



# NEWSBRIEF

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

FEBRUARY 2015 Vol. 9/No. 2



**EDITORIAL:** *The month of February will be particularly remembered for the beheading of 21 Coptic Christians who were captured then lead to the beach where they were killed by IS militants in Libya, and broadcasted on the Twitter channel. Their last words were: “Jesus help me.” Pope Francis is reported to have said to the members of the Church of Scotland on February 16<sup>th</sup>, “they were killed for the simple fact that they were Christians... The blood of our Christian brothers and sisters is a testimony which cries out be heard. It makes no difference whether they be Catholics,*

*Orthodox, Copts or Protestants. They are Christians!” (Avvenire, February 16, 2015) Globalization of fraternity is the answer to all this; let us embark on the road of conversion of heart as we begin the Lenten season, to testify that every human being is a brother or sister.*

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

### 1. INSIDE ROME

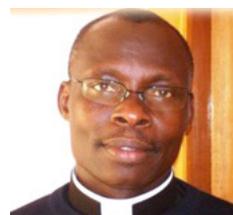
1.1 Lent Climate Fast. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2015, the Global Catholic Climate Movement invites all people of good will to fast (Carbon or food) for Climate Change. The Integrity of Creation Working Group (ICWG) supports this initiative, which will be **observed in Italy on April 1, 2015**. Catholics around the world are encouraged to pray and fast in solidarity with those who are most affected by the changing global climate. This is a collaboration of Catholic laity, religious, clergy, theologians activists etc. who wish to work together on climate issues. It has a basis in prayer and reflection but it also offers climate related research on each country of those who sign up. On the day of the fast, the group will provide information about the way Italy is being affected by climate change. For details, visit <http://catholicclimatemovement.global/>. The Italian version of the fast website is already live at [www.CatholicClimateMovement.global/fast/italiano/](http://www.CatholicClimateMovement.global/fast/italiano/).

1.2 **Religious minorities unite to counteract the so-called “anti-culto” law soon to be voted in Lombardia Region.** Although the Italian Constitution guarantees freedom of belief and worship, and the state has been firmly declared as secular since 1984, the lack of legal agreements between the government and various religious communities has been the main cause of impingement upon religious rights of individual believers. Muslims are the largest without that accord in Italy, probably because they lack a unified organizational representation of their community. Last

month in the Lombardia Region, there was an attempt to amend the Regional Law—the so-called Urbanistic Law 12/2005 limiting the possibility of building new places of worship for the non Catholics. Read more in Italian at <http://www.noisiamochiesa.org/> (Source: Vittorio Bellavite – We are the Church Italy)



1.3 **Sr. Anne Corry, RSCJ, New Coordinator of Refugees-Migrants Working Group.** Anne is taking on the role from Fr. Gervase Taratara, CSSp whose term in office as JPIC coordinator for his community is ending. Gervase is one of the founders of the group, which was organized about four years ago. In her letter accepting the role, Anne said: “As a coordinator I would certainly want to be facilitative and draw on the gifts and backgrounds of our group. I do believe that the wisdom is always contained in the combined efforts of the group, and the Holy Spirit is always present amongst us.” We thank Anne for accepting this responsibility and wish her a fruitful, collaborative ministry. We thank Gervase for his dedication to the cause of refugees and migrants and for facilitating the reflection and support of justice issues in Congo DRC.



1.4 **JPIC Promoter Elected Bishop.** On February 12, 2015, Pope Francis appointed Fr. Francois Gnonhossou, SMA bishop of Dassa-Zoume, Benin. The bishop-elect was born in Dassa-Zoume,

Benin in 1961, took his religious vows in 1996, and was ordained a priest in 1997. He holds a licentiate in civil law and a bachelor's degree in theology. He has served in a number of pastoral roles in Africa, Europe and Canada. He is currently general councilor of the Society of African Missions in Rome. As JPIC promoter, Fr. Francois took part in the Formation Workshop in Rome last November 19-22, 2014. He was a member of the Core Group for English Speaking JPIC Promoters several working groups.

### 1.5 International Leadership Development

**Program.** JPIC Promoters other men and women religious are invited to the events organized by the International Leadership Development Program and the Faith and Practice Program. Most of these events elucidate JPIC concerns and mission. Christine Anderson and her team have developed a series of events on themes related to the Year of Consecrated Life. For further information, contact Christine Anderson at [praxisfcj@gmail.com](mailto:praxisfcj@gmail.com) or [fp.programmes@gmail.com](mailto:fp.programmes@gmail.com). See announcement below.

### 1.6 Seminar on Grant application for Missionary

**Projects.** The U.S. Embassy to the Holy See is offering a grants training session with Arnout Mertens, who will give an introduction to the topic and explain what to say, how to say it, and what information to send to grant making foundations. U.S. Embassy staff will also provide details about the Embassy's small grants

program. The seminar will take place on **Wednesday, March 18** in the meeting room of the UISG offices, Piazza di Ponte Sant'Angelo, 28 from 9:00-12:00am. Target audience: mission officers, bursars/treasurers, council members and development personnel, who are new to the field or have some experience. The language will be English. About the speaker: Arnout Mertens is the co-founder and director of SOFIA, the Rome-based development office of the Salvatorian Fathers and Brothers. He helped creating partnerships for the Salvatorians and other Congregations with philanthropists and funding agencies from Church in Need to the European Commission. Each year SOFIA organizes a one-week workshop on grant writing and fundraising for Catholic missionary work.

