



# NEWS BRIEF

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

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**EDITORIAL:** *As the year begins, Pope Francis calls the world to denounce slavery and collaboratively work for a culture of fraternity: “No longer Slaves, but brothers and sisters.” The Pope reminds all, especially the Church, to “constantly engages in charitable activities inspired by the truth of the human person. She is charged with showing to all the path to conversion, which enables us to change the way we see our neighbors, to recognize in every other person a brother or sister in our human family, and to acknowledge his or her intrinsic dignity in truth and freedom.” (Pope Francis Message, January 1<sup>st</sup> 2015, n. 6). In this year of Consecrated Life, [he tells us](#), “I want to say one word to you and this word is ‘joy’. Wherever there are consecrated people, seminarians, men and women religious, young people, there is joy, there is always joy! It is the joy of freshness, the joy of following Jesus; the joy that the Holy Spirit gives us, not the joy of the world. There is joy, but where is joy born?”*—Reflections by Simon Pedro

Arnoldo, OSB at [http://confar.org.ar/descargas/textos/existe\\_futuro\\_para\\_la\\_vc.pdf](http://confar.org.ar/descargas/textos/existe_futuro_para_la_vc.pdf).

## CLICK UNDERLINED BLUE TEXT TO OPEN A LINK

### 1. INSIDE ROME

**1.1 The Spanish-Portuguese Promoters reflect on “a piecemeal World War III.”** On January 14, during their monthly meeting at the UISG office, the Spanish-Portuguese JPIC Promoters reflected on the words of Pope Francis during the commemoration of World War I, when he referred to “A piecemeal World War III.” By using the classical methodology of See–Judge–Act the reflection started with a brief video highlighting recent events featured in mainstream news—Syrian-Iraq conflict, Russian-Ukraine conflict, Terroristic violence in Northern Nigerian and France. The Judge part referred to Chapter 11 of the *Compendium of Social Teaching of the Church* followed by a reflection by Carmen Elisa, guided from Ignacio Ellacuria’s book. The Act part was a group discussion (in small groups and plenary session) on what can we do as Religious men and women. Material for this reflection will soon be uploaded on [www.jpicroma.org](http://www.jpicroma.org).

### 1.2 Update on Anti Trafficking WG activities.

On January 21<sup>st</sup>, 26 English JPIC promoters met during their monthly session. The meeting was animated by the Anti-trafficking Working Group of the JPIC Commission. Using the See–Judge–Act pastoral cycle method they presented the reality and challenges facing Religious men and women during an era in which the world is witnessing the worst record of people who are trafficked and enslaved. A [video](#) video and [slide presentation](#) showed that slavery is the most lucrative crime in our recent history. In the Judge step, members of the group presented the [Anti-trafficking Kit](#) which has been used to raise awareness

in religious life and ministry since 2003. The Act was motivated by the questions answered in the group discussion. Given that modern slavery is intricate and has many facets, it was made clear that Religious men and women need to work collaboratively with other agencies for the eradication of this crime against humanity. For resource materials on anti-trafficking, visit the JPIC Commission website at <http://www.jpicroma.org/#!anti-trafficking/c224>.

### 2. OUTSIDE ROME



One out of five Spaniards are “below the threshold of poverty”.

**2.1 Call to join Spanish Alliance Against Poverty and Inequality.** The Department of Justice and Peace of the Conference of Religious of Spain (CONFER) invites JPIC Promoters to support the initiative, “SPANISH ALLIANCE AGAINST POVERTY AND INEQUALITY.” You may join as an organization or

as an individual. [To sign up, please click here and fill out the form.](#) For more information, visit <http://www.jpicroma.org/#!justice/c1zq1>.

