



# carme<sup>ngo</sup>

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"The commitment to justice, peace, and the conservation of creation is a genuine fruit of a life in the presence of God, of prayer. Therefore it is important that we, as an NGO, together with the Carmelite family, support the goal of a fairer and more peaceful world."

Michael Plattig, O. Carm.  
*Practical Examples of the Meaning of Carmelite Spirituality for the Church*

## CISA Hosts 2012 Meeting of NGO Coordinating Team

# New Year Brings New Members & Focus on Human Trafficking



The Coordinating Team of the Carmelite NGO met at Centro di Sant' Alberto (CISA) in Rome, Italy, on August 6-8, 2012. Members gave reports in the sectors they are responsible for in the organization. Andrea Ventimiglia, the head of *Domus Carmelitana Siculorum*, an NGO of the Italian Province of the Carmelites in Sicily, was voted onto the Coordinating Team.

During the meeting, the group decided to take trafficking of human beings as its main focus for the coming year. A number of Carmelite ministries and organizations are already involved in this issue.

One of the morning sessions was dedicated to a presentation and discussion with Dr. Alessandra Barberi from the Italian Prime Minister's Office of Equal Opportunity, the government agency responsible for dealing with trafficking. Dr. Barberi reported on the current situation in Italy and outlined measures being taken to stop trafficking in the country.

A lay Carmelite from Sicily, Ventimiglia has invited the Carmelite NGO to participate in activities in Sicily on several occasions. A lawyer by profession, Sig. Ventimiglia and his wife are very involved in the Sicilian non governmental organization, providing the island with a variety of services.

Members attending the recently completed RIO+20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro reported on the various conferences and meetings they were able to attend. Highlights of their report were in carmeNGO 2012/3.

Reports on the geographical areas of Europe, Africa, South America, North America, and Asia were discussed. In addition, the annual budget was discussed, the organization's website and the publications for the coming year were planned. This meeting is usually held in conjunction with the annual meeting of NGOs at the United Nations but due to the recent RIO+20 Summit, no meeting of the NGOs was held this year.



**The Carmelite NGO Coordinating Team** gather outside CISA following their annual meeting: (left to right) Miceál O'Neill, O. Carm., Eduardo Scarel, O. Carm., Adele Colombo Ventimiglia, Helen Ojario, O. Carm., Andrea Ventimiglia, TOC, Jane Remson, O. Carm., Jennifer John Wanjiku, TOC, Joseph Chalmers, O. Carm., Annah Theresa Nyadombo, HOLMC, William J. Harry, O. Carm., Hariawan Adji, O. Carm., Arie Kuil, O. Carm.

## View of Kenya: Small Steps Accomplished; More Needed

The Carmelites established a foundation in Kenya in 2001. The community house is located at Nkoroi, in the outskirts of Nairobi, next to a parish where they serve. Formation for future Carmelites also takes place in this house. Two communities of cloistered Carmelite nuns have been established; the first community in Machakos in 1999 and the second in Juja in 2005. The Donum Dei missionary workers arrived in Kenya in 1994 and have a growing community in Nairobi. They run the St. Therese Women's Training Centre in Karen, Nairobi where women train in catering and housekeeping skills which allows them to have meaningful employment.

The issues affecting women and children in Kenya are common to other developing nations. Marginalization of women and children has been a longstanding challenge. Over the years, there has been remarkable achievements gained in highlighting the plight of women and children and these have influenced policy-making. However, the impact has yet to trickle down to the poor and rural women and children.

Cultural practices play a significant role in the development of opportunities for Kenyan and African women in general. Among the issues are early marriages, female genital mutilation, illiteracy, and sexual and gender based violence, teenage pregnancies, maternal and infant health, HIV/AIDS, and poverty.

The increase in population has put pressure on the country's resources, exacerbating the poor planning and management of resources. Unemployment, low wages, poor infrastructure, high medical and educational costs, and the burden of chronic diseases are adding to the difficult situation. Corruption, deforestation, food insecurity, alcoholism and drug addiction are other factors which keep Kenya from developing.

There are success stories. Today there are women in government, pushing an agenda favourable to women. Women are excelling in the different professional fields: education, medicine, law, and community service among others. At the grass root levels, women have adopted self-help activities to improve their living standards. Women pool funds together and borrow from this common fund at reasonable rates. This has enabled them to educate their children in women-headed households and improve their standards of living.

