



NEWSBRIEF

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

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EDITORIAL: The month of September will be remembered for the so-called refugees and Migrants crisis in Europe. For this month alone more than 120,000 crossed the borders into Europe. "There is no wall you would not climb, no sea you would not cross if you are fleeing violence and terror," This is what the EU commissioner for migration Dimitris Avromopoulos said this month depicting the situation that European nations are facing as they struggle to cope with refugees and asylum seekers running from war and hunger in Syria, Iraq and the middle east.

Pope Francis urges all Catholics to welcome refugees, "May every parish, every religious community, every monastery, every sanctuary in Europe host a family—starting with my diocese of Rome," he said. What have we done so far to heed his call?

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

1. INSIDE ROME

1.1 Religious volunteers needed to serve migrants in Rome.

[Solidarity with migrants in Rome](#) is an initiative of the Brothers of the Christian Schools who are coordinating the services of religious congregations to migrants and refugees arriving in Rome, most of whom are in transit to other European destinations. The first phase of initial contact services includes accompaniment, listening to their stories, encouraging them to have hope after their traumatic journeys. The second phase includes human support, supply of immediate needs, psychological and spiritual counselling, assistance in accessing services available in different *transit* centers in Rome and around Italy. Women and men religious are invited to join the efforts of those already in the field. There is a great need for persons with skills in medicine, nursing, psychological and spiritual counselling, social and pastoral accompaniment. The project will also require financial sustainability from Religious congregations ready to generously support this initiative. For more information, contact De Lasalle Solidarieta' Internazionale - ONLUS, Via Aurelia 476 or solidarietainternazionale@lasalle.org/secoli@lasalle.org.

1.2 Meeting on persons affected by mining. The Pontifical Council of Justice and Peace (PCJP), in collaboration with the Latin American network of Churches and Mining, held a meeting in Rome, July 17-19, with representatives of communities affected by mining operations in 18 countries. Cardinal Turkson, President of the PCJP, affirmed the objective of the meeting—to acknowledge the human dignity of those



Fr. Dario Bossi, Comboni Missionary, representative of Churches and Mining.

affected, which Pope Francis has defined as "the immense dignity of the poor." (LS #158)

The meeting was highly anticipated by the participating communities, which are increasingly organizing to be able to denounce the grave human rights violations they are experiencing that are generated by the mining industry. These violations include environmental destruction and contamination, health impacts, community divisions, uprooting from territories, sicknesses, loss of culture, prostitution, alcoholism and drug addiction, loss of their own economy, and the ties to organized crime. Efforts to establish common strategies of resistance and alternatives are also being undertaken.

At the conclusion of the meeting, an [open letter](#) to the PCJP was sent by the participants. JPIC Promoters were present at the event.

On Saturday, September 19, the PCJP hosted another meeting with leaders of mining companies and faith groups. A reflective statement from the group resulting from the experience of the meeting will be forthcoming.

1.3 JPIC English Promoters to reflect on *Laudato Si*.

JPIC English Promoters to reflect on *Laudato Si*. The annual planning meeting of JPIC English Promoters on September 16 began with a brief presentation by Joe Rozansky, OFM of the *Laudato Si* Study Guide prepared by the Roman VI group. It was agreed by

those present that each of the Working Groups would reflect on the message of *Laudato Si* and identify specific sections that impact their group.



JPIC Promoters celebrating the launch of *Laudato Si* at St. Peter's Square.

1.4 Thank you Pope Francis for *Laudato Si*. An enthusiastic ecumenical demonstration thanking Pope Francis for *Laudato Si* began at the French Embassy and marched to the Piazza of St. Peter. Pope Francis greeted the cheering participants and expressed whole-hearted gratitude for their expressed commitment.



Laudato Si was enthusiastically received at a news conference hosted by the PCJP. Metropolitan John Zizioulas, representative of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, expressed "Great joy and satisfaction for the Orthodox" and Cardinal Turkson welcomed the media at this momentous occasion. Some JPIC Promoters were present at the event.



Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin addressed the assembly on Importance of the Encyclical for the Church and the World.

1.5 CIDSE Seminar—People and Planet First: The Imperative to Change Course. The 50th anniversary celebration of the establishment of CIDSE, which was held July 2 to 3, 2015, was an opportunity for reflection and stimulated discussion on *Laudato Si*. [CIDSE](#), an international alliance of Catholic development agencies working together for global justice, advocates for many of the areas addressed in

the encyclical. The event included presentations on the following topics: Integral Ecology and the Hori-

zon for Hope by Cardinal Peter Turkson, President of PCJP; Importance of the Encyclical for the Church and the World by Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State for the Vatican; and Pathways that Respect Our Common House by Mary Robinson, UN Secretary General Special Envoy for Climate Change. Following the presentations, an engaging and challenging panel discussion was held on the question "Climate Change or Changing structures of injustice?". Energy and enthusiasm imbued the sharing of practical suggestions from the participants. JPIC Promoters were among the 180 participants invited to the event.

