Editorial: Pope Francis’ Lenten message has encouraged us to reflect more deeply on how we care for our Common Home with his theme “For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God.” In this February Newsbrief we feature many challenges related to our Care of the Poor and our Care of the Earth. Our UISG campaign “Sowing Hope for the Planet” has a new and engaging website, a space for sharing experiences. In reflecting on the painful struggles of the poor such as those of the migrants and human trafficking we realize this is the place where our theology is to begin. We are challenged by dialogue with our Muslim brothers and sisters. Finally, when we consider our formation programs, we share with you the importance of an integrated formation experience.

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

SOWING HOPE FOR THE PLANET LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

Sowing Hope for the Planet, a collaborative campaign between the JPIC Commission Secretariat, in the name of the UISG, and the GCCM, has launched a website for sharing information about the campaign, notification of upcoming events, and sharing resources. The website—available in English, French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish—has fully populated pages for each language and a section, organized by categories, to submit resources in each language.

Currently there are five pages—Home, Goals, Events, Resources, and Contact—with language selection available on each page. There is now also a map which grows a leaf at the location of any prayer and action that is submitted; a visual of the hope that is growing and being spread around the world.

Home: introduces the campaign and has a section to highlight any noted action, upcoming events, or news. The map of growing hope is located at

www.sowinghopefortheplanet.org

IN THIS ISSUE: 1 Sowing Hope for the Planet Website... 2 Fossil Fuel Divestment... 3 Reflecting on the Poor... 3 Biblical Pathways on Human Mobility... 4 Together Against Human Trafficking... 4 Sexual Abuse Victims in Conflict Areas... 4 State of Islam in Sub-Saharan Africa... 5 Formation Program for Formators of Religious Life... 6 Calendar... 7 Search for JPIC Commission Co-Executive Secretary
the bottom of this page. By clicking on a leaf you can see the congregation and links to their resources.

Goals: provides a brief overview of the campaign goals.

Events: offers both upcoming and past events with resources for each event. Important upcoming days or events are posted to offer opportunities for participation.

Resources: offers a center for sisters to both share and access resources to use in their work of sowing hope for the planet. On the resources page there is a link to open the submission form for submitting action/prayer/resources and which collects data about where this has taken place to populate the map.

Contact: provides a way to contact the campaign administrators as well as be added to the mailing list.

We are encouraged and inspired by the amount and types of action we are seeing within the communities! We continue to urge you to share in as many languages as you can provide as we all involved in Sowing Hope for the Planet.

**FOSSIL FUEL DIVESTMENT FOR A ZERO CARBON FUTURE**

In February, men and women religious gathered in London for a serious conversation about the divestments of fossil fuels and the necessity to progress to a zero carbon future. Such a “carbon neutral” future means that a country or an organization will produce no more climate changing emission than they can offset, such as by planting trees. The rigorous effort is in response to the urgency from leading scientists to keep the rising temperature to no more than 1.5 Celsius; the window for this opportunity is in the next 12 years.

Urging a prophetic stance, Fr. Martin Poulsom, SDB, implored participants to *denounce* the effects of fossil fuels and to *announce* positive impacts of alternative energy sources. To do this, it is essential to start with our relationship with God to promote a hopeful direction. He encouraged the participants to face the reality of global warming in the spirit of Pope Francis: *do what is necessary to turn the tide of the destruction of the planet.* The slideshow *handout* of his presentation is available on the on the JPIC Roma website.

Mrs. Lorna Gold rallied the group with her experience in Ireland where the Bishops Conference, Trinity College and Irish Parliament have come together to divest from fossil fuels. What was considered an impossible task has become a reality. She spoke of being encourage by the young people who are demonstrating because they know the need to take a stand for their future. She has written *Climate Generation: Awakening to Our Children’s Future,* a very inspiring book about her journey in discovering the reality of climate change and how she can protect her children and their world.

Sr. Sheila Kinsey, FCJM emphasized the importance of integrating our responses to the cry of the poor and the cry of the Earth and the need to work together because there is such strength in collaboration. She used the example of her province in the US which has divested form fossil fuels as a way to consider such a divestment. Sr. Sheila updated the participants on the UISG two-year campaign on Sowing Hope for the Planet and encouraged them to build its resource bank.

