



FDNSC united together for JPIC

FDNSC Generalate, Rome
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Dear Sisters and Friends,

In our international Congregation we can have very different opinions about ‘family’. Who belongs to your family and who doesn’t? Who is your brother, your sister, who is an outsider, a stranger? I read on the Internet the following story: “Yitzak asked: “God, is it okay to love strangers?” And God answered him: “Yitzak, what is that, strangers? You make strangers! I don’t make strangers!” When will we be able to treat every human being as our brother or sister, so that God’s Kingdom can come? Still a lot of work has to be done. Hopefully, this bulletin can inspire you to continue your work!

Firstly, as a follow up of the previous Bulletin, you will find a report of the two last sessions about migration and the challenges for the Christian Community. This is followed by the events on the JPIC Calender. In “Did you know...” you can read about initiatives taken by members of our Chevalier Family throughout the world. And we conclude with “A Prayer for Refugees”.

Migration and the Challenges for the Christian Community (part 2)



The **third Session** of this course on migration was given on March 9 by Prof. Gioacchino Campese who teaches at the Scalabrini International Migration Institute (SIMI). He is also Director of Casa Scalabrini 634, a centre for the promotion of the culture of hospitality and integration in Rome. The theme for this session was “**The Church Teaching on Migration and Refugees**”. He began his presentation with a

video, “The Sea Cemetery in Memory of Syrian Refugees” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IrYUYVMVy4s>), in which a memorial and symbolic floating sea cemetery was created on the shores of Turkey by relatives of Syrian refugees who died trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea to Europe. Steve Bannon, the chief strategist of Trump’s political campaign, (an ideologist of a global populist movement and a Catholic) in different interviews has stated that migration is not an issue of doctrine, but of public policy and that when Pope Francis and the Bishops speak about this issue; their statements are not more than an opinion. Pope Francis acknowledges the fact that migration is a divisive issue that causes negative reactions both within de society and in the Church: “Dear friends, I cannot fail to express my concern about manifestations of intolerance, discrimination and xenophobia that appear in various parts of Europe. Often this reaction is motivated by mistrust and fear of the other, the foreigner, those who are different. I am even more

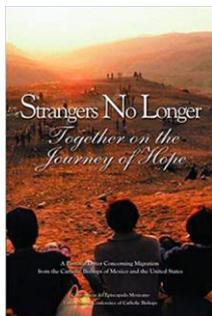


worried about the disturbing fact that our Catholic Communities in Europe are not exempt from these defensive and negative reactions. The Church has spread to all continents thanks to the migration of missionaries, convinced of the universality of the saving message of Jesus Christ, meant for men and women of every culture. Throughout the history of the Church there have been temptations to exclusivity and cultural rigidity, but the Holy Spirit has always helped to overcome them by ensuring constant openness to others, viewed as a positive opportunity for growth and enrichment.” (address to the national directors of the pastoral care for migrants of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of Europe, Sept. 22, 2017).

Pope Francis in the 2018 Apostolic exhortation “*Gaudete et Exsultate* (102)” affirms: “We often hear it said that, with respect to relativism and the flaws of our present world, the situation of migrants is a lesser issue. Some Catholics consider it as a secondary issue compared to the “grave” bioethical questions. That a politician, looking for votes, might say such a thing is understandable, but not a Christian for whom the only proper attitude is to stand in the shoes of those brothers and sisters of ours who risk their lives to offer a future to their children. Can we not realize that this is exactly what Jesus demands of us, when he tells us that in welcoming the stranger, we welcome Him (cf. Mt. 25: 35)?”



Pope Francis is saying: This is not a secondary issue. We have to observe what the Gospel says: “I was a stranger and you welcomed me!” The rich collection of the teachings of the Church is very clear: welcoming people in need is a Gospel value and it needs to be treated as part of our Christian faith. Prof Campese provided a list of documents from Pope Leo XIII’s *Quam aerumnosa*, 1888, to the last document issued by the Migrants and Refugees Section of the Dicastery for Promotion of Integral Human Development, 2019.



