



# FDNSC united together for JPIC

FDNSC Generalate, Rome

JPIC Bulletin, No. 2, April 2015

**Dear Sisters,**

Time is flying and before Sr. Marife and Sr. Elly depart for their visitation of Indonesia, we would like to share with you some JPIC activities that were undertaken in our Congregation to **“Wake up the world”**, hoping that this will inspire you to continue with your good work to make the love of Jesus everywhere known, especially among the poor and marginalized.

In this bulletin, you will find: (a) a report of a meeting of the English Speaking JPIC group in which Sr. Laurentia and Sr. Elly participated and in which they met Jerry White, the winner of the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1997; (b) dates of special events on the World JPIC Calendar; (c) “Did you know...”; and (d) a prayer.

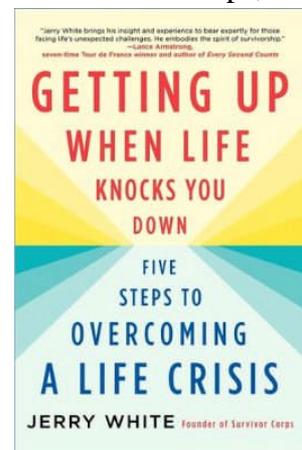
We hope that you will enjoy reading this letter.

## **Meeting Jerry White: an inspiring experience!**



Jerry White is American, and currently serving as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the new Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations. When he was twenty, White lost his leg to a landmine explosion while hiking in northern Israel. Seeking to build something positive from that experience, he has dedicated his life to non-proliferation and building resilience in individuals and communities affected by violent conflict. His co-founding of the Landmine Survivors Network, and later Survivor Corps, led him to pioneer techniques in victim-assistance strategies, providing tens of thousands of amputees with home visits, job training, artificial limbs, small business grants and peer mentors. Jerry wrote about his experience of transforming victims into survivors and leaders in “Getting Up When Life Knocks You Down: Five Steps to Overcoming a Life Crisis” (St. Martin’s Press). Jerry shared in the 1997 Nobel Prize for Peace awarded to the International Campaign to Ban Landmines.

In the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations, Jerry White is looking for trans-national actions. That it is necessary to work together can be shown by the example of the landmines: Landmines have already killed many people. Awareness of the problem has been growing. If there would not have been a common call for action, there would not have been a campaign against landmines. With a campaign, significant changes can be made, as was shown by the Mine Ban Treaty. Coalition building is a new form of diplomacy



nowadays. For decades there has been a separation between religion and state. Only recently are diplomats and states working together with religious organizations and groups. But 85% of the people in the world call themselves meaning-seeking-creatures, believers. They have an increasing influence via faith-based organisations. That is why the U.S. has reviewed its policy and works together with religious organisations.

Moreover, peace building is a strong suit of religious, although some say that religion is causing the violence. That is why religious have to come together to confirm peace! That is a challenge for us today. How do we invite each other to move for peace building and to use religion for that?

The enormity of the issue can make us feel very small!! Violence in the world has gone down, but violence in the name of God has gone up! We have to think big: systems have to be changed. But we also have to think small: what can we do in our own neighbourhood?



Jerry White invited the participants - and we invite you as a reader - to think about one person whom they admired as a good leader and to mention the three qualities which they admired most in that person. People like Nelson Mandela and Pope Francis were mentioned with qualities such as closeness to people, simplicity, a heart for the poor, attentiveness, courage to fight for

human rights and audacity. Then Jerry asked whether the participants themselves had those qualities. The qualities mentioned are bigger than we are, but they are in us!!! We must stand for who we are!! When we ourselves do not know who we are, when we are not in line with our own wisdom, we cannot lead. We talk about the need for Mandelas but there is **no time for wishing and waiting**. The problems are there now! What are we going to do?? And at the end of this report we could ask ourselves: What did we do since the first JPIC Bulletin?

## Events on the World JPIC Calendar

In the Generalate, we prayed during our Evening Prayer for the events mentioned in the last bulletin. In the coming months, we can pray for the following events. On the Internet you often can find short prayers in different languages.

**May 3 World Press Freedom Day:** This day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in December 1993, following the recommendation of UNESCO's General Conference. It is an opportunity to: celebrate the fundamental principles of press freedom; assess the state of press freedom throughout the world; defend the media from attacks on their independence; pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the line of duty.



**May 21 World Day of Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development:** This day provides us with an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the values of cultural diversity and to learn to live together better. On the Facebook site: "Do One Thing for Diversity and Inclusion", we are all encouraged to take concrete action to support diversity.

**May 23 International Day for Biological Diversity:** This is a theme that concerns all of us, personally and includes all lifeforms: the water we drink, the food we eat, the plants that we grow, the living things that surround us. The International Day of Biological Diversity draws on the importance of protecting the extraordinary wealth of all living species on Earth. The Day was declared in 2000 by the General Assembly of the United Nations to celebrate the adoption of the Convention on Biological Diversity signed in Nairobi, Kenya, in 1992, with the aim of protecting the biological diversity of the planet. This year's theme reflects the importance of efforts made at all levels to establish a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**June 4 International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression:** The purpose of the day is to acknowledge the pain suffered by children throughout the world who are the victims of physical, mental and emotional abuse. This day affirms the UN's commitment to protect the rights of children.

