



Editorial: “God turns everything to our good.” Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you as we consider our responses to the global pandemic of the coronavirus. We feel the impact of being interconnected and the importance of solidarity at this time. Sharing best practices for survival is a necessity. In this issue are some of the ways through which we care for the needs of the Earth and the Poor— the implications of mining practices, lessons learned from the Synod on the Amazon, and the importance of networking.

We join one another as we enter intense spiritual reflection of the paschal mystery of the life, passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. We wish you all a very Blessed Easter.

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

PROMOTING JPIC DURING COVID-19 LOCKDOWN



Pope Francis delivers his [message](#) on Urbi et Orbi, March 27, 2020.

Since the second week of March, Italy has been on lockdown and so are many other countries where the virus COVID-19 is spreading exponentially. To contain the virus there is a need to stay at home. Since we can no longer work in the office or in the field, how can we continue our work of promoting JPIC?

We can make use of digital technology and social media. Physical distance and self-quarantine do not mean social isolation. We remain interconnected thanks to the development in information and communication technology. We immediately know what is happening everywhere and we continue to communicate even if we are in our room. Digital media is making the office obsolete. The era of remote work is here, and no lockdown can stop us from continuing our advocacies. During this time, we held four webinars with participants from all over the world:

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- March 12—third session of the course on digital technology: [Information and Communication Technology for Development](#).
- March 13: Pope Francis' Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation "[Querida Amazonia](#)".
- March 19: fourth session on digital technology: [Digital Platforms for Fundraising](#).
- March 26—fifth session on digital technology: [Social Communication in the Digital Era](#)—Non-Violent Communication. [Alyansang Tigil Mina \(Alliance to Stop Mining\)](#).

The next webinar will be on April 7, 2020 and will focus on [Sowing Hope for the Planet](#) and the celebration of the fifth anniversary of *Laudato Si'*.

Meetings and conferences can also be held online using Zoom, WhatsApp, Skype, Google Chat, FaceBook Messenger, and other applications. On April 4, the [Stations of the Cross](#) will be held online with special prayers prepared by JPIC Promoters in the Spirit of *Laudato Si'*.

We encourage JPIC Promoters to use these resources to continue their advocacy and JPIC work. Visit our [website](#) for more information and to check out our various resources. In these times of "shelter in place", when face-to-face encounter is not possible, carrying out our mission can still be accomplished.

If you already have a FaceBook Page, please link to the [JPIC Roma Facebook](#) Page and click "like". If you don't have one, consider opening a FaceBook account. This is a means for ongoing communication and sharing of information among the members of the group. You can create your own Facebook Page or group where you can continue to promote JPIC in your particular context. The PowerPoint presentation of the webinar on Social Media and JPIC Promotion is available in the JPIC Roma Facebook Page. Let's keep in touch with each other. We would like to reach out to JPIC promoters not just in Rome, but all over the world.

THE REALITY OF THE BRUMADINHO REGION

At the webinar on the Brumadinho Region, [Bishop Vicente Ferreira, CSsR](#), shared his disturbing story of the horrific tragedy that occurred in Brumadinho in 2019 when the tailings dam ruptured. Bishop Vicente is Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Belo Horizonte. His message was focused on the impact of mining and the involvement of the Church with those affected by mining.

Bishop Vicente began the session by singing a song he composed, "Casa Común". He was visibly moved as he remembered the suffering of his own people.



The tragic incident killed 272 people and life as they knew it was destroyed for the survivors. The mining company had given false promises ensuring safety and security. His mission is to give voice to this tragedy by testifying to the human rights violations of government entities. With the support of Franciscans International, he spoke before the [Human Rights Council](#).

He described the complexity of the situation. The environment was damaged, but people must have jobs for their livelihood. He raised important questions. What are they to do? Why can't there be sustainable development that considers the well-being of the people and not just the financial profit of stakeholders?

As Church leaders, Bishop Vicente said it is not enough just to pray. He said that it is important to network with social movements to realize integral ecology. The Amazonia area is a critical factor in addressing climate change, He reminded us that we are all interconnected. The open mining process causes widespread deforestation and ecological destruction. He mentioned a special concern for the indigenous Amazonian people, whose ancestral lands are confiscated for mining as well as unsustainable farming of monocrops such as soybeans or sugarcane.

Sadly, these criminal violations of human rights are conducted with impunity. However, they should be acknowledged as criminal acts. He urged us to be responsible together. Land and loved ones are being lost as heritages and ecologies are irretrievably destroyed. Recon-



L-R: [Bishop Vicente Ferreira, CSsR](#) and Br. Rodrigo Perez, OFM.

structing families is not only a financial issue, but hinders the people's needs to be in solidarity with others.

