



NEWSBRIEF

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

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Editorial: The May Newsbrief focuses on Religious life and the challenges of faith witness, particularly with youth. Our prayer in San Marcello, the rich and deep reflections given at the SEDOS Residential Seminar in Ariccia, and the monthly reflection session of the English JPIC Promoters all focus on this particular area. It was revealed that young people experience faith and action for the values of the Kingdom of God in complicated and dynamic relationships, discovering truth and goodness through authentic and genuine models of life. We are constantly reminded that “Instead of seeming to impose [our faith], [we] should appear as people who wish to share their joy, who point to a horizon of beauty and who invite others to a delicious banquet. It is not by proselytizing that the Church grows, but “by attraction.” Cf. *Evangelii Gaudium* # 15.

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

PRAYER SERVICE WITH YOUTH AT MONTICELLO



Sr. Celeste leading the prayer.

As part of the monthly formation meetings on “Young People and JPIC in Our World Today,” the Claretian Sisters prepared this Prayer held on April 27. Led by a group of young Sisters and lay people, the Prayer was developed with great creativity, meaningful gestures and music.

Symbols placed on the altar steps added meaning and were very fitting: the Word (as the lamp always shining and illuminating), a Global Mission Map (with one color for each continent), and correspondingly colored shawls (to be used for our gesture of commitment).

The words of St. Paul to the young Timothy enlightened us: “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.” (1Tim 4: 12-16). Further enlightenment was received from the words of Pope Francis’ address at WYD 2016 in Krakow: “The times we live in do not call for young ‘couch potatoes’ but for young people with shoes, or better, boots laced...” the shoes of commitment, giving response to the world.

This prayerful environment, with a combination of silence, appropriate prayers and songs, shaped the environment, waking our inner drive to work for a better world... there are no specific ages to announce the Kingdom, all ages are needed!

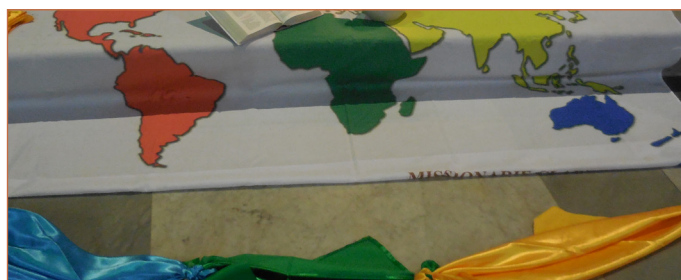


Miriam, lay woman.

Sr. Celeste led the Prayer, the sound of the transverse flute quieting our minds. Miriam, a lay woman, spoke about her missionary experience in Humahuaca (Argentina) last summer, sharing how the experience moved her out of her comfort and marked a “before and after” moment of change in her life.

Sr. Stefania coordinated timing and gestures, accompanying the songs with guitar. With her usual smile she invited us to take a shawl from the altar and share with another person how we were living this Prayer. She asked us to find one word to summarize this experience while tying together the two shawls, forming a long chain around the world map, where all the colors fit. Sharing the chosen word, while tying together the shawls was our gesture, giving the sign of fraternity, communion, and peace which we all desire.

Finally, confident in the Spirit that Jesus grants us to empower our fragility, we are sent to our daily life to be joy, love, and tenderness, knowing that He will stay with us until the end.—Contributor: Maria Luisa García, RMI Claret Missionary, JPIC Promoter



2018 SEDOS RESIDENTIAL SEMINAR: YOUTH AND MISSION

With approximately 125 delegates participating, the 2018 [SEDOS](#) Residential Seminar on Youth and Mission, focused on the three key areas of Youth, Evangelization and Vocation. Key words throughout our days together were presence, authenticity, witness, listening, faith, discernment, prayer, community, engagement and respect. In the opening liturgy and address, SEDOS President, Veronica Openibo, SHCJ, encouraged us to weave our lives with God and to share deeply of this richness with our young people, encouraging their participation—their weaving.

Emilia Palladino shared her great insight and love for the youth of today and their culture, identifying that for the first time in history we have four generations living side by side, each with very different characteristics and priorities. Sharing specific differences, she identified that this generation has different priorities and perceptions, often perceived as problems. The focus on differences brings an end to discussion and growth, often heralding the collapse of relationships. Emilia shared that young people do not understand our choices—whether parents, priests or religious. They do not see passion, love, and total commitment... they see us as settling for comfort, stability, or even sadness. Why would young people embrace any of these paths? How do we rekindle and witness the attraction and passion which first drew us? How do we show young people they are loved unconditionally? How do we help open the way to a personal encounter with Jesus?