**2.2 Remembering Martin Luther King.** Each year, the third Monday of January is dedicated to celebrating the life and achievements of Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968), an American civil rights leader whose campaign and efforts have led to the end of racial segregation on public transport and assertion of racial equality in the USA. This year the celebration falls on January 19<sup>th</sup>. How far can we say that his cause has been achieved? There are still many violations of human rights in many countries today. These include censorship of press, restrictions on the use of the internet, academic research, involuntary population relocation, repressive policies over ethnic, racial or religious minorities, discrimination against people with disabilities, prohibition or restriction on civil liberties such as nonviolent demonstrations. Abuse of human rights persist even in countries which are known to be democratic such as western Europe and United States, such as the systematic detention of irregular immigrants, disregard or refusal of asylum seekers refugees, gender and LGBT equality, etc. For more on human rights violation, visit <http://www.hrw.org/world-report/2014/country-chapters/china>; <http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/voices/5-things-italy-needs-do-clean-its-human-rights-record>.



Thousands of internally displaced people take refuge at a Catholic church in Malakal, South Sudan, Jan. 21, 2014. (CNS/Reuters/Andreea Campeanu)

**2.3 South Sudan: between hope for peace to hold and displaced coping with trauma.** Read Chris Herlinger's narrative of the situation in South Sudan. Despite progress in peace talks between conflicting factions (President Salva Kiir and the former Vice President Riek Machar), people remain skeptical that any agreement reached in Addis Ababa recently will be respected. Despite all fears and insecurity, people who witnessed violence are still traumatized and lack of food for the survivors is the worst challenge in this fragile situation. <http://ncronline.org/news/global/south-sudan-hopes-peace-hold-displaced-cope-trauma> Let us keep all those who are suffering in our prayer and ask the international community to act on the situation.

**2.4 Denounce Qatar World Cup slavery.** Qatar is set to host the Football World Cup in 2022, and by that time, at least 4,000 migrant workers will have died to make the city ready. Since 2012, roughly 900 workers have already been killed working on infrastructure for the World Cup. Never before have such a huge number of people died in any construction project in recent history. Workers describe forced labor in 50°C (122°F) heat, employers who steal their salaries and passports and being shuttled like cattle in overcrowded, unsanitary conditions without access to water or food. [Sign the petition to FIFA to end this human right abuse.](#) Read more at <http://www.theguardian.com/football/2014/feb/16/qatar-world-cup-400-deaths-nepalese> and <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/over-900-workers-have-already-died-building-qatars-world-cup-facilities-180950088/?no-ist>.

### 3. NEW RESOURCES

**3.1 Korean version of the JPIC formation *Guide us in Your Justice*.** We are grateful to Pat Dorobek, SND and her community in Korea for the Korean translation of the JPIC Formation Handbook. The copy will soon be available for your communities in Korea at <http://www.jpicroma.org/#!formation/c1lo8> (pp. 43-64).

**3.2 Ecospirituality resources for Lent.** In anticipation of the upcoming Lenten season Sr. Terry McKenzie, invites all to visit her blog where she has prepared an inspirational and practical reflections: *Creation Covenant* which explores current extinction of species, destruction of ecosystems, and our responsibility to protect both in light of our common beginnings and the marvel of the divine presence living and acting throughout the world. *Creation Covenant* can enhance group prayer and sharing, build community, deepen awareness of God's presence and action within creation, and increase our motivation to respond to this quote from Pope Francis: "*God has joined us so closely to the world around us that we can feel ... the extinction of a species as a painful disfigurement. Let us not leave in our wake a swath of destruction and death which will affect our own lives and those of future generations.*" (Available in English and Spanish) <http://ecospiritualitiesresources.com/lent>; <http://wp.me/p2mV9q-hm>

The UISG and USG are pleased to announce  
**The First International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking**  
on February 8, 2015 at St. Peter's Square

(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 Helder Camara, Giacomo Lercaro and Leonidas Proaño)*

### HÉLDER PESSA CÂMARA



Born in Fortaleza, Brazil on February 7, 1909, [Hélder Pessa Câmara](#) was ordained a priest in 1931. He was consecrated a bishop in 1952 and appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Rio de Janeiro (1952-64) and

Archbishop of Olinda and Recife (1964-85). He died in Recife, Brazil on August 27, 1999. As archbishop in the poverty-stricken northeastern part of the country during the most vicious period of western-supported military dictatorship, Câmara was a spiritual giant, and a complicated human being. His father was an accountant and his mother a primary school teacher. From the early years of priesthood, he campaigned for social change, especially talking against “unjust structures of poverty.” His place in history will be heavily influenced by one of his more memorable sayings, “When I feed the poor they call me a saint. When I ask why so many people are poor they call me a communist.”