**June 5 World Environmental Day:**



World Environment Day is the UN's principal vehicle for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the environment. It also serves as the 'people's day' for doing something positive for the environment, galvanizing individual actions into a collective power that generates an exponential positive impact on the planet. The 2014 theme for World Environment Day was 'Small Islands and Climate Change' and the slogan was "Raise Your Voice, Not the Sea Level".

Our last General Chapter also spoke about the subject of Climate Change and the endangered situation of Kiribati. It recommended that the Congregational Leader and her Council raise awareness across the Congregation, both in relation to our responsibility to care for the Earth and to the particular situation of Kiribati. That is why we ask you to pay special attention to this day. While on visitation in Indonesia, Sr. Elly will give a conference to the sisters about Climate Change. If you want to learn more about the situation of Kiribati, you can watch on YouTube:



*Kiribati, a climate change reality* ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=cIG7vt1ZPKE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cIG7vt1ZPKE))

**June 12 World Day against Child Labour:** The International Labour Organization (ILO) launched this Day in 2002 to focus attention on the global extent of child labour and the action and efforts needed to eliminate it. Around the world, large numbers of children are engaged in paid or unpaid domestic work in the home of a third party or employer. These children can be particularly vulnerable to exploitation. Their work is often hidden from the public eye, they may be isolated, and they may be working far away from their family home. Stories of the abuse of children in domestic work are all too common.

**June 20 World Refugee Day:** The refugee challenge in the 21st century is changing rapidly. People are forced to flee their homes for increasingly complicated and interlinked reasons. Some 40 million people worldwide are already uprooted by violence and persecution, and it is likely that the future will see more people on the run as a growing number of push factors compound one another to create conditions for further forced displacement. Today people do not just flee persecution and war but also injustice, exclusion, environmental pressures, competition for scarce resources and all the miserable human consequences of dysfunctional

states. The task facing the international community in this new environment is to find ways to unlock the potential of refugees who have so much to offer if they are given the opportunity to regain control over their lives.

**July 30 World Day against Trafficking in Persons:** Human trafficking affects every country in the world. At least 2.5 million people are trapped in modern-day slavery, according to the UN. All around the world, men, women and children are kidnapped, tricked, blackmailed or manipulated into slavery, like prostitution, forced labour or organ removal. One in four victims are children. More than half of these children are from Africa and the Middle East, and more than one-third are from Asia and the Pacific. The UN launched the Day against Trafficking in Persons for the first time on July 30 2014, to end human trafficking and raise awareness worldwide.

**August 23 World Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition:** The International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition intends to remind people of the tragedy of the trans-atlantic slave trade. It gives people a chance to think about the historic causes and the consequences of slave trade. The day also pays tribute to those who worked hard to abolish slave trade and slavery throughout the world. This commitment and the actions used to fight against the system of slavery had an impact on the human rights movement.

### *JPIC Coordinators :*

*Africa: Sr. Marie-Laure Lankoande*

*Australia: Sr. Philippa Murphy*

*Belgium: Sr. Josepha Bertels  
and Rita Cleuren (Lay MSC)*

*Brazil: Sr. Iede das Graças Simão de Lima*

*France: Sr. Reine Chabin*

*Indonesia: Sr. Regina Tawurutubun*

*Ireland: Sr. Catherine Mulcahy*

*Kiribati: Sr. Maata Berenato*

*Netherlands: Sr. Mary Ringnalda*

*Papua New Guinea: Sr. Relida Gumur*

*The Philippines: Sr. Betty Baroro  
and Sr. Leda Empleo*

### **Did you know ...?!**

We have a JPIC Coordinator in every Province now! Here are their names.

And some of you also shared what they have done in the last months.

#### **Australia:**

Some sisters have attended meetings and run programs in their schools on Climate Change to raise awareness for Kiribati and also to raise funds to support the Kiribati Choose Life Program, a program that aims to empower women by providing education.



### **The Netherlands:**

The MSC and FDNSC together have one JPIC working group. About four times a year, they write a Bulletin to inform the members of their Province about important JPIC issues.

**Belgium** also has a JPIC group in which MSC, FDNSC and Lay MSC are working together.



At **the Generalate**, we signed the petition from “Our Voices” in which we declared that we love the Earth and urge the world leaders to take the necessary decisions at the Climate Change Conference in December 2015 in Paris (see Bulletin number 1). Did you also sign? It is not yet too late!!!

We would be happy to receive any photos of your JPIC activities, with a short explanation, that you want to share with us!!

We finish this letter with **a prayer of Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu** that was published on the website of “Our voices”.

Creator God,

You have called us to be keepers of your Earth;

Through greed, we have established an economy that destroys the web of life.

We have changed our climate and drown in despair.

Let oceans of justice flow.

May we learn to sustain and renew the life of our Mother, Earth.

We pray for our leaders, custodians of Mother Earth,  
as they gather in Paris at the climate talks.

May they negotiate with wisdom and fairness,  
may they act with compassion and courage,

and lead us in the path of justice for the sake of our children and our children’s children.