



# NEWSBRIEF

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

OCTOBER 2015 Vol. 10/No. 8

## LAUDATO SI'

ON THE CARE OF  
OUR COMMON HOME



**EDITORIAL:** *When Jesus was standing with his disciples before His ascent into heaven, He gave them the mission to go out to the whole world. The disciples actually did preach the Gospel to the whole world as they knew it. Our founders have sent members of our congregations to all parts of the world. Pope Francis has defined our world as the globe. His vision has changed everything for us. Our efforts here at the JPIC Commission Secretariat are intended to support you in the implementation of this mission of Pope Francis for us.*

*This year, we are reflecting on the **Encyclical Letter LAUDATO SI' on Care for Our Common Home**, using all the tools available to us, which include Newsbrief, prayers, activities, meetings and working groups. In this issue, we focus on some of the challenges of an integrated ecology. "Today, however, we have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and cry of the poor." (49)*

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

## LAUDATO SI IN THE INTERNATIONAL SETTING

Pope Francis wrote *Laudato Si* in preparation for three major global events in which he intended to influence the dialogue, calling for all of us to care for our common home. In July 2015, the Conference on Financing for Development was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Here a global framework for financial support was indicated for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). It was important for planning purposes to know the monetary basis for implementation.

In September 2015, the [UN Conference on Sustainable Development](#) was held in New York City with Pope Francis addressing the body prior to the start of deliberations. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are intended to build on and improve upon the experience of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The hope is to integrate environment and social and economic development as a global framework. [Click here for a list of the goals.](#)

The third meeting to be held in Paris, November 30 to December 11, is the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change or "Paris 2015". It is essential to address the critical aspects of climate change in order to truly realize the SDGs. It is hoped that this meeting will result in the first universal, legally binding agreement that will enable countries to combat climate change effectively and boost the transition towards resilient, low-carbon societies and economies. To do this effectively, it is essential to keep the global temperature from rising more than 1.5 or 2.0 degrees Celsius.

Members of congregations to which JPIC Promoters belong will be present at the COP 21 high level meetings and the peoples coalitions parallel events. Our presence will help us in exploring ways to understand the needs of the poor as discussed in the coalitions and learning about international policies and decisions at the meetings. For more information Google search "UN COP 21" and "Coalitions COP 21". A number of resources continue to be developed for this important event. Updates will be posted on a blog page at the JPIC website [www.jpicroma.org](http://www.jpicroma.org).

A PowerPoint presentation on "[Laudato Si and Current UN and International Initiatives](#)" is available for your usage at the JPIC ROMA website. It includes three questions for reflection/discussion. Other *Laudato Si* resources in English and Spanish may be found at <http://www.jpicroma.org/#!laudato-si/ccaz>.



"I urgently appeal... for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet."

#LaudatoSi

## GLOBAL CATHOLIC CHURCH CALLS ON COP 21 FOR MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH IN CLIMATE CHANGE AGREEMENT



Cardinals representing the national conferences and continental groupings of the Catholic Church from the five continents held a press conference in Rome to sign an appeal to COP 21.

On October 22, the presidents of all the continental Associations of Bishops' Conferences issued a compelling appeal to the negotiating parties and heads of state working towards a new international climate agreement to be agreed on this December at COP 21 in Paris. The appeal underpins the importance of the *Laudato Si'* by Pope Francis. The signatories "join the Holy Father in pleading for a major breakthrough in Paris, for a comprehensive and transformational agreement supported by all."

The appeal is a powerful call to work towards the approval of a fair, legally binding and truly transformational climate agreement that must put the common good ahead of national interests and should protect our common home and all its inhabitants. The agreement, according to the signatories, should limit global temperature increases to avoid catastrophic climatic impacts, especially on the most vulnerable communities. Based on scientific evidence, faith leaders recognize that excessive reliance on fossil fuel is primarily responsible for accelerated climate change, and they call not only for "drastic reduction in the emission of carbon dioxide and other toxic gasses," but also for ending the fossil fuel era.

