 Editorial: Pope Francis’ Lenten message stresses the urgent need for personal conversion and to be reconciled with God. Reflecting on the paschal mystery, we are invited into a deeper dialogue with God which opens us to a more fruitful relationship with others. We are enabled to feel “compassion towards the wounds of the crucified Christ present” in many situations of violence, environmental disasters and in the unequal sharing of Earth’s goods. In reflecting on the painful struggles, we are witnessing today, we realize the importance of prayer in promoting human rights, attending to the dreams for a better world. This issue highlights how these needs can be systematically addressed through the methodology of SEE, JUDGE and ACT and the establishment of small-base communities.

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

PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS FOR WEST PAPUANS

The West Papua Network in Rome introduced the human rights issues of the indigenous people (native Papuans) in West Papua (two Indonesian provinces in the west half of the New Guinea island) during the monthly meeting of the English Speaking JPIC Promoters on February 19. This is a network of religious congregations which are present in West Papua where the native Papuans have been suffering from serious human rights violations since the end of the Second World War. The Catholic Church has been accompanying the indigenous people mainly through the parish, education, and health care ministries. At the same time, the JPIC secretariats of the dioceses and religious congregations have been promoting human rights by networking with NGOs and authorities in both the local and national levels.

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Mr. Norman Voß of the International Coalition of Papua (ICP) introduced its recently published bi-annual human rights report which focused on the issues of extrajudicial killings, torture, intimidation of human rights defenders, and health. According to statistics, the situation in these areas has not improved. For example, the number of reported native Papuans victims of extrajudicial killing in the past five years is 2013/8, 2014/12, 2015/14, 2016/6, 2017/10, 2018/23. Mr. Voß shared that because of migration from other parts of Indonesia and the poor public services in health, education, hygiene, food, etc., the population of indigenous people in West Papua is now less than 40 percent. The native Papuans worry about their extinction.

Mr. Budi Tjahjono of Franciscans International (FI) spoke about how the Catholic Church is reacting to the human rights violation in the local and international levels. He cited the network of JPIC secretariats of four dioceses and two religious congregations (Franciscan and Augustinian) in West Papua. This local JPIC network published their three-year human rights report in Indonesian and the West Papua Network in Rome translated the report into English and published it. FI, together with many other NGOs established by religious congregations, are bringing the issue to the UN for advocacy actions. Mr. Tjahjono stressed that the strength of the religious NGOs is that they are linked with the local reality through the presence of men and women religious in the affected areas.

Sr. Elly van Dijk, FDNSC, shared the importance of promoting interculturality in the religious communities in West Papua. Her congregation has 30 sisters in West Papua, and 10 of them are native Papuans. The Sisters work in schools, hospitals, clinics, and parishes, and are often confronted with human rights issues. Sr. Elly said that it is not easy to talk about human rights since it is a sensitive issue and can quickly become a political debate. But we cannot keep quiet because the dignity of human beings is at stake. She then introduced the mapping project of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart priest, which protects the land and empowers the native Papuans.

In the end, the participants agreed on connecting the issue with the outcome of the Amazon Synod as it deals with indigenous and environmental issues. The group also visited the Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development to share their understanding of the situation in West Papua.—*Contributor: Daisuki Nauri, SVD International JPIC Coordinator*

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**SPANISH-PORTUGUESE PROMOTERS MEET WITH THE DICASTERY FOR PROMOTING INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

The Spanish-Portuguese Group of JPIC Promoters gathered at the headquarters of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development in February, upon the invitation of Fr. Paulo César Barajas García.

They were welcomed by the Prefect of the Dicastery, Cardinal Peter Turkson, who spoke about the history briefly, having been created by Pope Francis with the integration of four institutions: the Pontifical Council Justice and Peace, the Pontifical Council Cor Unum, the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care for Migrants and Itinerant People, and the Pontifical Council for Health Pastoral Care. The Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development was launched with the Motu Proprio, Humanam Progressionem, August 17, 2016.