Bruna Zaltron SCM, challenged us to come out of ourselves to help young people grow... and to grow with them! She identified the need for good role models or reference points to help them answer important life questions—questions about growth, responsibility, strength, principles, gratitude, and discovering one's heart's desire and fullness of life. She spoke strongly of the illogicality of religious institutes which insist on holding on to what they have rather than letting go and entering the Paschal logic. It is when we have the courage to face pruning and dying that resurrection happens! The Lord says, "I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it?" This 'new' takes place within our fragilities.

Paul Raj, FSG, described evangelization as 'a movement from the periphery to the center'—that is, the 'new churches' giving witness and help to evangelize the 'older churches.' Quoting Pope Paul VI, he reminded us that evangelisation is a 'missionary duty.' Like the early Church, we must make the gospel message relevant to all peoples, cultures and languages. Great sensitivity is required when we find ourselves evangelizing in a country not our own.

*Our first task in approaching another people, another culture, another religion is to take off our shoes for the place we are approaching is holy
Else we find ourselves treading on another's dreams
More serious still, we may forget that God was there before our arrival.—Kenneth Cragg*



Anne McCabe, SM, and Paul Raj, FSG.

Fr. Paul concluded his presentation offering several challenges to be addressed by leadership teams, young people and the Church as a whole; each with areas of focus for the specific challenges they face as a group that will make space for growth, both personal and evangelical.

Michael Papenkordt, lay missionary and member of ICPE (Institute for World Evangelization), presented our need for a personal Pentecost and Damascus experience before we can truly begin to evangelise others. For at the heart of all evangelization is an encounter with a person, Jesus. At our Baptism we are invited/challenged to die to self so Christ can live in and through us. Michael challenged us to connect and get involved in the lives of young people, reminding us that if we are not excited about and captivated by the gospel, we cannot expect young people to be. By sharing ourselves, our truth, and our love, community is born and new life breaks forth.

Paul Bednarczyck, CSC, presented the theme of Religious Life today, sharing some results from a survey conducted in the USA. He reminded us that it is the members themselves and the quality of their lives—prayer, community, mission and outreach—that attracts new life. He also shared six best practices related to vocation promotion, culture, communication, media, discernment programs, and processing.

We need to be planters of seeds! We also need to reflect and ponder on these two questions: (1) Why do we want new vocations? (2) What is God asking us to sacrifice or let go of, as individuals and as a whole, to bring new life to birth in our congregation?

Other very privileged moments in the SEDOS Seminar was time spent listening and dialoguing with four young religious and three young Columbian Lay Missionaries, as well as time spent in small group discussion.

And so, the weaving of our lives with God, one another and the young people of today continues.—*Contributor: Anne McCabe, SM, General Councilor with a focus on JPIC.*

For a complete copy of Anne's article visit the [website](#) of the Marist Sisters.

“WHERE ARE OUR YOUTH TODAY?”



L-R: Katherine Smith, Andrew Rebholz and Thomas Doran

In May, the English-speaking JPIC Promoters enjoyed an encounter with three young adults on who have been living in Rome for the past few months before returning to their studies at the University of Notre Dame, USA. The encounter aimed to learn about the younger generations perspective in relation to JPIC today.

The meeting began with a reflection prepared by the youth. The intern with the JPIC Secretariat, Thomas Doran, wrote the beautiful prayer, *Our God of Life*, and followed by a video encouraging youth to consider religious life.

This was a beautiful entry into the honest and deep sharing of the youth around the following questions: How is your world? What are you interested in? What are your concerns? What makes you happy?

Reflecting on these questions, most of the panel shared about their personal search for identity and authenticity; moving the audience by identifying their growing relationship with God through prayer as their deepest source of identity. “Who I am is defined by God... not by social media” related one panelist, with each identifying social media’s role in their search for identity and the quest to fit in, to belong. Having realized this was more an act of creating a persona rather than discovering oneself, they shared that a sense of identity is to be ultimately achieved through the ‘grace of God.’

