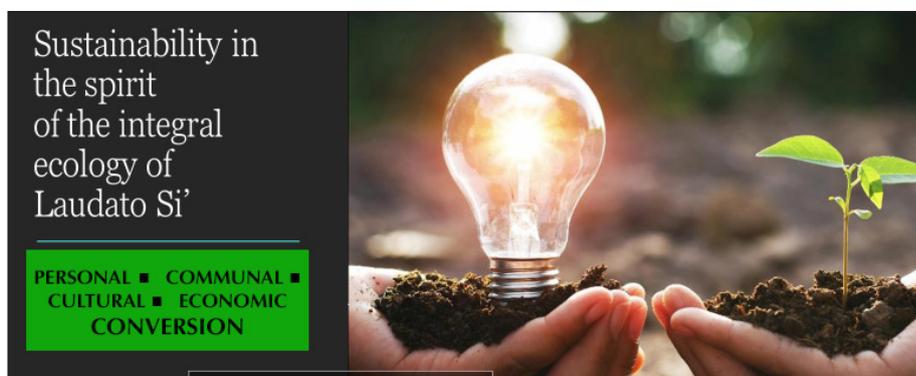


**Editorial:** *This year we will be promoting and celebrating the fifth anniversary of Laudato Si'. During this time we are challenged to consider new ways of working together for a better world through collaboration, networking and advocacy. This issue highlights examples of how we integrate the message of Laudato Si' as we listen to the cries of the Earth and the Poor. Pope Francis has called us to a personal and community ecological conversion. We begin our participation in this celebration by focusing on the importance of addressing a sustainable lifestyle for all of creation, responding to the experience of COP 25, building peace and developing social media with our new Executive Co-Secretary.*

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

## THE SPIRIT OF LAUDATO SI': MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD



**I**ntegrating personal, communal, cultural and economic conversion in the spirit of Laudato Si' was the focus of the January webinar for Sowing Hope for the Planet. Fr. Amado Picardal, CSsR, began the session with a realistic and beautiful prayer on the crisis of the climate change with an invitatory way of waking us up to be responsive to the graces of God and to be receptive to promote new efforts towards sustainable living.

Sr. Sheila Kinsey, FCJM, updated the participants on the website innovations. The resources are now categorized to allow easy access to sections according to language, place and type of prayer and or event. Also, we have organized our contacts according to relevant constellations of UISG. Each constellation section has the research done on the needs of the Earth and the Poor. So that the commitments made by the constellations at the last plenary are situated in these contexts, highlighting the impact. An introductory slideshow is also being developed so that new participants to the campaign can receive the necessary background information.

Fr. Joshrtrom Kureethadam, Coordinator of the sector of “Ecology and Creation” of the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development (DPIHD), moved us forward. His stimulating and engaging

**INTHIS ISSUE: 1** The Spirit of Laudato Si'... **2** What Happened in COP25 Madrid... **3** Spanish/Portuguese Promoters Meeting... **4** Peace—A Journey of Hope... **4** Welcome Our New Executive Co-Secretary... **5** Promoting JPIC through Social Media... **6** Calendar

presentation of the [2020 Plans of the Dicastery](#) invited the participants to consider many ways to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of Earth Day and the fifth anniversary of *Laudato Si'*. His insights were shared within a theological and ethics perspective of our responsibility to do what we can to address the climate crisis. He also shared the new sustainability program, in which the DPIHD is seeking 50 religious congregations to participate. *Laudato Si'* Awards will be given in recognition of the best practices. Please contact [www.sowinghopefortheplanet.org](http://www.sowinghopefortheplanet.org) if you would want to participate in such a program.

Dana Taylor, Assistant Director for the Holy Cross International Justice Office, shared many practical and exciting ways that the Holy Cross Sisters have integrated the various considerations that help lead to a personal, communal, cultural and economic conversion. They have made north and south connections in countries in both Africa and South America, with a sensitivity to cultural differences, and have helped sponsor a business for recycling plastics. They have worked with the carbon footprint process and set-up solar panels. Dana is willing to continue conversations with anyone who would want to follow similar projects.

Laura Noctor-King, Sustainability Program Director for Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM), highlighted their new program for beginners and those who want to be more intensively involved in reducing their environmental impacts. This is being designed to meet these needs in a practical way.

