



NEWSBRIEF

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EDITORIAL: In Pope Francis' homily at the Easter Vigil he reminds us: "The beating heart of the risen Lord is given to us, and we are asked to give it in turn as a transforming force, as the leaven of the new humanity." Even our small leaven of sincerity and truth can make a difference where we are. This issue of Newsbrief highlights the efforts of JPIC Promoters to journey in the reality of others helping to carry heavy burdens as we "allow the tenderness and love of Christ to guide our steps." Many blessings on your Easter Days!

[LINKS: Click underlined blue text to open a link or copy and paste the url on your browser window](#)

WORKSHOP ON VICTIMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN THE DRC



Workshop leaders and participants which include medical doctors, psychologists, lawyers, nurses, counsellors, teachers, formators in healthcare of survivors, an anthropologist, a theologian, chaplains of prisons, persons involved with refugees and in-charge of Justice and Peace Commissions.

As violence continues in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the JPIC Commission of the USG and UISG is working with the British Embassy to the Holy See to promote a protocol to combat sexual violence in the world. In line with this undertaking, 38 men and women religious and diocesan priests from the DRC, Rwanda and Burundi, gathered in the Eastern DRC, from April 2 - 9, for a workshop on the Pastoral, Compassionate and Spiritual Response to the Challenges of Victims Suffering from Sexual Abuse in Conflict. This pilot workshop was planned by a team of highly experienced religious in the DRC, the JPIC Secretariat of the JPIC Commission of USG/UISG, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London and knowledgeable religious in Rome concerned with the Eastern DRC. Experts from the United Kingdom (UK), who have worked on an International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual

Violence in Conflict, presented during the last two days of the workshop.

These eight days were enfolded in the prayer of the liturgy of the hours and the Eucharist. There were many heartfelt conversations and deep listening times with one another. The courage to speak broke the silence about the reality of their lives. Highlights of the program, included experiences of:

- Basing pastoral formation on biblical and theological themes using examples of Christ's compassionate behavior in the New Testament and the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church.
- Reflecting on the writings by Pope Francis which affirmed and challenged the participants in the practice of mercy.
- Listening and relating with victims through the personal testimonies of five sisters on the "Practice of Compassion in Pastoral Work".
- Discussing burning issues in small group confidential sessions.
- Welcoming and integrating the victims into the Church and in society, which the book, Let us Live, provided examples of how this could be done.
- Attending to the sharing by two chaplains from the central prison of the Eastern DRC of their journeys with perpetrators who are being punished without any opportunities for change in their lives.
- Affirming the presentation by the Director of the Diocesan Justice and Peace Office of the efforts being done to promote and work for human rights, and stories by two women who were sexually abused and found a new life through services in the diocese.

The participants were intent on being the presence of

Christ for victims and this love and compassion was felt during their time together. Many concerns needed attention, if indeed this work with abused victims is done in the spirit of integral human development.

Five areas were to be shared with their religious superior or bishop who had sent them to the session, with their corresponding recommendations:

1. How to sensitize ecclesial leaders on the means needed to work for the reception of vulnerable persons.
2. How to address the causes of violence and suffering with particular attention to families in crisis (where street children, minor prostitutes, etc.) come from.
3. How to make Christian communities safe and fraternal places open to the victims of violence and/or HIV/AIDS.
4. How to respond to violence within the Church where some consecrated are abused or abusers.
5. How to combat a significant source of violence related to land grabbing.

The lawyers from the UK, who spoke on the last two days, developed the protocol and the methods being used to document and investigate charges of sexual abuse. The protocol is due to be released in French in two months, so the important tools for documentation were not available to the participants at this time. The purpose of the protocol is to obtain enough legal decisions so that sexual abuse is recognized as a criminal offense punishable by law. We met the UK Embassy Representative for the region of the Eastern DRC. A representative from the local United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) was introduced to the participants. The UK works with MONUSCO in the legal efforts to confront the impunity of sexual violence in conflict areas.

The participants were asked to submit a report in three months, which includes: 1) what changes have taken place in their ministries as a result of the workshop experience, 2) what workshop resources they have used, 3) network involvement, and 4) what progress they have made on their personal goals.

A deep bonding developed among the participants, not only because of the profound sharing and the sacred holding of confidences, but also the greater understanding of the importance of working together and networking on the issues.

On May 12, Sr. Sheila Kinsey, FCJM will share a deeper reflection of her experience in the DRC from 10 am to 12 pm in the St. John Paul II Room at the Fratelli, 476 Via Aurelia. Translations will be in English, French and Spanish. Register at jpicroma@gmail.com. A Powerpoint will be placed on the www.jpicroma.org website after the session.

