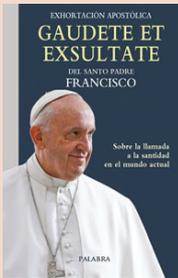




NEWSBRIEF

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

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Editorial: *The April Newsbrief welcomes Pope Francis's exhortation "Gaudete et Exultate". We are grateful for this inspiring and challenging message on holiness as we continue to pursue this goal, conscious of our vocation and mission at the service of God's people, particularly those at the margins of life. In this issue we give witness that we are sensitive to current challenges such as attention to the youth, food security and agriculture, human mobility and trafficking in human persons, consumerist world and peace building. Our attitude is one of contemplation and action endeavoring the experience of connectedness and oneness with God and all of his creation. We shall overcome in the risen Lord!*

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

YOUTH AND JPIC IN OUR WORLD



Miriam di Lello, Flavia d'Angelis, Professor Andrea Monda, and Patricia Bobadil.

On April 11, 2018, the monthly meeting of the Spanish/Portuguese JPIC Promoters was held at the UISG with the theme: Youth and JPIC in Our World. The meeting started with a prayer, "An Encounter" on the Gospel of Emmaus.

The conveners held a round table, inviting Andrea Monda, a high school teacher of religion, as well as several young women: Flavia d'Angelis, 21 years of age, college student; Miriam di Lello, 25 years of age, primary school teacher, and Patricia Bobadil, a Peruvian. Andrea Monda is a layperson and lawyer who worked for years in a bank. After a long personal search process, he made the decision to change to a passionate evangelizing mission with the youth. Beginning in 2006, he has worked with high school students, ages 14-18. In his teaching, he applies new didactics and methodology (telling stories), including literature, cinema, and arts. The students listen to his teaching, but

are also influenced by his presence; they look at his life and want to know more about his personal passion.

Andrea came to know about the Pope's desire to hear the voice of the youth in the Stations of the Cross, held at the Colosseum on Holy Friday 2018. For this purpose he chose 15 young people from among his students and former students, spiritually focused and creative, and gave them two guidelines: to contemplate the scene of the station assigned to each of them and to conclude with a prayer that began with the words "I SEE YOU JESUS." The result has been the novel and original Stations of the Cross followed worldwide through television.

Andrea started the round table with the question, "How is JPIC seen and experienced by the youth?"

The young women who participated shared their personal experience:

Flavia: To change towards a more just and peaceful world, she seeks the fundamental values she wants to convey to children as a teacher. She stated the key action is the *encounter*, the dialogue and confrontation; to do what is possible for generating a change through personal testimony in our daily life and concrete situations.

Miriam: After a personal revival process of faith, motivated by her mother's death, she asked herself what to do. The answer she found was to become credible and that what she can do well is to love. Before school situations regarding justice, to do as Jesus would have done: uniting the Word to the reality of each day.

Patricia: She had discovered some time ago in Rome the richness of multiculturalism as a light in the journey. She seeks to share with others, to know others and

to recognize others in their background; to become a daily witness of the values of the Kingdom of God, the Father of all.

The attending group of Promoters posed challenging questions on the alleged indifference of the youth before social and ecological issues:

How is your world? What do you do? What are you interested in? Which are your concerns? What makes you happy? What do you think about politics?

The participants answered with personal intention and reflection:

We are not indifferent; we are responsive and we see what is wrong in the world, the social and natural disasters, the political corruption... we can ask ourselves: What are you doing to change the world? What can I do? Their personal answers: I can do something in my environment, in my own little world and daily life. And convince others to achieve goals.

We are concerned about and we enjoy with the establishment of relationships. To stop, to look together, to listen, to take life as an experience among equals.

The simplicity and authenticity of the personal testimony given at the round table, and the concrete nature of the answers had a great impact on participants.

Thanks to Professor Andrea, Flavia, Miriam and Patricia.

—Contributor: Maria Luisa García, RMI Claret, JPIC Promoter

ICR AT FAO WORKING GROUP HOSTS JPIC MONTHLY MEETING



Diasuki Narui, SVD; Joseph Blay, OFM, Conv.; Carmen Elisa Bando, SSPS; and Ken Thesing, MM.

The International Congregations of Religious at the Food and Agriculture Organization (ICR at FAO) Working Group hosted the JPIC Promoters Meeting on the 21st of March. Sr. Carmen Elisa Bando, SSPS led the opening prayer based on themes of hunger and nutrition, scripture, and Catholic Social Teaching, accompanied by music which provided a meditative atmosphere.

