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BULLETIN OF THE CARMELITE NGO

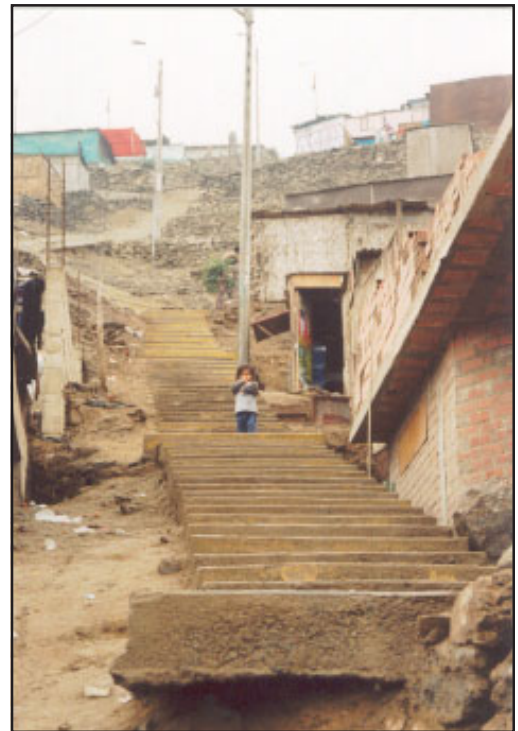
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This we know: The earth does not belong to the human being, the human being belongs to the earth ... Our God is also your God. The earth is precious to him and to harm the earth is to heap contempt on its creator.

*Chief Seattle
Suquamish Indian Tribe
circa 1880*

We are *Karit, Solidarios por la Paz*, the NGO of the Carmelite Family in Spain. We work primarily for the development of the most disadvantaged people through processes of social, economic, political, and cultural change. We fight for the eradication of poverty by assisting with various projects of development in the southern hemisphere where Carmelites live. Through these initiatives and along side the local population, we help in education, medical, agricultural, and improvements to the infrastructure—all of which create new possibilities for the local population.

We understand the environmental damage and poverty as two consequences of the avidity and selfishness of our societies in the north. Prejudice against the person and nature must be seen as both the cause of the problem and its solution. For this reason our actions favor development of the person and protection of nature.



A young child has a formidable climb ahead of her in the José Galvez section of Lima, Perú. Karit assists the people who live there, an area served by the Carmelites.

Karit: Solidarity for Peace

Carmelite Family in Spain Works to Build Kingdom of God

When we share a project for development with the people of the south, understanding this not only as a geographical location but as a personal space, we are helping to protect both the person and the environment. For example, the placement of solar panels to power a water well in Burkina Faso will help with the agricultural production and eventually improve the quality of life for the people of Segueré. But it will also foster the use of non polluting energies in the development of these countries, contrary to the development of the northern hemisphere which was based on fossil fuels. We squandered in one generation what took millions of years to form and we dramatically changed our planet's climate.

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Who and Where Are the Seekers of Truth Today?

The people of the United States of America are in the midst of political debate preceding the election of the leaders of our country. I just read a news release which tracks what the candidates say and what are actually the facts. The article was very long, detailing the misinformation and skewed spin that we are being exposed to by each side.

I read another article opinion that one can chances by admitting his opponent on ently only attack is ently "effective cam-a concern for truth.

I was talking with a about the torture of Guantanamo. His re-what was done there is not really torture, the US doesn't torture. Real torture is what is being done to our soldiers by the enemy. And he ended the discussion in anger.



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young man recently prisoners in sponse was that

I think of those who are so sure that they have the truth and that those who disagree are not only wrong but morally defective.

Increasingly I find people who will listen only to the news media that reinforces their view, not one that challenges it.

I think of Theresa who saw humility as the indispensable foundation of the spiritual life for humility is truth.

I think of Gandhi who based his life and his life's work on his faith in the power of truth. Gandhi, who sought to convert those who disagreed with him rather than humiliate and conquer them.

I think of Bonheoffer who spoke of the devil's truth-truth without love, that is destructive rather than healing. For God is both truth and love. When truth and love are separated, each is defective.

I think of our Carmelite saints: Therese who wanted only truth about Mary. Edith Stein who searched for truth her whole life and who was led to the Catholic faith in part by the truth she read in Theresa's work.

I think of Thomas Aquinas who listed the telling of truth as part of the virtue of justice.

I am encouraged when I find people who hunger for truth. I find that they are also people who hunger for justice.

Barbara Breaud, O. Carm.

CarmeNGO is published four times each year and is distributed to those interested in the mission of the NGO. For more information or to add your name and address to our mailing list, please visit our website carmelitengo.org or write to us by email at jremson@carmelitengo.org or by regular post at 1725 General Taylor Street; New Orleans, LA 70115; USA

Useful Websites in the UN System

UN Environment Programme (UNEP) --
www.unep.org/

UNEP: Call for Action: Paint for the Planet Exhibition --
www.unep.org/paint4planet/

Climate Neutral Network --
www.climateneutral.unep.org/cnn_frontpage.aspx?m=49

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change --
unfccc.int/2860.php

ECOSOC - NGO Section --
un.org/esa/coordination/ngo/

NGO Best Practices Network --
esango.un.org/irene/Index

UN Cyber School Bus --
un.org/Pubs/CyberSchoolBus/

Conference on Financing for Development (Doha, Qatar) --
www.un.org/esa/ffd/doha/

This Is My Body

Human trafficking is the third largest and fastest growing criminal industry in the world today with an annual income exceeding \$9.5 billion. Human trafficking is one of the most urgent human rights issues in the world and no nation is immune. Human trafficking is a multi-dimensional threat: it deprives people of their human rights and freedoms, it is a global health risk and it fuels the growth of organized crime. The impact of human trafficking goes beyond individual victims; it undermines the safety and security of all nations it touches. Rich nations are the destinations while poor nations are the sources.