For more information on these powerful, inspiring and practical suggestions, please go to [www.sowing-hopefortheplanet.org](http://www.sowing-hopefortheplanet.org). There you will find the five videos of the webinar in EN, SP, FR, IT and PT. As we have more clarity on the specifics for the Parameters/Metrics for an integral ecology, they will be translated in six languages and posted on the website. Remember to add your contributions in this effort so we can help reach a tipping point to make the changes necessary to meet the needs of the Earth and the Poor.



L-R: Fr. Josphrom Kureethadam, Sr. Sheila Kinsey and Fr. Amado Picardal.

## WHAT HAPPENED IN COP25 MADRID?



The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is an international environmental treaty adopted on May 9, 1992 and opened for signatures at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992. Conference of Parties (COP) refers to all the States that are Parties to UNFCCC. The COP usually meets every year. The important task of the COP is to work against the Climate Change and nowadays, mainly towards reduction of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission. The first meeting of COP was held in Berlin, Germany in March, 1995. The most important COPs have been two: COP18 (Kyoto, 1997), in which the Kyoto Protocol was signed by countries pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 5 percent below 1990 levels between 2008 and 2012. The other significant one was that of COP21, held in December 2015 in Paris where the signatories have committed to limit the global warming to below 2°C above the pre-industrial levels, and preferably not to exceed 1.5°C, and they are required to draw up and implement Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to reduce the GHG emission in their countries.

The main objective of COP25, which was held on Madrid on December 2-13, 2019, was to finalize the operating rules for the 2015 Paris Agreement which was expected to come into force on January 1, 2020. Most of the rules were agreed at COP24 in Poland in 2018. The key remaining issues to be resolved were the rules governing carbon markets and international cooperation, under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. However, COP 25 was unable to finalize the operating rules. No agreement could be reached on the rules governing international carbon markets (Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement Art. 6). The G20 countries, especially the US, Brazil, Australia and Saudi Arabia, and major oil, gas and coal companies were undermining the climate ambition and were blocking the progress. At the close of COP25, despite the frustrations, the following were areas of progress:

- The rich countries had promised to provide to Climate finance \$100 billion by 2020.
- It was recommended that climate change be brought into the mainstream decision-making about economic and financial policies.
- The decision was made to have a second periodic review in 2020-22 on the long-term goals of limiting the warming to well-below 2°C.
- A five-year Gender Action Plan (GAP), intended to support the implementation of gender-related decisions was reached (Chile Madrid Time for Action 17).
- A decision was reached on the creation of decent work and quality jobs and the protection of indigenous people, while working on the transition from fossil fuel to renewable energy projects (Chile Madrid Time for Action 16).
- It was resolved to convene a dialogue by June 2020 on the ocean and climate change (Chile Madrid Time for Action 31).
- The European Green Deal was approved, which aims to transform the European Union (EU) into a fair and prosperous society, with resource-efficient and competitive economy, eliminating net GHG emission by 2050.
- The Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE) announced its intention to reach at least 70 percent renewable energy in electricity by 2030.
- The finance ministers of 51 countries created the Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action, committing themselves to introduce environmental policies in the national budgets and to fix the price of CO<sup>2</sup> emissions.
- Seventy-three parties to the UNFCCC, 14 regions, 398 cities, 786 businesses and 16 investors created the Alliance for Climate Action, with the commitment to achieve net-zero CO<sup>2</sup> emissions by 2050.

COP26 will take place from November 9-19, 2020 in Glasgow, United Kingdom, where it is expected to accomplish what COP25 tried to do.—*Vincent Anesthasiar, CME, Secretariat for JPIC of the Claretians.*

Click here for the [complete article](#).

## SPANISH/PORTUGUESE PROMOTERS REFLECT ON THE POPE'S WORLD DAY OF PEACE MESSAGE

The group of Spanish and Portuguese JPIC Promoters dedicated their January 8, 2020 meeting to reflect on the message of Pope Francis for the 53<sup>rd</sup> World Day of Peace.

With creativity, art and depth, the Sisters Rosa Isabel Cuellar, Agustina Misionera and Pétronille Mutungidimbu, Claretiana Misionera prepared and encouraged the monthly gathering.



