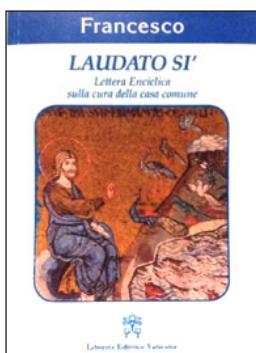




# NEWSBRIEF

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

JUNE 2015 Vol. 9/No. 6



**EDITORIAL:** *The month of June is marked by the publication of the long awaited Encyclical of Pope Francis, [Laudato Sí \(Be Praised\): on the Care for our Common Home](#). It begins with the words taken from the St. Francis' Canticle of the Creatures, calling all to thank God for the Creation he has entrusted to our care. Speaking before a group of priests on retreat last June 12, Pope Francis said that the fact that the Encyclical was presented to the press by Card. P. Turkson, a Catholic, Metropolitan John Ziziulas of Pergamon, an Orthodox Christian, and Hans Joachim Schellhuber, a scientist, emphasizes that in our common efforts to care for Creation we need unity. In his concluding remarks at the press conference, the Orthodox, Metropolitan, declared, "The threat posed to us by the ecological crisis similarly bypasses or transcends our traditional divisions. The danger facing our common home, the planet in which we live, is described in the Encyclical in a way leaving no doubt about the existential risk we are confronted with. This risk is common to all of us regardless of our ecclesiastical or confessional identities. Equally common must be our effort to prevent the catastrophic consequences of the present situation. Pope Francis' Encyclical is a call to unity—unity in prayer for the environment, in the same Gospel of creation, in the conversion of our hearts and our lifestyles to respect and love everyone and everything given to us by God. We are thankful for that." The Encyclical is a wonderful opportunity for us JPIC Promoters to reflect on a common document that will give us a clear direction for our life and mission. For the text in eight languages go to [http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco\\_20150524\\_encyclica-laudato-si.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_encyclica-laudato-si.html).*

**CLICK UNDERLINED BLUE TEXT TO OPEN A LINK**

## 1. INSIDE ROME

### 1.1 *Laudato Si*—A strong motivation for change.

You are invited to watch a [short and inspirational video](#) released by the Vatican Youtube channel and presented at the press conference announcing the new Encyclical, Laudato Si. "It will make sense if we strengthen the action of changing the paradigm which is the deterioration of our common home. It is the imperative...a revolution of consciousness. "An integral ecology involves dedicating some time to reflect on our lifestyle and our ideals ... and the future of our humanity".— Enrique Orellana, OMI.

**1.2 Columban Missionaries welcome Pope Francis' Encyclical on the Environment.** The Columban Missionaries welcome and celebrate Pope Francis' newly released encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si*. "It marks a historic moment in the Church as the first encyclical addressing the human relationship with all of God's creation. Laudato Si deepens the contributions of previous papal statements and documents which have addressed the relationship between humans and the natural world." The [full text](#) of the Columban General Council statement is available on [http://media.wix.com/ugd/e7a99a\\_d9bb3fa229a74fee-9ae32597e43639f3.pdf](http://media.wix.com/ugd/e7a99a_d9bb3fa229a74fee-9ae32597e43639f3.pdf). We also invite you to view a [video on the Columban Missionaries](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2kmYBTzPJnI) at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2kmYBTzPJnI>.

**1.3 2015 JPIC Promoters Formation Workshop and Online Registration.** This will take place from November 18-21 at Casa per Ferie Enrico De Osso, Via Val Cannuta 134, 00167 Roma. It is a four-day workshop for newly designated full-time and part-time congregational JPIC Promoters. The training includes large group presentations as well as small group discussions for participants to share their expectations and challenges as promoters of JPIC in their congregations/institutes. Participants will have a chance to visit a ministry serving people in need or disadvantaged prior to the workshop proper. Topics to be covered in the workshop include: an overview of JPIC, congregational and JPIC structures, the spirituality of JPIC and religious vows, the role of a JPIC promoter, JPIC Commission and working groups, JPIC networks, planning framework for a JPIC promoter. Participants will also have time for personal reflection, shared prayer and Eucharist celebration.

A fee of **€250** will be collected from each participant at the registration table upon arrival. This will cover a three-night stay at Casa De Osso, including breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks.

To register online, please visit <http://www.jpicroma.org/#!workshop-registration/c1s1o>.

**1.4 JPIC Promoters leaving Rome.** The JPIC Commission Secretariat wishes to thank and bid farewell to the following Promoters who have finished their term of service in Rome and are moving on to other places at the service of their religious congregations and the Church: Roxanne Schares, SSND, Victoire Munyerendana Chiharhula, MSOLA, Rita Raikuna, MS, Bridget Brady, MS, Gervase Taratara, CSSP, Joseph Rozansky, OFM, Vicente Felipe from the Order of Friars Minor OFM; Carmen Diston, IBVM. They have all actively served as a JPIC Promoter and member of the JPIC Commission. We wish them blessings and good health to keep their prophetic testimony alive, as they have done during their time in Rome. Arrivederci!

