



NEWSBRIEF

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

APRIL 2015 Vol. 9/No. 4



EDITORIAL: *The unending story of migrants from the south of the world risking their lives in search of a better life in Europe has brought thousands of refugees to Italy. In the month of April alone, the Italian Marina Costiera rescued more than 5,629 people in the Sicily Channel. On April 19, more than 900 refugees lost their lives. As Christians celebrate the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus we share with you the story of the Lampedusa Carpenter of the Poor—Francesco Tuccio—who makes crosses out of the wreckage of boats that are washed up on the shores of Lampedusa. His crosses are made of a rare wood that is found only in Lampedusa, soaked with the tears and blood of migrants dead in the sea. One day, while taking a walk on the beach, he noted two colored beams, positioned*

in a strange way. They were broken pieces from a boat of refugees that had sank. He was intrigued by the form which resembled a cross. He collected the pieces, brought them to his carpentry shop and made beautiful crosses out of them, a symbol of rebirth through suffering. He made the cause of migrants in Lampedusa his cause. Now, people from all parts of Italy and Europe want to have a Cross of Lampedusa. <http://www.bloglive.it/la-storia-franco-tuccio-il-falegname-dei-poveri-lampedusa-120941.html>.

[CLICK UNDERLINED BLUE TEXT TO OPEN A LINK](#)

1. INSIDE ROME



Felix Mushobozi, CPPS, JPIC Commission Executive Co-Secretary, at the Eucharistic celebration honoring Monsignor Oscar Romero, announcing instructions before the procession to St. Peter's Square.

1.1 Oscar Romero Memorial Mass and Prayer Vigil.

The Eucharistic celebration on March 22 was presided by Cardinal Vincenzo Paglia, postulator of the cause for the beatification of Monsignor Oscar Romero, at Santa Maria in Traspontina. A large crowd attended the event, including the Ambassador of El Salvador and the niece of Mons. Romero. It was followed by a procession to St. Peter's Square for Angelus with Pope Francis, which was accompanied by songs. Despite the rain, people flocked to the piazza. The second event on March 24 was the Ecumenical Prayer Vigil which took place at the Basilica dei Santi Apostoli in Rome. Salvadorian women performed a dance during the pro-

cession of the Word of God and also during the prayer meditation. Islamic Theologian Adnane Mokrani, president of CIPAX (Interfaith Center for Peace), and Mons. Matteo Zuppi, bishop of Rome Center, each gave a brief reflection on Mons. Romero's martyrdom. Baptist Pastor Sylvia Rapisarda from Catania also gave a meditation on the scriptural text Lk. 9, 22-25.

1.2 English JPIC Promoters host Grant writing seminar. On March 18, English JPIC Promoters hosted a grant writing seminar attended by 45 participants which included the financial administration teams of various congregations and JPIC Promoters. Sponsored by the US Embassy to the Holy See and resourced by the Salvatorian Office of International Aid Director Arnout Mertens, Ph.D. Dr. Arnout emphasized the importance of the quality of the project proposal, which often fails to take into account the objectives for which congregations request grants, confused ideas of what they want to achieve, unrealistic budgets, and the lack of a business plan, a long-range plan, strategy and project sustainability. A good grant writing must take into account what the funder wants, he said. [Click here to download a summary of the presentation from our website.](#)

1.3 NCBPA- JPIC Project update. Members of the National Capacity Building for JPIC Animators (NCBPA), a Working Group formed under the aus-

pices of the JPIC Commission of the USG/UISG met on March 12 at the OFM Generalate to revise the Formation Program and to put together material content ready to be used. Each member of the group was encouraged to choose a country and work towards making a JPIC capacity building seminar happen in that country. This can be an exclusive seminar for JPIC animators of congregations (and/or the laity involved in JPIC animation of a congregation) present in that country or a general JPIC seminar for members of a national congregation. Francisco O’Conaire, OFM, who is the co-coordinator of the group, has conducted such seminars in Latin America—Bolivia, January 2015 and Ecuador, February 2015. [In July, two JPIC seminars will be held in Mexico: Guadalajara, July 22–24 and Mexico City, July 27–31.](#)

If you know of any need or request for a JPIC capacity building seminar, please contact Fr. Francisco O’Conaire at gfoconaireofm@gmail.com.



