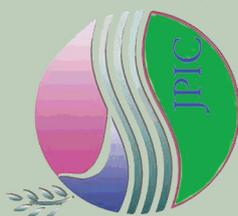


NEWSBRIEFS



A monthly publication of the UISG-USG Justice Peace & Integrity of Creation Commission



Editorial: June marks the end of our annual JPIC Commission activities in Rome. This issue presents the evaluation of the this year’s programs and planning for the forthcoming year. We have been guided by the theme: “A Call to Holiness as Contemplatives in Action: Promoting God’s Reign of Justice, Peace and Love.” We have experienced the union with

Christ and the mysteries of his life and mission through our many activities, particularly closeness to the poor and the outcast which includes care of our mother Earth. However, we are conscious that “we accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God’s work.” Happy holidays and blessings on all you do to make this world a better place!

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

PREPARATION OF THE SYNOD FOR THE AMAZONIA: NEW PATHS FOR THE CHURCH AND FOR AN INTEGRAL ECOLOGY

On June 13, JPIC Promoters in the English and Spanish/Portuguese Groups and other religious met to discuss possible opportunities for participation during the Synod for the Amazon, October 6 to 27. This occasion provided an experience of deeper understanding of the situation in the Amazon and the implications for the universal church and the world. Plans to provide prayerful, reflective and artistic experiences will take place in the common home, the Tent of the Martyrs. The Church of Our Lady of Traspontina will be our main gathering place due to its closeness to the meeting space and as the location of sacred places—church, rooms and garden. Some universities and the UISG will also be hosting events. A calendar of all these opportunities will be available on websites of

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congregations, including www.jpicroma.org and www.sowinghopefortheplanet.org. Integrated into these special events will be the celebrations of the Missionary Congregations, since October is the month for missions.

There are many martyrs for the environment around the globe. Taking inspiration from their lives and responding to the grace offered in these moments is necessary for the future of our church.

During this month, we are encouraging the entire world to pray and/or have an occasion to be in solidarity with the synod experience. In these pre-synod meetings, religious life was being incarnated, inculturated, and experienced with inter-congregationality.

Our hope is that the Synod will be a space to consider positions of the Church and governments in the face of human violence and the destruction of the environment. Keeping this in mind, there is the hope for creating public policies which will allow human beings to become agents of transformation.

[REPAM website](#).

WEBINAR: SOWING HOPE FOR THE PLANET

The theme, “Attending to Ethical and Spiritual Roots: Transforming Contributions from Our Consecrated Life and Charism,” provided an opportunity to deliver on the commitment made by the Superior Generals at their May plenary session—to share the work being done in the constellations and to feature a best practice between Brazil and Rome. We also recognized the support of USG, whose members will make their concrete commitments in November, and our collaborative partner, the Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM), presented their updates.

Sr. Sheila Kinsey, FCJM, moderated the event and Fr. Felix Mushobozi, CPPS, led the prayer “the New Act of Mercy,” which is the eighth corporal and spiritual work of mercy—“care for our common home”.

To deepen their personal and communal ecological conversion, the Superior Generals shared positive responses to the Sowing Hope for the Planet campaign and made at least one commitment to further its development:

- Designate a congregational contact person for the campaign
- Develop an introductory slide presentation of the campaign for persons new to the experience
- Consider lifestyle issues and concrete actions
- Advocate for needed change

- Provide deeper theological understandings of *Laudato Si*.
- Celebrate environmental events: Season of Creation (September 1 to October 4), Synod for the Amazon (October 6 to 27), 50th anniversary of Earth Day (April 22) and the fifth anniversary of *Laudato Si* (May 22 to 24), and to have resources available for these events.

These commitments provide a plan of action for the the year ahead.

Transforming Contributions from Our Consecrated Life and Charism



Sr. Iriete Ignez Lorenzetti, General Minister of the Congregation of the Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Aparecida.

Sr. Iriete Ignez Lorenzetti, General Minister of the Congregation of the Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Aparecida, worked with indigenous peoples and persons who live on the water. She has been actively involved in defending life and the environment through educating and raising the consciousness of communities on deforestation, pollution, mining and agribusiness. Sr. Iriete shared the impor-

tance of the Aparecida Document in guiding men and women religious in the Amazonia mission, of which a coordinating author was then Cardinal Bergoglio.