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](http://carmelitengo.org)) or write to us by email ([jremson@carmelitengo.org](mailto:jremson@carmelitengo.org)) or by regular post at 1725 General Taylor Street; New Orleans, LA 70115; USA)

### Websites Against Human Trafficking:

[humantrafficking.org](http://humantrafficking.org): A Web Resource for Combating Human Trafficking

[www.humantrafficking.org](http://www.humantrafficking.org)

Human Trafficking: UN Office on Drugs and Crime

[www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/what-is-human-trafficking.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/what-is-human-trafficking.html)

US Federal Bureau of Investigation and Human Trafficking

[www.fbi.gov/about-us/investigate/civil-rights/human\\_trafficking](http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/investigate/civil-rights/human_trafficking)

Not For Sale

[www.notforsalecampaign.org](http://www.notforsalecampaign.org)

Polaris Project: Human Trafficking

[www.polarisproject.org/humantrafficking/overview](http://www.polarisproject.org/humantrafficking/overview)

"Buy Responsibly" Campaign

[buyresponsibly.org](http://buyresponsibly.org)

Catholic Social Teaching on Human Trafficking

[humantraffickingandCST.org](http://humantraffickingandCST.org)

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

[unodc.org](http://unodc.org)

*For more detailed information about the content of these Side Events, check the Carmelite NGO website: [carmelitengo.org](http://carmelitengo.org) or [www.unesd2012.org/meetings\\_sideevents.html](http://www.unesd2012.org/meetings_sideevents.html)*



## The Face of Modern Slavery

At its recent meeting the Carmelite NGO made the decision to continue its focus on education, freedom of belief, sustainable development (climate change), and human rights (right to food and right to personal security - human trafficking). However, special emphasis will be placed on human trafficking for 2013.

*"Human trafficking will never be truly defeated without eliminating the consumerism that feed it." - On Human Trafficking, 2007, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops*

### What is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking or trafficking in persons are terms for the act of recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining a person for compelled labor or commercial sex acts through the use of force, fraud, or coercion (remember these three words force, fraud, coercion).

**Sex Trafficking:** When an adult is coerced, forced, or deceived into prostitution or maintained in prostitution that person is a victim of trafficking. Under such circumstances, perpetrators involved in recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining a person for that purpose are responsible for **trafficking crimes**. Sex trafficking also may occur within debt bondage, as women and girls are forced to continue in prostitution through the use of unlawful debt purportedly incurred through their transportation, recruitment, or even their crude sale which exploiters insist they must pay off before they can be free.

When a child (under 18 years of age) is induced to perform a commercial sex act, proving force, fraud, or coercion against their pimp is not necessary for the offense to be characterized as human trafficking. Sex trafficking has devastating consequences for minors, including long-lasting physical and psychological trauma, disease (including HIV/AIDS), drug addiction, unwanted pregnancy, malnutrition, social ostracism, and even death.

**Forced Labor:** Migrants are particularly vulnerable to forced labor. Individuals may be forced into labor in their own countries. Female victims of forced or bonded labor, especially women and girls in domestic servitude, are sexually exploited as well. Some workers inherit debt; for example, in South Asia it is estimated that there are millions of trafficking victims working to pay off their ancestors' debt. Involuntary domestic servitude is a form of human trafficking found in unique circumstances, informal work in a private residence, these circumstances create unique vulnerabilities for victims.

A child is a victim of human trafficking regardless of the location of nonconsensual exploitation. Some indicators of forced labor of a child include situations in which the child is in the custody of a non-family member who requires the child to perform work that financially benefits someone outside the child's family and does not offer the child the option of leaving.

**Child Soldiers:** Child soldiering is the unlawful recruitment or use of children—through force, fraud, or coercion—as combatants, or for labor or sexual exploitation by armed forces. Perpetrators may be government forces, paramilitary organizations, or rebel groups. Many children are forcibly abducted to be used as combatants. Others are made unlawfully to work as porters, cooks, guards, servants, messengers, or spies. Young girls may be forced to marry or have sex with male combatants. Both male and female child soldiers are often sexually abused and are at high risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases.