How is JPIC seen and experienced by young people? Focusing and sharing on the importance of service and turning the desire for justice into practical actions, the panel shared various experiences of service including a transition from seeing migrants or those who are disadvantaged as ‘others’ and gradually coming to know them as friends instead. “Coming to an understanding of my own poverty” and “letting suffering touch my heart” offer a glimpse of the understandings shared, as well as the experience of learning to share joy amidst suffering. When asked what change they would like to see in the world, the word ‘dialogue’ came through very strongly; one panelist expressed the need for more education about peace and commented “It is so easy to feel anger about a situation, but that passion needs to lead to dialogue.”

How do young people see the Church? Does it help?

Speaking positively about the Church, particularly the central role of the Holy Spirit, they shared about the depth of the Church’s tradition and its sense of stability in a confusing world. In the face of the challenges and the scandals that confront the Church, they shared about the great strength to be found in its sacramental life. One panelist shared the encouragement felt in the understanding that “there is more to the Church than its human failings. There is a mystical unity and constant ‘potentiality’ in the Church.”

Further thoughts were shared and discussed about technology, intergenerational collaboration and other themes. At the end of the session, the JPIC Promoters expressed their deep appreciation for the honesty and integrity shown by the young people in this discussion.—Contributor: Anne Corry, RSCJ, International JPIC Coordinator of the Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

PPT of prayer, [Our God of Life](#), click here.

PROPHETIC RELIGIOUS LIFE AND THE FOUR VERBS ON MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES



Br. Gioacchio Campese, CS and Edilene de Abreu Rodrigues, AMS participant

The day began with a beautiful [reflection](#) inviting the participants to reflect on the messages [messages](#) of Pope Francis regarding migrants and immigrants. This was prepared by Kathy Schmittgens, SSND with group participation in the English and Spanish prayers.

The main speaker was Br. (Prof) Gioacchino Campese, CS of Scalabrini International Migration Institute and Scalabrini International Migration Network. He began his talk with Pope Francis’ speech at Centro Astalli (Sept 10, 2013). Here he urged religious institutes to live their hospitality to refugees with “greater courage and generosity”, recalling our commitment to prophetic religious life, saying that understanding migration or, his preferred term, ‘human mobility’ is a characteristic of reading the signs of the times. He then focused on what he called the core of his [presentation](#), the main message that he hoped to leave with us: the theological basis of the four verbs that Pope Francis emphasized in his 2018 Message for Migrants and Refugees—welcoming, protecting, promoting, integrating. The four verbs are more than just strategies for action. What they ex-

press are integral statements about God. “You shall treat the stranger as yourself for you were strangers in the land of Egypt...” (LEV 19:34) In other words, these four verbs must become our credentials because they are God’s credentials.

Welcoming: This is not just an activity of the Church, but a gift that the Church receives from the Trinity and is invited to share with the whole of humanity.

Protecting: Through several well-known scripture passages (PS 4:8, PS 146:9, EX 22: 21-24), we hear how God is the ultimate source of security.

Promoting: It is God who creates the conditions that enable people to fulfill their potential as individuals and communities. In a quote which resonated with many in the audience (as shown by their responses at the end of the presentation) Br. Gioacchino quoted Pope Francis in his speech to the US Bishops (Sept 23, 2015): “I like to think that the Trinity as a divine community is infinitely ‘spacious’ and invites the Church into this all-inclusive dynamic by keeping her doors always open...”

Integrating: This involves the breaking down of the barriers and walls that divide us. The scriptural basis is found in passages such as EPH 2:14 and EPH 2:19-22. Although challenging, it is about the progression from ‘hospitality’ to ‘homecoming’. In JER 29:4-7, we are reminded that homecoming is a mutual responsibility. We were then offered some ‘Travel Alerts’!

- The journey of these four verbs requires both presence and patience
- Like all who walk the prophetic path, we face costly discipleship.
- There is no place for amateurs in this complex phenomenon of human mobility. Good formation and reliance on experience are crucial.
- We must remember that this is God’s agenda, not ours, but also, we should walk the path with humility and humour as expressed in *Evangelii Gaudium*.

Responders in this seminar were Fr. Fabio Baggio, CS, Undersecretary, Migrants and Refugees section of Dicastery for the Service of Integral Human Development and Sr. Florence De La Villeon, RSCJ, International Migrants Desk, UISG.