L-R: Sisters Rosa Isabel Cuéllar, Agustina Misionera and Pétronille Mutungidimbu, Claretiana Misionera.

After the initial prayer, based on two Psalms and the text of the Gospel of Mark (6, 34-44), followed by spontaneous resonances, they presented the theme of the Pope's message: "Peace as the path of hope: dialogue, reconciliation and ecological conversion".

The methodology used helped to internalize the message because the animators were breaking down the keywords of the message with different dynamics, through a slideshow, puzzles, personal reflection and exchange at the tables.

A very interesting synthesis was condensed from the Prospect of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC). Some of the underlined aspects are the following:

- Peace is the goal of our hope;
- Hope is the virtue that sets us on the road, gives us wings to move forward, even when the obstacles seem insurmountable.
- In the conflicts and violence experienced by humanity, a true fraternity must be sought, based on our common origin in God and exercised in dialogue and mutual trust.
- You cannot base peace and stability on fear or false expectations of security through weapons. Perhaps we should not simply ignore or avoid the conflicts that occur, but learn from them to listen and dialogue, and to know the needs of the countries and peoples.

In short, our world needs convinced witnesses, artisans of peace open to dialogue without exclusion or manipulation. The survivors of humanity and of history have the mission of keeping alive the flame of collective consciousness. We must not forget the memory of the victims, so that the human conscience will be strengthened more and more against any desire for domination and destruction, so that on the one hand the same mistakes are avoided and on the other hand the experience suggest ways to present our future peace decisions.

Peace cannot really be achieved without a true dialogue of men and women who seek the truth beyond different ideologies and opinions. The path of peace is a patient work that continuously seeks truth and justice, always with the goal of reconciliation, encounter and closeness.

This path of reconciliation is also listening and contemplating on the world that God gave us to make it our common home. Given the consequences of our hostility towards others, the lack of respect for our common house and the abusive exploitation of natural resources, we need an ecological conversion. The ecological conversion invites us to have a broad look every day that opens us up to the encounter with the other and to the reception of the gift of creation; to strive to meet from diversity, to celebrate and respect shared life.

Live peace, build peace: it reaches as much as expected. It is a chain of values and human and spiritual virtues that must be promoted individually and socially. We have a duty to foster the culture of the encounter, which breaks with the culture of the threat and makes each encounter a possibility and a gift of God's love. In that, the sacrament of Reconciliation helps us to keep our eyes on Jesus, who has reconciled all things...and asks us to put away any violence in our thoughts, words and actions both towards our neighbor and towards creation.—Contributor: Julia Arciniegas, Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, JPIC Promoter

[Resources on the presentations.](#)

## PEACE—A JOURNEY OF HOPE IN THE FACE OF OBSTACLES AND TRIALS

*Peace, a journey of listening based on memory, solidarity and fraternity,  
Peace, a journey of reconciliation in fraternal communion  
Peace, a journey of ecological conversion.*

Fr. [Andreas Göpfert, M. Afr.](#) discussed some of the highlights from the Message of the Holy Father, Pope Francis on the World Day of Peace 2020, during the first meeting of the English JPIC Promoters this year on the January 15, 2020 at the UISG. The emphasis on JOURNEY is particularly striking as JPIC Promoters commenced together the New Year 2020. It was an auspicious space to gain deeper insights into the Message of the Holy Father with the theme: *Peace as a journey of hope: dialogue, reconciliation and ecological conversion.*

During an enriching group discussion, the participants shared some practical small steps on how to journey with our various Institutes to become sowers of hope, of dialogue, of reconciliation and of ecological conversion. We were encouraged to create safe spaces, so that people can share their memories, learn to listen and grow together in hope and reconciliation.



L-R: Sr. Anne, Falola, OLA, Sr. Kathy Schmittigens, SSND facilitator and Fr. Andreas Göpfert, M. Afr.

A time was also spent in prayer for the grace to light little candles of hope wherever we may find ourselves, in spite of the many challenges. The last part of the morning was spent sharing with [Sr. Cecilia Espenilla, OP](#), who gave an inspiring feedback on her experience at COP25 in December 2019. It was indeed a call to solidarity; not only to hear the cry of the Poor and the cry of the Earth, but also to act now! The program ended with each one making a resolve to do at least one thing to care our common home. —Contributor: Anne Falola, OLA, International Councilor with a focus on JPIC.