The Dicastery promotes integral human development in the light of the Gospel and the Social Teaching of the Church. Card. Turkson explained the Dicastery’s structure, which consists of Management, Research and Reflection, Pastoral Care and Service, and Migrants and Refugees, which work together to achieve the Dicastery’s objectives in the areas of Existential Peripheries, Care of the Creation, Faith and Integral Development, under the respective Assistant Secretaries.

At the end of the presentation, Sr. Julia Arciniegas, FMA, on behalf of all the Promoters, expressed her gratitude to Card. Turkson and the Dicastery’s staff for their very informative sharing. She noted how the Promoters' objectives match with the main guidelines of this Vatican body. She highlighted the Ven. Card. Van Thuan, former President of the Pontifical Council, to the group, as well as the initiative of Card. Renato Martino in convening a three-day workshop for Congregational Formators on the Church’s Social Teaching and the Consecrated Life. The guidebook is printed in three languages by the Promoters.

The JPIC Promoters heard many interesting and informative presentations by the members of the Dicastery. The interventions by a number of the members of...
the Dicastery was also an expression of their satisfaction for the meeting. There was an expressed willingness to continue the support and reciprocal collaboration with the JPIC Group of Promoters.—Contributor: Julia Arciniegas, FMA, JPIC Promoter for Daughters of Mary help of Christians

ROLE OF RELIGIOUS NETWORKS IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Ambassador Sally Axworthy of the United Kingdom Embassy to the Holy See hosted a breakfast discussion with Dr. Matthew Preston, Deputy head of Research Analysts for the UK. The topic, “The Role of the Religious Networks in Conflict Resolution,” generated a lively exchange. Representatives from the Jesuits, the Gregorianum, the Urbaniana, San Egidio and the JPIC Secretariat explored the moral voice of the Church. Suggestions related to ways that are observable and accountable, such as a follow-up on training with those involved in conflict resolution to become sustainers of domestic peace in their area. In the process, it was noted that it was necessary to be clear about the objectives and interests of the state. Using accountability measures that relate to the respective project is important. Another major point was being aware of the great power differentials, as it is essential to equalize the power base for a credible dialogue. And, although colonization is a factor in relationships, it cannot be used as an excuse for violent behaviors among various tribal entities.

Sr. Sheila Kinsey, shared the importance of working together with the UK on the International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict. This work has encouraged the development of networks for personal and professional support and for joint advocacy efforts such as the work initiated by the Ugandan participants who have included surrounding countries. They are calling on the governments to give a credible accountability report of the work of international companies regarding their placement in employment and the well-being of their young people who are exported to other countries. They are urging governments to seek out and provide employment opportunities, so that the young can benefit from work at home.

COLLABORATING TOWARDS COP26

Catholic groups interested in collaborating on COP 26 have come together as a result of a meeting with the office of Secretary of State last month led by Msgr. Paul Gallagher, Secretary of Relations with States. Consequently, the February planning session was held to determine ways that we could work together as well as organize events on an individual basis.

Chiara Martinelli of the International Family of Catholic Social Justice Organizations Working for Transformational Change (CIDSE), shared her reflective input which she had presented at the previous meeting with Msgr. Gallagher. These areas resonated with the members of the group gathered both in London and online. In general, she proposed that we consider the following areas: 1) everything is interconnected, so we need to build on and coordinate our efforts around Laudato Si’; 2) 2020 and Cop26 is a process and as such the message needs to be carried out the whole year; 3) accent the moral imperative to address the climate change crisis; 4) the voices of the most vulnerable are at the heart of our action; 5) there needs to be a greater financial commitment to address adaptation processes in poor countries; and, 6) land is under threat in most regions of the world and it is important to address the carbon footprint and biodiversity.

During the meeting, the JPIC Secretariat gave an update on the work of the Campaign Sowing Hope for the Planet. The next meeting for the Integral Ecology Group will be in April in the library of the Secretary of State. The USG and the UISG are represented by the JPIC Secretariat.