Fr. Ken Thesing, MM introduced the ICR at FAO Working Group history over the past six years. Stirring their consciousness around the issues of hunger in the world by the food and the economic crisis of 2007–2008, a group of Justice and Peace promoters from men and women religious congregations realized the religious congregations had no presence at the three specialized UN agencies based in Rome, which deal with hunger and nutrition issues. This group established the ICR at FAO Working Group, asking for a presence specifically at FAO. Ken became the Working Group Coordinator and Delegate to FAO.

FAO was established in 1945 and given the specific goal to work to reduce hunger among the people of the world. FAO formed a Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in 1974 to focus specifically on the persistent reality of hunger. Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food for an active and healthy life. With a 2009 reform of the CFS which broadened participants to include Civil Society Organizations and Movements and NGOs in both a Civil Society and Private Sector Mechanism, this CFS committee is the most inclusive and participative body in the entire UN system. Through the FAO Partnership Department, our ICR at FAO Association received Observer status and can participate fully in the work, including attendance at conferences, symposia and committee meetings, involvement in online policy development, the ability to contact employees at FAO headquarters, and obtain copies of FAO publications, etc.

Fr. Ken briefly explained some policy statements developed at FAO since the beginning of his participation: VGGTs (The Voluntary Guidelines for the Governance of Tenure of land for farmers, fisher-folk and forestry dwellers); Manual on Free, Prior, Informed Consent to help local communities understand and implement their rights in keeping their land and livelihoods; and, Responsible Agriculture Investments, as both local and international moneyed interests/investors look to lease and buy land around the world, often the previous 'common' land of local small-scale farmers.

With the increased awareness of the importance of good nutrition and of 'silent hunger' (the micronutrient deficiencies suffered by nearly a third of the world's people), several areas affecting food were noted: the issue of water has become critical with agriculture using some 70% of all fresh water worldwide; Forest clearing and climate change present challenges to agriculture; 'Food Systems' (how food is produced, marketed, processed and distributed) increasingly sell food in processed form with high contents of added sugar, salt and unhealthy fats (which increases enticement for consumers to buy more). New 'emerging issues' in food and nutrition security come to FAO constantly for study and will hopefully contribute to new policy

statements to help achieve the UN Agenda Sustainability Development Goal #2: ‘Zero hunger.’

Joseph Blay, OFM Conv., presented a concrete project developed in [Malawi](#) to improve local food production and family diet and nutrition. The project focused on empowering women (who make up 60% of the farmers in many countries), to have more control over land they farm, types of crops they plant, and what they keep from the harvest. With men traditionally making most of the decisions in this culture and women accepting that as the norm, it was recognized that discussion and dialogue was needed for change to happen: by approaching the difficulties with both men and women on the specific needed areas that would foster change, the project helped both women and men base their decisions on real expressed goals. With discussion and dialogue, they achieved change without conflict and enhanced their livelihoods.

Meeting participants discussed what their congregation members say about food, nutrition and hunger issues. Other important topics discussed included land-grabbing, the plantation agriculture that is taking over increasingly more land (often with the use of chemicals causing air and water pollution for local people), and the pandemic corruption that affects seemingly all issues of people’s lives, including local people losing control of their land and livelihoods.

We concluded that there is profound need for the emphasis of Pope Francis’ encyclical *Laudato Si* that we both care for the human person and nature, the environment. We recalled Pope Francis’ plea to the people at the World Social Forum in Bolivia that they must be proactive. ‘Organize, organize...’ he told them. We recognized we, too, must engage in an active role so there will truly be ‘Zero hunger’ one day.—Contributor: Ken Thesing, MM, Representative of ICR at FAO

CHURCH AND HUMAN MOBILITY IN AFRICA

The Refugees and Migrant Working Group and the African Working Group met with Fr. Lambert Tonamou from the Section of Refugees and Migrants in the Dicastery of Integral Human Development for a presentation on “The Church and Human Mobility in Africa.” Fr. Lambert emphasized the words of Pope Francis to welcome, protect, promote and integrate migrants and refugees into our societies. He highlighted the Church’s effort to promote the UN Global Compact both inside the Church and with governments.