## WELCOME OUR NEW EXECUTIVE CO-SECRETARY

*We are very fortunate to have Fr. Amado L. Picardal, CSsR with us. He brings a spiritual depth, poignant JPIC experiences and a generous spirit. Here he provides us with some insights to his rich background.*



Fr. Amado L. Picardal, CSsR, JPIC Executive Co-Secretary.

I am a Redemptorist from the Philippines, also known as Picx. I professed in 1977 and ordained in 1981 after finishing my theological studies at the St. Francis Regional Major Seminary in Davao City. I spent over seven years as a member of the Redemptorist mission team in Mindanao evangelizing and forming Basic Ecclesial Communities (BECs). The team was also involved in raising awareness on the ecology, organizing and mobilizing BECs and grassroots communities in the struggle against logging companies that successfully pressured the government to impose a total log ban in the province of Bukidnon in 1988. In 1989, I was sent for further studies and earned my licentiate in sacred theology from the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, California in 1991 where I became a member of Pax Christi. I went on for further studies at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome (1991-95) with a dissertation on the Ecclesiological Perspective of the Basic Ecclesial Communities and earned a

doctorate in sacred theology. I was assigned to Davao from 1995-2011 as dean of academics and professor of theology in St. Alphonsus' Theological and Mission Institute. During this period, I was also active in parish pastoral ministry, interreligious dialogue, environmental activism, promotion of Basic Ecclesial Communities, human rights and peace advocacy. I did a bike-tour for life and peace around the Philippines (over 5,000 km) and a solo run-walk for life and peace across the Philippines (over 2,000 km). I also did a climate bicycle ride in areas hit by super-typhoons and ride in support of the campaign against coal-fired power plants. In 2011, I was appointed executive secretary of the Committee on Basic Ecclesial Communities of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines for over six years. I was also spokesperson of the Coalition Against Summary Execution (CASE) and convenor of the Network Against Killings in the Philippines (NAKPhil) monitoring and opposing human rights violations, especially extrajudicial killings. In the early part of 2018, I started to live a life of solitude, silence, prayer and writing as a hermit. I left my hermitage after being appointed executive co-secretary of the Commission for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation based in Rome. I have written some books two of which were published three years ago (*The Journey towards a New Way of Being Church*, *The Priesthood in a Church a Renewed*) and another two will soon be published this year (*The Vision of a Church Renewed* and *Pastoral Leadership and Management*). I am glad to be of service to the USG and UISG in helping promote the integration of JPIC in the life and mission of men and women religious. I bring with me my life-long commitment to justice, peace, integral ecology and respect for human rights, together with my efforts to integrate action and contemplation.

### PROMOTING JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

People all over the world are becoming more interconnected. It has become possible to encounter others—not only those we know and related to us but also those we have never met. We can share what we see, what we are thinking and how we feel with each other instantly anywhere in the world. We can operate beyond the confines and boundaries of our homes, offices, village, cities and countries. What is personal and local can become global. A small act or thought can go viral. One person can make a lot of difference. A small voice can be magnified. We can influence the minds and hearts of people even if we do not have face to face contact with them. We can even create networks, virtual communities and movements.



All these are made possible through technology, the internet and social media. We are now living in a digital world which can be accessed not just through desktop and laptop computers, but also mostly through smartphones. We work and operate in cyberspace. For instance, there are 2.5 billion people who have Facebook accounts and 1.7 billion of those communicate through their smartphones. This is where we connect with our family, friends, colleagues. This is where we get our news and even become sources of news—and this can be done in real time. We can carry out our struggle and promote our advocacies, conduct business and maintain relationships wherever we are.

