



NEWSBRIEF

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

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EDITORIAL: The month of May is marked by the Easter season and the devotion to the Mother of the Church, both of which remind us that true hope lies in the Risen Lord. In this Newsbrief, we gather stories of activities by JPIC groups trying to make that hope concrete. "Only in charity, illumined by the light of reason and faith, is it possible to pursue development goals that possess a more humane and humanizing value." The sharing of goods and resources, from which authentic development proceeds, is not guaranteed by merely technical progress and relationships of utility, but by the potential of love that overcomes evil with good (cf. Rom 12:21). (Benedict XVI, Caritas in Veritatis # 9). Mary, Star of the Evangelization, pray for us!

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

PRAYING FOR PEACE IN SOUTH SUDAN



Procession at the Peace in South Sudan prayer service.

A prayer service at San Marcello in April petitioned for "Peace in South Sudan." Attendees were deeply moved by slides that depicted the devastated land dotted with famished families as well as a testimony from Fr. Alex Lodiong that revealed the fierce need for life giving assistance. Ambassador Sally Axworthy, from the Embassy of the United Kingdom to the Holy See, shared a statement from the South Sudan Council of Churches of which the UK is a supporting member. An encouraging reflection from Matthew 28 and intercessory prayer to Saint Bakhita, patron saint of South Sudan, reminded the assembly of the ability for hope to motivate positive change. All joined in the Our Father and lit candles as a remembrance of the power of the light of the Lord's presence. This reflection left the question for all to answer, "Who will speak if you don't?" We are grateful for the collaborative effort of the Spanish and Portuguese JPIC Promoters and the Staff of the South Sudan Project for preparing this prayer. Please use the hashtag, #southsudanwecare, and visit <http://www.solidarityssudan.org> for more information.

SIGNIFICANT EXPERIENCES OF EDUCATION FOR PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE



Sr. Rosa Maria Ramos, ODN.

At the Spanish/Portuguese JPIC Promoters Meeting, participants focused on two carefully planned educational experiences that promote nonviolence and peace education to school children.

For the first presentation, Sr. Rosa Ramos, from the "Company of Mary," shared about education for peace in one of the Colleges of her Congregation, in La Coruña, Andalusia, Spain. In the school, they prepared a special day on January 30, joined to the campaign of "United Hands" ("Manos Unidas") for the fight against hunger, through a solidarity "rice dish." The motto was "with our arms we build a world in peace." There were many objectives of this experience: to educate for harmony, universal love, nonviolence, and peace. The whole school participated with its teachers and students. The event included a march to the town square and there with dance and music the celebration was concluded. Sister Rosa Maria presented an interesting [video](#) about all the educational activities for peace and nonviolence held at the school.

The second experience, presented by Sr. Maria Martinez Bècares of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Gerona, ctivity, was an activity at the elementary school of the Sisters in Porcuna, Andalucia, Spain. Her founder, Sr. Maria Gaitivi, was called the “Sower of Peace.” The theme of the activity was: [“Project: School Space of Peace.”](#) which starts with a diagnosis of the situation surrounding the school of “Santa Teresa,” always following the motto of the foundress Mother Maria Gay Tibau “SOWING PEACE IN THE HEARTS.” They propose to train people in peace and in ways to improve coexistence, mutual respect, and thus promote the Culture of Peace.—Contributor: Juan Carrasquilla Ossa, SDS, International JPIC Coordinator

LIVING AND PROMOTING JUST RELATIONSHIPS WITH ONESELF, OTHERS AND GOD

Francisco O’Conaire, OFM led a seminar, April 28-30, with JPIC promoters from 15 congregations with the goal of facilitating the incorporation of JPIC values into the mission of Consecrated Life at the national level. By living the Gospel and advancing the Kingdom of God, promoters are able to strengthen their capacity for JPIC action.

The sessions integrated the message of [Laudato Si](#) while highlighting the importance of using “see, judge, act methodology” as an integral social analysis. An example of the disastrous effects of mining and violation of human rights exemplified the necessity of collaboration in problem solving. In the spirit of the sessions, promoters committed to organizing JPIC workshops in their own countries to encourage the inception of

national inter-congregational JPIC Commissions. They have been given all the materials that would be needed for future workshops. Taking these messages to heart, the participants will meet again on June 14th to review their plans and continue to push forth the message of collaboration in search of relationship and peace that stems from the heart.

We are grateful to Fr. Francisco for a powerful workshop. His passion for Justice, Peace, and care for the Integrity of Creation was evident in his presentation and his examples profound from his own experience.