### 1.7 Spanish Resources from Wikispaces.

All the Spanish files that were on Wikispaces have been uploaded to the new website, including recent posts, such as the Mining booklet in Spanish. The Integrity of Creation Mining page is also in Spanish and the entire new website is available in Spanish. To access the Spanish resources go to <http://www.jpicroma.org/#!/spanish/c1od4>.

All JPIC files from Wikispaces have been downloaded and kept in storage until they are all uploaded to the new website. In the meantime, we have reactivated our Wikispaces subscription: <http://jpicformation.wikispaces.com/home>.

(Continued on Page 4)

# A Leadership Development Program for General Superiors and Councillors

January 14/15/16 2016

March 10/11/12 2016

June 9/10/11 2016

September 15/16/17 2016

November 3/4/5 2016

Led by

**Christine Anderson FCJ**

**Maria Pilar Benavente Serrano MSOLA**

**Location  
Central Rome**



**For further information  
contact Christine Anderson at  
[praxisfcj@gmail.com](mailto:praxisfcj@gmail.com)**

## 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 Manuel Larraín Errázuriz, Alfred Ancel (Del Prado) and Paul Gauthier)

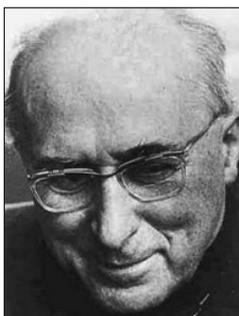
### MANUEL LARRAÍN ERRÁZURIZ



Born in Santiago Chile December 17, 1900, Manuel Larraín Errázuriz was ordained in Rome in 1927. He was Bishop of Talca from 1938-1966. Together with Helder Camara he was the co-founder of the Episcopal Conference of Latin America (CELAM) and became its Vice

President in November 1963 and then President until his premature death in 1966. He is one of the important figures who participated at the Vatican II Council and took a leading part, favoring agreements between participating bishops. He died shortly before the Medellín Conference seeking to promote and put into practice the conclusions of the Vatican II in Latin America. "If young people feel that the Church does not have the courage to apply the conciliar conclusions, they will leave it for other ideologies," he is quoted to have said at the end of the Council. He shared the same concern of love for the poor and support for workers' struggles for greater justice with St. Alberto Hurtado, his best friend. He gave land to the peasants, put the Church to the forefront in what eventually became the Agrarian Reform, thus forever changing the structure of the Chilean countryside. Source: [http://educacion.uc.cl/index.php?option=com\\_lyftenbloggie&view=entry&id=192:recuperacion-del-pensamiento-pastoral-de-monse-nor-manuel-larrain-errazuriz](http://educacion.uc.cl/index.php?option=com_lyftenbloggie&view=entry&id=192:recuperacion-del-pensamiento-pastoral-de-monse-nor-manuel-larrain-errazuriz).

### ALFRED ANCEL (DEL PRADO)



Born on October 22, 1898, Alfred Ancel (Del Prado) was Professor of Metaphysics at the Catholic University of Lyon from 1933 to 1944. He was Superior General of the Del Prado Fathers, a congregation of priest workers in France in 1942. In 1947, he was appointed Auxiliary bishop of

Lyon. Ancel draws much of his spiritual inspiration from Antoine Chevrier. He played an active role at the Second Vatican Council, especially in the drafting of *Gaudium et Spes* and *Dignitatis Humanae*. For Ancel, these two documents were the milestone of the proclamation of Christianity at the service of the whole humanity inspired by the mystery of Christ.

In one his intervention regarding the Document on Religious Freedom, Ancel affirmed: "On this principle all those who aspire in their hearts to the truth and justice will agree with us even if they are not believers ... not only because there is no opposition between religious freedom and the duty to seek the truth, but religious freedom is based on this duty and the duty to seek the truth requires religious freedom. "Another important aspect of the work of Ancel at the Council is his constant reference to the poor Church to evangelize the poor. From the beginning, together with other bishops, he participated in meetings animated by Card. Lercaro and insisted on the poor Church, not so much as a preferential option for the poor, but a way of living human brotherhood (from the perspective of the marginalized). This was for him the evangelical identity which could help the Church to overcome the temptation of legalism, the power, the search for high position in humanity. Source: 1) <http://nuke.pradoitaliano.it/AntonioChevrier/AlfredAncel/tabid/60/Default.aspx>; 2) [http://www.saverianibrescia.com/missione\\_oggi\\_stamp.php?centro\\_missionario=archivio\\_rivista&rivista=&id\\_r=78&sezione=concilio\\_e\\_missione&articolo=alfred\\_ancel\\_ripartire\\_dal\\_vangelo\\_vissuto&id\\_a=2659](http://www.saverianibrescia.com/missione_oggi_stamp.php?centro_missionario=archivio_rivista&rivista=&id_r=78&sezione=concilio_e_missione&articolo=alfred_ancel_ripartire_dal_vangelo_vissuto&id_a=2659)