Beginning with a description and timeline of Pope Francis’s attention to migrant and refugees, Fr. Tonamou gave a quote from Pope Francis which has reached world opinion “In this globalized world, we have fallen into globalized indifference” (Homily at Lampedusa, 8 July 2013). The message carries with it specific challenges to the orientation of indifference,



JPIC Promoters with Fr. Lambert Tonamou, the third from the right. The photo was taken in front of a case containing the life vest given to Pope Francis by a rescuer when he visited Lampedusa. The girl wearing the vest did not survive.

compelling us to not acclimate to the suffering of others and to share in the responsibility for our brothers and sisters.

Giving an outline of the four areas—welcome, protect, promote, and integrate—Fr. Tonamou gave examples of how these begin. To welcome “begins first with an appropriate and decent accommodation.” To protect “Millions of migrant workers, men and women, particularly people who are in irregular situations, refugees and political asylum seekers, victims of human trafficking. Protecting their inalienable rights, guaranteeing their fundamental freedoms and respecting their dignity, are duties that no one can exonerate.” To promote “the integral human development of the migrants and refugees. The human promotion of migrants and their families begins in their communities of origin, where the right to emigrate should be guaranteed, as well as the right to stay.” To integrate “is not an assimilation or an incorporation, but a two-way process based essentially on the mutual recognition of each other’s cultural wealth.”

Referencing the [Twenty Points Towards the Global Compacts on Migrants and Refugees 2018](#), Fr. Tonamou shared that two versions of the migrants and refugees section were sent to the entire conference of African Bishops:

- “The pastoral version, to be used internally in the action of the local churches for migrants and refugees.”
- “The political version, which is a contribution of the Church to intergovernmental negotiations on Global Compacts.”

Fr. Tonamou also gave examples of “good practices in the development of the 20 points towards the global compacts on migrants and refugees.” His examples included presentations and distribution to ecclesial operators for migrants and refugees in Kenya; meetings with the Association of Episcopal Conferences of Central Africa (ACEAC) in Burundi, DR Congo, and

Rwanda on three occasions; presenting to the African Union and meeting the Undersecretary General and the Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa; and participation in Caritas Africa formation on human mobility. He stated several areas of note from the meeting with Caritas Africa: “to understand the reality of the international and regional context of migration, taking into account legal and socio-economic and political perspectives; analyze the causes of migration; understand the Church’s Word on Migration and what motivates it or the Church’s Social Doctrine on Migration; and, strengthen and improve the harmonization of joint actions.”

Fr. Tonamou’s presentation gave concrete examples of how the compacts can be used and distributed throughout the church and governments to provide a framework and cohesive approach for meeting the needs of migrants and refugees that are so prevalent in our society.

[Twenty Points: Pope’s video.](#)

SEMINAR ON CONSUMERISM: A PUSH-AND-PULL FACTOR IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING

“I feel palpitating, disturbed, shocked; it is not possible to stomach that even a two-month old child is trafficked for sexual exploitation,” said Maryrose Fresnedi—a woman from the Philippines now working as Badante (caregiver) in Rome—at the close of the seminar Consumerism: a Push-and-Pull Factor in Human Trafficking. The seminar was organized by the Anti-Trafficking Working Group of JPIC Promoters in Roma on April 18, 2018 at the Fratelli delle Scuole Christiane. Maryrose was apparently observed gasping and perspiring, with similar reactions observed among the participants, when they came to know that ‘human trafficking is a highly profitable crime involving an estimated \$150 billion and is believed to be the fastest-growing criminal enterprise in the world, now outpacing even the drug trade.’



Sr. Christine Gautier, OP

“A demand for cheap goods/services and sexual exploitation reduces the vulnerable people to commodities,” said Sr. Christine Gautier, OP while presenting on ‘the Church’s teaching against consumerism.’ She quoted St. Thomas Aquinas, identifying that it is lawful to desire temporal goods to support life, but the accumulation of goods/services and exchanging

goods for profit deserves to be condemned. These, she stated, are born of consumerism and greed which are sins against the planet and humanity. Sr. Christine

identified love as the antidote for consumerism and, therefore, it is necessary to create lifestyles in which the consumer choices will be determined by the quest for truth, beauty, goodness and communion with others.



Ambassador H.E. Mr. Godwin George Umo

With Nigeria being a source country of trafficking, Godwin George Umo, Ambassador of Nigeria to the Holy See, presented on ‘Consumerism: An obstructive catalyst for push-and-pull factors in human trafficking.’ He explained that poverty, lack of opportunities, desire for green pastures and improved life status, peer pressure, and corruption play great roles in this modern-day slavery.