Fr. Fabio Baggio spoke in terms of how the universal church is responding to the reality of migration. He had been asked by Pope Francis to focus on raising awareness and to work with local churches to strengthen the pastoral care and to help the churches respond more effectively to these situations. He is especially concerned that people receive the right information, particularly during times of important decision-making. He feels that if people fully understood what migrants and refugees bring, their attitudes can change from being situations that bring impoverishment to ones of enrichment. He highlighted the collaborative efforts of religious working



Sr. Florence Villeon, RSCJ and Fr. Fabio Baggio, CS.

with one another and with local churches. He spoke of offering space, buildings, developing programs, volunteering services, and donating financial assistance. However, the need is so great he called on the participants to think of ways in which more can be done.

Sr. Florence spoke of three levels of response offered by women religious: (1) response to an emergency, (2) political action and (3) the challenge of integration. The first is limited for religious in spite of their prophetic witness in places of suffering because other groups are more financially equipped for emergency relief. The second strategy of lobbying politicians is important especially now that many congregations have ECOSOC status at the United Nations, thus enabling the experience of sisters at the grassroots to be known at the political level. The third level is about the social integration of migrants. This work of accompaniment is where religious are becoming more involved.

Sr. Florence spoke of the increasing number of congregations who are welcoming migrants into available spaces in their institutions. They work in partnership with competent NGOs such as St. Egidio or Centro Astalli in Rome or the ‘Welcome’ program of JRS in France. Statistics indicate an overall trend of volunteer activity from religious congregations in Europe and Latin America and a significant level of financial aid to organizations who work with migrants. She spoke of the need for good formation and education in the accompanying process in order to help people to find work and safeguard them against the threats of trafficking and prostitution.

Finally, Sr. Florence asked how can we help to restore joy? The combination of our charisms, prayer, faith and courage and the conviction that God is walking with them helps those on the journey of migration gain hope and trust in the future. “How can we not believe that the Holy Spirit, who makes all things new, is going before us to the heart of the peripheries?” (Msgr. Pascal Delannoy, Bishop of Saint-Denis, Vice-President of the French Bishops’ Conference)

Participants gathered into groups to discuss the input from the seminar, mainly ‘the theological concept of the infinite spaciousness of the Trinity’; the need for changing attitudes for example speaking about migrants rather than the issue of migration; the expression ‘ecology of faith, not fear’ and the experience of giving and being given to, were concepts which reso-

nated in most groups. One group summed up the experience: “The Spirit is moving in our congregations!”

In closing, Br. Giocchino, urged the development of a course that would provide a theological foundation and practical pastoral practices and would be open to members of both USG and UISG. Fr. Fabio invited the participants to visit the section of Migrants and Refugees at the Dicastery. Sr. Florence affirmed the spirit of the religious present because she felt that so many of them have already made the refugees and migrants a part of their lives.—Contributor: Anne Corry, RSCJ, International Coordinator of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

JPIC HIGHLIGHTS

MEETING WITH THE DICASTERY OF INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REGARDING WORK WITH *LAUDATO SI*



L-R: Joshtram Isaach Kureethadam, Salesian, Felix Mushobuzi, CPPS and Sheila Kinsey, FCJM.

The JPIC Secretariat met with Fr. Joshtram Isaac Kureethadam concerning our collaborative efforts about *Laudato Si* and the environment. Fr. Josh shared exciting information regarding the strategic planning taking place in the Dicastery Servicing Integral Human Development (DIHD). Of special interest is the upcoming international conference on the third anniversary of *Laudato Si*, “Saving Our Common Home and the Future of Life on Earth”, being developed by the DIHD. The conference will engage the SEE, JUDGE and ACT process throughout the days. Participation is through invitation. The JPIC Secretariat will be at the event.

MASS AT VILLA LANTE GARDEN OF ISTITUTO SACRO CUORE



JPIC Promoters and those interested in environmental concerns gathered in the beautiful garden of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Rome. Fr. Joshtram Isaach Kureethadam (center of photo) from the DIHD, celebrated the liturgy in this spectacular surrounding. Before the liturgy of the Word, he sent the attendees out to enjoy the revelation of God in the presence of

nature. We were to bring back something symbolic of that time with God. This was a way of highlighting the wisdom in *Laudato Si* “The Eucharist joins heaven and earth; it embraces and penetrates all creation.” (LS 236). The significance of the elements was shared later in the liturgy during the prayers of the faithful.

