Editorial: In our celebration of Pentecost, we are reminded of the abundant outpouring of gifts we have received from the Holy Spirit. Consciously attending to these graces in our JPIC ministry today, our lives are transformed, and we become prophets of hope as “All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents.” (LS14).

The articles in this May issue highlight our effort to be instruments of prophetic hope in our response to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the Poor.

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

MINING FOR THE COMMON GOOD

At the special audience with Pope Francis, a survivor of the Brumadinho mining disaster presented the pictures of those who died as a result of the tragedy. We continue to pray for them and their families as they struggle to move forward with their lives.

Mining for the Common Good was organized as ecumenical days of reflection, with representative churches being Catholic, Anglican and Methodist. The first day session included those affected by mining along with the church groups and NGOs that work with both groups. The second day involved the CEO’s of mining companies. This was the first time the Dicastery Promoting Integral Human Development (DPIHD) was able to gather together in one room the CEO’s of mining companies, those affected by mining, the Church leaders and other related organizations. It was felt that the participants engaged in respectful dialogue. The opening prayers stressed the importance of building trust and reconciliation. Photos of those who died as a result of the iron ore mining disaster in Brumadinho, Brazil were placed on the

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floor in the center of the group. A survivor of that disaster spoke about his loss. During the day, some of the CEO’s referred to these victims and their families, saying this disaster should never happen again.

For the small group discussion, a format had been developed around observable ways to build trust. The groups were mixed with representation from all three groups. Participants engaged one another in interesting dialogues. Summary reports were positive and highlighted the importance of listening to the needs of the people in the mining areas. One CEO spoke about the need to respect the input from the people. He gave an example of such a local meeting where the people did not want roads through the places they live, that horses would be used for transport and to keep their lifestyle intact. Other important benefits were schools for their children, health clinics, and the land to again look like it did before the mining started. One CEO said that there will be no tailings in their mining sites in 10 years. The organization that does mining reality checks was present to hear that important strategic effort. Another CEO urged the others to meet the requests of the local area upfront from their financial reserves, and not after profits.

Although there is much degradation and suffering being experienced because of irresponsible mining, the sessions were an opportunity to move forth in a vision where Mining for the Common Good could be discussed. Having opportunities with various interrelated groups was an initiative to speak the truth to one another without being in an emotionally charged conflict situation. The JPIC Secretariat was honored to be involved in the preparation and participation of the meetings.

Message of Pope Francis.

SEDOS MISSION IN A PLURALISTIC WORLD

The 2019 SEDOS Residential Seminar was held in Ariccia, Italy at Casa del Divin Maestro and attended by men and women religious from around the world. The schedule was organized so that one could not only listen to conferences in a theoretical level, but also experience dialogue through prayer, meals and group engagement. Themes were organized to get a deeper understanding of the three world major religions—Judaism, Islam, Buddhism—and how dialogue with these religions the Catholic Church can enhance its evangelization mission.

Presentations on Judaism on the first day were on the “justice” approaches from the biblical, theological and experiential perspectives. The notions of mercy and forgiveness from the Jewish perspective were explored and were integrated with the Catholic concept of justice as right relationship. Drawing from her long experience in Jewish-Christian dialogue, Sr. Therese Fitzgerald, NDS unveiled the qualities and attitudes necessary for a meaningful interreligious dialogue: openness, respect, empathy, appreciation of differences, listening, humility, faithfulness, authenticity, etc.

The second day focused on Islam with the three presenters discussing the idea of religious freedom from different perspectives, theological, legal, political, etc. For most of the participants, the presentation by Jean Druel, OP made an important distinction on different levels of dialogue one must consider in order to avoid frustration, particularly with representatives of Islam at various levels—dialogue, institutional, academic, common projects, friendship and mixed marriages.

The third day was devoted to Buddhism and the value of charity was at the centre of discussion as different presenters offered their reflections. We heard from practitioners, theologians and life experiences. Wisdom and compassion were the values that underpinned as transversal with Christianity. However, it was evident that Buddhism has a lower social impact compared to Christianity.

The fourth day was a summary of the themes and focused on interreligious dialogue as such with a lot of linguistic group work. A perspective from the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Interreligious Dialogue was enriched by the presence and words of Undersecretary Mons. Indunil Kodithuwakku. Fr. Indunil shared the Sri Lanka Easter tragedy by giving the background of the social, political and religious tensions that might have lead to the unfortunate event.

The talks and all the material presented at the Seminar will be published in a special SEDOS issue and uploaded to the website.
The May plenary for the General Superiors of Women Religious (UISG) was a grand event. Many timely topics were discussed that related to the future vision of religious life, caring for creation, living interculturally and the call to inter-religious dialogue. Important connections were shared regarding the upcoming Amazonian Synod, the collaboration with the Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM) and cooperation with the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

Sr. Sheila Kinsey, FCJM, coordinator of the campaign Sowing Hope for the Planet, highlighted the development of the campaign, moving the way forward and calling for a commitment. A special feature was a video showing the prayer and action of the Sisters around the globe. It was inspiring to see the creative ways the religious communities are involved in responding to the “Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor”.