2. OUTSIDE ROME

2.1. The genocide continues in Beni. The atrocious killings of innocent people is still taking place in the Beni area and North Kivu Eastern Congo DRC. The last event took place on September 5th, when nine people were reported to have been decapitated and their heads taken away. Let us denounce this genocide which has been going on for more than three years. Such incidents were reported back in March this year and letters of solidarity were sent to Congo. Follow the links to read the news in French—the images are gruesome but speak of the truth. (Source: Emmanuel Kahi-do, AA) 1) http://www.benilubero.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3862:genocide-des-nande-9-personnes-egorgees-en-secteur-de-beni-mbau&catid=1:dches&Itemid=98; 2) <http://www.jeunefrique.com/262434/politique/est-de-la-rdc-sept-civils-tues-dans-une-attaque-attribuee-a-des-rebelles-ougandais>; 3) <http://www.radiookapi.net/2015/09/06/actualite/securite/beni-3-personnes-tuees-la-machette-par-des-presumes-adf>

2.2 "Peace is the fruit of Justice." Building blocks for a more just and peaceful society" is the title of the conference given by Cardinal Peter Turkson in Rio de Janeiro on September 1. The President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace spoke at a symposium sponsored by three Pontifical Universities: Pontificia Universidade Catolica do Rio de Janeiro (PUC-RIO), the Universidade Catolica Portuguesa (UCP) and the Pontifical Gregorian University of Rome (PUG-ROME). Based on the social teaching of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI and that of Pope Francis, Cardinal Turkson made a strong argument on essential elements for building a nonviolent and peaceful society. To read his paper go to http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2015/09/01/cardinal_turkson_peace_is_a_fruit_of_justice/1168878#.

2.3 Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The draft outcome document of the United Nations Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda was agreed by consensus by the member States on August 2, 2015.

[Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace with increased freedom. Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan.

The [17 Sustainable Development Goals](#) and 169 targets seek to build on the Millennium Development Goals and complete what these did not achieve. They seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. They are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental.

The agenda will be considered for adoption by the United Nations from September 25 to 27. Pope Francis will address the General Assembly on September 25. Let us keep Pope Francis and the Assembly in our prayers as he shares the implications of his message from *Laudato Si*.

More resources on the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) are available on the JPIC website.

2.4 The Global Campaign Against Poverty (GCAP).

Please support, endorse or sponsor **Alianza Espanola Contra la Pobreza**, a multidisciplinary entity, a panel working to enable civil society, science and other social actors to analyze in depth the national and global situations and propose the most effective policies for the eradication of poverty and inequality. It is important to do it now because part of its work is to create a mechanism to ensure that the Sustainable Development Goals are accomplished. This proposal, which GCAP has been working on for the last two years, has already obtained the support of civil society organizations, i.e., Social Watch; the United Nations Institutions, i.e., the Millennium Campaign; and the institutions within the Catholic Church, i.e., OFM Franciscans in Rome and the Jesuit Provincial Conferences of Latin America. It is also supported by the JPIC Commission through the Spanish JPIC Promoters group. They recently sent a letter to Pope Francis asking for his support when he speaks at the next General Assembly of the United Nations. [Visit the JPIC website to read the letter of appeal.](#)

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 Dom Jose Maria Pires)

DOM JOSE MARIA PIRES, Minas Gerais



Dom Jose Maria Pires was born in Minas Gerais (1919) of a mother with mixed racial origin and a Spanish father. He was ordained priest in 1941 and a bishop of Aracuai in 1957. In 1965, he was appointed Archbishop of Paraiba in 1965 where he served the poor in the area until his retirement in 1995. When he was transferred to Paraiba in the northeast of Brazil, he became a close friend of Dom Helder Camara, not only because they were neighboring dioceses, but because both of them shared the spirit of Vatican II—defense of poor people—and led a simple lifestyle. In a recent interview with [Iglesia Descalza](#), the retired Archbishop explained how the Catholic Church became close to the disadvantaged and acted in their defense. Two events contributed to this change of attitude, he said—for the country, the military dictatorship in Brazil, and for the Church, the closing of

the Vatican Council II. While military dictatorship made evident the need for the Church to defend the rights of the poor, the Pact of the Catacomb signed at the conclusion of the Vatican Council gave the bishops who had been on the council the enthusiasm wanting to be poor Church at the service of the poor. With this spirit of Vatican II and the Pact of the Catacombs, “instead of sticking with the more important ones and having signs of power and richness, the bishops adopted a simple lifestyle and changed their mentality,” said Dom Jose.

