilitator, \n\nbegan the session stating that although the forests are \n\nthe first lung, the oceans are the second lung for our \n\nlives, but the icebergs are melting, water is being con-\n\ntaminated and plastic soup is being created. \n\nDuring the conference, many cases exemplified ade-\n\quate tools to address the concerns about the ocean, \n\nbut there needs to be a will to act. Stress was on the \n\nimportance of actualizing Sustainable Development \n\nGoal (SDG) 14: Conserve and sustainably use the \n\noceans, seas and marine resources. \n\nAmbassador Antonius Agus Sriyono of Indonesia, \n\nspoke passionately about living in a country of over \n\n13,000 islands. The Indonesian economy depends on \n\nthe oceans. Fishing has been a sustainable source of \n\neconomic growth, but is subject to illegal practices and \n\nover exploitation. The seas, also rich in oil, gas and \n\nbio-diversity, are areas of conflict and challenge efforts \n\nto safeguard the ocean. \n\nSpeaking within the context of Laudato Si, Cardinal \n\nTurkson cited the need to extend our care to migrants. \n\nHe also emphasized the oceans as a heritage of the past \n\nand of the future. The seas serve as a principle of unity \n\nfor humankind as they link our countries. \n\nPresident Peter Thomson of the UN Assembly thanked \n\nPope Francis for his moral authority and global appeal \n\nto promote the cause of the oceans through Laudato Si. \n\nHe stated that we have solutions to the ocean’s prob-\n\nlems, but what is essential is the concerted action by \n\nhumanity to achieve them. He spoke of engaging chief \n\nscientists in the analysis of the pollution and the neces-\n\nsary solutions in the traffic on the ocean, for example, \n\nwhere more than 80% of the trade is happening, with \n\n17% of the biggest cargo ships producing as much pol-\n\nlution as all of the cars in the world. \n\nHe reaffirmed his conviction by quoting Pope Francis in \n\nLaudato Si, “we know that things can change.” He also \n\ngifted Cardinal Turkson with a copy of the Earth \n\nCharter, which was cited in Laudato Si. For more infor-\n\nmation, visit http://www.un.org/pga/71/2017/07/04/oceans-caring-for-a-common-heritage-conference/. \n
In closing remarks, Archbishop Tomasi called on the \n
participants of the meeting to collaborate in our re-\n\nresponse to collect the waste, to connect with one anoth-\n\ner and to commit a contribution to this effort. \n
In response to this call, there are some areas to consid-\n\er. A clean up the ocean initiative is being undertaken \n\nby a group from the Netherlands. So far there has been \nicreducible results. It is estimated that in five years these \ntechnologies will clean-up 50% of the Great Pacific \nGarbage Patch. The Netherlands has plans to make use of \n\nthe recycled plastic waste from the ocean. \n
Other initiatives from the Netherlands include the \n\ncreative genius of making boats from plastics as well as \n\npaving their roads. \n
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN WEST PAPUA \n
Thirteen religious men and women, representing sev-\n\nen religious congregations which are mostly present \n\nin West Papua, gathered on July 10 at the Generalate \n\nof the Augustinians in Rome to discuss collaboration \n\nfor the promotion of human rights in that part of the \n\nworld. \n
The indigenous population has been suffering human \n\nrights violations in the areas of freedom of expression \n\nand freedom of assembly. They have low standards of \n\nhealth and education, and experience economic mar-\n\nginalization and land grabbing. There is military op-\n\npression in the form of torture and killings. A West Papuan religious who is an expert in the de-\n\ndefense of human rights of people there on an interna-\n\ntional level shared her experience with the participants. Sr. Sheila Kinsey, executive co-secretary of the JPIC \n\nCommission of USG/UISG, who joined the meeting, \n\nexpressed the importance of networking. After hear-\n\ning from these perspectives, the participants shared \n\ntheir thoughts about the need to be proactive as reli-\n\ngious congregations. The meeting acknowledged that \n\nthe history of West Papua and its current situation \n\nis quite complicated and sensitive, but the desire of \n\nthe congregations is very simple—to accompany the \n\nindigenous West Papuan people in the promotion \n\nof human rights. The congregations have decided to \n\nform a network in Rome to share information, to im-
prove networks and relationships in West Papua, particularly in health and education ministries, to raise awareness and train their members, and to network with religious NGOs. — Contributed by Daisuke Narui, SVD, JPIC International Coordinator

For 12 days, from July 17 to 28, 23 JPIC promoters from Mali, Burkina Faso, Benin, Togo, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Liberia and Benin answered positively to the JPIC Capacity Building Session, organized by the African Working Group. They gathered in the town called Calavi, 20 kms. from Cotonou in the Republic of Benin.

The Vice President of the Conference of the Major Superiors of Benin, Sister Monique Oni, gave the opening speech after Fr. Francois de Paul welcomed all the participants. Since participants came from various backgrounds, it was necessary to have a group dynamics and teamwork session first. Every day, various presenters and experts came to give their session.