A CULTURE OF PEACE



At the monthly meeting of the Spanish and PortugueseJPIC Promoters on April 5, Prof. Gianni La Bella, specialist in Contemporary History and in Theory and Methods of Intercultural Mediation, gave a talk on the theme, “Significant experiences of peace”. He developed the topic in a masterful way, beginning with his affirmation of his love for history, a true guide in everyday life that illuminates the present time and orientates us towards the future.

According to Prof. La Bella, diversity is the characteristic of our age. For some the temptation is to make the ancient world, the past, a homogenous world. However, to think about destroying globalization is not possible. We have gone from a world that is singular to a one that is plural. After September 11, 2001, humankind has found itself accountable for terrorism. This has touched the lives of all and has now fashioned us to think of war to overcome problems. We have tried to abolish terrorism with war and this has aroused hatred and has provoked the “third world war fought in pieces”. The outbreaks of violence and war have multiplied... Subliminal messages suggest that war is beautiful...and peace is a utopia.

He continued to say that for those who think peace is the great task of the century, the work has just begun. Peace is the true universal heritage. It is necessary to find ways to make it attractive. So many characters worldwide have left us the love of peace. Our task is to be “builders of peace”, to affirm the values of peace. This is the great pastoral revolution that we must encourage. If few can make war, we can all create peace. Collaborate to extirpate the deep pain, the wounds that war leaves.

In the case of conflicts, such as in Colombia, Prof. La Bella cited his experience of accompanying the peace dialogues for two years. He also worked to reach an agreement in Guatemala, during the most arduous years of the conflict in that country.

But there are wars of which no one is concerned. Syria does not create the attention it needs, while violence is

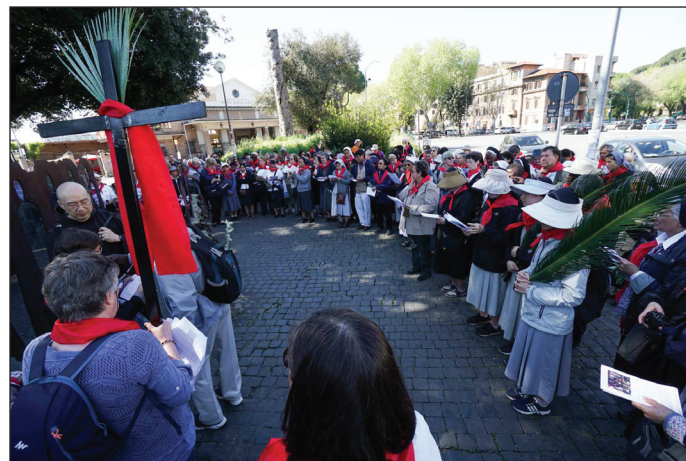
of politics for peace. This is fertile ground for a new culture of peace. We have to put peace at the center of pastoral life.—*Contributed by Sr. Julia Arciniegas, FMA, JPIC Promoter*

2017 JPIC STATIONS OF THE CROSS ON NONVIOLENCE



The Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) groups in Rome have developed a prayer event of the Stations of the Cross to connect their life and ministry to the Passion, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. This year's Stations of the Cross was a reflection based on Pope Francis' Message for the World Day of Peace: Nonviolence: A Style of Politics for Peace. With striking clarity, Pope Francis declares: "Jesus himself lived in violent times. Yet he taught that the true battlefield, where violence and peace meet, is the human heart: for "it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come." (Mark 7:21). "Whoever accepts the Good News of Jesus is able to acknowledge the violence within and be healed by God's mercy, becoming in turn an instrument of reconciliation." We asked for this grace.

The pilgrimage began with the Eucharist for Passion Sunday celebrated at the Divine Word Society Generalate. About 160 religious women and men then walked through some streets of Rome and stopped at historical monuments and places of significance. At Piazza dei Partigiani, the railway station built by Mussolini to welcome Hitler to Rome in 1942, we remembered the victims of dictatorships who are suffering in a cruel environment around the world. At Piramide, we prayed in front of the monument erected in 1995 on the 50th anniversary of the memory of the victims of Nazi Fascism, where homosexuals, immigrants, the gypsies, Jews, and political adversaries were discriminated and condemned to be deported to concentration camps, reminding ourselves that this is still going on in various part of our current world. At the military cemetery near Monte Testaccio, a memorial for Catholic soldiers who died during the World War II and who could not receive a religious burial, we reflected on the many victims of war and armed conflict around the world. At the Porta Portese Sunday Market, we were in solidarity with the people in Rome and foreigners who are living



