



NEWSBRIEF

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

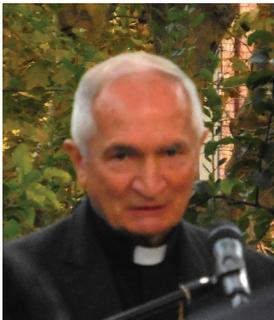
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EDITORIAL: This issue highlights the interconnectedness of JPIC issues which are all interwoven. JPIC Promoters groups in Rome have chosen a theme that runs through all of what is happening and guiding the various initiatives. The Spanish and Portuguese Group focuses on “Peace and Nonviolence” and the theme of the English Group is “Living Right Relationship with All of Creation”. A sense of deep communion with the whole world “cannot be real if our hearts lack tenderness, compassion and concern for our fellow human beings and nature. It is clearly inconsistent to combat trafficking of endangered species, but remain indifferent to human trafficking, unconcerned about the poor, or undertaking to destroy another human being deemed unwanted.” —LS # 91.

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

THE VATICAN IN THE FAMILY OF NATIONS



A reception was held at the residence of the US embassy to the Holy See to honor the legacy of Archbishop Silvano M. Tomasi and to celebrate the release of his book *The Vatican in the Family of Nations*. Cardinal Pietro Parolin spoke to the gathering, highlighting the many contributions made by

Archbishop Tomasi during the time he represented the Vatican in Geneva at the United Nations and at other international organizations from 2003–2015, while developing a deeper and richer understanding of the social doctrine and actions of the Catholic Church in international law and relations.

“The book sheds light on what has been achieved by the Holy See’s diplomacy,” stated Cardinal Parolin, “specifically in the multilateral context, and in its solicitude for the global family,” including peace, human rights, migration, and development of trade.

Cardinal Parolin praised Archbishop Tomasi for “His patient and focused work of negotiation and personal participation in the issues.” In fact, he helped the Holy See to become a protagonist. His achievements include the Cluster Munitions Convention, access to medicines within the World Health Organization, overcoming the limitations and exceptions to privatization rights and the commitments within international trade law.

The JPIC Secretariat was glad to be invited to this event because we have often worked with Archbishop Tomasi, particularly in the follow-up to issues related to nonviolence. We have benefited greatly from his vast experience, clarity of thought, developmental logic and gentle humor.

A copy of the talk by Cardinal Parolin is available on the [L’Osservatore Romano website](#).

To order the book, go to <https://www.amazon.com/Vatican-Family-Nations-International-Organizations/dp/1107179300>.

CATHOLICS AND MUSLIMS WORKING TOGETHER IN THE PHILIPPINES



L-R: Amirah Lidasan from Kalinaw Mindanao and Beverly Longid, an expert on indigenous peoples’ issues.

Two representatives of indigenous groups in the southern Philippines, a Catholic and a Muslim, visited the JPIC Office to talk about the pain and heartache from the devastating conflict in the area. Amirah Lidasan

from Kalinaw Mindanao, a Peace network in Mindanao, actively works against the highly-militarized form of conflict resolution efforts of the state. She particularly focuses on the effects of the declaration on the Islamic communities known as *moros*. The other was Beverly Longid, an expert on indigenous peoples' issues in the country, who spoke about the tragic attacks under martial law against the lumads, the collective term referring to all the indigenous people of Mindanao.

The women spoke passionately about the work of the Catholic Church to provide educational opportunities and to advocate for the basic rights of these people. In fact, more than 200 schools had been built by the lumads and moros themselves with the help of non-government and people's organizations. Recently, the women spoke at the United Nations regarding their struggles.

They came to Rome to solicit our support for their rights to education, self-determination, protection of ancestral lands and their call for justice and peace. The women are asking the international community to support the national call to forge genuine change and development by understanding and respecting the rich history of the lumad and moro struggle.

Pope Francis has [spoken](#) out a number of times on the self-determining rights of indigenous peoples.

ANNUAL THEME OF SPANISH/PORTUGUESE JPIC PROMOTERS: PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE



L-R: Begona Escribuela, NSC; Arlindo Pinto, MCCJ; YamileMartinez, OP; Leonor Chirria, OP; Maria Giovanna Monastero, ASM; Maria de los Angeles Carrera, SCC.

With renewed momentum, the group of Spanish/Portuguese JPIC promoters resumed their monthly meetings on October 4 at the headquarters of the International Union of Superiors General (UISG).