In "Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope", a pastoral letter written by the Conferences of Catholic Bishops of the United States and Mexico, five principles are listed: 1) persons have the right to find opportunities in their homeland; 2) persons have the right to migrate to support themselves and their families; 3) sovereign nations have the right to control their borders; 4) refugees and asylum seekers should be afforded protection; 5) the human dignity and human rights of undocumented migrants should be respected. These principals were used for discussions among the participants.

There has been a development in the Church documents from a rather Eurocentric to a global vision; from a clerical/hierarchical to a more inclusive/missionary pastoral care in which the migrants and refugees themselves are protagonist; from migrants in general to a greater understanding of the complexity of this phenomenon; from Christian migration to global migration as an opportunity for ecumenical and interreligious dialogue; from a rather negative vision of migration as a sign of the times to the image of the pilgrim church and the journey of humanity.

The **fourth and last session on April 6**, under the title of “**Thinking about the future, acting now: pathways of welcome and integration**” featured the inspiring testimonies of people working in projects for migrants. **Sr. Maria Garzol, RSCJ**, spoke of the challenges and benefits of living with Sisters from different communities in Sicily, where together they try to build a bridge between the migrants and the



population of Sicily. From the intercongregational community she learned patience, tolerance and respect, which are very helpful qualities in working with the migrants and refugees. One migrant said to her: “You don’t know how I feel, because I cannot write or read!” The Sister responded: “Well then, let us start!” Within three months’ time the migrant learned to read and to write. That made him very proud and the sister was happy that she had been able to help. She listens to many stories about many painful challenges and hopes for a better future. Working with people of different backgrounds and countries, made her realize the richness of God’s people. “I cannot solve the big problems of poverty and violence, but I can be present, spend time with them and let God work through us”, she said.



Sr. Carmen Bando, SSpS is the coordinator of a new refugee project in Greece. In a hospitality centre they try to give migrants back their dignity. According to the sister her work is quite simple. “We don’t have solutions,” she said, “but we come in contact with many people and organisations. It is necessary to dream together, but also to weave a network together. This has to be done with great hope, but at the same time we have to accept our own limits and those of others. In working with volunteers, she stresses the importance of providing them necessary training.

Emmanuele Selleri, a lay Scalabrinian and Executive Director of Casa Scalabrini 634, spoke of his experiences in Venezuela, Columbia and Bolivia. Faced with so much poverty and suffering, he wanted to be a missionary. A man, who lost his leg when a landmine exploded, gave him his first lesson: “You don’t have to understand everything. If you want to find God, He is there, in the people. You will find Him in the suffering. Start working!” Now, back home in Italy, he is working with migrants in Casa Scalabrini. “I like to talk about “people” instead of “migrants”. Patience is very important. I often just stay with my friends, without understanding much. Just to be there. God’s time is different,” he said.



You can still watch these two sessions on:

www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmeyxubEg3MlcQ2aV3TCD4iyalfC7GvnZ

or on our Facebook for JPIC:

www.facebook.com/FDNSCJusticeandPeace/



Events on the JPIC Calendar

September 5, International Day of Charity: To recognise the significant role that charities and individuals play to alleviate human **suffering and humanitarian crises**, the **UN General Assembly** has established this day. The date was chosen because it is the death anniversary of Mother Teresa, and the resolution is, in part, a tribute to her work and dedication to charitable causes.



Prayer: Thank You Lord for the many graces and blessings you have placed in our lives. Help us to be aware of the needs of the least of our sisters and brothers, and to respond generously to those who are poor and less fortunate than we are.

September 15, International Day of Democracy: "Democracy is showing greater strain than at any time in decades. That is why this International Day should make us look for ways to invigorate democracy and seek answers for the systemic challenges it faces." — UN Secretary-General, António Guterres



International Day of Democracy

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we give thanks for democracy. Help elected governments and all in positions of power and authority to govern wisely and for the common good of all. Amen.

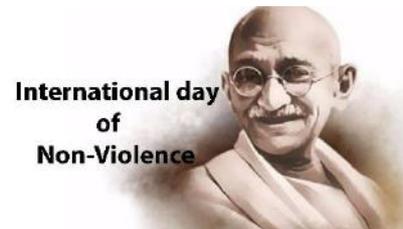


September 21, World Gratitude Day: This celebration started in 1965 in Hawaii when an international gathering decided that it would be a good idea to have one day per year to formally express gratitude and appreciation for the many wonderful things to be found in the world. Ever since then, the number of people celebrating Gratitude Day across the world has grown.

