



NEWSBRIEF

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

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EDITORIAL: *This month we celebrate the second year of Pope Francis' election as Bishop of Rome. It seems a decade since Jorge Mario Bergoglio was elected to head the Catholic universal Church as much has changed and the Catholic Church has gained momentum in putting into action the spirit of the Second Vatican Council. "How I wish a poor church for the poor", a sentence he pronounced at his first Press conference after his election on March 13 2013, has been guiding his actions and symbolic gestures he has given to the Church and the world. It is very clear in his Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* that he wants to see a missionary and merciful Church that gets its hands dirty as it seeks out the poor and oppressed. We pray that the intra-ecclesial reforms, his encouragement of participation of the faithful particularly women in the Church main structures, the opening up to the world, ecumenism and inter-religious dialogue, his concern for Justice, Peace and Integrity of creation may become more and more visible.*

[CLICK UNDERLINED BLUE TEXT TO OPEN A LINK](#)

1. INSIDE ROME

1.1 Integrity of Creation WG Presentation at February JPIC English Promoters Meeting. The ICWG presented its activities at the monthly Promoters Meeting on February 25. Sheila Kinsey, FCJM, the current group coordinator, gave the main presentation covering membership, purpose, focus and their work on mining. Several examples were provided showing the interconnectivity of mining with other social justice issues and particular mining issues: children, trafficking, fracking, conflict minerals. Two very important contributions of the group to the whole issue of mining among religious JPIC Promoters is the survey on mining, conducted in 2013, and the booklet *A See, Judge Act Reflection on the Impacts of Mining*. [Click here to download the PPT containing details of the ICWG presentation.](#)

1.2 The Spanish-Portuguese JPIC Promoters Meeting focuses on Migrants. In the series of their monthly reflection, the group invited Rev. Luis Herman Olivos, of the Scalabriani Congregation, to share his experience of his ministry with migrants from Latin America in Rome. After a short video on the reality of migrants, the conversation went on in question and answer style. He shared his personal history of vocation and ministry which was at the bases of his choice of this ministry. Some of the themes he developed include the causes of migration, the role of the church to tackle the issue, the needs of migrants in Rome and the challenges he faces in doing this ministry. Religious communities in Rome are invited to share Fr. Luis' ministry in more than 20 centers for migrants from Latin America.

1.3 Celebrating International Women's Day. March 8 marked the celebration of International Women's Day with the theme "Empowering Women, Empowering Humanity: Picture it!" In the Vatican, a group called Voices of Faith (the Catholic philanthropic Fidel Götz Foundation) held an online broadcast of women representing 'voices of faith'. The idea was to meet Pope Francis' desire to create spaces so that the role of women in the Church may be more visible and incisive. In this regard, [Mary McAleese](#) shared her observations regarding the Institutional Catholic Church's effort to achieve such a goal. <http://visnews-en.blogspot.it/2015/02/the-pope-participation-of-women-in.html>

Around the world, governments and activists commemorated the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, an historic roadmap that sets the agenda for realizing women's rights. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Women%27s_Day

On the Church level, Cardinal Van Thuân of the International Observatory on the Social Doctrine of the Church, issued the Sixth Report on the Social Doctrine of the Church in the World which was presented in a press conference in the Vatican on March 3. The report is titled "The Revolution of the Woman, the Woman in Revolution." Some of the themes featured in the report deal with procreation, maternity, sexual identity, gender, "new families", etc. The report indicates perceptible concern for the spread of the ideology on gender. The report is published in Italian (*Sesto Rapporto sulla Dottrina Sociale della Chiesa nel Mondo. La rivoluzione della donna, la donna nella rivoluzione*, Cantagalli, Siena 2014, pp. 304). Let us take to heart

the words pronounced by Pope Francis on this occasion: “A world where women are marginalised is a barren world, because women not only bring life, but they also give us the ability to see beyond—they see beyond themselves—and they transmit to us the ability to understand the world through different eyes, to hear things with more creative, more patient, more tender hearts.” (Pope Francis, March 8, 2015)

1.4 Training to assist sexual violence victims in conflict zone of Africa. In June 2014, the UK hosted an International Conference on Sexual Violence in Conflict. The outcome of that conference was the development of an [International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict](#). Now the UK Embassy to the Holy See is considering the next steps to take in the process, namely looking into the possibility of some funding for a UK group of experts to conduct a training program for religious congregations in one country in Africa, based on insights into the most affected conflict zones and the work which sisters are already undertaking on the ground to assist and help victims of sexual violence in conflict. The first consultation with women religious in the field took place on March 12 at the Ambassador’s residence in Rome.

