



NEWS BRIEF

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

MAY 2015 Vol. 9/No. 5



EDITORIAL: *The Month of May in Italy starts with Expo Milan 2015—a Universal Exposition hosted by the City of Milan from May 1-October 31, with the theme “Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life.” Over 140 participating countries have created a platform for exchange of ideas and shared solutions for such an important theme, namely Food and Energy. It is really challenging to try to offer solution to such a contradictory present situation, especially surrounding the*

issue of Food and nutrition in a world with 870 million hungry people on one hand and 1.3 billion tons of food wasted every year on the other hand. This is what St. John Paul II called the “paradox of plenty”—there is food for everyone, but not everyone can eat, while waste, excessive consumption and the use of food for other purposes is visible before our very eyes.

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

1. INSIDE ROME



Sheila Kinsey, FCJM, new JPIC Secretariat Executive Co-Secretary.

1.1 Habemus New JPIC Executive Co-Secretary. The JPIC Commission is pleased to announce the appointment of Sr. Sheila Kinsey, FCJM as JPIC Secretariat Executive Co-Secretary, effective September 14. Sr. Sheila is a member of the Franciscan Sisters Daughter of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary, also known as Wheaton Franciscans. She has just completed a six-year term as General

Councilor and JPIC Coordinator for her congregation. Sr. Sheila has been an active member of the English JPIC Promoters Core Group, the Integrity of Creation Working Group as Co-Chair, and the JPIC Commission. She has a rich background in JPIC animation, administration and advocacy, particularly in the area of just peace and nonviolence, both in the US and international level. We wish Sr. Sheila a fruitful ministry as Executive Co-Secretary.

1.2 Camillians Appeal for Help of Nepal by the.

The devastation caused by recent earthquakes in Nepal have been catastrophic. Many of Kathmandu’s one million residents continue to sleep in the open, either because their homes were flattened or they were terrified that aftershocks would bring them crashing down. Thousands streamed out of the city. Roads leading from Kathmandu were jammed with people, some carrying babies, trying to climb onto buses or hitch rides aboard cars and trucks to the plains. According

to early indications, 1.4 million people are in need of food assistance, with 750,000 living near the epicenter in poor quality housing. Impact on agriculture based livelihoods and food security is expected to be extremely high. Immediate needs for health include medical tents, medication, surgical kits and body bags. The Camillian Task Force, Team India, composed of medical doctors, nurses, social workers, psychologists, religious, etc., are presently operating medical camps in the district of Gorkha and asking support from all congregations through financial contribution or manpower.

Please send your financial contribution to the following bank account:

Casa Generalizia Ord. dei Chier. Reg. Ministri degli Infermi
Banca Prossima SpA, Sportello di Roma
IBAN IT62 G033 5901 6001 0000 0070 486
Swift: BCITITMX Cause: Emergency Nepal



Martha Zechmeister, CJ

1.3 JPIC English Promoters Reflection in April.

The JPIC English Promoters meeting on April 29 featured Sr. Martha Zechmeister, CJ, who gave a reflection on “The dynamic Relationship between Mysticism and Prophetic Action.” The reflection was based on her life and

ministry in El Salvador, a country with a long period of internal violence during which many Religious and Church people were massacred. She pointed out the killings of three key testimonies, that of Rutilio Grande, Mons. Oscar Romero and Ignacio Ellacuría, who died because they were proclaiming the Gospel and denouncing sin, which she identified as the dy-

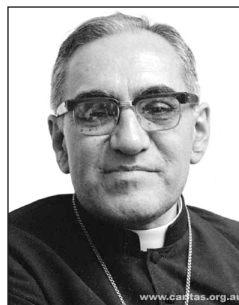
namic way of mystic propheticism. She called for all who honor them to imitate their example and live in solidarity with all peoples who are suffering. Quoting from Mons. Romero's homily, she said that the suffering poor are identified with the "pierced divine", a kind of "hypostatic union" between the crucified people and the crucified Christ, which are one single flesh and cannot be separated. And as a consequence, the crucified people is the presence of God and of God's salvific work in this world; it is the sacrament of our salvation in history, she said. (Read more her talk uploaded to our Website in English and Spanish). (Picture to be uploaded).

1.4 Pope Francis Endorses the Catholic Climate Petition. Pope Francis has endorsed the Catholic Climate Petition of the Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM) which was launched last year. It calls on all Catholics and people of good will to sign the petition to cut down carbon emissions, to keep the global temperature rise below the dangerous threshold of 1.5°C and to aid the world's poorest to cope with climate change impact. Everyone is invited to promote the [online petition](#) in their networks via email, Facebook and other social media. To embed the petition in your website, [fill out the form](#) on the GCCM website then follow these instructions (it's very simple to do, the same way you embed a YouTube video). Print the paper petition form and collect signatures in person.