In preparation for the Synod, women religious from various congregations led forums, seminars, and debates; providing opportunities to deepen the understanding of *Laudato Si*, to exchange experiences, and to construct texts for discussion during the Synod. They listened to the people of the region, deepening the themes of human rights, biodiversity, and the consequences of dams, agribusiness, deforestation, violence, femicide and trafficking of human beings.



Sr. Sandra Maciel Notalin, Superior General of the Little Missionaries of Mary Immaculate.

From Pan-Amazonia, Sr. Sandra Maciel Notalin, Superior General of the Little Missionaries of Mary Immaculate, spoke of the synodal process as an experience of community and unity that challenged and launched them into an ecclesial movement.

She referred to the experience in the Diocese of Juína, in the northeastern region of the state of Mato Grosso, where she was happy to participate in data collection and activities mapping for pastoral coordination. The participation had been strong among the indigenous peoples in the

diocese and she shared her feelings that real networking had taken place, with consecrated life at the forefront.

- In Obidos, Para, her sisters travel with the [Pope Francis Hospital Boat](#), meeting the medical needs of the River People. The Sisters live and sleep on the boat. Their lifestyle of mutual respect, living together and loving sincerely encourages the conversion process of people in order to understand our message of compassion and peace.

Interconnection Rome and Brazil



Sr. Antonietta Papa, Superior General of the Figlie di Maria Missionaries, helped facilitate the Rome Constellation in preparation for the Synod. She shared the following update on the preparations:

The network of churches in the Pan-Amazonian area (REPAM) were asked to extend leadership to Rome and host meetings to develop a Common Home—A Tent for Martyrs—during the synod process. Many organized events will offer experience of indigenous spiritualities, will deepen theological understandings of Laudato Si, and will honor martyrs for environmental causes such as Dorothy Stang, Sister of Notre Dame de Namur, and Fr. Ezechiele Ramin, Comboni Missionary. Efforts to integrate the contributions of missionary congregations will also take place. This is an experience of solidarity for the Church and the world. The efforts taking place in Rome can also take place in other countries; it is a way of joining one another in being open to the graces of the spirit at this time.

With these interconnections women religious contribute their consecrated life and charisms through a lifestyle that witnesses solidarity and simplicity. An important element of this lifestyle is sowing peace in conflicts of land and interests, by listening attentively and finding ways we can all work together.

Global Catholic Climate Movement

Cecilia Dall'Oglio and Christina Leño presented the work of the Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM). They spoke of the urgency to address the climate change crisis, quoting Pope Francis's words to the oil executives about the need to have a "radical energy transition" ... in order to "avoid perpetrating a brutal act of injustice towards the poor and future generations."

Following are the highlights of their presentation:

- Support young peoples' call for change by joining the strikes, engaging in other actions, or praying with the *Laudato Si* rosary in solidarity with and support of the strikers.
- Celebrate the Season of Creation in various ways, including ecumenical prayer events, acts of service to the earth, beginning *Laudato Si* Circles or other care for creation teams, and advocacy actions.
- Recognize the importance of institutions to divest from fossil fuels.

GCCM's participation in the Synod includes exploring the current ecological crises, protecting biodiversity, encouraging responsible land use, and respecting indigenous rights.

The next webinar on October 16 will cover what has been happening during the Synod, not only in Rome and Pan-Amazonia, but also around the world.

[Videos of the webinar.](#)

[Sembrando esperanza para el planeta: Raíces éticas y espirituales](#)

[Sowing Hope for the Planet: Attending to Ethical and Spiritual Roots \(morning webinar\)](#)

[Sowing Hope for the Planet: Attending to Ethical and Spiritual Roots \(afternoon webinar\)](#)

JPIC COMMISSION MEETING



L-R: Fr. Pablo Garcia, Fr. Juan Carrasquilla, SDS, Fr. Fachtna O'Driscoll, SMA, Fr. Peter Baekelmans, CICM, Sr. Sheila Kinsey, Sr. Anne Corry, RSCJ, Sr. Roxanne Schares, SSND, Fr. Felix Mushobozi, CPPS, Sr. Florence Villeon, RSCJ

In May, the JPIC Commission met to review the work of the JPIC Secretariat. They affirmed the upcoming plans and encouraged the ongoing work of promoting the campaign Sowing Hope for the Planet, including JPIC formational activities and work with refugees and migrants. It was noted that collaboration between the Spanish-Portuguese Group and English Group shall be enriched with the Synodal observations in Rome.