The Campaign was enthusiastically endorsed by the religious leaders. As a community of Sisters living the Gospel in solidarity with one another, they know that everything is interconnected, and wish to live religious life for the common good in our environment, our common home. Following is a summation of their commitment:

- To both personal and communal conversion
- To move forward together in an orchestrated and coordinated response in Listening to the Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor
- To go forth as instruments of Prophetic hope In the heart of the world.

To demonstrate this commitment, all 36 constellations wrote down their contributions to care for our common home. At the next UISG plenary they will have an opportunity to report on the wonderful work they are intent on doing.

Again, the Sisters were reminded, if they have not already done so, to submit the name of a contact person who would be responsible for sharing the information from the campaign with all the Sisters in her congregation. Having such persons in place will enable the campaign to truly thrive.

The video is available on the website www.sowing-hopefortheplanet.org in English with subtitles in Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese, German, Japanese and Arabic. The transcript for the presentation is available in six languages.

DICASTERY FOR THE PROMOTION OF INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT: ECOLOGY AND CREATION SECTOR

The May session of the English Speaking JPIC Promoters Meeting began with a beautiful video based on the Canticle of St. Francis and a shared prayer on ‘The Litany for the World We Live In’. The prayer was a very appropriate way to begin this fascinating presentation by cosmologist and ecologist, Fr. Joshstrom Kureethadam, SDB, Coordinator of the sector on Ecology and Creation in the Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development (DPI-HD). We learned about the structure of this Vatican Dicastery and the exciting initiatives being promoted during the next five years.

Laudato Si is the main focus. The Dicastery’s core aim is to communicate about its message of creation to all parts of the Church. However, Fr. Josh pointed out that Laudato Si is reaching far beyond the Church and has caught the attention of many others who are concerned about our ‘common home’. He repeatedly highlighted the effort for countries to achieve the 1.5°C Celsius rate of global warming recommended at the
COP 21 meeting in Paris 2015, which is non-negotiable for the health of the earth, and quoted Fr. Sean McDonagh’s statement, “We are the last generation who can do anything.” As a theologian as well as a cosmologist, Fr. Josh spoke of the need to have a strong theology supporting the commitment to care for our common home.

Fr. Josh shared his many personal experiences, especially with the poor in India and the impact that climate change has on their lives. “Climate change is a people’s issue”, he said, “and behind the science, are very personal stories about people’s lives.”

Some of the proposals the Dicastery has in mind for the future include: animation of the ‘Season of Creation’ (1 September–4 October); collaboration with other institutions and organizations involved in care of creation; promotion of a theology of Creation; promotion of ecological education; research and publications on the creation care; the establishment of annual Laudato Si Awards to make known and reward best practices for creation care around the world.

There are also concrete proposals for the Dicastery and Vatican City. Starting with a campaign against the use of plastic, reducing the use of paper, recycling practices, etc., the proposed action plans include the gradual use of use of solar energy, eventually with a view to making the Vatican the first carbon-neutral state.

The anniversary of Laudato Si will be commemorated over the next few years in the five continents of the world. In each place, the ecological issues particular to that region will be highlighted. Each year, in between, the anniversary will be hosted in Rome. One of the most interesting proposals is the combined celebration of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day and the 5th anniversary of the publication of Laudato Si, both in 2020.

Further information will be made available as it comes to hand on the following websites: www.humandevelopment.va/en.html and www.jpicroma.org. — Contributed by Anne Corry, RSCJ, International JPIC Coordinator for the Religious Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

PRE-SYNOD EVENTS ON THE AMAZON

Amazon: Challenges to Prospects for the Common Home

A seminar convened in preparation for the Synod on the Amazon was hosted by the Pontifical University Gregoriana. It began with the inspiring words of Cardinal Peter Turkson, Cardinal Claudio Hummes, OFM and Cardinal Pedro Barreto Jimeno, SJ who all stressed the message of Laudato Si for the importance of the upcoming Synod.

Other presenters spoke of their personal missionary experience, of their appreciation of the beauty of indigenous peoples and of their struggles in accompanying these people. The sharing was enhanced by interweaving the perspective of indigenous spirituality.

The final panel brought forth the urgency to act to address the poverty and climate crisis and to do this in solidarity with and in accompaniment with the people of the Amazon.

Preparation document

Amazonia: New Paths for the Church and for an Integral Ecology

A meeting on Amazonia: New Paths for the Church and for an Integral Ecology was facilitated by Mr. Mauricio Lopez, Executive Secretary to the Network of Churches in the Pan-Amazonia area (REPAM), in preparation for the special assembly for the Amazon.

Representatives from various religious congregations as well as CIDSE, GCCM and the JPIC Secretariat attended the gathering to find ways to coordinate their events. This stimulating interaction also included, Cardinal Pedro Barreto Jimeno, SJ, Vice-President of REPAM.