He stated that the Nigerian government has programs in place to protect, liberate and rehabilitate victims and to prosecute perpetrators. The country’s 2018 budget has designated 256 million euros to be used towards anti-trafficking efforts.



Ambassador HRN Prince Jamie de Bourbon de Parme

HRN Prince Jaime de Bourbon de Parme, Ambassador of the Netherlands to the Holy See, stated that as a destination country of human trafficking, the Netherlands is one of the first countries to establish a national rapporteur for human trafficking and exploitation. He identified that there are uniform laws in place to regulate the prostitution sector as well as a law being under consideration to criminalize those

engaged as consumers. Prince Jaime stated attention is paid to vulnerable groups such as lesbian, homosexual, bisexual, transgender and intellectually disabled children to save them from trafficking, and that the government has been using Web Voyager since 2017 to scan online sex ads to assess the risk of trafficking. To reduce organ harvesting related to trafficking, he stated a law has been recently passed to make every citizen a donor unless he/she indicates that they do not want to. The Netherlands is planning a proposal to the UN Security Council to make sanctions against known traffickers in Libya. Because of these the efforts, the report of the Rapporteur indicates that there were only 523 registered victims in 2017. ([Speech of the Amb. of the Netherlands to the Holy See](#))

Sr. Dorothy Ezeh DDL, who completed her doctoral thesis on Human trafficking and Prostitution among the girls and women of Edo state, Nigeria, presented



Sr. Dorothy Ezeh, DDL

the topic Consumerism: Demand and Supply. She stated there are family members who concede to send their daughters overseas to earn money, even after knowing the dangers. In societies where women must be bread winners, they are forced to accept any form of work. This makes it impossible to abolish trafficking, but it can be reduced.



Cecilia Espenilla, OP

Sr. Cecilia Espenilla, OP, International JPIC Promoter of the Dominican Sisters, presented on Sexual Exploitation and Forced Labor. She explained that in 2016 there were 40.3 million victims of trafficking; with further description that it now costs only \$90 to purchase a slave compared to the \$40,000 it

cost in 1840. Sr. Cecilia noted that trafficking creates huge profit: 32 billion dollars in 2009 which is more than the combined profit of Nike, Google and Starbucks. Presently, 2 million children are exploited in the commercial sex trade and the youngest victim ever rescued is 2 months old.

Though the picture looks gloomy, the seminar ended with the positive chord: “Together we can end trafficking.” We all can contribute towards this by becoming volunteers to support anti-trafficking, hosting a campaign, learning the indicators of human trafficking, and becoming a conscious and informed consumer. In this seminar we heard, more than once, that this is a global problem, the eradication of which needs an apolitical global network. We can become a link in the network to end human trafficking.—Contributor: Vincent Anesthasiar, Cmf, JPIC Secretariat for the Claretians

[Slideshows \(PPTs\) of presentations](#)

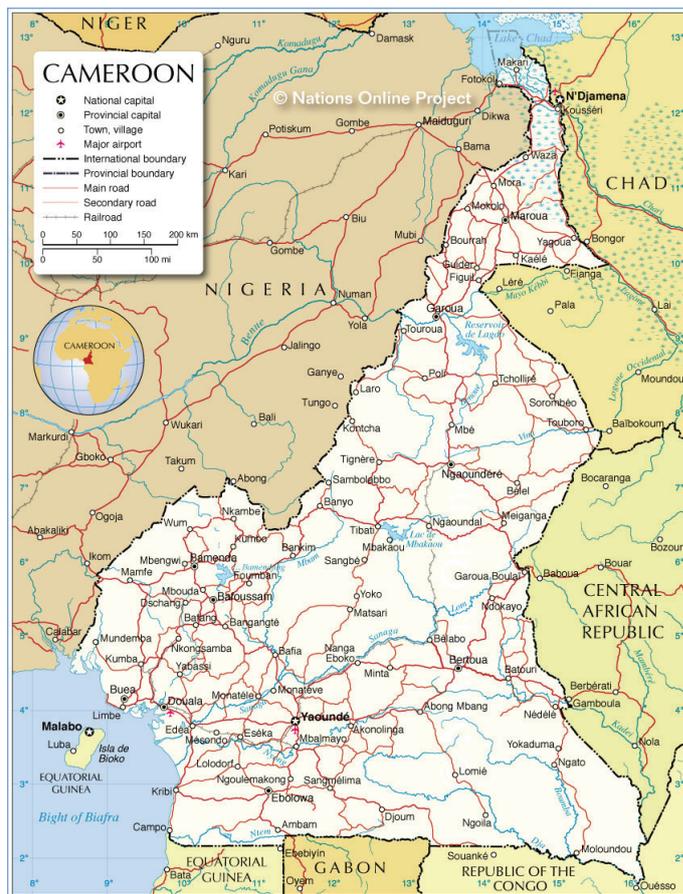
[CRUX article on this ATWG seminar.](#)