In addition, the Bishop's concerns were supported by Br. Rodrigo Perez, OFM, the Coordinator of the JPIC Mining Network, who accompanied

the Bishop on his mission. He reinforced the Bishop's message and spoke of the importance of the network to work together and to realize the commitments made by the participants at the September Mining Seminar. The statement was posted on the website for the Amazonian Synod.

A SYNODAL APPROACH TO SYNODALITY



L-R: Sr. Begoña Escrihuela, HNSC, Sr. Ma. Clemencia Carrizosa, ACI and Sr. Inés Ruiz, ACI.

The Spanish-Portuguese JPIC Promoters Group met on March 4 to reflect on Synodality. Based on the International Theological Commission's Document of March 2018, "Synodality in the Life and Mission of the Church," Sr. Begoña Escrihuela, HNSC, Sr. Inés Ruiz, ACI and Sr. Ma. Clemencia Carrizosa, ACI introduced the theme, which they had previously studied together.

Synodality entails "walking together", and so the meeting started with a chanted song to Our Lady, "*La primera en camino*" (The first in the way). The subject was then developed with a presentation of the following items: the nature of synodality, synodality in scripture and in history, and synodality in subjects, structures and processes.

They broke up into smaller groups and sought to identify effective ways in which Religious Life could help to develop a true synodality approach in the life and mission of the Church. The first step towards synodality was identified in the community itself through a serious commitment to build relationships that are prophetic and in which synodality becomes tangible through a "me" to an "us" conversion, typical of the People of God. This leads to communion in the life and mission, where some issues need to be reflected upon, such as women religious and clericalism, and the different styles of governance, since power often hampers leadership. Events that enable the path of synodality should be harnessed. Lay groups are often considered at a second level; religious congregations must reflect on this issue, bearing in mind the inverted pyramid.

Listening, dialogue and participation for community discernment should proceed in a double two direc-

tions: listening to the people's feelings to take them to local and diocesan synodal areas, which requires conversion, and listening to the Church's pulse in order to take it to the people in the different pastoral areas.

Regarding the synodal work and the ecumenical journey, the following attitudes were emphasized: to value other faiths, to seek what unites more than what divides, and to identify actions enabling us to work together, and to share Jesus' experience, rather than religious theories.

In summary, everyone realized that synodality is a constitutive dimension of a Christian, as an expression of the Trinitarian Community. The Triune God created the human being in his image and likeness to live in communion; he established a covenant with them; and inverted the pyramid by "dwelling among us."

Conversion to synodality is required, which demands a process, a mind-set change, an inversion of the pyramid (the People of God in the top; the ecclesiastical authority in the bottom, supporting and animating): this is God's vision of the Church. Serious and suitable formation is required in our leadership styles.—
Contributor: Ma. Clemencia Carrizosa ACI, JPIC Congregational Promoter

2020 AEFJN CONTACT PERSONS SEMINAR



AEFJN is a network of more than 45 religious congregations which works on economic justice between Europe and Africa. AEFJN has its international secretariat in Brussels to lobby the European decision makers. Its unique strength is the Antennas, the national groups which commit on national level advocacy in collaboration with the international secretariat.

On March 5, 19 religious women and men participated in the 2020 Africa Europe Faith and Justice Network (AEFJN) [Contact Persons Seminar](#) held at the Generalate of the Missionaries of Africa. The main

topic of the seminar was, “How the contact persons could support the Antennas around the world?”

Six speakers explained the work of the Antennas. In Europe, Antennas are present in Germany, France, Spain, the Netherlands and Switzerland. In Africa, they are in Cameroon, Kenya and Central African Republic. Antennas in Europe have been suffering due to the aging of their members, while the young African religious missionaries are busy with other responsibilities. In Africa, on the other hand, the young members still need to understand the importance of advocacy and networking.

After the inputs, the participants gathered in small groups. Some of the comments were:

- Contact Persons need more information to animate local members.
- Our local members could be connected more with some bigger JPIC organizations like AEFJN and diocesan JPIC.
- Include JPIC perspective in initial formation programs.
- Share success stories for animation.

The seminar was a good opportunity for the participants to get to know each other, learn the work of Antennas, and discuss how we could better collaborate to work on the challenges.—Contributor: Daisuke Narui, SVD, International Coordinator, Vice-President, AEFJN

JPIC PROMOTER MEETINGS

4 April—[Stations of the Cross](#) in Pamphili Park in Rome will be a virtual journey in the Spirit of *Laudato Si'*. We will be stopping at various nature sights and reflecting on the message from *Laudato Si'*. The area of the park also has a very moving pathway with the signs of women who have made various contributions to make the world a better place. In this park, we will truly have the opportunity to explore the meaning of our Sister, Mother Earth. In the opening paragraph of the encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis reminds us that “our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us.” Also, we call to mind the prayer of St. Francis, “Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with colored flowers and herbs”. (LS 1) [Translations](#) are available in EN, ES, and IT. Join the virtual journey at <https://zoom.us/j/115032444>.