Putting forward a ten-point proposal, the appeal draws on the concrete experience of people across continents,



Sheila Kinsey, FCM and Fabio Lamour, OFM at the press conference of bishops on COP 21.

and links climate change to social injustice and the social exclusion of the poorest and most vulnerable of our citizens. As Pope Francis states in *Laudato Si'*, the climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all, and its degradation challenges us to re-define our notions of growth and progress, rethinking our lifestyles. The Church is also witness to how climate change is affecting vulnerable communities and people, and signatories therefore "call for social justice to be placed centre stage".—From *CIDSE*

### RESPECTING THE SPIRITUALITY OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis mentions the importance of recognizing and respecting indigenous peoples—"greater sense of responsibility, a strong sense of community, a readiness to protect others, a spirit of creativity and a deep love for the land. Indigenous peoples are also concerned about what they will eventually leave to their children and grandchildren." (LS 179) The JPIC Commission Secretariat has become increasingly concerned about the indigenous population, particularly in relation to the extractive industries. The grounds of indigenous peoples have often been the place where rich resources are located. Resettlement decisions are generally made without their informed prior consent and without due regard for the impact on their lives. Pope Francis also reminds us of the importance of cultural traditions—"For them, land is not a commodity but rather a gift from God and from their ancestors who rest there, a sacred space with which they need to interact if they are to maintain their identity and values." (LS 146)

On November 24, from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm, a panel will share with us their insights and real life experience regarding this growing social problem. Dialogue with Fr. Bartolomé Gomez, who has spent years studying the indigenous peoples of Mexico and Sr. Ma. Famita Somogod, MSM, sub-regional coordinator of the Rural Missionaries of the Philippines–Northern Mindanao Region (RMP-NMR), who works with the Lumad indigenous people in Mindanao, Philippines. We invite you to join us at the Audio-visual Room of the Generalate of the Brothers of the Christian Schools on Via Aurelia. For more information, please contact [jpicusguisg@lasalle.org](mailto:jpicusguisg@lasalle.org). Translations will be in English and Spanish. Video conference will also be available, so if anyone would like to connect in that way, please let the office know.

Following are some resources on understanding the spirituality of indigenous peoples:

- [Ritual and Activism by Lenore Norrgard](#)
- [Shamanic Activism: an interview with Lenore Norrgard by Jonathan Horwitz](#)



## POLITICS AND THE ECONOMY IN DIALOGUE FOR HUMAN FULFILLMENT

In recent months, the JPIC Commission Secretariat has been working with embassies to the Holy See. We have provided the Embassy of the United States to the Holy See with information in connection with the Pope's visit to Africa and briefed a new staff member regarding our JPIC efforts. We also participated in a meeting for ambassadors hosted by the Pontifical Council of Justice and Peace (PCJP) concerning "The Responsibility to Protect: Moral and Legal Perspectives." This experience has relevance for future planning on peace and nonviolence. The talks at the meeting will be available on the PCJP website.

In October, the Ambassador of the United Kingdom (UK) to the Holy See, Nigel Marcus Baker, met with our team, upon the suggestion of the UISG, to look into possible partnerships in addressing the problem of sexual violence in conflict. A piece from the UK Embassy introducing the project and an invitation to religious communities follows.

### MOBILIZING FAITH COMMUNITIES IN ENDING SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT



British Ambassador to the Holy See Nigel Marcus Baker and Simona Prete met with executive co-secretaries of the JPIC Commission Secretariat, Sheila Kinsey, FCJM and Felix Mushobozi, CPPS to introduce the project.

Since 2012, the United Kingdom (UK) has taken the lead in a global initiative to address sexual violence in conflict. Around the world where rape and sexual violence are used for political ends, including as a means of ethnic cleansing and terrorising local populations, it destroys lives, fuels conflict, creates refugee flows, jeopardises ceasefires and undermines the long-term prospects for reconciliation.

At last year's Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, which was hosted in London, experts from government, civil societies and international organizations came together to discuss and agree on practical and political action to prevent these crimes and support survivors. Faith leaders and communities have a key role in this work. His Holiness Pope Francis [tweeted in support](#) of the Summit and early in 2015, Cardinal Nichols [delivered a keynote speech](#) at an interfaith meeting which examined ways in which faith leaders

can work with communities that have been affected by these horrific crimes.

The British Embassy to the Holy See and the Union of Superiors General (USG) and the International Union of Superiors General (UISG) are in the process of partnering to continue this work and make a practical difference towards ending sexual violence in conflict, which involves responding to a complex set of issues. One of the outcomes of the Global Summit was the launch of the first [International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict](#) (available in English, Arabic, French, and Spanish). The Protocol brings together international expertise and good practice guidelines from medical, justice, security, human rights and humanitarian fields, as well as educating survivors on how to document these crimes effectively. It is a practical tool designed to support the work of those who minister survivors directly. Ultimately we hope that the International Protocol will build a stronger evidence base which will help survivors access justice and end the culture of impunity which surrounds these crimes.