CONCEPT OF INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Professor Paolo Carozza, Professor at the University of Notre Dame and Faculty Fellow at the [Kroc](#) Institute for International Peace Studies, engaged a dialogue concerning integral human development and See, Judge, Act Methodology. He referenced important foundational documents ([Populorum Progressio](#), [Sollicitudo Rei Socialis](#), and [Caritas in Veritate](#)) and highlighted the focus of integral development on the well-being of the human person. Today, the writings of Pope Francis continue to enhance this critical process.

Professor Carozza told the powerful story of a Ugandan woman who grew up in the slums but worked hard to earn a nursing degree. Being HIV positive and having made a life for herself, she created a house with excellent medical service to serve other HIV positive women. Despite her efforts, the women in her home were dying. How could this be so? Unfortunately, they had stopped taking their medicine because they felt their lives had no purpose and that they had no reason to live.



JPIC Promoters participating at the workshop on Living and Promoting Just Relationships With Oneself, Others and God.



Professor Paolo Carozza at the far right with some JPIC Promoters.

However, after learning the importance of caring for themselves, their children, and other people, these women became empowered and felt meaningfulness in their lives. After establishing two schools in their area, their children are now receiving the highest test scores in Kampala. The women were also capable of giving back to the community, as witnessed by their labor in a rock quarry which enabled them to make a \$2000 donation to the United States after Hurricane Katrina.

This anecdote and others illustrates the fruitfulness of establishing relationships between groups and persons of differing strengths and working toward a common goal. Professor Carozza shared a study that revealed the greater intervention success found through mentors, rather than simply funding or training. He encouraged promoters to be attentive to the interconnectedness and integrity of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), integrate spirituality, and consider the value of the human person in the context of family and solidarity.

Integral Human Development booklets are available online in [English](#), [Spanish](#), and [French](#).

THE DICASTERY FOR PROMOTING INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Since the publication of *Motu proprio* and its [statutes](#) in 2016, women and men religious have had a strong desire to better understand its message. In a session on May 8, as part of the interactive dialogue arranged by the JPIC Secretariat, Dott. Flaminia Giovanelli (Undersecretary of the Dicastery) stated that, “the establishment of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development is indicative of the continuous commitment of the Church towards the poor.” Her statement highlights the relevance of this document for the mission of JPIC and its partners.

In the last two centuries, encyclicals such as [Rerum](#)

[Novarum](#), [Populorum Progressio](#), and [Pastor Bonus](#), as well as the establishment of the Pontifical Commission for Justice and Peace, have contributed to the Church’s concern for the sick, the hungry, and the poor. The Dicastery is not only inspired by these efforts, but is rooted in Vatican Council II, which strove to “arouse the Catholic community to promote the progress of areas which are in want, and foster social justice between nations.” (GS 90)

Pope Francis created the Dicastery to facilitate the combination of four Pontifical Councils: Justice and Peace, Cor Unum, Pastoral Care for Migrants and Itinerant People, and Health Care Workers. Cardinal Peter Turkson, who formerly headed the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, has been nominated the Prefect of the Dicastery and the section for the care of refugees and migrants (Statute 1.4) which is directly under the guidance of the Pope himself.

The JPIC session began with a blessing [prayer](#) for the Dicastery written by Sr. Joanne Bednar, SCC and was followed by a summary of the Dicastery’s main points by Dott. Giovanelli. The Dicastery develops the Social Teachings of the Church, promotes the spirit of the Gospel within social, economic and political relations, and evaluates information gathered from social issues, such as work with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It also updates Episcopal Conferences by appropriate assistance to churches that care for needy populations and by coordinating initiatives of Catholic Institutions to address urgent needs and provide disaster relief services.

The Dicastery establishes necessary relationships with civil society, governmental institutions, international organizations/agencies such as [ILO](#) and [WHO](#), and ecumenical and interreligious organizations, while working internally with the Roman curia and the pontifical council.



Sr. Maria Martinez Bècares, SJG Juan Carrasquilla Ossa, SDS and Dott. Flaminia Giovannelli.

While still in the making, the Dicastery is large with 60 staff to date.—*Contributor: Vincent Anesthasiar cmf, Curia Generalizia*

Dicastery PowerPoint available in English and Spanish at www.jpicroma.org.

Holy See Note on 2030 Agenda for SDGs: [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

SEQUEL TO WORKSHOP IN EASTERN DRC



Floride Mukabideri, a Teresian Carmenlite Missionary, is General Counselor of a participant in the DRC Project.

A follow-up report on the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Project, “A Pastoral, Compassionate and Spiritual Response to the Challenges of Victims Suffering from Sexual Abuse” was held in Rome on Friday, May 12, with a feedback session presented by Sheila Kinsey, FCJM. The leadership of congregations whose community members participated in the DRC Project attended the meeting.