The program of the meeting, prepared by the coordinating committee of the group, began with a moment of prayerful reflection on Peace and Nonviolence, in tune with the background of the new period 2017–2018.

For this reason, the participants were invited to review, through a PPT, the meaning of the paradigm Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC), which constitutes the prospective of the whole year.

From this vision, the program of monthly meetings was presented, which will deepen the theme of Peace and Nonviolence from various aspects of the current world: geopolitics, human dignity, sustainable development, restorative justice, new generations, climate change, etc.

The development of the monthly agenda will be carried out by inter-congregational subgroups and, on several occasions, experts invited for this purpose.

Likewise, the validity of the monthly prayer in the Church of San Marcello al Corso (Rome) was reaffirmed to pray for the problems addressed in the meetings.

We hope that this program will strengthen the JPIC commitment, not only of the group members, but all of the congregations that have delegated its membership to animate this fundamental dimension in their charism.—*The JPIC Coordinating Committee*

HOSTING REFUGEES IN RELIGIOUS HOUSES



L-R: Sr. Carmen Elisa Bando, SSsP, Fr. David Reid, ssc, Sr. Maria Jose Rosa, ORU, Fr. Nico Espinosa, SVD.

The Refugees and Migrants Working Group (RMWG) hosted the JPIC English Promoters Meeting last October 18. Twenty-eight congregations are currently hosting refugees in 30 of their houses. Since the beginning of the project (2014), 111 persons are on their own.

With Fr. Jude Nnorom, CSSP as facilitator, the session began with the prayer on the reality of migration. This was followed by the experiences shared by four resource persons who spoke of their community's blessings, challenges, best practices and questions. They include Sr. Maria Jose Rosa of the Ursulines of the Roman Union, Fr. Nico Espinosa of the Society of the Divine Word, Fr. David Reid of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts, and Sr. Carmen Elissa Bando of the Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit.

Blessings

- Assisting families and persons to be independent and to recover the dimension of intimacy and family. Refugees/migrants are helped to create new links of networks, contacts, acquaintances and opportunities.
- Responding to the call of the Church and to participate in her mission, refugee/migrants have helped us to develop sensitivity to their cultural and religious plurality.

Challenges

- The language becomes a barrier for communication. Caution is necessary regarding boundary issues, while offering advice, feedback, providing accompaniment, and caring for their health.
- There is fear of suffering due to xenophobia and prejudices. Complex issues are related to money. Faced with new people and culture, there is an unconscious drive to save their identity, while integrating into their new local reality.

Best practices

- Treating them like neighbors, friends and long term guests; celebrating their important days; keeping the balance between respect for their privacy and making our presence with them; assigning a member of the community as reference point for refugees; stating the boundaries clearly with due care for their employment and religious perspectives; informing them of expectations; respecting the desire to give back in small ways like sharing their meal.
- The project has to be regularly evaluated and updated.

Questions

- How to help the refugees take responsibility for their own life and to create a network amongst themselves to promote better conditions for their lives?
- How can we develop and make known the right of all to emigrate and immigrate, as stated in Catholic Social teaching(cf. Compendium of the Social doctrine of the church, no. 100, 289, 297, 298, 308, 505).
- How do we balance the needs of the refugees/migrants and the local community?



Sr. Maria Jose Rey Merodio, Coordinator of the Centro Astali Program for Congregations in Rome, explained the Semi-Autonomy Project: Community of Hospitality, which facilitates the exit of refugees from the reception circuit, creating a bridge to accompany the passage from assisted reception to autonomy. The project allows the gradual involvement of the beneficiaries in the direct participation in their own sustenance and in the re-appropriation of the administration of everyday life. They help to create new links in the territory and insertion in the fabric of society. The project makes possible new forms of widespread reception.

Challenges for the Centro Astali Program include: finding a stable and regular working insertion, finding places to rent on a regular basis after the period of semi-autonomous reception, adhering to a straight-line path of integration, logistic and bureaucratic difficulties linked to being transferred—residence, school

insertion of minors, being taken charge by the relevant social services, etc., accepting the conclusion of the reception period, cultural difficulties (saving money, maintenance of the spaces, etc.).

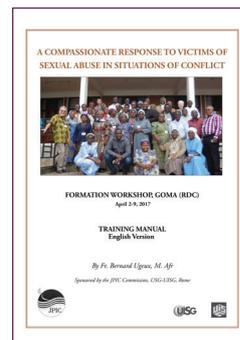
We are grateful that the RMWG will be developing a handbook to share their experiences with other persons interested in working with refugees and migrants.