1.5 Letter of OFM Conventual Minister General on EXPO 2015. We invite you to read a reflection letter by the Superior General of the OFM Conventual on EXPO Milano 2015, a Universal Exhibition hosted by Milan, Italy from May 1 to October 31, 2015. Over this six-month period, Milan will become a global showcase where more than 140 participating countries will show the best of their technology that offers a concrete answer to the guarantee of healthy, safe and sufficient food for everyone, while respecting the planet and its equilibrium. [The letter is available in Italian, English, Spanish and Polish.](#) (<http://www.expo2015.org/en/learn-more>)

1.6 Prayer Requests. The Sisters of the Daughters of Wisdom ask for prayers for **Sr. Carmen Belen Vergara**, JPIC Promoter, who has been diagnosed with brain tumor and is hospitalized in Colombia. Let us pray for her recovery and return to her ministry in Rome.

The Franciscan Sisters Daughters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary (FCJM) ask for your prayers for their General Chapter which will take place from April 19 to May 8 at the Passionist Spirituality Center in Rome. Their Chapter theme is “Go forth! Be a blessing in the heart of the world.”

2. OUTSIDE ROME

2.1 Massacre in East Congo Continues. The Vicar General of the Assumptionist Missionaries is calling the attention of men and women religious and all people of goodwill to the tragic massacre that contin-

ues mainly in the areas of the Butembo-Beni Diocese, which started in 2013 when three members of their congregation disappeared and today, more than 400 people have been killed. The Assumptionists are calling on us so that we can collaboratively work on improving the situation in that area—lack of security, forced displacement, fear and trauma for family members of those who have been killed in a barbaric way. The congregations present in the Diocese are working on how to proceed as a way of responding to the grave situation in the area. <http://www.news.va/en/news/africacongo-dr-new-massacres-in-beni-the-people-ar>; <http://www.aefjn.be/index.php/370/articles/id-1503-1502-violence-in-beni-mineral-trade-in-drc.html>.

2.2 The Power of Peace Communities. A reflection by US Secretary of State John Kerry which was recently published in the *Wall Street Journal* cites alternative ways to consider in dealing with the threat of world peace during our time (*Wall Street Journal*, Feb. 18, 2015). Finally, a voice for moving through and moving forward—in ways that do not escalate killings. Finally, a voice that expresses that the sources of Boko Haram, ISIL, al-Qaeda, al-Shabaab and the gunmen in North Carolina, Denmark, Australia, Paris are our economies, our polities. Finally, a voice that dares to mention the power of peace communities—the places you create and where you work.—*Carol Thompson, MM*

2.3 “Stopping the Islamic State Without Making Matters Worse.” This article by Thomas Rees sums up ideas of the ongoing discussion in an appropriate way to deal with the current threat posed by the ISIS terrorist group. The author advises the US and its allies not to make the same mistakes of the past in seeking to stop the group by military intervention alone. He suggests three urgent measures: first, to take care of the refugees from Syria and Iraq; secondly, to stop the unjust aggressor and protect minorities and civilians from attack, though the use of military intervention which must be proportionate and discriminate, employed within the framework of international and humanitarian law; and thirdly, admit the Iraqi Shia led government as a failed state and make steps to recognize the Kurdi and Sunni autonomies. For details go to <http://ncronline.org/blogs/faith-and-justice/stopping-islamic-state-without-making-matters-worse>.

2.4 Join in the Quest to Achieve a World Without Statelessness. UNHCR and Religions for Peace invites you to join the campaign working to achieve the world without stateless people. At least 10 million people around the world continue to live without a nationality, left in legal limbo, often living a marginalized, invisible existence and are deprived of the basic human rights that most people take for granted. You are encouraged to sign the open letter and encourage others in your community to do the same. You can also call

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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 Charles Marie Himmer, Enrique Angel Angelelli and Leo Josef Suenens)

CHARLES MARIE HIMMER



Born on April 10, 1902, Charles Marie Himmer was ordained a priest in 1929. His first years of priesthood were spent with the Catholic Action youth movement. He was bishop of Tournai, Belgium from 1949 to 1977, and died on January 11, 1994.

He was a close friend of Charles Cardijn, whose method of See, Judge and Act was later to be applied in pastoral social ministry. He often said, "I practiced the Integral Cardijn's methodology—See, Judge, Act; I was faithful to it and I still believe in it." At the second Vatican Council, he was member of the commission of bishops for the fourth session, he was very happy to see his famous paragraph included in chapter two of the decree on the Pastoral office of Bishops in the Church: "In presenting this doctrine they should proclaim the maternal solicitude of the Church for all men, whether they be Catholics or not, and should be especially solicitous for the poor and weaker brethren whom the Lord has commissioned them to evangelize." As is clear in this statement, he is one of the promoter of the group known as "Jesus, the Church and the poor" (see *Quaderni del Concilio* by Henri de Lubac). He was the main celebrant at the concelebration that morning and gave the homily before the sign of the Pact of the Catacombs. (Source: <http://multiboites.com/definizione/lettera-c/charles-marie-himmer.php>)