Mr. James Buchanan of Operation Noah, advocated that the Church members to use their important voice with divestments and to invest in fossil fuels. To those who do have fossil fuel investments, he proposed to continue their shareholder engagement and seek ways for needed changes.

Ms. Maria Elena Arana of Catholic International Development Charity in England and Wales (CAFOD) pushed for a just world. She gave the example of the Fossil Free Warriors in the Marshall Islands who are finding ways to protect their land from the effects of climate change. Sustaining pressure is a critical factor in making a difference to counter the effects already in place due to climate change.

Many participants expressed gratitude for the opportunity to receive such an integrated message that considered the divestment and investment concerns in light of listening to the cry of the poor and the cry of the Earth.

News: “Religious call for radical action to stop global warming at London Conference”. 
The second reflection on Pastoral Challenge of Migration for Religious Life was given by Prof. Elizangela Chaves Dias who teaches at the Scalabrini International Migration Institute (SIMI). Focusing on “Biblical pathways of Reflection on Human Mobility”, she inspired men and women religious to address the challenge posed by the phenomenon of human mobility.

She highlighted the rich recent bibliography on the biblical perspective about human mobility, underscoring the fact that it is an undisputable truth that the authors of biblical texts were all migrants, their narratives were about migration and those were written for migrants. Thus, the bible, whose authors and audience were migrants, tells the experience of people whose stories of faith have been marked by migration. Sacred Scripture presents the experience of migration as an essential element for the formation of the identity of ancient Israel and of Christians. To get into deeper understanding of biblical stories one must appreciate the importance of these narratives—a heritage.

Mobility of the ancient Israel within the phenomenon of mobility of peoples. Here, Prof. Elizangela emphasized the connection between the experience of mobility and people’s faith. She spoke about the God who chose migrants to make covenant with them, chooses a landless ancestor of the ancient Israel and a sterile woman who seem to run away from death. (Gen 15) The son of the promise, Isaac, was born of a couple of immigrants without land ownership. Joseph’s story of slavery to Egypt is read in the light of God’s plan to bring salvation of the elected people and the Bible is full of these stories of faith. (See also Psalm 105:16-24.)
God sees and listens to the migrant. In reflecting on faith in God who sees and listens to the migrants, Prof. Elizangela focused on the Genesis story of Hagar. (Gen. 21) She said that Hagar is an icon of vulnerability whose cry reach out to God. A lonely woman with her son, walking to unknown destination, she is then helped by God and promised to be safe. Biblical stories like that enable the reader to realize the saving presence of God of the suffering people, especially in the most painful moments of the life of the migrant. She added that such narratives helps us to unmask two ideological attitudes towards migrants that we see in our current societies: the perception of the migrant as a danger and, therefore, as an enemy.

Conclusion. Prof. Elizangela concluded her talk with a challenge to participants, asking them to be witness to the fact that the Israelites had the DNA of migrant and that the people of the covenant were never exclusive—many people from different origins were integrated into their societies.

Don't miss the last two sessions—March 9 and April 6—of the series of reflection on the challenge of migration as we try to give our prophet witness in addressing this and other issue of our times.

Video: EN IT SP  PPT: EN IT SP

TOGETHER AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Hundreds gathered at the Pontifical University Antonianum to honor the feastday of St. Josephine Bakhita, a victim of human trafficking from South Sudan. As a child, she was sold in slavery and suffered severe beatings and cruel treatment from her masters. When she received her freedom she joined the Canossian Congregation in Italy. We commemorated her holy life and prayed for her guidance as we strive to end the scourge of this modern-day slavery and find ways to help such victims renew their lives.

As a ritual of solidarity, balls of yarn were passed throughout the church and were unraveled with each person holding a part. The string united all of us as we made a commitment to do what we can to end the conditions that support this slavery and help victims.

The following Sunday, we gathered at the Piazza Castel Sant’Angelo and marched to St. Peter’s Square for the Angelus with Pope Francis. He asked the crowd three times in Italian, “Insieme contra la tratta,” each time louder. The supporters of the victims eagerly increased their volume with the words of their commitment. Later the audience recited the special prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita to help us end human trafficking.

We are grateful to Talitha Kum of the UISG for all of the work in organizing both events.