in poverty, those who cannot afford the costs of goods in most of the stores in the city, acknowledging our patterns of consumerism for our seemingly unending needs and remembered the many people around the world who labor and sweat in unsafe and terrible conditions to produce the products we buy. We visited San Francesco a Ripa, where an ancient leprosarium was located and then went onto San Calisto where various Vatican offices for promoting Integral Human development are located. We stopped at San Egidio, the center of a lay association serving the poor. At Santa Maria della Luce we recalled it's importance as a point of reference for most immigrants from Latin America, especially from San Salvador. In front of the Fatebene Fratelli Hospital, we prayed for the sick and suffering of persons needing medical treatment. Finally, our pilgrimage journeyed to San Bartolomeo Church in which the memories of the recent martyrs of the 20th century are kept. As we came to the end of this spiritual journey, many were physically tired but spiritually enriched by this prayer and encouraged to be instruments of peace! For a copy of the Stations in English, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese go to www.jpicroma.org.

CONFERENCE ON INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Encyclical *Populorum Progressio* and to formally inaugurate the new Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, on April 3-4, an international conference was held in the New Synod Hall in the City of Vatican titled "Prospects for Promoting Integral Human Development: 50 Years of the *Populorum Progressio*".

Specialists from five continents were present and gave their intervention on the areas of focus of the new Dicastery: soul, body, man/woman, individual, and society. The Eucharistic celebration on the opening day was presided by the Cardinal Secretary of State, Pietro Parolin, at the altar of the Chair in the Basilica of St. Peter.

Pope Francis was present on the second day, to the immense joy of all the participants. His message illuminated the importance of the verb "to integrate"



in relation to the merger of the four Vatican dicasteries—the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People, Health Care Workers and “Cor Unum”—in the new Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, which is chaired by Prefect Cardinal Peter KA Turkson. The Pope explained that “Integral development is the way of the good for the human family. Only the path of integration between peoples allows humanity a future of peace and hope. The unity and convergence of the various dicasteries is one of the privileged ways of achieving integration.

On the last evening, some people presented their testimony of work in the face of the most pressing world problems, in order to protect and serve the dignity of the human person. The event concluded with the official presentation of the representatives of the four dicasteries, who will continue the reflection on their internal organization, in the service of ecclesial communion, in the search to promote the integral human development of people and peoples.

The Conference was attended by Félix Mushobozi, CPPS, JPIC Executive Secretary of the Justice, Julia Arciniegas, FMA, a member of the Coordinating Committee of Religious, JPIC Promoters, and organizations belonging to the USG/UISG.

To read more, go to <http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/it/events/event.dir.html/content/vaticanevents/it/2017/4/4/convegno-50-populorumprogressio.html>.

A Moving Reflection

Fr. Felix Mushobozi was particularly touched by Card. Luis Antonio Tagle’s reflection on Migration at the international conference. The Cardinal from the Philippines is the President of Caritas Internationalis whose mission is to lead the universal Catholic Church to serve the poor, promote charity and justice.

His reflection began with the concept of Peace as a “new name for Integral Human Development”. Where there is poverty human dignity is undermined and most of people moving from one place to the other try to run from misery and dream for a better life. However, migration should not be considered to be a negative phenomenon, he said, it should be an occasion for encounter of peoples with common aspirations. As human beings, we belong to

one universal family in which all are brothers and sisters aspiring to authentic human conditions of life where all basic necessities are met and better living conditions are provided. He went on to underline that Integral Human Development goes beyond satisfaction of economic needs—it is a realization of each person’s human potential in the context of the just and peaceful society.

Card. Tagle gave a very moving example of this kind of development when considering people whose living conditions force them to migrate leaving behind their family members, so that they can provide them with their necessities. A woman from the Philippines, working as a babysitter in Italy, told him that she gave her love to the Italian babies because she knew that this kind of love was missing with her own babies back in Philippines. In this sense, he views migration as a positive phenomenon as part of God’s plan of salvation. If we look at this phenomenon from a theological perspective—biblical sense of exile and hospitality—we could change our world as a place of encounter. We can change the negative views of migration we hold because of our inner fears, if we begin to look at other people with different background not as potential enemies but as part and parcel of our common human family, he said. He concluded by saying that there will be no peace as long as there is still someone outside of our walls, for we are all travelers, we are all migrants.

SEMINAR ON THE STUDY OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

Though 172 countries are signatories to The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which was passed in 2000, there are 45.8 million slaves, according to the 2016 Global report by UN Office on Drugs and Crimes ([unanalysis//2016 Global Report](http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-research/publications/2016/Global_Report_2016.pdf)). These slaves are mainly from 137 nationalities and 79 percent of them are women and children. They are trafficked for forced labor, child soldiers, begging, sham marriages, pornography, organ harvest, illegal adoption, and human sacrifice.