Appreciation and many thanks were expressed to Commission Co-President, Fr. Fachtna O'Driscoll, SMA, who has completed his term as Superior Gener-

al, and to Commission member Fr. Juan Carrasquilla, SDS, who returns to Colombia for parish ministry. The Commission also conveyed their gratitude to Fr. Felix Mushobozi, CPPS for his six years of service as Executive Co-Secretary.



Thank you

Fr. Felix Mushobozi, CPPS

for six years of service as Executive Co-Secretary to the JPIC Commission of USG-UISG.

We are grateful for the wonderful ways you have carried out your role as friend, facilitator, and having offered your many talents and gifts for language. We have valued your inspirational words and your commitment to pursue the human rights for every nation. We shall carry on with the Stations of the Cross, which you have so carefully promoted and developed during this time. You have been an outstanding example of what it means to be a Missionary of the Precious Blood. We wish you abundant blessings as God's loyal servant.

SOWING HOPE FOR THE PLANET IN UNIVERSITIES



Maryann Cusimano Love, Associate Professor of International Relations in the Politics Dept. of the Catholic University of America (CUA) in Washington, D.C.,

met with the JPIC Secretariat to discuss ways in which students and faculty could be involved in the efforts to promote Laudato Si and support the Campaign Sowing Hope for the Planet. There are a number of men and women religious on faculty at the CUA.

It was exciting to recognize the universities devotion to the care of creation and to explore other options. Dr. Love will be having conversations when she returns to CUA.

SPANISH-PORTUGUESE JPIC GROUP ANNUAL REVIEW



L-R: Rosa María Ramos, Priscilla Latela, Luisa García González, María Martínez Becares, María Rosaura Patiño.

The final meeting of the Spanish-Portuguese Promoters on June 5 provided an opportunity to evaluate the Group's activities throughout the year. "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" (Rm 14: 17-19). This verse was the focus of the Group's annual program and inspired the entire morning's discussion. It encouraged a deep reflection on Justice, not only as a value but also as a virtue that "includes all the other virtues," according to Aristotle.

The promoters reviewed their meetings from October 2018 to June 2019 using the SWOT methodology. Activities highlighted as "strengths", include vocation at the service of the poorest, dedication to the study of highly topical subjects, and recognizing JPIC spirituality and lifestyle. They also noted the arrival of new members, the variety and creativity of the methodology used, and the fraternal environment resulting from considerations that lead us to an increasingly strong commitment in the Church and in Consecrated Life.

These provided "opportunities" in the international, intercultural and inter-congregational context of the Promoters Group give a broader outlook for joint learning and knowledge building. The topics presented not only provided theories, but opened ways for concrete solidarity, such as an opportunity to collaborate with

the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and sharing resources among congregations.

While reflecting on “weaknesses”, it was noted that there is a scarce presence of men religious and also the absence of several women religious congregations in Rome that have not sent their delegates to the group. Awareness of weakness in the area of “acting” was critical; there is a recognized need to demonstrate concrete commitment through action, especially within communities.

Other aspects are “threats” for the group, such as the complex situations in the world which can discourage, some ideologies opposed to environmental care, and the amount of commitments of the General Curias that hinder a deep reflection on topical matters. These and other threats exist, but the principal challenge is to find them and to tackle them.

Suggestions regarding next year’s theme were presented. Participants greatly appreciated the spirit of simplicity and fraternity of our monthly JPIC meetings, and would like for many other men and women religious to enjoy it—maybe on Wednesday, October 9, when the new period starts.—*Contributor: Sr. Julia Arciniegas, FMA, JPIC Coordinator for her Congregation*

ENGLISH JPIC PROMOTERS MEET FOR ANNUAL EVALUATION



In June, the English JPIC Promoters Group met for their annual review and to consider future directions. The session began with the prayer, “A future Not Our Own” led by Fr. Felix, honoring the life of Archbishop Romero and a source of inspiration in planning activities.