6 April—CORE Meeting English. Connection information will be forthcoming for members.

7 April—Online Sowing Hope for the Planet 2 pm to 4 pm Rome Time, will focus the [Celebration of the 5th anniversary on *Laudato Si'*](#). Sr. Maria de los Angeles Marco Teja, Ursulina de Jesus of Canada, will be describing the inspiring ways the message of *Laudato Si'* has been connected throughout her congregation. Amy Echeveria, Board Chair of GCCM will share the delightful story of the meeting the GCCM Board had with Pope Francis. There will be time to discuss plans to explore sustainable developments in our congregations. Translations in EN, ES, FR and IT. [Join](#) us at <https://zoom.us/j/142855791>.

POPE FRANCIS'S INTENTIONS FOR APRIL

Freedom from Addiction. We pray that those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied. The [video](#) is available on the first Friday of the month.

Pope Francis [Easter Message](#). vaticannews.va/es.html

INTERNATIONAL DAYS FOR APRIL

4 April—[International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action](#) calls for continued efforts by States, with the assistance of the UN and relevant organizations, to ensure that landmines and explosive hazards in war torn countries are found and destroyed. Mines pose a serious threat to the safety, health and lives of citizens in those areas.

Spanish: <https://www.un.org/es/observances/mine-awareness-day>

Other resources with a focus on mining are available on www.sowinghopefortheplanet.org:

- [Impacts of Mining](#)

6 April—[International Day of Sport for Development and Peace](#) signifies the positive influence that sports can have on the advancement of human rights, and social and economic development.

Spanish: <https://www.un.org/es/events/sportday/>

7 April—[World Health Day \[WHO\]](#): “Universal health coverage is WHO’s number one goal. Key to achieving it is ensuring that everyone can

obtain the care they need, when they need it, right in the heart of the community.” 2020 Theme: Support nurses and midwives.

Spanish: <https://www.who.int/es/news-room/campaigns/world-health-day>

22 April—International Mother [Earth Day](#) recognizes a collective responsibility to promote harmony with nature and the Earth, to achieve a just balance among the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations of humanity. 2020 Theme (<https://www.earthday.org/>): You Have The Power To Change The World. This year marks the 50th Earth Day Anniversary!

Other resources with a focus on earth and *Laudato Si'* are available on www.sowinghopefortheplanet.org.

- Ponte Sant'Angelo Methodist Church, Rome – [Avoiding Single-Use Plastics](#)
- Sisters of Saint Joseph, 23rd Publication, Author Sr. Mary Elizabeth Clark—[booklet for teaching children how to care for God's creation](#)
- Wheaton Franciscan's in the USA—[Praise for the four elements](#)
- Sisters of the Holy Cross—[carbon footprint reduction fund, climate change statement, and slideshow](#)
- Sisters of Saint Joseph—Earth Centers
- Tertiary Sisters of St. Francis in Cameroon—[Community Action](#)
- [Going Solar/Cleaning Campaign/Tree Planting](#)
- The Precious Blood Convent Mariannhill, South Africa—[Garlic Pest Control](#)
- Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice—[Care For Our Common Home](#):
- Servas de Nossa Senhora de Fátima—[Our Commitment to Laudato Si'](#)
- [Press release](#) of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development announcing the publication of a new document on water, [Aqua fons vitae](#) (currently available only in English). The press release also mentions the situation of access to water, hygiene and sanitation in Catholic healthcare facilities.

The Lord awakens so as to reawaken and revive our Easter faith. We have an anchor: by his cross we have been saved. We have a rudder: by his cross we have been redeemed. We have a hope: by his cross we have been healed and embraced so that nothing and no one can separate us from his redeeming love... Embracing the Lord in order to embrace hope: that is the strength of faith, which frees us from fear and gives us hope. (Urbi et orbi Pope Francis coronavirus prayer blessing)



*Prayers and blessing on your
Easter Days!*

Published by the JPIC Commission Secretariat
Executive Co-Secretaries:
Sheila Kinsey, FCJM and Amado L. Picardal, CSsR
Communications: Celine A. Quinio
Via Aurelia 476, CP 9099 Aurelio, 00165 Roma, Italy
Landline: +(39)06 598 78 602
Mobile: +(39)349 398 3236/+(39)3888 109149
Email: jpicusguisg@lasalle.org/jpic.cosec@lasalle.org
Website: <http://www.jpicroma.org>