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***Editorial:** As we close 2018, we are filled with gratitude for the ways that we have collaborated and worked together to make our world more just, peaceful and respectful of the integrity of creation. In the coming year, we look forward to sharing ways that we can respond to our call to holiness as contemplatives in action who promote God’s reign of justice, peace and love. In this issue, we consider many of the opportunities our JPIC work has been interconnected on the global and local scenes. We share insights from the response of the church to the poor, to persons rebuilding their lives from addictions, to the safeguarding of human rights and to the participation in COP 24.*

With a heartfelt openness to what God may ask of us in 2019, we wish you a very blessed and spiritually enriching year in our journey together.

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

MEDELLIN DOCUMENT: POVERTY OF THE CHURCH



Fr. Juan Carrasquilla Ossa, SDS.

In December, Spanish and Portuguese JPIC Promoters met to remember and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Second General Conference of the Latin American Bishops, held in Medellín (Colombia) on August 26 to September 6, 1968. For many people, its principal aim was to apply the Vatican

Council II message to the Church of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Fifty years after the Council and 44 years after Medellín, as JPIC Promoters, we are studying these events through the documents they produced and reflecting on our history from a revitalization perspective, leading us to consider God’s action within our process of the incarnation of the gospel. The input of Vatican Council II is reflected in the changes the Latin American Church experienced thereafter in its historical pastoral activity, with emphasis on ecclesial communities and for a Church of the poor, a Church of communion and a Church of participation.

Guiding our reflection was the historical context, the anthropological aspects, the ecclesial inheritance and, particularly, its meaning for the Religious Life. Members were urged by these challenges of the Conference: “not as masters but as witnesses; not guiding, but accompanying; not as leaders, but walking with the others, in the midst of a society dominated by rivalries, violence, hunger, misery, all kinds of discrimination, and injustice.” In our times and where we live the

Good News of the Galilean Master, it is imperative for all—Christian men and women, particularly those who have accepted the Consecrated Life’s gift—to give space to a life of discipleship and prophetism in the path of Jesus of Nazareth.—Contributor: Juan Carrasquilla Ossa, SDS, Congregational JPIC Promoter of the Salvatorians

Medellin in [English](#) [Spanish](#)

DRUGS AND ADDICTIONS: AN OBSTACLE FOR INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

The Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development (DIHD) organized an international conference on the theme: Drugs and Addictions: An obstacle for an integral human development, which took place in the Vatican in December. The conference gathered over 350 participants from every continent.

The objective of the conference was to explore the complex areas of drug use and supply as well as other addictions, i.e., gambling, sex and pornography, digital devices and social networks. It was a platform to learn from each other. People coming from different experiences, shared best practices in prevention, suppression, treatment, rehabilitations and reintegration that led people to discover their proper dignity, both as human beings and as members of one family of the children of God.

It was once more proven with scientific figures that drugs and all other forms of addiction are the source of suffering and death in society, and the poor and vulnerable populations are the most affected by the phenomenon. According to the 2017 world drug report, five percent of the world adult population admitted having used drugs at least once in 2015. The alarming

situation is that drugs such as cocaine and some new intoxicating, psychoactive substances (NPS) have become consumer products proposed as being compatible with everyday life, with leisure activities and even with the pursuit of well-being! Prof. Gilberto Gerra, MD of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, affirmed that recently there has been a shift from opioids to synthetic drugs, especially in Southeast Asia. Elsewhere, consumers are poor people where poverty is the cause and consequence.



Prof. Umberto Nizzoli.

Many speakers warned against the misleading old language that overlooks occasional episodic for non-medical use and recreational use of drugs, whereas these kinds of users are the ones that easily fall into the trap of addiction.

Two speakers attracted significant attention: Prof. Umberto Nizzoli, a member of the Italian National Commission of Experts on Addiction and Professor at University Institute (IPU Italy), spoke about “Craving”, a dynamic through which people become addicted. Prof. Nizzoli is. He illustrated craving as a biological, innate tendency which is at the beginning of maturity, a necessary disposition in the process of growth which later can slip into being an addiction if an individual is unable to balance urges and needs. At this point, craving becomes an obsessive, compulsive search for an object of gratification. He went on to show how difficult and challenging is the work of education and healing from dependency. The need to get into the deep reality of a person’s feelings of memories, frustrations, guilt, conflict, and void to be able to change.



Prof. Mary Aiken

Another interesting talk was given by Prof. Mary Aiken, an adjunct associate professor at Dublin University and academic advisor to the European Cyber Crime Centre at Europol, Ireland, and a cyber-psychologist. She gave a talk about internet addiction disorders and spoke of the Internet as a domain, an environment, a

space in which the real and virtual are intertwined and whatever happens in these two worlds mutually influence each other. She went on to assert among other things that Internet addiction is based on a false presupposition that all users are equal, because the victims of internet addiction are not clinically recognized. She raised the issue of cyber babies and the responsibility of parents who leave their children on the web underestimating the damage that is caused by their contact with electronic devices’ screens and content.