Those present shared proposed experiences not only to honor the situations in all nine countries of the Pan-Amazonia, but to universalize what is happening there to the situations in the other countries. Programs will feature the lives, struggles and spirituality
of Indigenous people, the environmental degradation, the call for sustainable programs and the consideration of the effects on women, just to name a few of the opportunities being planned. The arts will also serve as a way of bringing forth the culture of the peoples. Another meeting is being planned the end of June to firm up the possibilities and to coordinate the various prayers, reflections and events.

A six-minute video from the Efforts of the Common Good Organization describes programs that have been developed to restore areas in Brazil to their former flourishing forest.

UNION OF SUPERIOR GENERALS PLENARY
FOCUS ON CARE OF CREATION

The Union of Superior Generals (USG) met in Ariccia, Italy for their plenary. The JPIC Secretariat was asked to plan the day to honor and celebrate the theme “Care of Creation.” The day was organized with the SEE, JUDGE, ACT, and CELEBRATE methodology. In the opening prayer, Madre Terra prepared the assembly to be receptive to the graces of the day. Fr. Joshtrom Kureethadam, SDB, Coordinator of the sector on Ecology and Creation in the DPIHD engaged the participants in the SEE, by providing the physical, ethical and spiritual understanding of the crisis of our common home. He enabled us to listen to the Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor.

Following with the JUDGE, Fr. Felix Mushobozi, CPPS again explored the spiritual context and considered ways that our destructive experiences would be sins against the environment because of the severe damage inflicted on it. Fr. Juan Carrasquilla Ossa, SDS drew us within to the importance of our personal conversion in order to engage in the communal conversion so necessary to Laudato Si a reality.

From this background, we were ready to explore the ACT with the work of the DPIHD, the GCCM, the JPIC Commission of USG-USIG and the upcoming Synod on the Amazon. The Superior Generals were also updated on the Campaign Sowing Hope for the Planet initiated by UISG. USG members had an opportunity to express their full support of the campaign and will share their specific commitments to the campaign at their November plenary meeting.

The evening concluded with the Eucharistic celebration of Laudato Si. Following are the prestations:

STUDENTS STRIKE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

In front of Santa Susanna in Rome, the Global Catholic Climate organized a prayer for the needs of our planet. The group gathered and shared the deep desires for change of attitudes and the willingness of all to make a difference as we listen to the Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor. We shared the beautiful prayer for our Earth in Laudato Si.

Around the globe it was estimated that 1664 strikes were planned in 125 countries. Several thousand also gathered in the Piazza di Republica to march to Piazza de Venezia. There were many important messages on the signs: “Laudato Si,” “Change the System and not the
Climate,” “I am away from school to teach you a lesson,” and “Don’t rob us of our future,” to name a few. The time of the march coincides with the fourth anniversary of Laudato Si and the upcoming elections in Europe that address climate concerns.

Meilin Scanish, a new intern at the JPIC Secretariat, found the march a moving and empowering experience. “It was so inspiring to see so many young people—most of them the same age as me—come together to advocate energetically for the care of our planet,” she said. “Often, I think, the youth get a bad reputation—we’re rebellious, we’re selfish, we’re too idealistic.”

“This march, with so many teenagers and young adults walking peacefully alongside elder climate change advocates, demonstrated that if we seem rebellious, it’s because we’re passionate about this issue. If we seem selfish, it’s because climate change will affect our generation and each one that follows—and we want our children to know we did everything we could to give them a healthy planet to grow up in. If we seem idealistic, it’s because we are. We truly believe that drastic but coordinated effort by our governments and fellow citizens can help prevent catastrophic climate change.”

Merlin walked alongside Srs. Sheila and Cecilia and others from the GCCM in support of the Italian Students Strike. She and Sr. Cecilia carried a sign that read “Laudato Si” in remembrance of the Church’s promise to care for the integrity of creation.

“For me, as a student of history and peace studies, what I appreciated most was that the march was non-violent, from start to finish,” Merlin continued. “The students were assertive, but peaceful, and that is the kind of action I hope to see more of in the world.” — Contributed by Meilin Scanish, student from the University of Notre Dame Indiana in the USA

GCCM Coverage of the Climate Strike

JUNE INTENTION OF POPE FRANCIS

Evangelization: That priests, through the modesty and humility of their lives, commit themselves actively to a solidarity with those who are most poor. Pope’s video.

INTERNATIONAL DAYS OF OBSERVANCE IN JUNE

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. 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.

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. 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. 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.

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.

**JPIC PROMOTERS MEETINGS IN JUNE**

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

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

5 June—Spanish and Portuguese Speaking Promoters Meeting Film “Sotto il cielo di Roma” and Evaluation of the year, 9 am to 12 pm at UISG

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

19 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.

20 June—Refugees and Migrants Working Group, 3 pm to 5 pm at the Fratelli.

**SAVE THE DATE**

2-6 December—Formation Workshop for JPIC Promoters. Theme: “Call to holiness as contemplatives in action: promoting God’s reign of justice, peace and love.” This JPIC Formation Workshop provides new 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. For more information and to register, visit the **JPIC website**.

“**Our goal is not to amass information or to satisfy curiosity, but rather to become painfully aware, to dare to turn what is happening to the world into our own personal suffering and thus to discover what each of us can do about it.**”

—Pope Francis, LS,19