## 1.5 Seminar on Women and the New Testament.



Marinella Perroni, one of the founders of the Association of Italian Women Theologians and past president (2003 – 2013).

On June 6, 2015, the Collaboration Working Group hosted a seminar on “Women and the New Testament: Apostolic Preaching in the Early Church,” with Marinella Perroni as presenter. At the opening of her presentation, Perroni said that “this is a new moment to continue an ongoing theological reflection, which usually starts from our lived reality, in this case, that of women in the Church. This is an important

moment in Church history because women have seen and acknowledged the injustice themselves and want to do something about it.” Today, there is high interest and enthusiasm in reflection done by women; there is political interest in what happened in the first century apostolic preaching and the second apostolic tradition/preaching, and we could use this as a context that is comparable to our context today. A summary of the presentation is available at [http://media.wix.com/ugd/e7a99a\\_3b30f8f96e5b4ad8a519f95ea1df5abe.pdf](http://media.wix.com/ugd/e7a99a_3b30f8f96e5b4ad8a519f95ea1df5abe.pdf).

For the full audio of the presentation in Italian, visit <https://soundcloud.com/patrizia-morgante/donne-e-nuovo-testamento-di-marinella-perroni-giugno-2015mp3>.

**1.6 Prayer Request.** Your prayers are appreciated for the congregation Order of the Company of Mary Our Lady (ODN) or “Orden de la Compañía de María Nuestra Señora” who are celebrating their General Chapter from July 1-31, 2015 at their Generalate in Via Nomentana 333. Sr. Rosa María Ramos, who is the JPIC coordinator for the congregation and member of the Spanish-Portuguese JPIC Promoters Group thanks you for your prayers.

## 2. OUTSIDE ROME

**2.1 News and Report from Nepal.** Aris Diez Miranda thanks all those who have helped the Camillian Task Force (CTFs) to mobilize resources for the Nepal earthquake survivors’ intervention. The CTF is the hu-



manitarian mission office of the Order of the Ministers of the Infirm, popularly known as Camillians, which was founded in 2001 and has its central headquarters in Rome.

The CTF in India was formed during the time of the Uttarakhand flood disaster in 2013 to provide support for the victims and continued its support during various disasters like Kashmir. After the appeal for Nepal last month, there was a good response of moral, spiritual and financial support. The CTFs mission continues in Nepal, they are now finalizing arrangement with Caritas Nepal and the government agency concerned in order to operate relief efforts in the area. The government of Nepal recently imposed strict regulations on this matter. Please find the initial report on the operation at <http://www.jpicroma.org/#!peace/c1bm9>.

**2.2 World Environment Day, June 5.** “Seven billion dreams: one planet, consume with care” was the UN theme celebrating World Environment Day on June 5, 2015. It calls upon the responsibility of each of the seven billion inhabitants of the earth to act knowing that our actions have enormous impact on our environment.

For this occasion, the Catholic News Service produced a video entitled [“Catholicism and the Challenge of Ecology”](#) that highlights important aspects of our responsibility to care for the Integrity of Creation.

**2.3 World Day for Refugees, June 20.** There are more than 50 million refugees around the world, most of whom are women and children (<http://www.un.org/en/events/refugeeday/>). National and regional conflicts, persecution of minorities, human rights abuses and poor living conditions are among the causes of internal, regional and international forceful displacements. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon has made the following statement: “Most of the world’s refugees—86 percent—live in the developing world, compared to 70 percent 10 years ago. Most of these countries have kept their doors open to people in search of safety, and have shown a generosity that is often well beyond their means. I appeal to all Member States and our partners in civil society to do their utmost to support the nations and communities that have welcomed the forcibly displaced into their midst.”

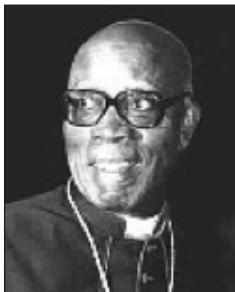
The recent European scenarios for asylum seekers is worsening and political authorities close their borders or build walls instead of opening their doors as an act of hospitality. There is much religious men and women can do to change the situation.

(Continued on Page 4)

## REMEMBERING THE BISHOPS WHO SIGNED THE PACT OF THE CATACOMBS

(In 2015, each issue of *Newsbrief* will feature a bishop who signed the Pact of the Catacomb. In this issue we feature the Bishops from Africa: Cardinal Bernard Yago and Bishop Joseph Blomjous)

### CARDINAL BERNARD YAGO, Abijan, Ivory Coast



Born in Pass Yopougon, Ivory Coast, Cardinal Bernard Yago was ordained priest in 1947, worked in various ministries one of which was being a counselor of the Catholic Action movement in Abijan before he was appointed Archbishop of the capital in 1960. He attended the Vatican Council from 1962–1965 and sat in the preparatory committee of the Council. He played an important part during the Council as member of the Commission for Missions and made an intervention on Permanent Deacons regarding birth control. (Cfr. Melissa J. Wilde, *Vatican II: A Sociological Analysis of Religious Change*, Princeton University Press, 2007). On February 2, 1983, he was appointed cardinal priest by Pope John Paul II, with the title of San Crisogono, becoming the first cardinal from the Ivory Coast.