There is a beautiful quote from his writings which is worth referring to. To those who accused him of being red bishop he said: “My commitment to the poor is an outcome of the Gospel. It’s not an ideological proposal, but a theological one born of faith. It’s a hope a new world, that great mountain with food for everyone! This hope animates my commitment as a bishop to the cause of the poor—not almsgiving, but encouraging the poor to organize themselves and to be the subject of social transformation.”—Cf. Mev Puleo, [The Struggle is One, Voices and Visions of Liberation](#), pg. 219.

3. NEW RESOURCES

3.1 *Laudato Si* resources. We have created a page on our website which is devoted solely to resources on the Papal Encyclical, *Laudato Si*. It includes a study guide, online course, video and materials on the Sustainable Development Goals. Visit <http://www.jpicroma.org/#!/laudato-si/ccaz>.

3.2 Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM) Initiatives. GCCM is a new international network of Catholic institutions and individuals united by the Pope's call to care for creation. They recently launched the [COP 21 Prayer](#) for a strong climate treaty at the December UN Climate Change Conference in Paris. Thousands of individuals and groups will be praying continuously from now until December 11 for courage of world leaders, communities affected by climate disruption, and our own ecological conversion.

An [online course on *Laudato Si*](#) is also available on the GCCM website. The GCCM's flagship campaign is the [Catholic Climate Petition](#) which we invite you to sign.

3.3 Academic Conference on Climate Change at Duquesne University. The President of Duquesne University of the Holy Spirit in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Dr. Charles J. Dougherty, Ph.D. has commissioned an annual academic conference on the Integrity of Creation. The theme for 2015 is *Climate Change*. The conference will be interdisciplinary, engaging scholars and participants on the "substantive and worrying" change in weather patterns. Scholarly debates and discussions will assist participants to comprehend the complexity of the debate on climate change and to

develop individual and community response towards developing what Pope Francis called "an integral ecology," in *Laudato Si*. The conference is scheduled to begin on September 30 until October 3, 2015. It will be webcast and you can view the conference at <http://www.duq.edu/research/integrity-of-creation-conference---climate-change/register>.—Source: Jude Nnorom, cssp

4. JPIC EVENTS IN OCTOBER

- **Collaboration WG Meeting:** September 24, 3:00 pm–5:00 pm, venue TBD
- **ICR at FAO WG Meeting:** September 29, 9:00–12:00 noon at Passionist Center
- **Conference of Interreligious Dialogue Commission:** *Archbishop Michael Fitzgerald, MAfr.*, October 3, 9:30-12:30 pm at the Passionist Center
- English JPIC Core Group Meeting: October 5, 3:00–5:00 pm at Fratelli
- Anti-Trafficking WG Meeting: October 12, 3:00-5:00 pm at Fratelli
- English JPIC Promoters Meeting: October 21, 9:00–12:00 at UISG
- Spanish JPIC Promoters Meeting: October 6, 9:00–12:00 at UISG
- Integrity of Creation WG Meeting: October 26, 9:00–12:00 at UISG
- Prayer at S. Marcelo: October 30, 7:00-8:00 pm at Via del Corso
- Refugees-Migrants WG Meeting: November 4, 3:00–5:00 pm at Fratelli

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.

Compiled and produced by the JPIC Commission Secretariat

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Justice Peace & Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Commission JPIC PROMOTERS FORMATION WORKSHOP

November 18 – 21, 2015

Casa per Ferie Enrico De Osso, Via Val Cannuta 134, 00167 Roma



In the spirit of “Laudato Si”

“Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience.”—(Laudato Si, no.217)

This four-day workshop will provide new JPIC Promoters with the tools needed to animate members of their congregation in justice, peace and integrity of creation, according to the vows of the evangelical life, through experience, social analysis, spiritual reflection and action.

Others engaged in JPIC-related ministries are welcome to attend the full workshop or individual sessions.

Topics

- ☞ 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
- ☞ networking
- ☞ planning a JPIC framework for your congregation
- ☞ personal reflection

Venue, Accomodation Cost, etc.

- ☞ Casa per Ferie Enrico De Osso, Via Val Cannuta 134, 00167 Roma
- ☞ €250 for three nights and meals. Please pay at the registration table upon arrival
- ☞ For directions and other details, and to register online, visit <http://www.jpicroma.org/#!workshop-registration/c1s1o>
- ☞ For more information, please e-mail jpicusguisg@lasalle.org.



...integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.—Laudato Si #49