Following are references to more information regarding refugees/migrants:

- [Centro Astelli](#)
- [Pope Francis: The protection of migrants is a moral duty](#)
- [Migrants and refugees](#)
- [Sendai framework for disaster reduction](#)
- [Global movement of people](#)
- [Population of refugees/migrants](#)
- [New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants](#)

Contributed by S.Vincent Anesthasiar, CMF

FINAL REPORT OF THE EASTERN DRC PROJECT PRESENTED TO THE UK FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE



The Pastoral Prevention and Compassionate Response to Sexual Violence in the East DRC: Testing Revised Modules of the International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict, which began on April 1, 2017 and ended on July 31, 2017, was undertaken by the International Union of Superior Generals, through Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation, and the Missionaries of Africa.

Participants were asked to write a report about the impact of the training on their approach towards victims/perpetrators and on final beneficiaries.

Qualitative evaluations were received three months after the workshop. Participants were asked to write a report about the impact of the training on their approach towards victims/perpetrators and on final beneficiaries. There were 24 responses out of 38 participants. The evaluations were thoughtful, insightful, hopeful and clear. Below are some of the comments:

- Systematic re-opening of the Multi-functional Center for the Promotion of Women with different activities.
- As a congregation, we are more open to engaging with those affected by the various forms of violence.
- Involved with the members of the Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission.
- Trained the counselling team in the health center, to put more emphasis on: youth training, family training, formation of priests and religious of different dioceses.
- Visited several houses that care for the girls, wom-

en and children and accompany them having gained new information.

- Involvement with cases in Protestant health center, in a Catholic hospital, survivors in a Center, Orphanage.
- Reached the objective to target persons who have lost all dignity.
- Through the broadcasting program on the radio.
- Utilize the network of collaboration within 50 villages of the diocese served by Caritas.
- Worked with MONUSCO on legal matters.
- Provided regular support through emails from the Office in Rome to persons in the DRC.
- Maintain the necessary connections with the various collaborators in Rome.
- Developed the training manual in French and English which has been professionally formatted and used by the participants. The title of this manual is “A Compassionate Response to Victims of Sexual Abuse in Situations of Conflict.”

We will see how we can strengthen the networking and address the needs listed in the evaluations from the workshop participants. We continue to maintain communication through e-mails.

The report was favorably received by the UK. The full report is available on <http://www.jpicroma.org/afri-ca-clpt>. Also watch [Crisis in the Congo](#).

POPE FRANCIS GRACES 2017 WORLD FOOD DAY CEREMONIES AT FAO HEADQUARTERS



To mark the UN-recognized WORLD FOOD DAY, each year the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) each year hosts ceremonies to recommit the international community to the basic work of FAO: Towards Zero Hunger. This year, the theme of World Food Day, on October 16, 2017, was “Change the future of migration: Invest in food security and rural development.”

As part of these ceremonies, the Holy Father delivers a message through his Permanent Representative to the UN Agencies based in Rome. This year, Pope Francis came to FAO for the first time and delivered his message in person. I offer two links to help you enter fully into what Pope Francis presented to those at FAO: [the Vatican translation in English of the Pope’s message](#) and a [webcast video](#) of the live ceremonies at FAO on 16 October. The webcast video begins with an introduction by the Director-General of FAO, Jose Graziano Da Silva who also introduces Pope Francis. The speech by Pope Francis begins at approximately minute 20 and concludes at minute 42.

Recalling that FAO was instituted by governments of the world in 1945, at a time of “grave food insecurity and major displacements of the population, with millions of people seeking a place to survive the miseries and adversity caused by the war,” Pope Francis said “reflecting on the effects of food security on human mobility means returning to the commitment that gave rise to the FAO, in order to renew it.”

Pope Francis continues, “the relationship between hunger and migration can only be tackled if we go to the root of the problem” and many studies of the UN and others “agree that there are two main obstacles to overcome: conflicts and climate change.” We are all called to be involved in overcoming these two obstacles: “We cannot resign ourselves to saying ‘someone else will take care of it’.”

A very powerful moment in Pope Francis’ talk was when he said: “Therefore I pose—and I pose to you—this question: is it too much to think of introducing into the language of international cooperation the category of love, understood as gratuitousness, parity in negotiation, solidarity, the culture of giving, fraternity, mercy? In effect these words express the practical content of the term ‘humanitarian’, widely used at the international level. To love one’s brothers [and sisters] and to do so first, without waiting for it to be reciprocated; this is a Gospel principle that is found in many cultures and religions, and becomes the principle of humanity in the language of international relations.”