THOUSANDS OF SEXUAL ABUSE VICTIMS IN AREAS OF CONFLICT

Feautured in Rome Reports is a three-minute video by Sean Richardson on “Thousands of women, men and children continue to suffer sexual violence in conflict,” graphically highlighting the devastating effects of violence in areas of conflict. The message calls for conflict free minerals extraction, especially in the area of the Democratic Republic of the Congo where coltan is mined. This is a substance used in our electronic devices because they are such good conductors. The plea is for coltan to be mined in verifiable conflict free areas. Not only companies which benefit from this research, but all of us are urged to look at our investments. Being social responsible means to know where our money is invested and make ethical decisions in response to the needs of creation.

STATE OF ISLAM IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

The monthly JPIC English Promoters meeting in February was held at the headquarter of the UISG in Rome. Organized by the African Working Group, the session focused on the topic State of Islam in sub-Saharan Africa: providing keys for better understanding of the expansion of Islam.

Fr. Phiri began his presentation by explaining the territorial expansion of Islam in its early existence. He
went on to discussing Islam in sub-Saharan Africa, showing how Islam spread in Africa, and stressing the conceptual frameworks underlying the Islamic expansion. He gave a comprehensive view of “Da’wah” which refers to Islamic missionary activities in modern times, discussing the different types of “jihad”—the inner and outer jihad—and its extremist forms spreading out in various African countries such as Nigeria, Mali and Kenya.

The Da’wah movement is encouraged by several agents of Islamic propagation, such as Islamic governments, Muslim International Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations and individual Muslim Initiatives. The Islamist infrastructure worldwide relies heavily on “zakat”, the mandatory charity demanded by Islam, usually 2.5 percent of one’s annual earnings.

The agents of Islamic propagation explore various strategies such as media, schools and universities, social welfare projects as well as funding of mosques, Islamic centres and madrasas. There are also various ways different ways to influence national politics, economy, society, family life, education, language and daily cultural habits.

Fr. Phiri concluded by saying that although Islam is a religion with a universal outlook, it foresees a coexistence with other religions. In its expansionist thrust, Islam needs no one’s permission, he emphasized. On the contrary, Muslims would gladly see Islam become more accepted in society.

Participants were encouraged to live their witness through authentic Christian life in coherence to the message of Jesus. He saw Pope Francis’ landmark visit to the United Arab Emirates, as the coming as a friend, and the importance of collaboration between Muslims and Christians.—Contributors: Andreas Göpfert, MAFR, Missionary of Africa International JPIC Coordinator and Mariano Tibaldo, MCCJ, Comboni Secretary for Mission.
**MARCH INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS**

Month for Evangelization—That Christian communities, especially those who are persecuted, feel that they are close to Christ and have their rights respected. The monthly videos are available the first Friday of the month.

March 6 to 31—Message of Pope Francis for Lent “For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God.”

**INTERNATIONAL DAYS OF OBSERVANCE IN MARCH**

1 March—**Zero Discrimination Day** [UNAIDS] is an opportunity to highlight how everyone can be part of the transformation and take a stand for a fair and just society.

3 March—**World Wildlife Day** calls on everyone to do their part in protecting the world’s wild animals and plants. The future of wildlife is in our hands.

- **Sowing hope for the Planet Event Resource**: Earth Day 2019 “Protect our Species” is one focus of Earth Day in which protection for threatened species is focused on.

8 March—**International Women’s Day** celebrates the acts of courage and determination of ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in their countries. 2019 theme: Think equal, build smart, innovate for change.

- **Sisters of St. Joseph Earth Centers** offer programs for women in impoverished situations to “step away for a day”.

21 March—**International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**, 2019 Theme: Mitigating and countering rising nationalist populism and extreme supremacist ideologies.

21 March—**International Day of Forests** reminds us of the ways that forests and trees protect us and provide for a rich variety of biodiversity.

- **Cameroon Parish** focusing on interconnectedness, education and planting trees in local community.

22 March—**World Water Day** acknowledges that water is an essential building block for life. It is vital for creating jobs and supporting economic, social and human development. 2019 theme: “Leaving no one behind.”

- **Sowing Hope for the Planet Event Resource**
- **Reflections on Water Resource from JPIC**

24 March—**International Day for the Right to the Truth** concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims pays tribute to the important work and values of Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador.