On the last Sunday of every month a mass is to be celebrated in the Lanto in Rome with themes from *Laudato Si*.

Book authored by Fr. Joshtram Kureethadam, *Rebuilding our Common Home: Ten Green Commandments of Laudato Si*. KJC Publication, 2016.

[Article on the climate change.](#)

JPIC COMMISSION MAY MEETING



L-R— Front Row: Fr. Paulo Barajas Garcia; Sheila Kinsey, FCJM; Budi Kleden, SVD; Felix Mushobuzi, CPPS; and Anne Corry, RSCJ. Back row: Fechna O’Driscoll, SMA (Co-President); Filo Hirota, MMB; Noel Coscadden, IBVM (Co-President); David Glenday, CMJ; and Juan Carrasquilla, SDS. Not present for the meeting: Pat Murray, IBVM and Maria Yaneth, SDS.

The JPIC Commission of USG-UISG held their bi-annual meeting in May to review, support and discuss the work of the JPIC Secretariat with the working groups, the JPIC Promoters and other collaborative efforts. The Commission was very affirming of the work already being done. The Secretariat was encouraged to continue active collaboration with the Dicastery for the Service of Integral Human Development, as they advance in a deeper understanding of the theologian foundations that underline the work of both bodies concerned in justice and peace.

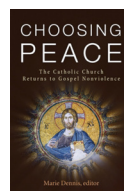
The JPIC Secretariat is grateful for all of the insights, encouragement and commitment of the commission members to the mission of JPIC. This being the last meeting of Filo Hiroto, MMB, we celebrated her service with a meal.

ROUND TABLE VIDEOS POSTED



Mr. Stefano Paradiso has carefully prepared two videos: one for South Sudan and the other for DR Congo. He has done us a tremendous service to salvage the taping work that had been done at the Urbanium. We are invited to experience the Round Table and to view his professional work at www.jpicroma.org.

CHOOSING PEACE



Choosing Peace: The Catholic Church Returns to Gospel Nonviolence, edited by Marie Dennis, is now available from Orbis Books. In recent years, the Catholic Church’s approach to issues of war and peace has refocused on the tradition of nonviolence and peacebuilding in place of the traditional framework of Just War teaching. Among the milestones was an historic conference hosted at the Vatican in 2016, which gathered 80 peacemakers from around the world. Several noted speakers of the event are included authors. The book concludes with Pope Francis’s historic Message for World Peace Day in 2017.

JUNE INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS

Social Networks: That social networks may work towards that inclusiveness which respects others for their differences. The [video](#) of the Apostleship of Prayer is available the first Friday of the month.

INTERNATIONAL DAYS OF OBSERVANCE IN APRIL

1 June—The [Global Day of Parents](#) appreciates the role of parents as having the primary responsibility for nurturing and protecting their children and “provides an opportunity to appreciate all parents in all parts of the world for their selfless commitment to children and their lifelong sacrifice towards nurturing this relationship.” 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. [Video](#): work of the office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict.

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. 2018 theme: “[Beat Plastics Pollution](#)”.

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. 2018 Focus: “[Preventing plastic pollution and encouraging solutions for a healthy ocean](#)”.

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. International Labor Organization 2018 Theme: “[Generation Safe & Healthy](#)”.

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](#) 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. 2018 focus on sustainable land management as a way to regenerate economies, create jobs and revitalize communities. Under the slogan “Land has true value – Invest in it.”

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.

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

JPIC PROMOTERS MEETINGS IN JUNE

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

5 June—Integrity of Creation Working Group, 3 pm to 5 pm at the Fratelli

6 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

6 June—African Working Group, 4 pm at the Missionaries of Africa

12 June—Anti-Trafficking Working Group, 3 pm to 5 pm at the Fratelli

20 June—English Speaking Promoters Meeting “Evaluation of the Year and Future Directions” from 9 am to 12 pm at UISG. This is an opportunity to reflect together on this past year, celebrating what we have accomplished and determining 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.

25 June—ICR at FAO, 10 am to 12 pm at the Passionists

SAVE THE DATES

14-17 November—[JPIC Promoters Formation Workshop](#) with the theme “Building Right Relationships,” 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.