SEE, JUDGE AND ACT TO REALIZE DREAMS

In the post synodal exhortation, Querida Amazonia, Pope Francis shares four “dreams” for the regeneration of the Amazon region. A common thread across those dreams is the subjectivity of origi-
nal people and other marginalized or excluded human groups, such as the afro-descendants, or the impoverished people who end up in urban slums among others. They are the main agents of social transformation. The process towards the actualization of an integral ecology requires a social dialogue in order to “develop forms of fellowship and common struggle” (QA 26). However, such dialogue is also a challenge, as Paulo Freire noted in his seminal book The Pedagogy of the Oppressed. As a matter of fact, the experience of oppression leads to apathy, to the culture of silence, and to the internalization of the oppressor. Pope Francis, as well, notes that cultural invasion and social fragmentation bring alienation among the marginalized. How then can social dialogue be facilitated?

The social tradition of the Church has in the methodology of the Pastoral Cycle (or Circle, or Spiral) a precious instrument to do that. Created in the 1920s as the SEE, JUDGE and ACT Method within the movement of young Christian workers, it has developed over the years and adapted to very many contexts and situations around the world. From among such developments, there arise some insights into how the Pastoral Cycle can be used as a means of conscientization and regeneration of groups and communities in their quest for integral ecology. In order to explore that further, a workshop will be held on March 16, from 2:30 to 5:30 pm, at the Missionaries of Africa. For more Information, please contact albertomcjc@yahoo.it. – Contributor: Br. Alberto Parise, MCCJ, Comboni JPIC International Coordinator

POPE FRANCIS: ECCLESIAL DREAM AND THE BASIC ECCLESIAL COMMUNITIES

“I dream of Christian communities capable of generous commitment, incarnate in the Amazon region, and giving the Church new faces with Amazonian features.” This is one of Pope Francis’ desire for the Amazonia region, which he states in his post-synodal apostolic exhortation Querida Amazonia (QA). One of the means for realizing this dream is through the Basic Ecclesial Communities (BECs) which Pope Francis mentions in QA 96:

“Base communities, when able to combine the defense of social rights with missionary proclamation and spirituality, have been authentic experiences of synodality in the Church’s journey of evangelization in the Amazon region. In many cases they “have helped form Christians committed to their faith, disciples and missionaries of the Lord, as is attested by the generous commitment of so many of their members, even to the point of shedding their blood.”

This echoes the final document of the Synod on the Amazon which refers to the BECs as “a gift of God to the local Churches of the Amazon” and the “pastoral foundation of many parishes” and urges them to “missionary discipleship.” They are called to participate in “shaping public policies” and to “struggle so that the slums, favelas and villas miseria have fundamental rights to water, energy and housing guaranteed, and promote good citizenship of integral ecology.” (no. 36)

According to Pope Francis, “the challenges in the Amazon region demand of the Church a special effort to be present at every level, and this can only be possible through the vigorous, broad and active involvement of the laity.” (QA 94) In the BECs, this dream of a “specific ecclesial culture that is distinctive lay” can become a reality. It is also in the BECs that women can exercise a more active role in various new ministries including leadership positions.

Since the Eucharist cannot be celebrated regularly in remote communities, BECs usually have regular liturgical celebration of the Word of God and other forms of worship presided by lay leaders. As Pope Francis writes: “it is not simply a question of facilitating a greater presence of ordained ministers who can celebrate the Eucharist. That would be a very narrow aim, were we not also to strive to awaken new life in communities. We need to promote an encounter with
God’s word and growth in holiness through various kinds of lay service that call for a process of education—biblical, doctrinal, spiritual and practical—and a variety of programs of ongoing formation. (QA 93)"

The situation of the Church in the Amazonian region is similar to other regions in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The promotion and revitalization of BECs is a key strategy in addressing the ecclesial crisis as well as the ecological crisis that need to be approached from below. The BECs can have an active part in renewal of the Church, in carrying out new evangelization, and in the promotion of justice, peace and the integrity of creation. There will be a further discussion of this Apostolic Exhortation online on March 13 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm in English and Spanish. Click here for registration and recording. For more information, read Fr. Picardal, CSsR, Journeying Towards a New Way of Being Church, published by the Claretian Communications Foundation, Inc.