[“The Cyber Effect: A Pioneering cyber-psychologist Explains how human behavior changes online”, August 2016.](#)

BICE: PROMOTING THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN



Alessandra Aula, Secretary General of BICE.

In December, BICE (International Catholic Office for Children) held a meeting at the Brothers of the Christian Schools Generalate in Rome, to further develop a network that would more effectively protect the dignity and rights of children. Alessandra Aula, Secretary General of BICE, called the meeting and challenged

the participants to find ways to be committed to work together. Experiences were shared from situations in Latin America and Africa. The importance of education for the young was stressed because without education there is no transformation for a better future. Examples were given where education is taking place in refugee settlements and areas of conflict. Encouraging testimonies were shared regarding the impact of resilience training in centers of unaccompanied minors. The JPIC Secretariat was asked to share the experiences of working in areas of conflict both in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda. This experience was unique in that it showed the involvement of community leaders, police and persons from other religions. These country experiences followed the training sessions on Pastoral Prevention and Compassionate Response to Victims of Sexual Abuse. A [slideshow](#) was presented capturing the experience of these critical efforts in the DRC and Uganda.

JPIC MESSAGE AT THE SYNOD ON YOUTH



Sr. Nathalie with youth at the Synod.

The English speaking JPIC Promoters met in December to explore the topic “JPIC with Youth” with Sr. Nathalie Becquart, Xavieres, missionary of Jesus Christ, who participated in the Synod of Youth. She joined the group in an online conference from Canada. Sr. Nathalie focused particularly on how the JPIC concerns were promoted. With her engaging style and slide presentation, she brought the promoters into the experience of the dynamics of the synod. It was a time

of listening carefully to one another, being engaged in a global context, and discerning the movement of the spirit which was deeply felt during those days. Utilizing the paradigm of Emmaus, the participants at the meeting walked to together with open eyes to the reality of the youth and determined ways to move forward. The holiness that the youth brings to the church was highly valued.

Clearly, the young people asked to explore their challenges: the digital world, migrants (most of whom are children), women, sexuality and homosexuality, and the implementation of *Laudato Si*.

Sr. Nathalie further explored the issues related to the working groups of the JPIC Promoters: Refugees and Migrants, Justice and Peace, men and women and Integrity of Creation—*Laudato Si*.

She left the group with the challenge of acting with the youth through the synodality of relationship and to work with them to face the JPIC challenges that they bring. The youth are looking for authentic witnesses and to have opportunities to be co-responsible for the life in the Church.

[Materials by Sr. Nathalie Becquart, XMCJ:](#)

[JPIC Message at the Synod on Youth](#)

[Key Elements for Developing a Culture of Vocation in the Context of Today](#)

[Final Document of the Synod of Bishops \(October 27, 2018\)—unofficial English translation extracts concerning JPIC topics](#)

[References for Youth](#)

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD



Panelists for the topic of prisoners: (L-R) Prof. Mauro Palma and Fr. Paulo Barajas Garcia, DIHD.

The Dicastery for Integral Human Development (DIHD) and the Pontifical Gregorian University co-sponsored an international conference on Human Rights in the Contemporary World: Achievements, Omissions, Negations in December. This marked the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 25th Anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action for the Protection of Human Rights Worldwide. Three hundred representatives of Justice and Peace commissions from around the

world were present, including the secretariat of the JPIC Commission in Rome and some JPIC Promoters from the Spanish Portuguese Group.

In his welcome words, the Prefect of the Dicastery, Card. Peter Turkson, read the message from the Holy Father who urged the international community to put human rights at the center of their political options and to make a “renewed commitment to the defence of human dignity, with special attention to the most vulnerable members of the community.”

The first day was characterized by two modes of reflections: A panel of speakers gave the Foundations of Human rights: Human dignity in International Law; Universality, indivisibility and interdependence of Human rights – Principles and their applications; The Theological foundations of Human rights. After lunch participants were invited to take part in parallel sessions to be able to engage with speakers more closely according to selected areas. Topics included: The Right to Life—an integral approach; Prison Pastoral Care—as a place for the protection and promotion of human rights; Contemporary Forms of Slavery—the opportunities of networking; Enforced Disappearances—possible commitment for the Church and political rights towards substantial democracy. These were followed with a plenary session during which each group was invited to put forward concerns and proposals for further action.