2. OUTSIDE ROME

2.1 European Union Parliament Sign Strong Conflict Minerals Regulation Law. On May 24, the European Parliament backed a "historic" law that would require European companies to ensure their purchases of tin, tantalum, tungsten and gold are not contributing to conflict or human rights abuses in other countries. This law would also include consumer products such as phones and laptops which contain these minerals that have been linked with the funding of killings, violence, rape, and other human rights abuses in the Democratic Republic of Congo and other conflict zones. These minerals can enter the supply chain of multinational companies and used in many consumer products. In the past years, various voluntary and regulatory measures have been implemented to ensure responsible sourcing of minerals and stem financing of related human rights abuses. In order to help companies to source minerals responsibly the Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas (OECD) has developed regulations to which the EU has to abide. This is available in [English](#), French, Spanish and [Swahili](#). <http://www.greenstatus-pro.com/what-are-conflict-minerals-green-status-pro>

2.2 Mons. Oscar Romero is beatified but El Salvador is still plagued by violence and impunity. For many Latin Americans, Blessed Oscar Romero was



Blessed Oscar Romero

always considered a martyr of social justice and defense for the poor since his death on March 24, 1980. He gave his life as a good shepherd for his flock in a time of persecution. He modeled what a bishop looks like in a church committed to justice for the poor. Romero's death and the baptism of blood endured by the people of El Salvador during its 12-year civil war (1980-1992) inevitably have larger implications for the universal church. Now 35 years since his assassination, his martyrdom has been officially recognized by the Church, leaving behind the shadow which had depicted him as communist. His beatification has been received with a lot of euphoria in San Salvador although the socio-economic situation that led to his death is a long way from being resolved. [Linda Cooper and James Hodge](#) have a brilliant analysis of the present situation in El Salvador where violence and impunity continue to rule. <http://celebrationpublications.org/node/2748?bl>.

3. NEW RESOURCES

3.1 Prayer for World Environment Day, June 5, 2015. Available in English and French.—*Contributed by Fr. Camille Piche*

3.2 Decolonizing Peace. This book is written by Victoria Fontan, a professor at the University of Peace in Costa Rica. It is a study of the different aspects of peace-keeping efforts from personal experiences in actual assignments since she was in her 20s. Fontan makes a case for decolonizing efforts for peace based on a research which deconstructs "the discipline and practice of peace and conflict studies." She shares her observations in peacekeeping efforts in Bosnia, still very idealistic about her role as a part of the mission for peacekeeping which she calls 'peace industry'. Her research offers observations, analyses, and critique on the various aspects of the peace-keeping package which reflect her experiences and those of her colleagues throughout the world.—*Contributed by Sr. Teresa Dagdag, MM*

3.3 Faith communities concerns for extractive industry in Latin America. This short video aims to raise consciousness on the negative effects of the mining industry in Latin America. It shows the necessity for faith communities to commit themselves in defense of those suffering the negative effects of extractive industry, defend land, water and nature. The video can be used for pastoral animation with local communities but also in dialogue with parties responsible in the area of mining. The video is available in Spanish and Portuguese with subtitles in English. Here are the links: <https://youtu.be/I1Qvgctn-bck>; <http://youtu.be/Fw0cxGoIiMQ>; <http://youtu.be/uEKLw3x41qY>—*Contributed by the Comboni Family*

(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 Alberto Pascual Devoto, Francisco Austregésilo De Mesquita Filho And Eduardo Tomás Boza Masvidal)

ALBERTO PASCUAL DEVOTO



Born of a Uruguay father and an Italian mother on May 17, 1918, Mons. Alberto Pascual Devoto was ordained in 1942 and he was the first bishop of Goya diocese from 1961-1984. He was the only priest member of the Preparatory Commission of the Second Vatican

Council appointed by Pope John XXIII. As bishop he worked tirelessly for renewal of his local church in the following areas: the liturgical renewal based on the cultural expression; he eagerly embraced the Preferential Option for the Poor; he is one of the inspirer of the Movement of the priests for the third World and directed its activity towards the creation of the Basic Ecclesial Communities; he promoted the creation of Rural Catholic Action Movement; He encouraged and accompanied the struggles of the peasantry reform through the Movement of the Agrarian Leagues, the Young Christian Workers and other organizations of grassroots workers and peasants. During the Military dictatorship in Argentina, under which members of unions and social movements were persecuted, Mons. Devoto intensely devoted himself to visit the country's main prisons working for their release. On August 8th 2014, during the 30th anniversary of his death a national congress, of religious, political, social and cultural referents, his personality was remembered as the "bishop of the poor". Cfr. <http://www.editorapatriagrande.com/autoresarchivos/biodevoto.html>; <http://www.aica.org/13422-rindieron-homenaje-monsenor-alberto-devoto-en-el-congreso.html>.