GLOBAL CATHOLIC CLIMATE MOVEMENT

The staff of the GCCM met at the Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development after a retreat experience in Assisi. Presentations by members of the Ecological Sector of the dicastery showed connections between the messages of Laudato Si’ and Querida Amazonia. GCCM has been working closely with the DPIHD on many events related to Laudato Si’. The JPIC Secretariat is also represented in the Steering Committee and participated in this important meeting.

Once a month there is a mass in the beautiful garden of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Here the sights, sounds, smells and sounds of nature speak of the good news of God’s loving presence. As a part of the liturgical celebration we take the time to attend to these precious gifts of God.

LAUDATO SI’ WEEK: ACTIONS TO PROTECT OUR COMMON HOME

Laudato Si’ Week is a global campaign sponsored by the Vatican’s Dicastery of Integral Human Development which takes place from May 16-24. All Catholic communities are encouraged to take bold and new actions to protect our common home in celebration of the fifth anniversary of Laudato Si’. We invite you to plan an event during this time.

Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM), a collaborator with the Campaign Sowing Hope for the Planet, is a facilitator of this initiative. It would be helpful if you could post your event on both the Laudato Si’ website and on Sowing Hope for the Planet. We want the men and women religious to continue to share their resources on www.sowinghopefortheplanet.org. The interactive platform will all of us benefit from these experiences and organize our voice.

Sowing Hope for the Planet will hold a webinar in five languages on April 7 from 2:30 to 4:00 pm, in which we will talk more about the events during the Laudato Si’ Week.

During this time, the JPIC Commission of USG-USG will also sponsor a workshop on Integral Ecology and the Digital Age on May 16, from 9 am to 12 pm in the Aula Magna of the Christian Brothers Generalate, Via Aurelia 476. Translations in English and Spanish.

Press release: 2020 Laudato Si’ Week launch.
**JPIC PROMOTERS MEETINGS IN MARCH**

2 March—English Speaking CORE Group from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the Fratelli in the Hno. Pedro Room.

3 March—Integrity of Creation Working Group (ICWG) from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the Fratelli in the Hno. Pedro Room. For skype connection, please contact jpicroma@gmail.com.

4 March—Spanish Speaking Promoters Meeting from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Center for Religious Life at Regina Mundi, Lungotevere tor di Nona, 7. The theme is “The path against all types of abuse, inside and outside the Church.”

5 March—Webinar for December JPIC Formation Workshop Participants update one another on their JPIC plans for their community from 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm with simultaneous translation in English and Spanish.

5 March—Africa Europe Faith and Justice Network (AEFJN) from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm at the Missionaries of Africa. For more information, contact Daisuke Narui, SVD.

10 March—Meeting of the Anti-Trafficking Working Group, 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the Fratelli in Room #33.

12, 19 and 26 March—Online Course on Social Communication for Justice and Peace Promoters from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Sessions will address information and communication technologies for development, digital fund raising and campaigning, and nonviolent communication.

13 March—Online session on Querida Amazonia. What are the connections between conversion and dreams? We have four beautiful dreams: Social, Cultural, Ecological and Ecclesial. What are the challenges? What else needs to be developed to enhance the message? You are invited to an important discussion with Fr. Prem Xalxo, SJ, Associate Professor of Theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University and Sr. Laura Vicuña, ICF, anthropologist and CLAR observer at the Synod on the Amazon. The time is 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm (Rome). Simultaneous translations are in English and Spanish. English: zoom.us/j/519661090. 

16 March—English Speaking Promoters Meeting Fr. Alberto Parise, MCCJ, a former lecturer at Tangaza College, Nairobi, Kenya, with many years of experience in social analysis and in teaching the pastoral cycle will engage the participants in the practical applications of See, Judge and Act on the topic of plastics from 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm at the Missionaries of Africa, Via Aurelia 269, Roma.