An evaluation of the 2018-2019 experience was aided with a slide presentation on the theme “Call to Holiness as Contemplatives in Action” and was followed by a discussion on areas for future planning, considering what was helpful and should be continued:

- Inputs and quality of the presentation and presenters were excellent

- Weekly e-news, monthly newsletters and webinars are very informative
- Opportunities for all to contribute or participate in diverse events/issues and working groups
- Collegiality among the promoters and increased collaboration and networking
- JPIC promoters formation program in 2018 was well organized
- Networking with the Dicastery for Integral Human Development (DIHD) and the Vatican, and other international groups is a positive sign of JPIC promoters presence in Rome
- Ways to better address the needs of JPIC promoters in Rome and around the world
- Need to rethink of the functioning of various groups
- Inclusion of JPIC, CST *Laudato Si* in religious formation (in all stages) in Rome and around the world
- Joint initiatives in Rome with other religious NGOs at the UN (New York, Geneva)
- Promote SEE, JUDGE and ACT process

Plans for JPIC Promoters in June 2019 to June 2020, include the following:

- Fifth anniversary of *Laudato Si* in 2020—we need to integrate *Laudato Si* into our formation along with the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Working groups could create ad hoc committees to serve for specific issues.
- Africa Working Group suggests JPIC promoters who have communities in Africa take part on issues related to countries where they are present.
- Use of online conferencing for working groups.
- Core Group to discuss the following topics in their September 2019 meeting:
 - Laudate Si* and SDGs
 - Interculturality formation.

Contributor: Gretta Fernandes, SSpS, Mission Secretary for her congregation

GOING ON STRIKE WITH YOUR BOSS



There’s something ironic about marching alongside your supervisor in a packed Roman street, the sound of Italian teenagers’ chants overwhelming your senses and making an already unusual situation even more surreal.

It's your fifth day on the job, and you're already on strike, marching alongside local youths for a cause you can all relate to—the need for swift and comprehensive legislative action to halt the devastating impacts of climate change.

During my short six-week internship, what I've learned to expect is only this: the unexpected. One day I'll be dutifully making my way down a list of 100+ countries, producing a 40+ page document to compile research on their most pressing social and environmental issues; the next, I'll be shaking hands with the United Kingdom Ambassador to the Holy See and introducing myself.

The uncertainty is, at once, exhilarating and daunting. Trying to tackle a massive issue like refugees fleeing the war in South Sudan when we're just a team of a few people in a small office in Rome can feel like an insurmountable challenge. Impacts which might not even be visible until years later anyway—can feel trying, it has also been enlightening for me. With my broad interest in law and social justice, this internship has given me some insight on what it takes for change towards social justice to actually occur.

But if I've learned anything at the JPIC, it's that just as important as what it takes is whom. Who is needed to tend to the cries of the earth and the poor, to organize the nonviolent demonstration, to fix what is broken?

Anyone. Anyone at all!

Thank you, Meilin Scanish, our Intern from Notre Dame University, for all that you have contributed to our efforts to promote justice, peace and integrity of creation. You have been a delight to have in our office. We have benefitted from your creativity and careful research on important areas of need.

SEASON OF CREATION 2019: THE WEB OF LIFE



Beginning on September 1 (the day of prayer for creation) and ending on October 4 (the feast of St. Francis), Christians celebrate the Season of Creation together by loving all of creation. It offers us a time to con-

template our contribution to protecting creation.

This year's theme, "The Web of Life," focuses on biodiversity and interconnectivity. The Vatican has released a statement in support of the Season of Creation and has connected the protection of biodiversity

with the upcoming Synod of Bishops for the Pan-Amazonian region. The Amazon is the lungs of the world and we must protect her precious resources and life.

JPIC will be coordinating with the GCCM and the UISG Campaign Sowing Hope for the Planet to provide action resources and a reflective and informative video, which will be available by the end of July in six languages. Visit www.sowinghopefortheplanet.org/ resources to see the many Season of Creation resources congregations have shared over the last year.