### PAUL GAUTHIER

Born August 30, 1914, Paul Gauthier was ordained a priest at Dijon and became Professor of Theology at Dijon Seminary, then he joined the worker priest order. In 1955, he decided to move to Palestine to live a life that was the "Imitation of Christ". For some time, he worked as a fisherman in Lake Tiberias then became a carpenter in Nazareth and then in Bethlehem. He had gathered a small group of people of various nationalities who were given the name of "compagnons" and "compagnes Charpentier de Jesus". He used to say Mass in a cave with a stone altar with above a crucifix, no candles, no benches and no door. In 1962, Msgr. George Hakim, bishop of Nazareth, invited Gauthier to follow him to Rome where he was participating in the Second Vatican Council. The name of the "Church of the poor" was borrowed by a group of 300 bishops deeply involved in the reflections with Gauthier. He is reported to have attended the Eucharistic celebration at which the Pact of the Catacombs was signed, together with Marie Thérèse Lescaze, both of them leaders of the Fraternity of Jesus the Carpenter in Nazareth. Source: <http://vatduepuntozero.blogspot.it/2012/11/il-patto-delle-catacombe.html>.

## 2. OUTSIDE ROME

**2.1 Advocate the EU Parliament to Act on Devastating Impact of Europe's Demand for Biofuels.** The ICR at FAO WG is asking Religious congregations to sign an appeal in order to send a strong message to the European Union Parliament about the devastating impact that Europe's demand for biofuels (especially palm oil) is having on millions of people around the globe and on precious environments. "If the European community does not take action to restrict demand for biofuels, Europe will continue to force the transformation of our countries' vital forests and community lands, as well as precious biodiversity hot-spots, into industrial-scale, monoculture oil palm plantations." Although the appeal is originally from Indonesia and the Philippines, the expansion of demand for biofuels is also going to affect other countries of the world—PNG, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Burma, India, Solomon Islands, Kenya, Tanzania, Congo, Cameroon, Nigeria, Liberia, Guinea, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Uganda, Guyana, Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Mexico. This is a specific example of collaboration among CSOs (Civil Society Organizations) which we encourage each to do to give us some clout in CSM (Civil Society Mechanism) discussions which shape policy making.

**2.2 The Tragic Effects of Mining in the Congo DRC.** Read [Tom Fox's article](#) explaining how the eastern region of Congo, continues to suffer, including staggering mortality rates, mass displacement, as well as widespread sexual violence, often used as a weapon to terrorize and humiliate communities. Armed groups in Congo earn hundreds of millions of dollars every year by trading what are called conflict minerals. These minerals (the "three T's": tin, tantalum and tungsten) are found in many of the products we use every day, such as cell phones and laptops. They are also found in jewelry, automotive, aerospace and medical equipment. Government troops and armed groups in Congo for years have fought to control mines and smuggling routes, murdering and raping civilians to fracture the structure of society, rights activists say. Tom Fox is publisher of *National Catholic Reporter* and project manager of *Global Sisters Report*.

## 3. NEW RESOURCES

**3.1 Palermo Protocol PPT.** The protocol is a supplement to the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime. It aims to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, paying particular attention to women and children, protecting and assisting the victims of such trafficking, with full respect for their human rights. It is intended to promote cooperation among States Parties in order to meet the aforementioned objectives. A PowerPoint [Guide to the New UN Trafficking Protocol is available on the JPICROMA website.](#)

## 4. JPIC EVENTS IN MARCH 2015

- English JPIC Core Group Meeting: March 9 at Fratelli, 3:00-5:00pm
- Spanish-Portuguese Promoters Meeting: March 4 at UISG, 9:00am-12noon
- Grant Write-up Seminar: March 18 at UISG, 9:00 am-12:00noon
- Oscar Romero Memorial Mass: March 22 at S. Maria in Traspontina, 9:30am
- Integrity of Creation WG Meeting: March 23 at UISG, 9:00am-12:00noon
- Prayer Vigil for Oscar Romero Memorial: March 24 at SS. Apostoli Church, 7:00pm-8:30pm
- Way of the Cross on the Pact of the Catacombs: March 29 from FAO to Domitilla Catacombs, 9:30am-13:00pm
- Anti-trafficking WG: March 24 at Fratelli, 3:00pm-5:00pm

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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](mailto:jpicusguisg@lasalle.org).

*Compiled and produced by the JPIC Commission Secretariat*

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New Website Address: <http://www.jpicroma.org>

## SAVE THE DATE

**April 18, 2015 ■ 9:30-12:30**

ICR at FAO Working Group sponsored seminar on

**GOVERNANCE OF FOOD SYSTEMS, FOOD SECURITY AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY**

**Nora McKeon, presenter**

*formerly responsible for overall direction of FAO's relations with civil society*

Venue: Generalate of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Aula Magna ■ Via Aurelia, 476 ■ Rome, Italy