Victims are forced into prostitution, pornography, labor (in quarries, factories, sweatshops, farms, domestic servitude) and into combat as child soldiers. Those most affected by trafficking are children and women. Of the 600,000 to 800,000 people trafficked across international borders each year, 70% are female and 50% are children. Indonesia is a source, transit and destination for women, children and men trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor. UNICEF reported as many as 70,000 Indonesian children have been sold across the country's borders as sex commodities. It is estimated that 2/3 of women trafficked for prostitution worldwide come from Eastern Europe, 3/4 have never worked as prostitutes before. The major destinations are Western Europe (Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, UK, Greece), the Middle East (Turkey, Israel, the United Arab Emirates), Asia, Russia and the United States.

Just as the poor are the most affected by human trafficking, the poor are also the ones most affected by the illegal trafficking of human body organs. The sale of human organs by the poor is becoming an ever-increasing way for the poor to obtain an income for survival. In the poorer countries the illegal sale of human kidneys is the fastest growing business. For economic reasons parents are selling not only their own organs, but also those of their children.

What can I do? Every Carmelite, either from a source country or a destination country, needs to participate in combating human trafficking and the illegal trafficking of human organs. This can be done by prayer, education and action. Prayer, include these issues in individual prayer and also in community prayer. Educate yourself (*Migration: A Sign of the Times*, October 28, 2005, Benedict XVI, google - "facts about human trafficking") and those you minister to about these issues. Action, speak out against human trafficking and the illegal trafficking of human organs.

The human body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and must be respected as such. The Carmelite NGO has chosen human trafficking and the illegal trafficking of human organs along with climate change as areas of focus for 2009. We invite you to join us in prayer, education and action on these two important issues.

Jane Remson, O. Carm.

Annual NGO/DPI Conference in Paris Carmelite NGO Participates in Celebration of the Declaration of Human Rights



The Carmelite Prior General, Fernando Millán and Counselor General for Europe, John Keating join the Leadership Team of the Carmelite NGO for a photo during the group's annual meeting at the Religieuses de l'Assomption Center in September.



Sr. Blaise Fernando, O. Carm., (left) and Sr. Jane Remson, O. Carm., beside a poster of Eleanor Roosevelt, one of the original signers of the Declaration of Human Rights.



Corpus Christi Carmelite, Sr. Anna Maria Reverand, and Handmaid of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Sr. Annah Theresa Nyadombo, listen during a presentation in the main hall of UNESCO.

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The development taking place in the southern countries will not mimic our own development. The consumption of materials and energy on that scale is unsustainable if implemented worldwide. The south's development will be "green" or it will not happen at all. That is why all of Karit's projects consider the ecological impact. For example, the implantation of *Comedores populares* in Arequipa, Perú, will help feed and sustain the town of Corire's population. It will also help the people understand that the gas used in the kitchen as a fuel is the lesser of two evils when the alternative is wood. Using wood for cooking contributes to the deforestation of the planet. Each and every tree is needed in the fight against climate change and the advancement of the desert. This type of education message is understood and assimilated more effectively when it directly touches the lives of the people.



Women prepare food for distribution at Nuestra Señora del Carmen, a comedor popular or a public dining facility, in Arequipa, Perú.

Karit is engaged with the northern hemisphere as well, There we seek to sensitize and educate about development in the south. Because we are familiar with the southern reality, we work to promote change in the attitude of individuals and society towards the south. We produce educational materials for schools as well as informal educational opportunities such as parish presentations, NGO gatherings, photo or art exhibitions, and musical festivals. In each of these, the concept of development goes hand in hand with care for the environment.

The paradisiacal landscapes on display in the "Photographic Exhibition of Timor" at the Carmelite parish Zaragoza stimulate the generosity of the people to give money for a medical clinic in Timor Leste. But those same pictures also serve to reinforce the value of maintaining virgin, untouched landscapes and promoting good environmental practices. Similarly, in the educational materials we display, we always attempt to stress both the responsibility those living in the north bear for the economic poverty of the south's inhabitants as well as for the worsening situation of our planet. We show how we are consuming more than our share of the energy and natural resources. We also demonstrate how we are also generating more than our share of waste, making us no different than many southern inhabitants. Thus by criticizing our own habits we hope to become the stimulus for changing the consumer mentality of our society.

We are convinced, as believers in a God who is the creator of all, that we are not the owners but that we are responsible for creation. We also believe that the gifts we have received are not an inheritance from our parents but a loan from our children. Our duty is to leave our children a world in which the wealth is both universally and equitably distributed. We must also give them a world with a healthy environment. Both are our responsibilities.

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