Fr. Felix Mushobozi, CPPS of the JPIC Secretariat, participated in the group which discussed prison pastoral care. He was drawn to the presentation given by Prof. Mauro Palma, head of the Italian National Authority for the Rights of Persons Deprived of their Liberty, who pointed out the value and function of prisons as a point of arrival and not a point of departure. He affirmed that one can measure the level of the legal system of the country by observing the quality of prison programs and activities. Prisons are not places where people who have committed crimes are punished, but the places of punished people. In other words, further punishments and abuse of their human dignity is a sign of dysfunction of the purpose of prisons. To better explain this, he mentioned the principle of subsidiarity where incarcerated people are prepared for re-insertion into society. Besides being a place where chances or exclusion are reduced, prisons are places where inclusion is promoted. Prisons should be useful for improving society, to utilize well the time spent and to train for people who are ready to assume their responsibility.

The second day was dedicated to human rights and contextual application. The first session was dealt with human rights and development in the context of armed conflicts. Special reference was made with regards to the evolvment of events in Libya and Syria. The second session dealt with human rights as related with freedom of religion, health in the context of a globalized world. The third session was considered human rights from a cultural perspective, with specific

reference to universality. Speakers from all five continents shared their perspectives regarding the records of human rights.

At conclusion of the conference, Card. Turkson invited participants to promote human rights through nonviolence and just peace.

FAO MEETING ON QUALITY OF WATER AND LAND AS HUMAN RIGHTS



Following up on the concerns of the ICR at FAO Working Group for water as a human right, Dott Tebaldo Vinciguerra of DIHD together with Mr. Olcay Unver, FAO Deputy Director and Director of the Land and Water Division at FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization)

held a meeting on Land and Water at the FAO Headquarters in December. JPIC Promoters and other Catholic organizations participated, including from the Jesuit Office and Caritas Internationalis.

The FAO staff described the challenges of linking major strategic topics and studies to people and projects at the local village level. FAO strives to build-in incentives to enhance ecosystem services in sustainable food systems wherever these projects are being carried out.

The Global Soil Partnership is one of the most important linkages because a growing percentage of the world's soils are degraded (eroded, lacking nutrients, becoming saline, growing toxin and minerals pollution) and water pollution is increasing. FAO depends on member-governments for implementation of the projects and FAO provides major technical networks to enhance discipline in information use and also works to provide communication and outreach throughout the broad network, to establish synergy built up among all groups working to enhance productivity in food production balanced with sustainability of the environment and ecosystems.

The ICR at FAO Working Group came away from the meeting with a clear understanding that there is a tremendous reservoir of knowledge already built up and continuing to be developed at FAO on land and water issues. FAO recognizes it must have partners 'on the ground' as it were, to help governments implement their plans, and through monitoring and evaluation ensure that the implementation serves the family farmers, the local food producers and the local food markets throughout the world.

ICR at FAO members are invited to work together with local non-government organizations and civil society organizations and with any other government and non-government structures to build synergies to achieve SDG 2, Zero Hunger and SDG 6, Ensuring access to water and sanitation for all.—Contributor: Ken Thesing, MM, JPIC Promoter and Representative of Religious Congregations at FAO

REFLECTIONS ON COP 24



Photo above: (L-R) Budi Tjahjono, Franciscans International; Rodrigo Peret, OFM; Benedict Ayodi, OFM Cap.; Sheila Kinsey, FCJM; and Josianni Gauthier, Secretary General, CIDSE. Photo on the right: Cecilia Espenilla, OP, International JPIC Coordinator for the Dominicans, joins other JPIC Promoters.

Climate March, walking with thousands of enthusiastic advocates displaying signs and chanting “For Climate Justice”. The path was well guarded by police—an indication of the serious message announced by the demonstrators. International meetings were held afterwards featuring the *Laudato Si* Mission: Christians for Climate. Fr. Joshtrrom Kureethadam from the Vatican DIHD stated the Vatican's commitment to confront the impacts of climate change. Pilgrims from Rome highlighted their journey of speaking the *Laudato Si* message. They spoke movingly about their arrival in Poland to the smell of coal fires in the air, and their positive reception, especially from a miner of almost 30 years, who suffers from black lung disease.

The following days saw many events and experiences: Towards an Ecological Conversion for the People and the Planet, a networking event in which activities of Caritas Internationalis, CIDSE, CAFOD, GCCM and the JPIC Commission of USG-UISG were discussed in small groups. There was a group session that shared results from the Thematic Social Forum on Mining in South Africa, speaking of honest and open dialogues about divergent and similar considerations with those affected by mining. Panel discussions composed of distinguished leaders in fields of science and faith shared quotes from *Laudato Si* that bridged connections between science and religion; and, the media was positively attentive to the declaration of urgency to address climate change that honored the report of scientists.