**CONTEMPLATION
FOR
JPIC MISSION**
(CLICK TO READ ONLINE
OR DOWNLOAD)

BY VINCENT ANESTHASIAR,
Cmf, JPIC Secretariat for the
Claretians

SOCIO-POLITICAL CRISIS IN CAMEROON



Since 2016, Cameroon has been passing through a socio-political crisis. A peaceful march, led by teachers and lawyers in the two Anglophone regions, called for socio-economic justice and reforms which was met by a military crackdown, provoking demonstrations from angry students and civilians.

The situation has continued with violent confrontations between the military and armed civilians—thousands of people have been arrested, some tortured to death in inhuman and barbaric ways, whole villages have been razed to ashes and, in some cases, elderly people have been unable to escape being burned, and looting of property by military forces is very common. More than 40,000 people have fled to the neighboring Nigeria as refugees. Women and children are the most vulnerable affected.

The call for dialogue by church leaders to end this everyday chaotic and escalating violence has fallen on deaf ears in the Government.

Earlier this month the united National Episcopal Conference strongly voiced opposition against the insecurity perpetuated by the military rampages, calling on the Government to engage in dialogue to end the violence and insecurity which happen daily.

A group of men and women religious have asked the help of the JPIC Secretariat to bring together in solidarity the religious in Rome with their brothers and sisters who are suffering in Cameroon.

JESUIT NETWORKING ON MINING AND THE ENVIRONMENT



Julie Edwards, Pedro Walpole, SJ, Sheila Kinsey, FCJM and Felix Mushobozi, CPPS.

The JPIC Secretariat met with Julie Edwards, leader of the Jesuit Mining Network, and Pedro Walpole, SJ, leader of Jesuit Ecology Network, to update one another on our efforts and to strengthen our collaborative work in mining and the environment. Ms Edwards, CEO of Jesuit services in Australia since 2013, has been familiar with and supportive of the Integrity of Creation WG's involvement in the mining issue. Fr. Walpole, who works in the Philippines, is also involved with the work of the Global Catholic Climate Movement.

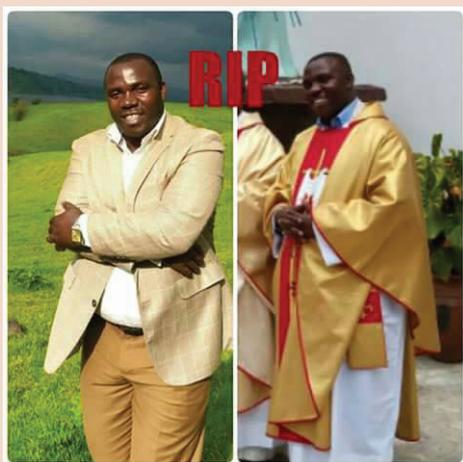
INTEGRITY OF CREATION WG MEETS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS MINING GROUP



The Integrity of Creation Working Group held an on-line meeting with the UN Mining Group to discuss the spiritual reflection companion booklet for the Water and Sanitation SDG 6, developed by the UN Mining Group in New York. There were many positive comments and much gratitude expressed for the work of Anne McCabe, SM and Anne Corry, RSCJ, authors of the spiritual reflection booklet. As far as possible these suggestions will be incorporated into the next document.

Videos: [Making Every Drop Count](#) and [Haciendo que cada gota cuente](#); website: [NGO Mining Working Group](#)

ANOTHER MARTYR FOR THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, APRIL 7, 2018



It is with great pain that we share with you our sadness at the death of the Abbot Stephen, also known as Abbé Étienne. He was a participant in our Goma workshop, "A Compassionate Response to Victims of Sexual Abuse in Areas of Conflict," and was the image of a true shepherd who knows his sheep. With his participation it was obvious that he was a zealous pastor, concerned about the future of his mission in a hostile environment. Abbé Étienne was a very lively and engaging participant in all activities and discussions. Everyone felt welcomed in his presence.