FRANCISCO AUSTREGÉSILO DE MESQUITA FILHO



Born on March 4, 1924 in Re-riutaba Brazil, Mons. Francisco Austregésilo de Mesquita Filho was ordained a priest on December 8, 1951. He was the rector at the seminary in Sobral and a professor of theological studies there. On May 25, 1961 he was

appointed as Ingazeira second bishop of Afogados and da Mota and João José Albuquerque ordained him on August 24 of the same year. He participat-

ed in the Second Vatican Council and signed the Pact of the Catacombs. In addition, he earned a journalism training and was long time host of the radio program "Nossa Palavra" (Our Message). He was very dear to his region and local population, especially the poor. His motto was *Ut vitam habeant* (That they may have life). Cf. <http://www.cyclopaedia.de/wiki/Austregesilo-de-Mesquita-Filho>.

EDUARDO TOMÁS BOZA MASVIDAL



Born on September 18, 1915 in Camagüey, Cuba, Mons. Eduardo Tomás Boza Masvidal was ordained on February 28, 1944 by the Archbishop of Havana Manuel Artega-Betancourt in the Cathedral of Havana. From 1944 to 1961 he exercised various pastoral activities in

the diocese as professor of theology, pastor and prosecutor in the Ecclesiastical Tribunal and rector of the Catholic Universidad of Santo Tomás de Villanueva. As pastor at La Caridad Parish, he was known for his concern for the poor, especially children and the abandoned. He participated in the Second Vatican Council (1962–1965) and was chosen by Pope John XXIII as Titular Bishop of Vinda (it) and Auxiliary Bishop San Cristobal de la Habana (Havana) on March 31, 1960. In September 1962, he was expelled from Cuba by the Communist Regime. He founded the Unión de Cubanos en el Exilio (Union of Cubans in Exile). He died in Venezuela on March 16, 2003. At his funeral mass many gave extraordinary testimony of his dedication and joy as a pastor. In what is seen as his last writing, a kind of spiritual testament addressed to all Cubans, he reflected on his first vocation, the ministerial priesthood. "I cannot do much, but I'm glad to help, especially during long hours in the ministry of confession. Many people come to look for guidance and support, many with serious problems, many come from very far, and it is beautiful that despite myself being a sinner too, can be an instrument of forgiveness and mercy of the Lord and to contribute to their party in heaven for every sinner who comes to Him. Source: Orlando Márquez, "La Voz Católica Marzo del 2003; <http://www.bozamasvidal.org/bozaotros0004.htm>; http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eduardo_Boza-Masvidal.

4. JPIC EVENTS IN JUNE and SEPTEMBER 2015

June

- Spanish-Portuguese JPIC Promoters Meeting: June 3, 9–12am at UISG office
- Refugees/Migrants WG Meeting: June 4, 3-5pm at Fratelli
- Seminar on Women in the New Testament: June 6, 9:30-12:30 at Fratelli
- English JPIC Promoters Meeting: June 17, 9:00–12:00 noon, venue TBD

- ICR at FAO WG Meeting: June 23, 9:00 am–12:00 noon, Passionists Center
- Collaboration WG Meeting: June 25, 3:00 pm–5:00 pm at Fratelli

September

- Integrity of Creation WG Meeting: September 14, 9 am–12 pm at UISG office
- Collaboration WG Meeting: September 24, 3:00 pm–5:00 pm, place TBD
- ICR at FAO Association General Assembly Meeting: September 29, 2015, 9:00 am–12:00 noon at Passionists Center

**Saturday
JUNE 6,
2015
9.30 - 12.30**

Aula Magna,
Brothers of Christian
Schools
Via Aurelia 476, Rome



Photo: Marinella Perroni, speaker at the Seminar on "Women in the New Testament" with Fr. Miceal O'Neill, facilitator of the Seminar

Invitation to a SEMINAR

*Women and the New Testament:
Apostolic Preaching in the Early Church*

Prof. MARINELLA PERRONI, presenter

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.

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

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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