- **Mercy International Association** offers this action/reflection process (MIRP) in response to the despair and suffering of many displaced people and to the increasing degradation of the environment. These are the challenges and the call of our time.

25 March—**International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade** reminds us that for over 400 years, more than 15 million men, women, and children were victims of this tragic slave trade.

---

**JPIC PROMOTERS MEETINGS IN MARCH**

4 March—English Speaking CORE Group from 3 pm to 5 pm at the Fratelli.

5 March—Integrity of Creation Working Group (ICWG) from 3 pm to 5 pm at the Fratelli.

5 March—Africa Working Group, 3.30pm to 5.30 pm at Missionaries of Africa Curia.

6 March—Spanish and Portuguese Speaking Promoters Meeting, 9 am to 12 pm at UISG. The theme is “Justice with the Common House, urges an ecological conversion” Tomás Insua, Co-founder and Executive Director of the World Catholic Climate Movement will guide the promoters through three moments of ‘Listen to the song of creation’, ‘Listen to the clamor of the earth and the cry of the poor for justice’ and Orient us to respond with hope and action.

9 March—Third of four training sessions on “Migrations and the Challenges of Christian Community,” Gioacchino Campese, CS will speak on The Church’s Teaching on Migrants and Refugees, 9 am to 12 pm at the UISG. The course is conducted in EN, ES and IT with simultaneous translations. There is online access. See flyers and how to REGISTER.

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

14 March—Evaluation of Planning with the Participants of the JPIC Formation Workshop by Skype call: English Group--9: 30 am to 10:30 am or 11 am to 12 pm. The Spanish Group—3 pm to 4 pm.

from 9 am to 12 pm at the Fratelli delle Scuole Cristiane, Sala Giovanni Paolo II, Via Aurelia 476, Roma. The presenter, Fr. Chika Onyejiuwa, CSSp will address advocacy through the lenses of the Bible and Catholic Social Teachings. Translations in English, Spanish & French. Thank you for your donation of €5.

**21 March**—Refugees and Migrants Working Group (RMWG), 3 pm to 5 pm at the Fratelli.

**25 March**—ICR at FAO Office, 3 pm to 5 pm at the Passionists.

**29 March**—"Justice with the Common House, demands an ecological conversion". Prayer prepared by the Spanish/Portuguese Promoters, 7 pm to 8 pm at Chiesa San Marcello.

### SAVE THE DATE

**13 April**— Stations of the Cross organized by the JPIC secretariat. All men and women religious are invited to join in prayer. The meeting time is 14:30 at PIAZZA DEI PARTIGIANI near Stazione Ostiense. From there, at 15:00 we will prayerfully walk towards Trastevere, we will finish in the Chapel of Fatebene Fratelli Hospital in the Tiberine Island. Prayers will be in Italian, English and Spanish and will be posted on our website. We plan to conclude at 6 pm.

---

**SEARCH FOR A JPIC COMMISSION MALE EXECUTIVE CO-SECRETARY**

In 2019, Fr. Felix Mushobozi, CPPS will be completing his six years of service as executive co-secretary of the JPIC Commission. We are very grateful for the many ways he continues to share his priestly ministry and deep concern for justice, peace and the integrity of creation. The JPIC Commission of the USG-USG is searching for a male religious to work full-time, together with a female religious, as executive co-secretary in the Commission’s Secretariat Office in Rome, Italy. It is important that this person have sufficient experience in justice, peace and integrity of creation concerns, that he be fluent in English and have some knowledge of Spanish or fluent in Spanish and have some knowledge in English, and capable of teamwork. He must possess computer and organizational skills. Contact jpicroma@gmail.com for more information not later than March 15, 2019.

---

**This mystery of salvation, already at work in us during our earthly lives, is a dynamic process that also embraces history and all of creation.**

Published by the JPIC Commission Secretariat

Executive Co-Secretaries: Felix Mushobozi, CPPS and Sheila Kinsey, FCJM

Communications: Celine A. Quinio

Via Aurelia 476, CP 9099 Aurelio, 00165 Roma, Italy

Tel: (39)06.6622929 Mobile: (39)3314348103/(39)3400611596

Email: jpicusguisg@lasalle.org/jpic.cosec@lasalle.org

Website: http://www.jpicroma.org