Prayer: Heavenly Father: We thank You for food and remember the hungry. We thank You for health and remember the sick. We thank You for friends and remember the friendless. We thank You for freedom and remember the enslaved. May these remembrances stir us to service, that Your gifts to us may be used for others. Amen.

October 2, International Day of Non-Violence: The world has seen its share of bloody wars that ended countless lives and filled many more with grief.

Fortunately, however, there are people in this world who have gone about making the changes they thought necessary without violence or pure brute force. No matter where you live, a day celebrating nonviolent ways of making a statement and bringing about change is important.



Prayer: We pray that we might become people of Gospel nonviolence, who allow God to disarm our hearts from the violence within us, that we might be nonviolent to ourselves and to every person we meet.

October 17, International Day of Eradication of Poverty: This day has been observed every year since 1993, when the United Nations General Assembly designated this day to promote awareness of the need to eradicate poverty and destitution in all countries. Fighting poverty remains at the core of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).



Prayer: Incarnate God, you taught us to speak out for what is right. Make us content with nothing less than a world that is transformed into the shape of love, where poverty shall be no more.

November 16, International Day for Tolerance: "Tolerance is an act of humanity, which we must nurture and enact each in our own lives every day, rejoice in the diversity that makes us strong and the values that bring us together." — UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay



International Day for Tolerance

Prayer: Dear Lord, we who sometimes are divided, unloving, and prejudiced ask that you make us united, loving, and open to learning. Amen.

November 20, Universal Children's Day: This day, which was established in 1954 by the United Nations (UN), is celebrated each year to promote international togetherness and awareness among children worldwide. UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund, promotes and coordinates this special day, which also works towards improving children's welfare.



Prayer: Creator God, children allow us to see Your greatness and make us reflect on the need to be thankful for the gift of life. Help us to be a blessing for our children by showing them Your never ending love.

December 5, World Soil Day: Soil is without doubt one of the most significant parts of the ecosystem, contributing to our food, water and energy and playing an important part in reducing the impact of climate change. For all of these reasons World Soil Day was established.



Prayer: Creator God, sometimes we forget that the earth we walk on is one of the sources of life You have given to us. From it, plants, trees, and all living creatures are nourished. Help us to care for our earth and harvest its resources in moderation.

December 18, International Migrants Day: To mark this year's International Migrants Day, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is calling on the international community to come together and remember the refugees and migrants who have lost their lives or have disappeared while trying to reach safe harbour after arduous journeys across seas and deserts.



Prayer: We pray for all whose desperation leads them to the sea, to undertake perilous voyages, often following dangerous journeys over land. May we look beyond our own fears to the needs of those who have nothing, risk everything and depend on the kindness of strangers. May our hearts be opened, our leaders be challenged and our self-interest be

called out, in Jesus' name. Amen.

December 20, International Human Solidarity Day: This event aims to raise people's awareness of the importance of global understanding of the value of human solidarity. The UN General Assembly felt that the promotion of a culture of solidarity and the spirit of sharing was important in combating poverty.



Prayer: Almighty and ever-living God, empower your one human family to join hands on our journey of faith. Send us your spirit of hope, so that we may work together to alleviate human suffering and foster charity and justice in our world. Amen.

Did you know.....?

Father Humberto MSC asked Michael, who is a scholastic in Philippines, to make a design for our monthly action on the First Friday. This is the result:



Thank you to both. The result was great! Our message reached more than 4.070 people and 440 were involved.

Father Norbert Becker msc has sent us a better registration of his song “Good God”. This song can be used as a prayer for Justice and Peace. It can be sung in four voices. You can find the MP3 and the sheet music on our website:

<http://www.olshgen.com/justice-and-peace/>

As Chevalier Family we continue to pray and to **act together**.

In order to help to combat climate change, we would like to ask you in the coming months to pay special attention to a particular behaviour.