ENRIQUE ANGEL ANGELELLI



A son of Italian immigrants in Argentina, Bishop Enrique Angel Angelelli was born in Cordoba on June 17, 1923 and ordained priest in 1949. He started working in the parish and founded the youth movements, focusing his pastoral activities in the slums by trying

to improve the conditions of the poor. Pope John XXIII appointed him auxiliary of the archdiocese of Cordoba on December 12, 1960. A few years later, he went back to working for the renewal of the Church, standing in solidarity with the workers. He participated at the Second Vatican Council. In 1968, Pope Paul VI appointed him bishop of the diocese of La

Rioja, northwest of Argentina, and as such he continued to encourage workers in different economic field to stand together in solidarity to fight for their rights. In the sermon he delivered at his Installation Mass, he affirmed the importance of viewing "hunger, ignorance, and misery" in the light of the Gospel, and expressed a desire to serve all, regardless of class, or ideology." Soon after the onset of conservative military rule in 1976, Angelelli was murdered by government agents, though the government claimed it was a traffic accident. Angelelli's death became a rallying cry for the downfall of military rule and he is remembered by Argentines today as a martyr. (Sources: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enrique_Angelelli; <http://berkeleycenter.georgetown.edu/people/enrique-angelelli>; <http://www.faithpatterns.com/2014/02/18/the-bishop-of-the-people/>)

LEO JOSEF SUENENS



Born at Ixelles Belgium on July 16, 1904, Cardinal Leo Josef Suenens was ordained a priest on September 4, 1927. He served as Auxiliary bishop of Mechelen-Brussels, then Archbishop of the same diocese from 1961 to 1979. At Vatican II he made a tremendous contribution both during its preparation phase as

well as during the sessions. Paul VI made him one of the four moderators of the Council, along with Cardinals Grégoire-Pierre Agagianian, Julius Döpfner, and Giacomo Lercaro. Suenens was believed to be a decisive force behind the Conciliar documents *Lumen gentium* and *Gaudium et spes*. (Source: http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/L%C3%A9on-Joseph_Suenens)

It is worth noting his position regarding the participation of women at the Second Vatican Council as reported by Patricia Fresen: "It had been Cardinal Suenens who, at the end of the second session of the council, had had the courage to get up and say, "Why are we even discussing the reality of the church when half of the church is not represented here?" His explosive words aroused strong opposition, especially among the Italian bishops, we are told, but the Dominican, Yves Congar, and the South African bishop, Denis Hurley, were strong supporters of having women present." (Cf. Patricia Fresen "Less Pope, More Jesus—A Call to Action, November 2012 in <http://iglesiadescalza.blogspot.it/2012/12/less-pope-more-jesus-patricia-fresens.html>)

on world leaders to take action and end the plight of stateless people. The open letter is available at <http://ibelong.unhcr.org/en/join/index.do>.

2.5 Peruvian Primary Forest in Danger. In the UK Edition of *The Guardian*, David Hill reports the alarming situation in the northern Peruvian Amazon, where four firms are planning to clear 23,000 hectares of primary forest in order to cultivate palm oil. According to David's research, such a threat is not only targeting Peru, in particular, but may even be worse in other south American countries with extensive areas of primary forest, such as Ecuador and Colombia. Read more at http://www.theguardian.com/environment/andes-to-the-amazon/2015/mar/07/palm-oil-peru-23000-hectares-primary-forest?awesm=a.ran.org_i1c&CMP=share_btn_tw.

3. NEW RESOURCES

3.1 Justice for Migrants Materials for Lent. The USCCB has made available a **Toolkit for Lent** titled *Immigration Reform: Your Lenten Promise*, as part of their campaign to uphold the dignity of all people and offer prayer for the many undocumented immigrants in the USA. It is available in English and Spanish at <http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org/index.shtml>.

4. APRIL JPIC EVENTS

- **English JPIC Core Group:** April 13, 3:00pm–5:00pm at Fratelli
- **Spanish-Portuguese Promoters Meeting:** April 15, 9:00am-12:00nn at UISG
- **Seminar on Food Security,** Nora McKeon, presenter: April 18, 9:30am–12:30pm at Aula Magna, Fratelli
- **Collaboration WG:** April 23, 3:00pm–5:00pm at Coso Tieste, 57, Roma
- **English JPIC Promoters Meeting:** Martha Zechmeister, CJ will speak on “The dynamic relationship between mysticism and prophetic action”, April 29, 9:00am–12:00nn at UISG
- **ICR at FAO WG:** April 28, 9:30am at ICR Office, Passionist Center
- **Anti-trafficking WG:** April 28, 2:00pm–4:30pm at UISG
- **Refugee/Migrants WG:** April 30, 3:00pm–5:00pm at Fratelli

JPIC Commission: ICR at FAO Working Group sponsored seminar

FOOD SYSTEMS, FOOD SECURITY AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

Nora McKeon, presenter

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

April 18, 2015 ■ 9:30-12:30

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.

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