There are various ways of engagement in social media. For many it is simply a way of connecting with family and friends. It is strictly personal and interpersonal. We cannot ignore the digital world or social media, unless we want to live under the grid, keep our privacy and live in isolation. It is of vital importance for the Church, in general, and those actively involved in ministry and mission, in particular, to be aware of this development and make use of it. This is not only the wave of the future. This is the reality we now find ourselves in. Social media is a powerful tool for fulfilling the mission of promoting justice, peace and integrity of creation. Of course, there are times when we have to go out from the cyberspace and act in the real world, get our hands dirty and interact with people face-to-face. But let us not forget that no matter how weak our voices are, how insignificant our acts are, or how few we are, or even if we are alone—all these can be magnified and widened, beyond the boundaries of space and time, through social media. It is through social media that we can extend our influence and contacts. We can create networks and experience solidarity. We can transform hearts and minds and indeed become one heart and mind. How can we promote

justice, peace and integrity of creation through social media? This is what we will be discussing in the forthcoming Webinars beginning on February 20, 2020.

Meanwhile, we encourage JPIC promoters who do not yet have a social media account, especially Facebook, to please sign up and add us as virtual friends (amado picardal cssr) and like our page—[JPIC Roma](#)—for news and updates. You can also start sharing your stories with us that we can post in our Facebook page and share with other JPIC promoters. Let us create a virtual community and movement of JPIC promoters through social media.

*Make the World Better and Tell Everybody*

### **The Challenge of Social Communication for Promoters of JPIC**

A Digital Communication Course

*Five-part webinar in English and Spanish*

*February 20, 27 and March 12, 19 and 26*

*2 pm to 4 pm (Rome time)*

Click here for the [flyer](#) and to [register](#).

### **FEBRUARY INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS**

**Month of February**—Listen to the Migrants' Cries. We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered. The [video](#) becomes available on the first Friday of the month.

**2 February**—24<sup>th</sup> World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life.

**8 February**—Prayers prepared by the Anti-Trafficking Working Group (ATWG) for International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking. [EN](#) [SP](#) [FR](#) [IT](#)

**8 February**—Vigil of [Prayer](#) organized by the International Coordination Committee of the IDPAAHT, 6:30 pm at the Basilica Sant'Antonio da Padova in Laterano, Via Merulana 124/B Roma

**9 February**—“[Together Against Human Trafficking](#)”; assemble in front of Castel Sant'Angelo at 10:00 am; arrive in St. Peter's Square at 11:30 am and participate in the Angelus prayer with Pope Francis.

**11 February**—28<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the [World Day of the Sick](#) focuses the theme on the message of Jesus: “Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.” (MT11:28)

**26 February**—Ash Wednesday. See [Lenten](#) resources.

### **INTERNATIONAL DAYS IN FEBRUARY**

**1–7 February**—[World Interfaith Harmony Week](#) points out that mutual understanding and interreligious dialogue constitute important dimensions of a culture of peace.

**6 February**—[International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation](#). Theme: Unleashing youth power to promote recognition of human rights violation of health and integrity of girls and women.

**20 February**—[World Day of Social Justice](#) which supports efforts of the international community in poverty eradication, the promotion of full employment and decent work, gender equity and access to social well-being and justice.

### **JPIC MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY**

**3 February**—English Speaking CORE Group, 3 pm to 5 pm at the Fratelli, Room #25.

**4 February**—Integrity of Creation Working Group (ICWG) 3 pm to 5 pm at the Fratelli, Room Hno. Pedro.

**5 February**—Spanish/Portuguese Group meeting. 9:00 am-12:00 pm at the Dicastery Promoting Integral Human Development (DPIHD)

**6 February**—Refugees and Migrants Working Group (RMWG) 3 pm to 5 pm at the Fratelli, Room #33.

**11 February**—Anti-Trafficking Working Group (ATWG) 3 pm to 5 pm at the Fratelli, Room Hno. Pedro.

**19 February**—English Speaking Promoters Meeting, 9 am to 12 pm at Regina Mundi Center of UISG. Update on the human rights situation among the indigenous people in West Papua and the commitment of the Catholic Church to restore their human dignity. Hosted by the West Papua Network.

**28 February**—Africa Working Group (AWG), 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm at the Missionaries of Africa Curia.

**28 February**—Prayer prepared by the Spanish/Portuguese Promoters, 7 pm to 8 pm in Chiesa San Marcello.

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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](mailto:jpicusguisg@lasalle.org)/[jpic.cosec@lasalle.org](mailto:jpic.cosec@lasalle.org)

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