With Fr. Goudjo, an expert in Social Teaching of the Church and rector of one of the major seminaries in Benin, participants experienced a good doctrinal foundation. The Social Teaching of the Church, said Fr. Goudjo, is at the service of Integral Human Development, and invites us to an evangelical promotion of the Common Good. He took time to explain the principles of solidarity and subsidiarity and then went on to explain how the Africae Munus, Laudato Si and Evangelii Gaudium, challenged us today to reconsider our idea and attitude toward the Common Good. These documents call us to reflect more on our encounter with Christ with whom we integrate our human development with one another.

After this doctrinal foundation, Mr. Gino Brunswijck, one of the secretaries of Africa Europe Faith and Justice Network (AEFJN in Brussels, explained the social analysis based on the See Judge and Act method. He used a local NGO called ‘Synergie Paysanne’, with whom he had provided tools for a good and solid advocacy, to raise an awareness on land grabbing, agriculture and integrity of creation. Another NGO that promotes agro-ecology was also invited to show the participants the link between agriculture and ecology, feeding and illnesses.

Mr. Michel Savadogo, the executive director of REST-COR (Shalom Network of Transformation of Conflict and Reconciliation) based in Abidjan RCI, shared the skills to build peace and to transform conflict with the nonviolent method. He emphasized, there is no integral development without peace.

The second week began with a visit to the museum of Ouidah and the meditative journey of the slave path that leads us to the ‘door of no return’ and we were able to come back through ‘the door of life’, the path of the first missionaries, the Society of African Mission (SMA) in Benin.

Some other speakers for the sessions continued to develop the theme:

- Mr. Julien and Mr. Fidèle, on Human Rights and the Political Commitment.
- Mrs. Diane, Egue made us aware of the evils that threaten the environment, in order to plan concrete actions to safeguard it.
- The reflection continued with Fr. Colbert on Laudato Si on the call for the coherence of an integral ecology that invites us to adopt an attitude, a lifestyle and a spirituality that protects our common home.
- We went to the diocese in Porto-Novo, to drink at the source of Songhai Center where participants saw Laudato Si in practice. Songhai Center is an ecological project that promotes the development of Africa through agricultural projects, and recycling initiatives.
- Br. Auguste, a Franciscan friar, followed by Mr. Sotome Félicien, dealt with the phenomenon of ‘wizard children’ (children with malformation or born in an abnormal way) who are accused to be a wizard and, therefore, must be eliminated.
- With Fr. François de Paul, SMA, participants learned about the role of a JPIC promoter in his or her congregation, in their country. He underlined that the activities of a JPIC promoter are transversal and permeates all activities of a pastoral agent. He went on to stress the urgency of promoters at all levels to be organized in networks. AEFJN and Vivat International are tools at their disposal.

Francois de Paul Hountgue, SMA and Michel Savadogo SMA, were facilitators of the session. For more information on Songhai, visit http://www.songhai.org/index.php/en/home-en.
HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT

Improved livelihoods are clear indications of a transformed Self, Family, Community and Society. The Catholic Social Teaching, the UN-SDGs and other teachings rightly point to holistic development as a vision, a goal and a mission to be achieved by all through the spirit of solidarity. What then can impel us towards realizing holistic development? In my opinion, two words answer this question—passion and training.

All change agents, especially religious and church ministers with a prophetic call and passion for humanity, have a duty and a responsibility of immersing themselves into the hard realities of the ‘sheep’ for real seeing and understanding of their situation, behavior and attitudes which are dehumanizing. Through training, capacity building, workshops and seminars, in small but practical ways and together with the ‘sheep’, we can create alternatives that are humanizing and liberating, thus contributing to the realization of holistic development through Training for Transformation.—Contributed by Benard Isanda, CMM, Congregational JPIC Coordinator in Kenya

UPDATE ON SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS, TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS AND CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY

A report from the fifth thematic consultation on the global compact on migration held at the United Nations Headquarters, Vienna, Austria, September 4-5, 2017

Discussions on a Global compact on Migration are being held in various locations (New York, Geneva, Vienna, Mexico). The purpose of these informal thematic discussions is to identify the actions that are essential to the type of refugee response directed at improving the way in which the international community responds to large movements of refugees and migrants as well as to protracted refugee situations.

Approximately 500 people attended the session in Vienna, mostly representatives from UN Member States with several representatives from NGOs and religious congregations. Each of the three main sessions began with input from a panel of three experts. Their role was to provide relevant facts and figures related to the issues to be discussed, to highlight gaps in policy and implementation and to identify priorities for action. At the end of the panel discussion, speakers from the floor could present three-minute interventions. They were encouraged to provide examples of good practices and to present commitments which will inform the ‘global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration’.