Grassroots and city groups discussed their efforts to counter the impacts of climate change with municipal leaders sharing systematic efforts to meet the challenges of reducing carbon emissions. This experience was enlightening... seeing accomplishments and learning ways of working together as we move forward with the campaign on Sowing Hope for the Planet. Some presentations even included the importance of countering the drainage of peat lands to grow food which causes more flooding and draught, and the environmentalist efforts in Brazil to safeguard the rights of Indigenous people and to conserve the Amazon for the world.



Pilgrimage group from Rome entering the church.

The Holy See delegation met with Rome connections to share their experience and to listen to those present, encouraging the COP 24 participants to promote actions for the good of our common home wherever they were involved in meetings.

Outcomes of COP 24 saw the agreement to 133 pages of completed rules for the Paris agreement. Dissent from 4 oil producing countries on the language used for the inclusion of the UN Climate Report complicated the proceedings, though ended with options clarified. It was disappointing that the urgent call to limit the average global temperature increase to only 1.5° C was not accepted. The need still exists to make emission cuts more quickly which will be determined in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of each country in reducing national emissions and which must be brought to the UN Secretary General's Summit in 2019—this will determine the success of the Paris Agreement.

This experience of [COP 24](#) was rich with new possibilities, connections with like-minded partners, concrete strategies, developments of alternative energy resources, celebrations of achievements, and commitments that enhance our understanding of our common home. We need each other; everything is interconnected. The spirit of hope is sustained by everyone doing their part for something that matters and knowing this importance leads to a meaningful life.



JANUARY INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS

Young People and the Example of Mary: That young people, especially in Latin America, follow the example of Mary and respond to the call of the Lord to communicate the joy of the Gospel to the world. A [video](#) becomes available the first Friday of the month.

INTERNATIONAL DAYS OF OBSERVANCE

1 January: [World Day of Prayer for Peace](#). “Good politics is at the service of peace.”

6-12 January: [National Migration Week 2019](#). Theme is Building Communities of Welcome.

18-25 January: [Week of Prayer for Christian Unity](#). The theme in 2019 is **Justice and only justice you shall pursue** (Deuteronomy 16:18-20). The services emphasize the importance of moving from our discourses about unity, justice and mercy to acts of unity, justice and mercy in our personal lives and in the life of our Christian communities.

27 January: [International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust](#). The holocaust resulted in the destruction of nearly 2/3 of European Jews. The purpose of remembering this day is to prevent future tragedies.

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

JANUARY JPIC PROMOTERS MEETINGS

4 January: Africa Working Group (AWG) from 3:30 to 5:30 at Missionaries of Africa.

7 January: English Speaking CORE Group from 3 pm to 5 pm at the Fratelli.

8 January: Integrity of Creation Working Group (ICWG) from 3 pm to 5 pm at the Fratelli.

9 January: Spanish and Portuguese Speaking Promoters Meeting “Good politics is at the service of peace: A Reflection on the WDP message of Pope Francis” from 9 am to 12 pm at UISG.

12 January, 9 February, 9 March and 6 April: “Consecrated Life, Migrations and the Challenges for the Christian Community” from at 9:00 am–12:30 pm. The training sessions will be conducted in English, Spanish and Italian with simultaneous translations. There is also the pos-

sibility of following the training online. The last session will be dedicated to practical examples from religious institutions providing services for migrants and refugees in Rome. See the flyer in English, Italian and Spanish for details. Contact UISG to sign up.

16 January: English Speakers Promoters Meeting “Politics, Civil Society and Peace: The Effort of the Church” with Fr. Rocco D’Ambrosio, Professor of Political Philosophy at the Pontifical Gregorian University from 9 am to 12 pm UISG. Hosted by the Africa Working Group.

17 January: UISG Sowing Hope for the Planet Webinar #4: “In Solidarity: Interconnecting Global and Local Concerns.” Featuring post-COP24 update, Synod on the Amazon, Earth Day plans, and Sisters to share best practices. EN, FR, IT: 8:30–10:00. EN, SP, PT: 15:00–16:30. Synod document on the Amazonia: New Paths for the Church and for an Integral Ecology” both [EN](#) and [SP](#).

17 January: Refugees and Migrants Working Group (RMWG) from 3 pm to 5 pm at the Fratelli.

24 January: Collaboration of Women and Men Working Group (CWG) from 3:30 pm to 5 pm at UISG.

28 January: ICR at FAO from 3 pm to 5 pm, ICR Office at the Passionists.

SEARCH FOR A MALE EXECUTIVE CO-SECRETARY IN THE JPIC COMMISSION SECRETARIAT

In 2019, Fr. Felix Mushobozi, CPPS will be completing his six years of service as executive co-secretary of the JPIC Commission. We are very grateful for the many ways he continues to share his priestly ministry and deep concern for justice, peace and the integrity of creation. The JPIC Commission of the USG-UISG 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 not later than **March 15, 2019**.



Thank you for your support of JPIC!

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