For his obituary, visit <http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/obituary-archbishop-helder-camara-1115091.html> and <http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/belief/2009/oct/13/brazil-helder-camara>.

### LEONIDAS PROAÑO



Born in San Antonio de Ibarra, Ecuador in 1910, [Leonidas Proaño](#) was bishop of Riobamba from 1954 to 1985. He is known as the bishop of the poor and of the Indios together with other bishops who

signed the Pact of the Catacombs. He is said to

have made possible for the church, especially in Latin America, to come down to the people and work at their service. Leonidas Proaño became aware of the necessity to change the pyramidal structure of the Church, to give a Community dimension, right from his youth age through his participation in the youth movement, Catholic Action, by employing the See–Judge–Act methodology which he used in his pastoral ministry as priest and bishop. He and 55 pastoral workers were detained by police in 1976 as reaction to these initiatives. In the light of the Pact of the Catacombs, the poor were put at the center of the pastoral work of the Church in the process of building the “church of the people.” Monsignor [Proaño](#) died in 1988. Watch the video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MZq1SPu4bzY> (Spanish).

### GIACOMO LERCARO



[Giacomo Lercaro](#) is definitely one of the representative figures as far as Vatican II is concerned, mainly because of an intervention he made at the end of the first session (December 6, 1962).

He proposed to the Council Fathers to take the theme of “the mystery of Christ among the poor” as a center of teaching and doctrine of the work of renewal of the whole Council.<sup>[1]</sup> He is reported to have said, “The mystery of Christ in the Church has been there always, but especially today, the mystery of Christ in the poor because the Church is the Church of all, but especially the Church of the poor.” Read more at <http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/1967/09/09/letter-from-vatican-city-12> and <http://www.umbrales.edu.uy/articulos/pobres.php>.

**3.3 News related to the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM).** The World Rural Forum(WRF) secretariat is sharing important news related to the Committee on World Food Security (CFS):

- **HLPE Report on Sustainable Agricultural Development for Food Security and Nutrition, Including the Role of Livestock.** Scoping Consultation and Call for Experts: [www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-hlpe](http://www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-hlpe).
- **Job opening in CSM.** The Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) for relations with the United Nations Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is recruiting a [full-time Programme and Communication Officer \(click for announcement\)](#) based in Rome, Italy. Applications should be sent to [recruitmentsatcsm@gmail.com](mailto:recruitmentsatcsm@gmail.com) by **February 6, 2015**.

#### **4. FEBRUARY JPIC EVENTS**

- English JPIC Core Group: February 2, 3-5pm at Fratelli
- Spanish-Portuguese JPIC Promoters Meeting: February 4, 9-12am at UISG office
- International Day of Prayer for Anti-trafficking (USG-UISG): February 8, , St. Peter's Square
- Integrity of Creation WG Meeting: February 9, 9-12am at UISG office
- Anti-trafficking WG Meeting: February 17, 3-5pm at Fratelli
- ICR at FAO WG Meeting: February 24, 9:30-12:00am at Passionist Center
- English JPIC Promoters Meeting: February 25, 9-12am at UISG office
- Collaboration WG Meeting: February 26, 3:00-5:00pm
- Refugee/Migrants WG Meeting: February 26 3-5pm, at Fratelli
- Integrity of Creation WG Meeting: February 28, 9-12am at UISG office

### SAVE THE DATE

**March 21, 2015 ■ 9:30-12:30**

ICR at FAO Working Group sponsored seminar on

**GOVERNANCE OF FOOD SYSTEMS, FOOD SECURITY AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY**

Nora McKeon, presenter

*formerly responsible for overall direction of FAO's relations with civil society*

Venue: Generalate of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Aula Magna ■ Via Aurelia, 476 ■ Rome, Italy

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).

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