At the opening of the workshop, the Bishop from Eastern

DRC urged the participants to “Go home changed!” In a spirit of trust and companionship, 38 religious sisters and priests participated in reflection, a search for self-awareness, and the discussion of burning issues including rape, trauma, HIV/AIDs, kidnapping, child soldiering, and sexual abuse in the church.

Participants also addressed building relationships with religious leaders, combating violence, and cultivating sensitivity to the needs of vulnerable persons. Each participant signed up to work on a particular issue moving forward.

The presentation on suffering was found particularly helpful as it illustrated God’s consistent strength and merciful love in the accompaniment of victims even through their terrible suffering and pain.

Commentary on JPIC programs in the diocese, include conflict resolution, human rights education, mining awareness, and information about land-grabbing, was followed by messages from legal experts, testimonies, and strategies for integration of new ideas. The professional training on the protocol was conducted by lawyers from the UK. Participants were inspired at its closing by the image of a hummingbird that was determined to put out a fire with single drops of water from its beak. When questioned about the value of his activity, he said “I am doing my part.” This desire to do their part was the attitude of all who came to the workshop. Such an anecdote certainly inspires grassroots activists like those at JPIC to persist in their good works, knowing that it is up to the Holy Spirit to transform their efforts into positive change.—*Contributor: Anne Corry, RSCJ, International JPIC Coordinator*

For the PowerPoint of the follow-up report in English and French, please go to www.jpicroma.org.

VIDEO MEETING WITH U.N. MINING GROUP



Video call with UN Mining Group.

Members of several working groups in Rome joined in a video call with members of the United Nations mining group in New York on May 18. In an effort to provide contacts for those working in the grassroots movement and raise their voices, each had the opportunity to understand the other’s work and to determine ways to collaborate.

The UN Mining group had produced a [booklet](#) called “Water and Sanitation: A People’s Guide to SDG 6.” The JPIC Promoters in Rome felt inspired by this UN publication and proposed that, while preserving the integrity of the UN booklet, they themselves create a resource of spiritual reflections to accompany the work done by the UN Mining Group. This would be produced by the Integrity of Creation Working Group. Sr. Anne Corry will coordinate this important effort with the help of other promoters and vital UN resources. The JPIC Promoters and the UN will remain in close communication in the future to further collaborate on their projects.

On April 27, El Salvador became the first country in the world to ban the mining of metals in what campaigners called a landmark move for environmental protection.

The [law](#) bans “prospecting, exploration, exploitation, extraction or processing of metallic minerals in El Salvador,” according to the text published in the official journal.

Mining booklet now available in [Portuguese](#) at JPIC Commission website.

CATHOLIC INSTITUTIONS DIVEST FROM FOSSIL FUELS



On May 10th, nine Catholic [institutions](#) from around the world announced that they have divested their finances from coal, oil and gas companies.

Since the inception of *Laudato Si* this is the largest and most impressive divestment announcement made by Catholic institutions. A catalyst for this decision was the January [conference](#), “*Laudato Si* and Catholic Investing,” at the Pontifical Lateran University which invited collaboration between religious communities. In May, further interest has been shown by more than 40 bursars of religious orders who attended an optional session at [SEDOS](#).

Several Italian institutions are among these whose actions are notable for the May 26-27 meeting in Sicily between G7 leaders who will discuss the global response to climate change.

JPIC PROMOTERS REFLECT ON THE GOAL OF ZERO HUNGER AND ICR AT FAO

Each table was set with small symbols of water, soil, seeds and a symbol representing one of the five continents. Carmen Bando, SSps and Denise Bang’na, OLA led the English Promoters’ group in a prayer of intercession and blessing for the whole of creation and all of its elements. Ken Thesing, MM began the presentation with ‘[The Soil Story](#)’ video, highlighting the relationship between soil and climate change.

Fr. Ken spoke about the formation of [ICR at FAO Working Group](#) in Rome and its vision, explaining the work of the Committee on Food Security (CFS) in which ICR at FAO has observer status which keeps them informed about food security and nutrition issues at many levels. He highlighted the difference between food security and nutrition as well as the “[Voluntary Guidelines for the Governance of Land, Fisheries and Forestry](#),” which provides practical in-



Daisuki Narui, SVD and Ken Thesing, MM.

formation for grassroots communities threatened by [land-grabbing](#).