1.3 1.4 The Way of the Cross: Commemorating the Pact of the Catacombs. On March 29, Palm Sunday, at least 300 men and women religious in Rome joined the Way of the Cross organized by a committee consisting of members of the SVD, SEDOS, USG/UISG-JPIC Commission, and Brazilians in Rome. The group walked through 15 stations which were located in historic sites on the streets of Rome, reflecting on the call of the Pact of the Catacombs “to be poor Church at the service of the Poor” and in solidarity with our brothers and sisters who suffer today.

The walk began in front of the FAO Headquarters and culminated in the Catacombs of St. Domitilla with a Eucharistic celebration. The prayer event was conducted in Italian, English, Spanish and Portuguese.

The organizing committee extends its gratitude to everyone who took part in the event, both in the preparation and on the day itself. We invoke blessings from the risen Lord and wish you a very happy Easter.

2. OUTSIDE ROME

2.1 Global Day of Action on Military Spending.

April 13 is the International Day for raising awareness on the imbalance between military and social spending. While in many poor countries the majority of

population cannot afford to pay for their basic needs of goods and services such as housing, health and education, there is an increase in military expenditure which is scandalous, especially in developing countries. Read Pax Christi International statement on this specific issue, paying attention to the statistics available at <http://www.sipri.org/research/armaments/milex>. <http://www.paxchristi.net/news/world-military-expenditure-2014-military-investment-still-significant-global-problem/4467#sthash.NMghiOIu.dpbs>.

2.2 Vatican Statements on Nuclear Weapons. “Nuclear weapons are a global problem. They affect not just nuclear-armed states, but other non-nuclear signatories of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, non-signatories, unacknowledged possessing states and allies under ‘the nuclear umbrella.’ They impact future generations and the entire planet that is our home.” On the occasion of the Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, Pope Francis, in his intervention, calls on nations to develop a “global ethics of fraternity and peaceful coexistence among peoples and states.” https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/pont-messages/2014/documents/papa-francesco_20141207_messaggio-conferenza-vienna-nucleare.html. There is also an intervention of the Holy See to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva on the same issue which is available at http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/secretariat_state/2014/documents/rc-seg-st-20141209_tomasi-vienna_en.html.

2.3 Prayer Request. Please pray for the eternal rest of Sr. Bernadette Sangma, FMA (Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice) whom the Lord has called to His eternal home on April 27, after a battle with bone cancer for almost two years. News from the community in which she spent her last days say that she died peacefully. Sr. Bernadette was a very active JPIC Promoter and a passionate defender of the poor, most particularly when she was in Rome, where she was active in the Anti-Trafficking Working Group.

3. NEW RESOURCES

3.1 Contemplating the Five Wounds of Jesus by Franciscan International. This prayer booklet suggests a very practical and concrete contemplation of the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ modeled by St. Francis of Assisi with a JPIC perspective, focusing on wounded people for whom many of us serve. The booklet is available in five languages: English, German, Spanish, Italian and French. Access the reflection at www.franciscaninternational.org or <http://www.jpicroma.org/#!spirituality/cgh>.