Several members of religious congregations contributed important interventions during the session with the NGOs. They spoke from their practical experience at the grassroots amongst vulnerable migrant groups and urged the moderators to take their concerns and suggestions into account for the global compact. During the two days, the issues that were most frequently addressed were the following:

- the need to address the root causes of migration
- the need to strengthen protection measures for children and unaccompanied minors, especially through birth registration and protection of traditional cultural practices
- the need to address the gender perspective because of the high degree of exploitation of women in migration
- concerns about education for young people
- improvement of data collection in the identification, protection and assistance to migrants and trafficking victims
- more inclusive, holistic and multidisciplinary approaches to trafficking in humans
- commitment to the rule of law which is already enshrined in current treaties and protocols

Contributed by Anne Corry, RSCJ, Congregational JPIC Coordinator
JPIC PROMOTERS CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF CREATION

JPIC Promoters celebrated of the Season of Creation on September 20 in the Park at Castel Sant’ Angelo. Standing before the magnificent statue of St. Catherine of Siena at the corner of the Park, the participants reflected as to how Catherine could do what she did? How could a young illiterate woman, in Medieval Italy, become a doctor of the Church, turn the world on its axis and become a great spiritual teacher of the faith and counselor of leaders of the Church, pope and princes? The answer, of course, to Catherine was that she, and we, are loved infinitely by Christ.

Following this prayer, the group moved inside the Park and there, after introducing themselves, prayed a “Prayer for our Earth” as taken from Laudato Si’ and a “Psalm of Praise”. Then came a time for reflection as the individuals moved around the Park at their own pace reflecting on sections taken from the joint message of Pope Francis and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew released on the World Day of Prayer for Creation. Gathering once again to share their reflections and intercessory prayers, the time concluded with a “Franciscan Prayer of Blessing”.

VIA PACIS MARATHON FOR SOLIDARITY WITH SOUTH SUDAN

On Sunday September 17, the JPIC office participated at the Half Marathon co-organized by the Pontifical Council for culture, Solidarity with South Sudan, Jesuit Refugees Service in collaboration with the City of Rome and the Federation of Athletics. Some church and Rome city authorities were present at the event among them the Mayor of the City of Rome, Mrs. Regina Raggi, and the Undersecretary for the Pontifical Council of Culture, Msgr. Melchor Sanchez de Toca Almeida. The marathon was held to promote the values of peace, integration, inclusion and solidarity. Among the six thousand participants there were also priests, nuns and groups of families and people of all ages. Felix Mushobozi co-secretary of the JPIC Secretariat was among the non-competitive five kilometers marathon runners, which was held to support of the Teachers Training Center in Yambio, South Sudan.

Congratulations, Fr. Felix, CPPS, for making it to the finish line!

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THE SEASON OF CREATION
Care for Our Common Home
September 1 - October 4, 2017

DIVESTMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS
on October 4 regarding fossil fuel by Catholic Institutions
https://catholicclimatemovement.global
**OCTOBER INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS**

For workers and unemployed: That all workers may receive respect and protection of their rights, and that the unemployed may receive the opportunity to contribute to the common good. Pope’s video message is due on the first Friday of the month.

**INTERNATIONAL DAYS OF OBSERVANCE**

2 October: International Day of Nonviolence marks the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of nonviolence. The UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/61/271 established the International Day to “disseminate the message of nonviolence, included through education and public awareness”.

11 October: International Day of the Girl Child. The theme is “Girl’s progress is Goals’ progress”. Highlights the preponderance of disadvantage and discrimination borne by girls everywhere on a daily basis. (A/RES/66/170).

13 October: International Day for Disaster Reduction. Celebrates how people and communities around the world are reducing their exposure to disasters and raising awareness about the importance of reining in the risks that they face. (A/RES/64/200)

15 October: International Day of Rural Women recognizes “the critical role and contribution of rural women, including indigenous women, in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty.” (A/RES/62/136)


17 October: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. The theme for this year’s commemoration reminds us of the importance of the values of dignity, solidarity and voice underscored in the Call to Action to fight to end poverty everywhere. These values are also evident in the United Nations’ Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development Goals. (A/RES/47/196)

24 October: United Nations Day. United Nations Day 2017 marks the 72nd anniversary of the UN Charter’s entry into force, and celebrates everything that the UN represents and has achieved since its establishment in 1945. (A/RES/168 II: A/RES/2782, XXVI)


**JPIC PROMOTERS MEETINGS IN OCTOBER**

2 October: Core Group meeting, 3pm-5pm at the Fratelli

4 October: Spanish/Portuguese Promoters meeting, 9 am-12 pm at UISG

4 October: Integrity of Creation WG, 3pm-5pm at the Fratelli

10 October: Anti-Trafficking WG, 3pm-5pm at the Fratelli

18 October: English JPIC Promoters Meeting, 9 am-12 pm at UISG hosted by the Refugees and Migrants WG

19 October: Refugees and Migrants WG, 3pm-5pm at the Fratelli

23 October: Africa WG, 3:30 pm-5:30pm at the Missionaries of Africa

24 October: ICR at FAO WG, 3pm-5 pm at the ICR Office, Passionists

26 October: Collaboration WG, 3pm-5pm at UISG

**SAVE THE DATES**

15-18 November—JPIC Promoters Formation Workshop with the theme “Nonviolence: a Style of Politics for Peace”. At Casa per Ferie Enrico De Osso, Via Val Cannuta 134 Roma. The 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 go to [http://www.jpicroma.org/jpic-promoters-workshop](http://www.jpicroma.org/jpic-promoters-workshop).

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