Daisuke Narui, SVD presented a [case study](#) of a manganese mining site in Flores Island, Indonesia. When miners threatened their neighborhoods, local people acted in resistance. Awareness of their plight grew with a rally organized by the Diocese, SVDs and Franciscans, and a news agency in Flores. This movement eventually gained national and international support through [VIVAT](#), [U.N.-NGO](#), the UN Special Rapporteur for Mining and the UN Mining [Group](#). Such pressure eventually caused the mining to stop. Moving forward, the situation must be continually monitored to ensure that collaboration and safety are maintained.

Fr. Ken noted important policy documents produced at FAO over the past five years, including the “Manual on Free, Prior and Informed Consent,” published in October 2016. This manual, endorsed by 194 countries, primarily guides indigenous peoples to organize themselves and fight against the revocation of land, labor and livelihood. ICR at FAO encourages justice and peace groups to develop awareness-raising strategies which are reinforced by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). SDGs refocus these efforts towards high-level goals such as ending poverty and world hunger.

Lastly, the Committee of World Food Security identified the disparity between the inclusion of farming women in policy-making decisions and the overbearing use of water for agriculture.

The table groups discussed their sharpest impressions from this session as well as particular challenges to address in their own communities. Responses included the obvious need for balance between food security and nutrition, economic issues, and the necessity of organization, political pressure, and awareness-raising at the local, national, and international levels.—

Contributor: Anne Corry, RSCJ, International JPIC Coordinator

PowerPoints on ICR at FAO, *Laudato Si* and Agriculture, and A Case of Mining: SVD Experience in Indonesia are available at www.jpicroma.org.

FSC ADOPTS “THRIVE SCALE” TO PROTECT CHILDREN IN THEIR CARE



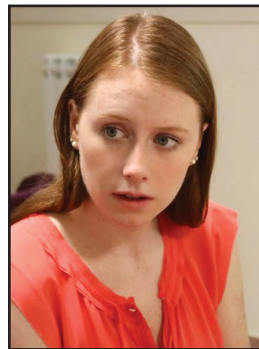
Angela Matulli, Sheila Kinsey, FCJM and Br. Craig Franz, FSC.

Last fall, the JPIC Secretariat and other JPIC Promoters participated in a very interesting meeting with Caroline Bourdeaux, founder of the [Miracle Foundation](#), which raises standards for orphanages. The Foundation has developed a “[Thrive Scale](#)” which ensures that child protection policies are in place and that the 12 Rights of every child as defined by the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child are being pursued. In a recent follow up to that session, Br. Craig Franz and Angela Matulli, of the De La Salle Christian Brothers (FSC) Solidarity Secretariat, met over Skype in an energizing and creative exchange with staff from Texas who have continued to develop and utilize the Thrive Scale. The Brothers are working with the Foundation staff to adopt this scale for use in their hostels and half-way houses. They discussed a memo of understanding for this collaboration and it is greatly hoped that others will be able to benefit from this work.

The JPIC Secretariat met with Heydi Foster, CEO, and Anne Carthy, Partnership Manager of [Misean Cara](#), a faith-based development organization from Ireland whose efforts touched 5 million people last year. Because the international justice and peace network of Misean Cara is so closely linked to the efforts of JPIC Promoters, the meeting sought opportunities for missionary projects that will unite the energies of both Misean Cara and JPIC.

Misean Cara will soon launch a detailed five year strategy to address justice for refugees as well as environmental needs in Misean Cara’s established programs for education, health, human rights, and development. JPIC Promoters will be invited to participate in awareness sessions to be scheduled later on in the year. These will serve as opportunities for funding support and possible collaboration efforts.

YALE STUDENT RESEARCHES ON *LAUDATO SI*



Madeleine Colbert

Madeleine Colbert, a junior at Yale University in the US, visited the JPIC Office on May 19. She is currently researching on the Vatican’s strategies to combat climate change as suggested by *Laudato Si*. The JPIC Secretariat met with her to share [ways](#) that our JPIC Promoters have reflected and acted on *Laudato Si* through working groups, seminar offerings, and other events in which we participate as part of the [Global Catholic Climate Movement](#). Ms. Colbert received a PowerPoint describing these many activities.

MISEAN CARA MEETS WITH JPIC SECRETARIAT



L-R: McKenna Cassidy, JPIC intern from the University of Notre Dame, with Misean Cara CEO Heydi Foster and Partnership Manager Anne Carthy.

GRANT WRITING & FUNDRAISING WORKSHOP

18-22 September—The Salvatorian Office for International aid (SOFIA) is announcing a [one week workshop](#) on Grant writing and fundraising in Rome at Villa Maria, Largo Berchet 4 (near Salvator Mundi Hospital). If are you looking for external funding for your ministries and you want to learn how to put together a successful application for missionary projects and more, register at workshop@mailsds.org or send a fax to +39 68629400.