In many conflicts, men and women religious are the people who provide essential support to survivors. They are often the only networks which remain in conflict ravaged countries and they have a key role, usually behind the scenes, in raising awareness within communities, evidence gathering, caring for victims, and providing education in dealing with the stigma faced by victims.

We are looking to support your work in some of these conflict affected areas. Please let us know what you need in your role as first responders, your work with community leaders, your role with your Congregation or around specific projects. We invite you to join the conversation and send your thoughts and ideas to: [jplicosec@lasalle.org](mailto:jplicosec@lasalle.org) or [HolySee.Press@fco.gov.uk](mailto:HolySee.Press@fco.gov.uk). Together we can make the difference.—Contributed by Simona Prete, Head of Communications, Office of the UK Ambassador to the Holy See

*Note: More Information will be forthcoming in the months ahead as we plan for ways to collaborate with the British Embassy in this important work.—JPIC Secretariat*

### NEW RESOURCE

[Making Human Rights Work for People Living in Extreme Poverty \(handbook and video\)](#). FI and ATD Fourth World recently launched this publication, which is possibly the first time that a set of UN principles has been translated into concrete suggestions for everyday people to take action.

[Making Human Rights Work for People Living in Extreme Poverty: A Handbook for Implementing the UN Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights](#) is the result of a two-year participatory process involving dozens of organizations and individuals worldwide, which include several of our JPIC Promoters.

## JPIC EVENTS IN NOVEMBER

- **English JPIC Core Group Meeting:** November 2 at Fratelli delle Scule Cristiane, Via Aurelia 476, 3-5 pm.
- **Anti-Trafficking Working Group Meeting:** November 4 at Fratelli delle Scule Cristiane Via Aurelia 476, 3-5 pm.
- **Spanish–Portuguese JPIC Promoters Meeting:** November 4 at UISG, Piazza Ponte S. Angelo, 28, 9-12 am
- **Day for Care of Creation organized by the Vicariato di Roma:** November 8. The March for Earth will start at 9 am from the Colosseum to get to Piazza Santi Apostoli at 10 am for mass and then to St. Peter for Angelus with Pope Francis.
- **“Medio Oriente: Emergenza Umanitaria attuale e prospettive future”:** 10 Novembre al Teatro Alibert, Via Alibert 5/A, ore 18:00; sponsored by De La Salle Slidarieta’ Internazionale ONLUS.
- **Africa Working group Meeting:** November 11 at the Missionaries of Africa Via Aurelia 269 at 4 pm
- **Pact of the Catacombs Seminar:** November 14 at Urbaniana University, 9 am-5 pm
- **JPIC Promoters Formation Workshop:** November 18-21 at Compagnia di Sta. Teresa, Via Val Cannuta 134.
- **English Promoters Meeting:** November 21 at Compagnia di Sta. Teresa, Via Val Cannuta 134, 9 am-12 noon
- **Dialogue with Bartholome’ Gomez and the Rural Missionaries from Mindanao Philippines:** November 24 at Fratelli delle Scule Cristiane Via Aurelia 476, 3-5pm.
- **Collaboration Working Group Meeting:** November 25 at Compagnia di Sta. Teresa, Via Val Cannuta 134, 3-5pm.
- **JPIC Prayer for Migrants:** November 27 at Chiesa San Marcelo al Corso, Via del Corso at 7-8 pm.

---

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](mailto:jpicusguisg@lasalle.org).

*Compiled and produced by the JPIC Commission Secretariat*

Executive Co-Secretaries: Felix Mushobozi, CPPS and Sheila Kinsey, FCJM  
Communications: Celine A. Quinio

Via Aurelia 476, CP 9099 Aurelio, 00165 Roma, Italy  
Tel: (39)06.6622929

Mobile: (39)3314348103/(39)3400611596

Email: [jpicusguisg@lasalle.org](mailto:jpicusguisg@lasalle.org)/[jplic.cosec@lasalle.org](mailto:jplic.cosec@lasalle.org)

Website: <http://www.jpicroma.org>



# 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, Accommodation 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](mailto: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