For the month of **September along your route:**

- Make sure your tires are properly inflated. You can improve your gas mileage by 0.6% on average by keeping your tires inflated to the proper pressure. Better gas mileage means fewer trips to the pump and a reduction in carbon-dioxide emissions.
- Check your gas cap. A loose, cracked or damaged gas cap wreaks havoc on the environment, allowing gas to escape from your tank as vapour. Turn the gas cap until it clicks a few times and consider a replacement when necessary.

For the month of **October in your neighbourhood:**

- Combine errands when driving is necessary. Taking multiple short trips starting from a cold engine can use twice as much fuel as a longer trip with a warm engine.
- Pick up trash and help keep debris from harming animals and ending up in our streams and waterways.



For the month of **November in your city:**



- Use public transport instead of your car and vote for transportation improvements.
- Plant a tree. Shade, serenity, sustainability – trees add so much to the urban landscape and ask so little.

For the month of **December with your community:**

- Watch Walt Disney’s cartoon “Wall-E”. It tells the story of a robot left alone to clean up the earth after humans trashed the place and escaped to outer space. It is one of the finest environmental films of the past decade. The film has a happy end because: love overcomes all problems. For the best moments of the film go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OUTwYB8uigc>

- Grasp the basics. Visit the following website and read the answers to nine questions you were too embarrassed to ask, including how to stop it:

<https://www.vox.com/science-and-health/2017/6/1/15724164/9-questions-climate-change-too-embarrassed-to-ask>



During the Provincial Chapter in the Netherlands, which dealt with completion, Sr. Lies read an article written by Rob van der Zwan, the Director of the **Missionary Service Centre in Tilburg (MST)**. He compared our Congregations with a broken vase, whose pieces are very precious. The MST has picked up those pieces and used our Spiritual Inheritance in the running of the Centre, that long ago was started by MSC and FDNCS but that now has been transferred to lay-people. Sr. Laurentia and Sr. Elly went to visit the Centre.



While we are having our Provincial Chapters and are preparing for our General Chapter with the theme “Together, being missionaries of hope in a new world emerging,” Pope Francis announced the **Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019** to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Pope Benedict XV's Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud*. The theme for this month, chosen by Pope Francis is: “Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on



Mission in the World” Awakening the awareness of the *missio ad gentes*, and reinvigorating the sense of responsibility for proclaiming the Gospel with new enthusiasm, are themes that combine the pastoral concern of Pope Benedict XV in his Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud*, with the missionary vitality expressed by Pope Francis in his recent Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*: “Missionary action is the paradigm of every work of the Church.” (EG 15). How timely is our Prayer in preparation for our General Chapter: “Reveal to us new paths for mission, inflame our hearts and give us a new vision.”

For more information go to: <http://www.october2019.va/en/mmsott2019.html>

On October 2, the **West-Papua Network in Rome**, in which Father André and Sr. Elly participate on behalf of our Congregations, will launch the English translation of the Human Rights Report that was written by the JPIC Secretaries of the Dioceses in West-Papua. It will be only a few days before the start of the Amazon Synod. “Only a strong sense of fraternity will strengthen our resolve to help those in need today and open the door of tomorrow to the generations that come after us.” God created the earth for the benefit of all, emphasized the Pontiff, “so that it would be a welcoming space in which no one would feel excluded and all of us could find a home.” Indigenous Peoples, he said, with their “variety of languages, cultures, traditions, knowledge and ancestral methods”, should “become for all a wake-up call, which highlights the fact that man is not the owner of nature, but the one who manages it.”

[A Prayer for Refugees \(www.crs.org\)](http://www.crs.org)



God of our Wandering Ancestors,
 long have we known,
 that your heart is with the refugee:
 That you were born into time
 in a family of refugees,
 fleeing violence in their homeland,
 who then gathered up their hungry child

and fled into alien country.
Their cry, your cry, resounds through the ages:
“Will you let me in?”

Give us hearts that break open
when our brothers and sisters turn to us
with that same cry.
Then surely all these things will follow:
Ears will no longer turn deaf to their voices.
Eyes will see a moment for grace
instead of a threat.
Tongues will not be silenced but will instead
advocate and hands will reach out—
working for peace in their homeland,
working for justice in the lands
where they seek safe haven.

Lord, protect all refugees in their travels.
May they find a friend in me
and so make me worthy of the refuge I have found in you. AMEN