The English JPIC Anti-Trafficking Working Group of the USG/USIG in Rome has conducted a survey, with the help of 19 Religious congregations, on the aspects of advocacy, prevention, protection and networking. The survey results were presented during the monthly meeting of the English speaking JPIC Promoters on April 19, 2017.

The session started with a prayer, which reflected on the content of the survey and summed up the various forces at play in trafficking. Sr. Carmen Elisa Bando SSPS, displayed pictures depicting people in various types of bondage, causes of enslavement, goods tinged with slave labor, etc. Sr. Kathy Schmittgens SSND, presented the survey briefly, using a digital map. She demonstrated that the trafficking movement was from low income countries to higher income countries. Her talk was followed with short presentations by Sisters Ann McCabe SM, Bonnie Phillips, CCV, Igora Pinto, IBVM, and Maamalifar Poreku, MSOLA, respectively, on advocacy, prevention, protection and networking practices.

Advocacy includes the acts of prayer, lobbying with



Carmen Elisa Bando, SSPS leading the opening prayer.

government bodies and agencies, conscientization among the hotels, transport operators and public, and defending the victims through legal assistance.

Prevention pertains to awareness creation, using print and electronic media, in parishes, schools, hospitals, etc.; imparting capacity building to stop trafficking; press the governments for enforcement of existing legal provisions; generating funds for these works; providing skill training locally and to create job opportunities in order to prevent migration; campaign against child/ slave labor in products

Protection of victim survivors involves care for the victims during and post rescue situations, providing accommodation, counseling, legal assistance, financial support, imparting skill training, helping with job referrals, and rejoining with the biological family.

Networking is indispensable. Men and women religious participate in local, national, regional and international networks. There are national networks Against Human Trafficking, Support of the Dignity of Women, Interfaith Committee for Detained Immigrants. There are also regional networks, transcending the national borders, and International networks at the United Nations and forums for Catholic Social Teaching. These networks need to be strengthened and promoted.

The participants shared the following observations and recommendations:

- there is a need to move into action;
- there is growing fear among the public to come forward to assist the people in danger of being trafficked;

- the UK passing the anti-slavery law is an encouraging sign of networking;
- congregations of men religious need to be more involved;
- people are trafficked for economic and employment reasons;
- providing jobs referrals for trafficking survivors is a challenge;
- climate challenge, such as drought and famine, cause migration;
- migratory laws create slavery circumstances—in the UPR(Universal Periodic Review) the issues of migratory laws and trafficking can be taken in;
- advocacy can include pressuring the nations to sign the Palermo protocol and to avail the program of Global Action to Prevent and Address Tracking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants executed by the EU and the UNODC (un/human-trafficking).

For a detailed Powerpoint of this presentation, please go to www.jpicroma.org. Two other videos can be accessed: 1) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ff9hioG-U2w> and 2) <http://www.freetheslaves.net/building-%20awareness/videos/>.—

Contributed by S. Vincent Anesthasiar, Curia Generalizia

MEETING WITH ARCHBISHOP TOMASI ON CATHOLIC NONVIOLENCE INITIATIVE



Fr. Felix Mushobozi, CPPS, Sr. Sheila Kinsey, FCJM, Archbishop Silvano Tomasi, CS and Marie Dennis enjoying some lighter conversation.

Marie Dennis, Co-President of Pax Christi International and the Executive Co-Secretaries of the JPIC Secretariat met with Archbishop Silvano Tomasi, CS of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, to discuss the developments of the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative (CNI) and to consider future directions. The group expressed much gratitude for the way Pope Francis continues to promote nonviolence and just peace through his personal presence in troubled areas and in his messages. In particular, the examples given were the letter sent to Cardinal Cupich encouraging his work to promote a culture of nonvio-

lence in Chicago and his message to the Buddhists on the theme “Christians and Buddhists: Walking Together on the Path of Nonviolence”.

A series of workshops are being planned to address areas needed to promote nonviolence. For more, go the website <https://nonviolencejustpeace.net/>.

MAY INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS

Christians in Africa: That Christians in Africa, in imitation of the merciful Jesus, may give prophetic witness to reconciliation, justice and peace. The video is available through the Apostleship of Prayer the first Friday of the month at www.apostleshipofprayer.org/the-pope-video/.