JUNE INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS

That National Leaders may firmly commit themselves to ending the arms trade, which victimizes so many innocent people. The [video](#) of the Apostleship of Prayer is available the first Friday of the month.

INTERNATIONAL DAYS OF OBSERVANCE

1 June—The Global Day of Parents appreciates the [role](#) of parents as having the primary responsibility for nurturing and protecting their children. Countries are encouraged to celebrate the Day in full partnership with civil society, particularly involving young people.

4 June—The International Day of Innocent Children Victims of [Aggression](#) highlights the importance and the right for children to enjoy special protection, especially those who are the victims of abuse and aggression. Conferred by the General Assembly in [1982](#), this day acknowledges children's suffering and invites awareness to protect their rights.

5 June—World [Environment](#) Day invites people to set aside their differences in pursuit of the health of the natural world. It is imperative to protect [nature](#) for future generations as many general practices today threaten the future integrity of animals, plants, and natural systems.

8 June—World [Oceans](#) Day celebrates oceans as one of the most integral sources of life on Earth and encourages the alteration of human actions to preserve their beauty. By preserving the oceans we [protect](#) that which affects countless food and medicine sources, ecosystems, and climates. Alleviating pressure upon them will ultimately increase the present and future health of the world.

12 June—The World Day Against [Child Labor](#) gives attention to the extent of child labor in the world while inviting efforts to bring about its end. The ending of child labor is a goal of the 2030 agenda. This day brings light to the suffering of these laborers and incentivizes groups to unite in the [fight](#) against child labor.

15 June—World [Elder](#) Abuse Day celebrates the importance of elderly people in society while pointing out the reality of their maltreatment in many parts of the world. Abuse of older people can result in their severe mental and physical harm. This day encourages action for positive change to [protect](#) the elderly throughout the world.

17 June—World Day to Combat [Desertification](#) and Drought highlights the effect that [desertification](#) has on food supply and the stability of peoples because so much of what humans rely on for healthy living stems from land resources. This effort is structured by the goal to “Protect Earth. Restore Land. Engage People,” which reveals the integral network of negative influences on land and each party's ability to work for their betterment.

19 June—International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in [Conflict](#) highlights the criminal practice of [sexual violence](#) and its prevalence across the globe. This day invites support for victims and the pursuit of the elimination of sexual violence as a war tactic and “impediment to peace.”

20 June—World [Refugee](#) Day is motivated by the need to protect the dignity and safety of [refugees](#). It serves as a platform for raising the awareness of governments of the plight of refugees and motivating them to extend quality help to these people.

26 June—International Day Against [Drug Abuse](#) and Illicit Trafficking draws attention to the need to decrease the production and distribution of illegal [drugs](#) and monitor its use in an effort to promote the health, safety, and prosperity of communities and their “sustainable development.”

26 June—U.N. International Day in Support of [Victims](#) of Torture brings to light the horrific reality of torture and its dissolution of the dignity of human beings. Increased awareness of [torture](#) can decrease its existence and incite activism to assist victims and protect those at risk.

For a listing of the international days for the year go to <http://www.un.org/en/sections/observances/international-days/>.

JPIC PROMOTERS MEETINGS IN JUNE

5 June—English CORE Meeting, 3 pm to 5 pm at the Fratelli.

7 June—Spanish and Portuguese Speaking Promoters Meeting “Experience of Nonviolence with Respect to the Planet” and Evaluation of the year, 9 am to 12 pm at UISG.

14 June—Updates of the participants of the English-Speaking Workshop with Fr. Francisco O’Conaire, OFM, 3 pm to 5 pm at the Fratelli.

15 June—Refugees and Migrants Working Group (RMWG), 3 pm to 5 pm at the Fratelli.

21 June—English Speaking Promoters Meeting “Evaluation of the Year and Future Directions”. This is an opportunity to reflect together on this past year, celebrate what we have accomplished and determine future actions. It will also be a time to honor those who will be leaving Rome with an outing to a local restaurant. If you would like to be included in pranzo please contact jpicroma@gmail.com. 9 am to 12 pm at the UISG.

22 June—Africa Working Group (AWG) 3:30 pm to 5 pm at the Missionaries of Africa

22 June—Collaboration Working Group (CWG) 3pm to 5 pm at UISG.

27 June—ICR at FAO, 3 pm to 5 pm at the Passionists

SAVE THE DATES

16-29 July in Benin—JPIC Formation in French. For more information, contact P. François de Paul Houngue, SMA at conseiller2@smaroma.org and phone 39/3421829110.

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>.