The [Season of Creation website](#) offers opportunities for coordinated action with their "join the global movement" event registry and their celebration guide. The updates section also offers ideas and news.

[Pope Francis asks us to pray for creation.](#)

SEARCH CONTINUES FOR JPIC SECRETARIAT'S MALE EXECUTIVE CO-SECRETARY

The JPIC Commission of the USGUISG is searching for a male religious to work full-time, together with a female religious, as executive co-secretary in the Commission's Secretariat Office in Rome, Italy. It is important that this person have sufficient experience in justice, peace and integrity of creation concerns, that he be fluent in English and have some knowledge of Spanish or fluent in Spanish and have some knowledge in English, and capable of teamwork. He must possess computer and organizational skills. Contact jpicroma@gmail.com for more information no later than September 30, 2019.

JULY TO SEPTEMBER INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS

July: Evangelization, Priests and their Pastoral Ministry—That priests, who experience fatigue and loneliness in their pastoral work, may find help and comfort in their intimacy with the Lord and in their friendship with their brother priests.

August: The treasure of Families—That any far-reaching decisions of economists and politicians may protect the family as one of the treasures of humanity.

September: Young People in Africa—That young people in Africa may have access to work and education in their own countries.

The video of the [Apostleship of Prayer](#) is available the first Friday of the month.

JULY TO SEPTEMBER INTERNATIONAL DAYS OF OBSERVANCE

15 July—[World Youth Skills Day](#) seeks to raise awareness that a large number of youth have low levels of achievement in basic literacy and numeracy, and calls for a substantial increase in the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills.

18 July—[Nelson Mandela International Day](#) urges action against poverty and for the promotion of social justice through conflict resolution and protection of human rights.

30 July—[World Day Against Trafficking in Persons](#) highlights the exploitation of men, women and children around the world and invites advocacy for their protection, particularly that of migrants and refugees.

9 August—[International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples](#) calls attention to globally accepted minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of indigenous peoples, recognizing efforts that uphold these standards and promoting continued support on their behalf.

12 August—[International Youth Day](#) focuses on the vital role and unique perspective that young people have in the pursuit of global goals such as eradicating poverty and promoting sustainability.

19 August—[World Humanitarian Day](#) provides an opportunity for solidarity with the millions around the world who need humanitarian assistance to survive by honoring the work of those fighting for change and encouraging further advocacy.

23 August—[International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition](#) honors the efforts of those who have resisted the slave trade in the past and supports the fight against servitude today.

29 August—[International Day Against Nuclear Tests](#) stresses the goal to cease nuclear testing, because of its powerful and negative effects on human life and the health of the Earth.

12 September—[United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation](#), a complement the North-South cooperation, stimulates collaboration between developing countries for economic growth and sustainable development.

16 September—[International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer](#) acknowledges the importance of our atmosphere in protecting life on Earth and the power of human activities to destroy this defense.

21 September—[International Day of Peace](#) theme: “Climate Action for Peace” promotes attention to the importance of combatting climate change as a way to protect and promote peace throughout the world.

26 September—[International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons](#) encourages a renewed commitment for nuclear disarmament throughout the world, recognizing the benefits of these efforts and the consequences of their perpetuation.

[Click here for a listing of the international days for the year.](#)

JPIC PROMOTERS MEETINGS IN SEPTEMBER

9 September—English CORE Meeting, 3 pm to 5 pm at the Fratelli

10 September—Integrity of Creation Working Group (ICWG), 3 pm to 5 pm at the Fratelli.

18 September—English Speaking Promoters Meeting, 9 am to 12 pm at UISG. The Integrity of Creation Working Group will celebrate the Season of Creation honoring the biodiversity of our planet.

25-27 September—JPIC and Mining Seminar. Now waiting list.

SAVE THE DATE

2-6 December—Formation Workshop for JPIC Promoters. Theme: “Call to holiness as contemplatives in action: promoting God’s reign of justice, peace and love.” This workshop provides new Promoters with the tools needed to animate members of their congregation. Others engaged in JPIC-related ministries are welcome to attend the full workshop or individual sessions. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

The next issue of Newsbriefs will be in September 2019.

Have a wonderful and safe vacation!

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