3.2 Food Security Governance: Empowering Communities, Regulating Corporations by Nora McKeon. In this book, author Nora McKeon, formerly with the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and

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REMEMBERING THE BISHOPS WHO SIGNED THE PACT OF THE CATACOMBS

(In 2015, each issue of Newsbrief will feature a bishop who signed the Pact of the Catacomb. In this issue we feature Pedro Casaldáliga, Antonio Batista Fragoso and João José da Mota e Albuquerque)

PEDRO CASALDÁLIGA



Born February 16, 1928 in Balsareny (Barcelona) Spain, Pedro Casaldáliga, son of a simple peasant, was ordained priest of the Missionary Sons of Immaculate Heart of Mary (Claretians) on May 31, 1952. He went to Brazil as a missionary in June 1968 and on October 23, 1971

was appointed bishop of St. Felix of Araguaia. Since his arrival in Brazil he fully embraced the option for the poor. He spent his time and mission in fighting for the rights of indigenous peoples and landless peasants, openly criticizing the military dictatorship controlling Brazil since 1964. The indigenous Xavante have always been able to count on his support and solidarity. In return the local landowners, backed by the military authorities, threatened Casaldáliga constantly. In 1977 their gunmen murdered his vicar, João Bosco, whom they thought was he bishop. As bishop he refused to wear symbols of episcopal power and preferred to be fully immersed into the life of the people, especially the marginalized. He lived the gospel a radically and this can be summarized in the motto of his life, which he wrote poetically in verse: “No poseer nada, no llevar nada, no pedir nada, no callar nada, y de paso, no matar nada”. (“Do not own anything, do not take anything from anybody, do not ask for anything, do not shut-up for anything, and incidentally, do not kill nobody.”) <http://www.brownpoliticalreview.org/2013/03/no-hope-in-this-pope/>; http://elpais.com/diario/2006/03/03/catalunya/1141351657_850215.html; http://elpais.com/diario/2006/03/03/catalunya/1141351657_850215.html.

ANTONIO BATISTA FRAGOSO

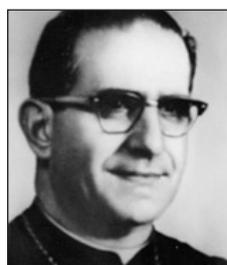


A simple man, educated and with a big heart, these are some of the qualities for which Dom Antonio Batista de Fragoso (1920–2006) was known. The priest, who was bishop of the Diocese of Crateús (Ceará, Brazil) for 34 years, from 1964 to 1998, supported the principles of liberation theology and stood out for his pastoral

work among the poorest and rural workers. During the military dictatorship, he fought courageously against its atrocities, denouncing abroad the crimes committed against those who opposed the political regime and

because of that, often being threatened with prison or branded by the military as “persona non grata.” Dom Fragoso gained international fame for his pioneering work in establishing a new style of Church that served as a model in Latin America. He broke with the rigid hierarchical Catholic structure that differentiated between bishops and faithful. After leaving the Diocese of Crateús in the late 1990s, he retired in João Pessoa (PB). Cf. <http://iglesiadescalza.blogspot.it/2012/01/dom-fragoso-new-film-tells-story-of.html>.

JOÃO JOSÉ DA MOTA E ALBUQUERQUE



João José da Mota e Albuquerque (1964–1984) was ordained a priest on April 15, 1933. Returning to Brazil, he became spiritual director and professor at St. Joseph Seminary in Rio, where he was vicar of the Parish of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Glory of the Matrix.

From 1962–1965, he actively participated in the Second Vatican Council and joined the group of bishops of the Church of the Poor, who preached a life of simplicity and poverty, closer to the people and their needs. This commitment would mark all his actions thereafter.

With the help of his auxiliary bishop, Bishop Aloysius Gonzaga Fernandes, Bishop da Mota began the implementation of the Basic Ecclesial Communities in his diocese in Brazil. He also became a great supporter of the participation of the laity in the Church, supporting the pastoral work. Under his inspiration, the Archdiocese of Victoria was recognized in the ‘70s, as a progressive and redefined Church with reality. At that time, social movements had begun to rise in the wake of worsening social conditions caused by the rural exodus and the arrival of migrants attracted by large industrial projects.

Bishop da Mota was supportive of the first strike movements that emerged in Brazil after the military coup of 1964. With his support, the Justice and Peace Commission was created, which played a key role in the movements in defense of housing and the rights of prisoners.