Near the end of his talk Pope Francis raises his deep concern: “Let us listen to the cry of so many of our marginalized and excluded brothers [and sisters]: ‘I am hungry, I am a stranger, I am naked, sick, confined in a refugee camp’. It is a cry for justice not a plea or an emergency call.”

Pope Francis concluded his talk to all the dignitaries and responsible governmental officials at FAO, but it is equally directed to each of us: “I hope that each person may discover, in the silence of his or her own faith or convictions, the motivations, principles and contributions to give the FAO and other intergovernmental institutions the courage to improve and work tirelessly for the good of the human family.” —*Contributed by Ken Thesing, MM, Coordinator of ICR at FAO Working Group*

NOVEMBER INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS

Christians in Asia. That Christians in Asia, bearing witness to the Gospel in word and deed, may promote dialogue, peace, and mutual understanding, especially with those of other religions. A [video](#) on the intention becomes available the first Friday of the month.

19 November [World Day of the Poor](#). A powerful appeal to our consciences as believers, allowing us to grow in the conviction that sharing with the poor enables us to understand the deepest truth of the Gospel. The poor are not a problem: they are a resource from which to draw as we strive to accept and practice in our lives the essence of the Gospel.

INTERNATIONAL DAYS OF OBSERVANCE

3-17 November: The UN Climate Conference [COP 23](#), Bonn Germany, convened under the presidency of Fiji.

6 November: International Day for [Preventing the Exploitation of the environment in War and Armed Conflict](#) (A/RES/56/4) “We must use all of the tools at our disposal, from dialogue and mediation to preventive diplomacy, to keep the unsustainable exploitation of natural resources from fueling and financing armed conflict and destabilizing the fragile foundations of peace.” (Secretary General Ban Ki-moon)

10 November: [World Science Day for Peace and Development](#) UNESCO 31 C/Resolution 20) Science will be essential to reach many of the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and, thus, to ensure a sustainable future.

16 November: International Day for [Tolerance](#) (UNESCO 28 C/Resolution 5.61; A/RES/51/95) Strengthens tolerance by fostering mutual understanding among cultures and people.

20 November: Universal [Children’s Day](#) (A/RES/836 IX) promotes and celebrates the rights of children.

20 November: [Africa Industrialization Day](#) (A/RES/44/237) draws attention to the efforts of governments and other organizations in many Africa countries to examine ways to stimulate Africa’s economy.

25 November: International Day for the Elimination of [Violence against Women](#) (A/RES/54/134) aims to raise public awareness and mobilizing people everywhere to bring about change that eliminates violence against women.

29 November: International Day of [Solidarity with the Palestinian People](#) (A/RES/32/40B) reaffirms the commitment to support just peace for the people of Israel and Palestine.

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 NOVEMBER

3 November: West Papua Network. 9 am-10:30 am, Augustinian Generalate, Via Paolo VI, 25

6 November: JPIC Promoters Spanish and Portuguese—Violence, Root of all the Problems, 9 am to 12 pm at UISG

6 November: English Speaking CORE Group, 3 pm to 5 pm at the Fratelli

7 November: Catholic Nonviolence Initiative (CNI) [Webinar](#)

7 November: Integrity of Creation WG (ICWG), 3 pm to 5 pm at the Fratelli

8 November: Africa WG (AWG), 3:30-5:30 pm, at the Missionaries of Africa

9 November: Refugees and Migrants WG (RMWG), 3 pm to 5 pm at the Fratelli

14 November: Anti-Trafficking WG (ATWG), 3 pm to 5 pm at the Fratelli

15 to 18 November: Formation Workshop at Casa per Ferie Enrico De Osso, Via Val Cannuta, 134. For more information, go to www.jpicroma.org.

18 November: Welcoming of English and Spanish Promoters. Andreas Gofert, MAF will present best practices on Animation/Peace and Nonviolence, 9 am-12:30 pm (lunch) at Casa Ferie Enrico De Osso, Via Val Cannuta, 134.

21 November: International Congregations of Religious at Food and Agriculture Organization (ICR at FAO), 3pm to 5pm at the Passionists.

23 November: Special Prayer for South Sudan and Democratic Republic of the Congo, Basilica of St. Peter. More information is forthcoming.

24 November: Violence, the root of all the problems, 7-8 pm at Chiesa San Marcello.

27 November: JPIC Commission Meeting, 9am to 12 pm at UISG

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