### BISHOP JOSEPH BLOMJOUS, M. AFR., Mwanza Tanzania



Born in Oisterwijk Netherlands in 1908, Bishop Joseph Blomjous was ordained priest for the Missionaries of Africa in 1934, he was appointed Apostolic Vicar of Musoma-Maswa in 1946 and Bishop of Mwanza, Tanzania in 1953. He took part in Vatican II as one of 311 bishops from Africa who attended this milestone event of the Church. He was described as a very strong ecumenical person even before his participation at the Council. "Bishop Blomjous had realized that the divisions of the churches was regarded by Africans as an importation from the European countries and that they were beginning to react as strongly against it as they do against other harmful imported goods." (Cfr. Frieder Ludwig, *Church and State in Tanzania: Aspects of Changing relationships*, p. 76).

### GRANT WRITING AND FUNDRAISING FOR MISSIONARY PROJECTS

A workshop sponsored by the Salvatorian Office for International Aid (SOFIA)

**September 7-11, 2015**

Rome, Villa Maria on top of the Gianicolo Hill

Presenters: Arnout Mertens, Ph.D. & Allen Sherry, FMS

For more information and to register, visit <http://sofiaglobal.org/fundraisingworkshop>.

Any questions, contact +39 0668629204 or [workshop@mailsds.org](mailto:workshop@mailsds.org).

Registration deadline is July 15, but as the number of participants is limited to 50, early booking is recommended.

**2.4 A Nonviolent response to Racism.** News of the horrific attack against members of Charleston's Emanuel AME Church on June 17, 2015 is yet another tragic sign of our culture of violence, not only in America, but also in other parts of the world. An article by John Dear attempts to give a nonviolent response not only to racism but also the whole range of social roots of violence. For those who feel helpless in this kind of atrocities John Dear says: "Renounce violence, get rid of your guns, don't join the military, give up your allegiance to American war making and resist the culture of violence including its racism, sexism, corporate greed, global war making, nuclear weapons and environmental destruction and pursue the truth of active nonviolence". Read the full article at <http://paceebene.org/2015/06/19/nonviolence-the-response-to-the-charleston-killings/>.

### 3. NEW RESOURCES

**3.1 Care of Creation.** As we welcome Pope Francis' Encyclical *Laudato Si'*, this book can help us digest its content. *Care for Creation: A Franciscan Spirituality of the Earth* by Ilia Delio, OSF, Keith Douglass Warner, OFM, and Pamela Wood, consists of book four sections, each of which presents a facet of the threats to Earth's ecosystems, examines it from the point of view of Franciscan theology, and finally offers spiritual practices that focus on "practical, hands-on approaches to reconnecting with the Earth and acting in right

relationship." After examining the issue of Earth's declining biodiversity, driven by habitat loss and human exploitation, the authors ask: "How can we humans, as one kind of creature, push so many other creatures of God to extinction? Why are we as a species unraveling the integrity of creation? At its deepest root, our ecological crises derive from our belief that humans are somehow above or fundamentally distinct from—indeed, absolutely superior to—the rest of creation. This conceit is incompatible with a Franciscan worldview." The book is published by St. Anthony Messenger Press, Cincinnati, 2008. Read the [book review](#) by Teresa Malcolm at [http://www.renewedpriesthood.org/ca/page.cfm?Web\\_ID=1217](http://www.renewedpriesthood.org/ca/page.cfm?Web_ID=1217).

## 4. JPIC EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER

- Refugees Migrants WG, September 10, 3:00-5:00pm at Fratelli
- Integrity of Creation WG, September 14 at UISG offices, 9:00-12:00pm
- English JPIC Promoters Core Group September 14, 3:00-5:00pm at Fratelli
- Africa WG Meeting: September 18, 3:30pm at Missionaries of Africa
- Collaboration WG Meeting: September 24, 3:00 pm-5:00 pm, venue TBD
- ICR at FAO, September 29, 9:00-12:00 noon at

Newsbrief will be on hiatus in the months of July & August. We will resume publication in September 2015.

Note: Please send a brief outline of information which would be useful to JPIC Promoters for publication in future issues of *Newsbrief* to [jpicusguisg@lasalle.org](mailto:jpicusguisg@lasalle.org)

*Compiled and produced by the JPIC Commission Secretariat*

Via Aurelia 476, CP 9099 Aurelio, 00165 Roma, Italy

Tel: (39)06.6622929

Mobile: (39)3314348103

Email:[jpicusguisg@lasalle.org](mailto:jpicusguisg@lasalle.org)

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