INTERNATIONAL DAYS OF OBSERVANCE

15 May—The International Day of the Families has the theme: “Families, education and well-being”. The day focuses on raising awareness of the role of families in promoting early childhood education and lifelong learning opportunities for children and youth. The day promotes the importance of all caregivers in families. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/family/international-day-of-families/idf2017.html>

21 May—World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development celebrates cultural diversity as a means of providing new perspectives for sustainable development and promoting creative industries resources for millions of jobs worldwide—particularly for youth and women. <http://www.un.org/en/events/culturaldiversityday/>

22 May—International Day for Biological Diversity recognizes that biodiversity is the foundation for life and for the essential services provided by ecosystems. By stopping biodiversity loss, we are investing in people, their lives and their well-being. <http://www.un.org/en/events/biodiversityday/>

29 May—International Day of UN Peacekeepers honors the more than one million men and women who have served under the UN flag with care and courage since 1948. More than 3,400 have lost their lives in service. <http://www.un.org/en/events/peacekeepersday/>

For a listing of the international days for the year go to <http://www.un.org/en/sections/observances/international-days/>.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES BY US EMBASSY TO THE HOLY SEE

The US Embassy has reopened their call for grant proposals. Details may be found on usembassy.gov.grants. This is for proposals of up to US\$10,000, and the deadline is **May 31**. Proposals in one of the following areas are welcome: promoting inter-faith dialogue, cooperation, understanding, and tolerance; combating trafficking in persons; promoting human rights (including, but not limited to, the rights of ethnic and religious minorities, women and children, people with disabilities, refugees and migrants, and other marginalized populations); preventing and mitigating conflict; supporting conflict resolution, reconciliation and peace building.

Also available are grants for refugee projects with a focus on gender-based violence (including trafficking). For details, go to usembassy.gov.juliataftgrant. This call is for proposals of up to US\$ 25,000 and the deadline is **April 30**.

JPIC PROMOTERS MEETINGS IN MAY

2 May—Integrity of Creation Working Group (ICWG), 3 pm to 5 pm at the Fratelli.

3 May—Spanish and Portuguese Speaking Promoters Meeting “Significant Experiences of Education for Peace”, 9 am to 12 pm at UISG.

8 May—“What is happening with the new Discastery for Promoting Integral Human Development?” Dott. Flaminia Giovanelli, under-secretary will update the JPIC Promoters on the responsibilities for this discastery. There will be an exciting opportunity to become informed, to ask questions and discuss ways the JPIC Promoters are working on the same areas. 10 am to 12 pm in the St. John Paul II Room at the Fratelli. Translations are in Spanish and English.

8 May—English Speaking CORE Group will meet following the sharing with Dott. Giovanelli.

9 May—Anti-Trafficking Working Group (ATWG), 3 pm to 5 pm at the Fratelli.

10 May—JPIC Commission Meeting 9 am to 12 pm at UISG.

12 May—Report on the Experience of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Sr. Sheila Kinsey found this to be a very moving workshop and she is eager to share the days of spiritual enrichment, discernment and action. 10 am to 12 pm in the St. John Paul II Room at the Fratelli. Translations will be in English, French and Spanish. Register at jpicro-ma@gmail.com

17 May—English Speaking JPIC Promoters Group will be hosted by ICR at FAO, 9 am to 12 pm at UISG. Our ICR at FAO Working Group never loses sight of the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) goal of Zero Hunger. Now this goal is worked out in collaboration with the UN Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (the 17 SDGs). A new consciousness of water scarcity for agriculture in a time of climate change is upon us; it makes the message of Pope Francis’ environmental encyclical LAUDATO SI even more relevant not just for the church, but for human society at large.’

18 May—Refugees and Migrants Working Group (RMWG), 3 pm to 5 pm at the Fratelli.

23 May—ICR at FAO, 3 pm to 5 pm at the Passionists

25 May—Collaboration Working Group (CWG), 3 pm to 5 pm at UISG

26 May—Prayer “Significant Experiences of Peace”, 7 pm to 8 pm at San Marcello.

SAVE THE DATES

16-29 July in Benin—JPIC Formation in French. For more information, contact P. François de Paul Houngue, SMA at conseiller2@smaroma.org and phone 39/3421829110.

15-18 November—JPIC Promoters Formation Workshop with the theme “Nonviolence: a Style of Politics for Peace”. At Casa per Ferie Enrico De Osso, Via Val Cannuta 134 Roma. The four-day workshop provides new JPIC Promoters with the tools needed to animate members of their congregation. Others engaged in JPIC-related ministries are welcome to attend the full workshop or individual sessions. The workshop is in both English and Spanish. For registration and the flyer, please go to <http://www.jpicroma.org/jpic-promoters-workshop>.