18 March—Women Empowering Women: Economy, Education and Dialogue in preparation for the meeting in Assisi “Economy of Francisco” from 9 am to 12 at the Center for Religious Life at Regina Mundi.

**OPPORTUNITY**

16 March—Human Fraternity “Women and Men Religious Ambassadors of World Peace and Harmonic Coexistence,” 9:30 am to 12:30 pm at UISG at the Center for Religious Life at Regina Mundi. Simultaneous translation in EN, FR and IT. The Commission on Dialogue of USG and UISG is organizing the event.

**SAVE THE DATE**

4 April—Stations of the Cross organized by the JPIC secretariat. All men and women religious are invited to join in prayer. The meeting time is 2:30 pm in front of Chiesa Santa Chiara and from there you will be directed to the gathering area in the Pamphilii Park. At 3:00 pm we will prayerfully begin and then walk the stations in the spirit of Laudato Si’ with the theme of our Sister, Mother Earth. We plan to finish our journey at 5 pm. Prayers and helpful instructions will be in IT, EN and SP and posted on www.jpicroma.org.

7 April—Sowing Hope for the Planet webinar on Ways to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day April 22 and Laudato Si’ Week, May 16 to 24. From 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm Rome time with simultaneous translation in EN, ES, FR, IT, and PT. More information will be forthcoming.

16 May—Celebration of Laudato Si’ Week, Integral Ecology and the Digital Age from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, Aula Magna at the Christian Brothers Generalate, Via Aurelia 476. More details will be forthcoming.

**INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS**

Evangelization—Catholics in China. We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity. The video is available on the first Friday of the month.

26 February to 9 April—Season of Lent resources. Additional resources will be added as they are available.

**MARCH INTERNATIONAL DAYS AND RESOURCES**

1 March—Zero Discrimination Day [UNAIDS] is an opportunity to highlight how everyone can be part of the transformation and take a stand for a fair and just society.

3 March—World Wildlife Day calls on everyone to do their part in protecting the world’s wild animals and plants. 2020 theme: “Sustaining all life on Earth.” The future of wildlife is in our hands.

Sowing Hope for the Planet Event Resource:

- Earth Day 2019 “Protect our Species” is one focus of Earth Day in which protection for threatened species is focused on.
8 March—**International Women’s Day** celebrates the acts of courage and determination of ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in their countries.

Sowing Hope for the Planet Event Resource:
- Sisters of St. Joseph Earth Centers offer programs for women in impoverished situations to “step away for a day”

21 March—**International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.** Racist extremist movements based on ideologies that seek to promote populist, nationalist agendas are spreading in various parts of the world, fueling racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, often targeting migrants and refugees as well as people of African descent.

21 March—**International Day of Forests** reminds us of the ways that forests and trees protect us and provide for a rich variety of biodiversity.

Sowing Hope for the Planet Event Resource:
- Cameroon Parish focusing on interconnectedness, education and planting trees in local community:

22 March—**World Water Day** acknowledges that water is an essential building block for life. It is vital for creating jobs and supporting economic, social and human development. However, the day will be observed in Rome on 23 March—World Water Day 2020 celebration at FAO headquarters, Rome. Information: [http://www.fao.org/land-water/events/wwd2020/en/](http://www.fao.org/land-water/events/wwd2020/en/) and registration [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScqS5vzoLrf0A0AYQitPn9w4m1U5r5zkN6K-aG1qtsMQ3MzZePNw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScqS5vzoLrf0A0AYQitPn9w4m1U5r5zkN6K-aG1qtsMQ3MzZePNw/viewform)

Sowing Hope for the Planet Event Resource:
- **Reflections on Water Resource** from JPIC
- **Water Day Event and Video:**
- **Hogar Limpio’**—Protection of Water Sources, Santa Leticia, Colombia

24 March—International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning gross human rights violations and/or the dignity of victims pays tribute to the important work and values of St. Oscar Romero of El Salvador.

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