Human trafficking does not operate in a vacuum – it is a growth industry with millions of consumers. As a Christian people we must take seriously the directive of the U.S. Catholic Bishops in their pastoral "On Human Trafficking" that states; *"Human trafficking is a horrific crime against the basic dignity and rights of the human person. All efforts must be expended to end it. In the end, we must work together – Church, state, and community – to eliminate the root causes and markets that permit traffickers to flourish.*

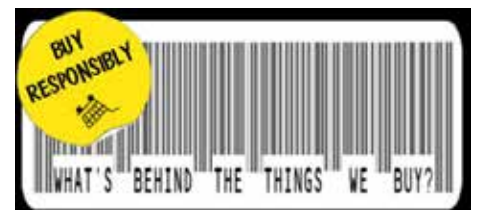
*by Jane Remson, O. Carm. - Main Representative*



### Human Trafficking: Does It Affect Me?

An estimated 2.5 million people are in forced labor (including sexual exploitation) at any given time as a result of trafficking. Of these:

- 1.4 million – 56% - are in Asia and the Pacific
- 250,000 – 10% - are in Latin America and the Caribbean
- 230,000 – 9.2% - are in the Middle East and Northern Africa
- 130,000 – 5.2% - are in sub-Saharan countries
- 270,000 – 10.8% - are in industrialized countries
- 200,000 - 8% are in countries in transition
- 161 countries are reported to be affected by human trafficking by being a source, transit or destination country;
- People are reported to be trafficked from 127 countries to be exploited in 137 countries, affecting every continent and every type of economy.



### Buy Responsibly: Learn What's Behind the Things We Buy?

"Buy Responsibly" is an awareness raising campaign to counter exploitation and forced labor of human beings. An estimated 7.4 million persons worldwide are employed in situations of forced and exploited labor, and approximately 1.1 million of these have been trafficked. The "Buy Responsibly" campaign aims to raise awareness about the link between everyday products and the exploitative conditions under which exploited persons may have produced them. The campaign encourages consumers to ask "What's behind the things we buy?" and thereby identify if the goods or services they purchase every day are the result of trafficked, forced, and/or exploited migrant labor. It draws the attention of management to their supply chain.



**Christmas Dinner 2011 at the Carmine in Catania**, hosted by the Domus Carmelitana Siculorum, for the poor of the city. (Photo courtesy of the Domus Carmelitana Siculorum)

## **Carmelites in Sicily Provide Variety of Services Through Local Carmelite NGO, *Domus Carmelitana Siculorum***

The *Domus Carmelitana Siculorum* is a non-profit Association formed in April 2007, by the Carmelites with the purpose of organizing, promoting, and carrying out charitable activities and charitable initiatives to support the Carmelite Missions in Congo, Romania and Colombia. It was also established to help the social and pastoral activities in Sicily where the Carmelites have ministered since the 13th century. Among the initiatives is the creation of employment opportunities for young people and for unemployed Lay Carmelites.

The commitment already made by the Domus Carmelitana, from 2007 until now, can be summarised as follows:

- ✓ Collaboration with the Sisters of Calcutta in the provision of meals for the poor on a daily basis;
- ✓ Organization and collection of products on a daily basis for the Caritas organizations of the diocese;
- ✓ Organization of events and management of real estate of Carmelites, raising funds for the Carmelite Missions Center and support of the Laity of the Carmelite Family.
- ✓ Organization of parish pantries in Carmelite institutions in Sicily, including distribution once a month of financial assistance to poor households;
- ✓ Collaboration with the Sant'Egidio Community organising the Christmas lunch for the poor and for the operation of the school of peace;
- ✓ Economic assistance, education, and food to poor families with children at an early age, as a concrete expression of the "right to food";
- ✓ Organizational support for initiatives regarding older people, in particular of those hospitalized at the Dominican institution of San Sisto Vecchio;
- ✓ Listening centers, the organization and family counseling center for psychological assistance for children of separated parents and mothers and brides abandoned or subjected to violence;
- ✓ Collaboration with the "Mercy" confraternities to ensure access to the Chiesa del Carmine in Catania on a daily basis with continued assistance for emergency assistance to the population of the parish;
- ✓ Organizing periodic training and cultural meetings to address issues related to environmental protection and civil rights to protect against all forms of abuse and exploitation, in particular of women and children.

At the annual meeting of the Coordinating Team of the Carmelite NGO, the director of the *Domus Carmelitana Siculorum*, Andrea Ventimiglia, was elected as a member. He will work with Arie Juil of the Dutch Carmelite Province in initiatives involving Europe.

The *Associazione Onlus Domus Carmelitana Siculorum*, whose chaplain is the prior provincial of the Italian province of the Carmelites, is a concrete expression of the missionary aspect of the charism of the Order of Carmelites, taking as its inspiration, in particular, the works and the teachings of the life of the Carmelite Blessed Angelo Paoli, a Carmelite.

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