Dom João José da Mota died on April 27, 1984, after 27 years dedicated to the Church and his people. He was a great lover of music, and a religious vanguard, having struggled to put into practice the decisions of the Second Vatican Council, but also made his mark as a spiritual leader. Source in Portuguese: http://pt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jo%C3%A3o_Batista_da_Mota_e_Albuquerque

now actively engaged in teaching, writing and advocacy on food issues and social movements, addresses contradictions in the food system and food security today, which generates hunger alongside food waste. Providing a review of how the international community has addressed food issues since World War II, she describes the ways in which communities around the world are protecting their access to resources and building better ways of producing and accessing food. McKeon discusses the reformed Committee on World Food Security (CFS) at FAO, a uniquely inclusive global policy forum and how it could be supportive of the efforts of local communities and organizations towards their own food security and food sovereignty. Common worldviews or paradigms are discussed and explained, particularly, the understanding of food sovereignty for local communities and the important role of civil society in the prevention of hunger. The book is a readable account of the world food crisis. It has a grounded faith in the capacity of organizations, of people and governments to prevent future hunger.

Published in 2015 by Routledge, the book is available at amazon.com.

3.3 Indigenous Earth Wisdom: A Documentation of the Cosmologies of the Indigenous Peoples of the Cordillera by Judy Carino-Fangloy, et al. Published in 2015 by the Maryknoll Ecological Sanctuary, this book is a compilation of works by various authors, who belong to the indigenous peoples of the Cordilleras in the Philippines, about the cosmologies of their ancestors based on rituals and practices. The documentation is based on the premise that indigenous peoples live simply in harmony with the world, which present-day advocates of this Earth wisdom call upon to give hope for a sustainably environmental future that we envision.

This land-based spirituality embodies a paradigm that cares for ancestral domain using an alternative model of relating to the resources of the one Earth community whose land, water, and other resources are meant to provide for the food needs of all members of that community and not only for a privileged 'few' who can afford to buy and exploit them for economic profit.

Reading the book may surface questions about the ethical implications of transitioning to the contemporary global economy that uses the agri-industrial methods which justify land and water grabbing to produce bio-fuel at the expense of food security and food sovereignty. Alternatively, it could point to a response to the problem of food and hunger, which afflicts about a billion people on this planet, through an agro-ecological mindset that envisions producing healthy soil to grow healthy plants which would nourish healthy people as members of a healthy global community.

To order, contact mesbaguio@gmail.com. For more information about Maryknoll Ecological Sanctuary, visit www.maryknollecocosanctuary.org.

4. JPIC EVENTS IN MAY 2015

- **JPIC Spanish Portuguese Promoters meeting:** May 6, 9-12am at UISG
- **Integrity of Creation Working Group meeting:** May 18, 9-12am at UISG
- **JPIC English Promoters meeting:** May 20, 9-12am at UISG
- **ICR at FAO Working Group meeting:** May 26, 9:30-11:30 at the Passionists' Generalate
- **Collaboration Working Group:** May 28, 3-5pm at Collegio Preziosissimo Sangue, Via Narni 29

GRANT WRITING AND FUNDRAISING FOR MISSIONARY PROJECTS

A workshop sponsored by the Salvatorian Office for International Aid (SOFIA)

September 7-11, 2015

Rome, Villa Maria on top of the Gianicolo Hill

Presenters: Arnout Mertens, Ph.D. & Allen Sherry, FMS

For more information and to register, visit <http://sofiaglobal.org/fundraisingworkshop>.

Any questions, contact +39 0668629204 or workshop@mailsds.org.

Registration deadline is July 15, but as the number of participants is limited to 50, early booking is recommended.

Note: Please send a brief outline of information which would be useful to JPIC Promoters for publication in future issues of *Newsbrief* to jpicusguisg@lasalle.org.

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