Abbé Étienne was facilitating a discussion with the catechists in his church when four men entered the room, one of them carrying a gun. The man shot him in the head and killed him instantly among his people.

The Lord allowed his sacrifice and brought him home as a martyr to be praised. Our brother Étienne looks upon us from heaven and becomes our intercessor. We pray for the eternal rest of his soul and for the many who knew him and whose lives were touched by his presence among us. His death reminds us to pray for all of the victims and their loved ones who have died because of the devastating conflict in their countries.

A Mass will be held on May 5th at 2:00 pm (Rome time), in the Chapel of the Amani Center in Bukavu. We join in solidarity with our brothers and sisters there.

MAY INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS

Evangelization: The Mission of the Laity. That the lay faithful may fulfill their specific mission by responding with creativity [video](#) is available through the Apostleship of Prayer on the first Friday of the month.

INTERNATIONAL DAYS OF OBSERVANCE IN APRIL

15 May—The [International Day of the Families](#) 2018 theme: “Families and inclusive societies.” The day “provides an opportunity to promote awareness of issues relating to families and to increase knowledge of the social, economic and demographic processes affecting them.”

16 May—The International Day of Living Together in Peace will be observed for the first time in 2018. The International Alawiyya Sufi Association, AISA International NGO, campaigned for this day “to create a worldwide movement in favor of an awareness that a fraternal bond based on the Culture of Peace is a necessity for Humanity.” Visit [Desire for Peace](#) for more information.

21 May—[World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development](#) celebrates cultural diversity as a means of providing new perspectives for sustainable development and promoting creative industry resources for millions of jobs worldwide—particularly for youth and women.

22 May—[International Day for Biological Diversity](#) recognizes that biodiversity is the foundation for life and for the essential services provided by ecosystems. By stopping biodiversity loss, we are investing in people, their lives and their well-being.

23 May—[End Obstetric Fistula Day](#) is meant to significantly raise awareness and intensify actions towards ending obstetric fistula.

29 May—[International Day of UN Peacekeepers](#) honors the more than one million men and women who have served under the UN flag with care and courage since 1948. More than 3,400 have lost their lives in service.

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

JPIC PROMOTERS MEETINGS IN MAY

2 May—Spanish and Portuguese Speaking Promoters Meeting, “JPIC, Nonviolence and Climate Change,” 9 am to 12 pm at UISG.

7 May—English Speaking CORE Group meeting, 3 pm to 5 pm at the Fratelli.

8 May—Integrity of Creation Working Group (ICWG), 10 pm to 12 pm at the Fratelli.

8 May—Anti-Trafficking Working Group (ATWG), 3 pm to 5 pm at the Fratelli.

9 May—JPIC Commission Meeting from 9 am to 12:30 pm at UISG. For commission members only.

16 May—JPIC Promoters Meeting, “Where are Our Youth Today?,” 9 am to 12 pm at UISG. Youth from the University of Notre Dame will be sharing their reflections as well as those of other youth that they know. Their sharing will be around areas that relate to their personal perspectives, relevance of the church in their lives, and other involvement in world concerns. Please join us for what promises to be an honest and enlightening discussion with some of our young people of today.

24 May—Collaboration of Women and Men in the Church (CWG), 3:30 pm to 5 pm at the UISG.

25 May—Prayer “JPIC Nonviolence and Climate Change,” 7 pm to 8 pm at Chiesa San Marcello.

26 May—JPIC Commission sponsored seminar at UISG from 9 am to 12 noon.

“Prophetic Religious Life and the Four Verbs on Migrants and Refugees”. This seminar continues the development of the theme from Pope Francis’ Message for the World Day of Peace: *Migrants and Refugees, Men and Women in Search of Peace* and his Message for the World day of Migrants and Refugees: *Welcoming, Protecting, Promoting and integrating Migrants and Refugees*. Click to [REGISTER](#).

28 May—ICR at FAO, 3 pm to 5 pm at the Passionists.

SAVE THE DATES

14-17 November—JPIC Promoters Formation Workshop with the theme “Building Right Relationships,” located at Casa per Ferie Enrico De Osso, Via Val Cannuta 134 Roma. This four-day workshop provides new JPIC 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. The workshop is in both English and Spanish. [For registration and the flyer, please click here.](#)