



FDNSC united together for JPIC

FDNSC Generalate, Rome
2019

JPIC Bulletin, No 13, January

Dear Sisters and Friends,

First of all I would like to wish you a happy and peaceful New Year. Allow me to do this with the words of Pope Francis. In his message for the World Day of Peace 2019 he said:



“In sending his disciples forth on mission, Jesus told them: “Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace be to this house!’ And if a son of peace is there, your peace shall rest upon him; but if not, it shall return to you” (Lk 10:5-6). Bringing peace is central to the mission of Christ’s disciples. That peace is offered to all those men and women who long for peace amid the tragedies and violence that mark human history.

The “house” of which Jesus speaks is every family, community, country and continent, in all their diversity and history. It is first and foremost each individual person, without distinction or discrimination. But it is also our “common home”: the world in which God has placed us and which we are called to care for and cultivate. So let this be my greeting at the beginning of the New Year: “Peace be to this house!” (the whole message can be read on: http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/papa-francesco_20181208_messaggio-52giornatamondiale-pace2019.html)

In this bulletin you will read how we try to fulfill the mission of bringing peace in our communities, families, countries and continents. The first article shows how brothers and sisters in West Papua try to promote peace and how the West Papua Network in Rome tries to support them in their effort. In ‘did you know’ we look back at some of last year’s activities in our effort to promote Justice and Peace. As usual you will find the events on the JPIC Calendar and the bulletin ends with a prayer that can be used as a prayer for Justice and Peace on the First Friday of the month.

Father Anselmus Amo MSC meets with the West Papua Network in Rome

On **October 27** some members of the West Papua Network in Rome went to the MSC Generalate to meet Father Anselmus Amo msc, the director of the Secretariat of JPIC of the Archdiocese of Merauke (SKP Merauke). He was participating in a 10 week course about “Peace and Conflict Work” organized by the Academy for Conflict transformation in Königswinter, Germany. Halfway through the



course there was a break, during which Father Anselmus visited the MSC Generalate in Rome, where some members of the network came to see him. For the past two years Father Anselmus and the members of the network have been in contact with one another and Father Anselmus is very happy about the collaboration with the network.

He explained that the situation in West Papua is tense because many indigenous West Papuans are fighting for human rights; it is their belief that therefore independence is necessary. On the other hand, the military try to protect West Papua as part of Indonesia. As religious we don't want to take sides in this political issue, but we know that there are many victims of violence and of the social system. We want to accompany these victims to promote human rights and to plead for non-violence.

**Indigenous people refuse Palm Oil Plantation
– SKP Merauke**



The local government in Merauke and the Provincial Government of Papua have allowed oil palm companies to enter the Yei people's land and to cut trees on a seemingly limitless area. The Yeian tribe is a sub-ethnic group of the Marind people and their land is situated at the upper reaches of the Maro River, which flows through many villages on its way to Merauke city. Villages inhabited by the Yei people include Erambo, Toray, Poo, Kweel, Bupul and Tanas. In general, the Yei people are dependent on the forest to meet their needs.

The company plied the people with promises of “a better life” until some of the local people agreed to release their ancestral land. Other locals, who opposed it, felt that these promises were motivated by nothing else than the company's desire to take control of the land. Palm oil plantations are expanding in Merauke and many indigenous people who sold their land cannot work at these palm oil plantations. Therefore, the future of this tribe is at stake.

In 2012 SKP Merauke started a mapping project. In 6 different villages the people were asked to indicate the boundaries of their clan's land. This plan was brought to the local government for recognition. A second step in the project was to make a plan for the use of the land, so that the economic situation of the clan can be improved. Currently, for example officials in Toray village are planning to recreate the forest by replanting native plants known to the Yei people, using village funds. Aside from these native crops, they also plan to plant rubber trees along the road through Toray village. In addition to providing tree cover, the sap can be tapped.

This is a pilot project. If it succeeds, the project can be started by other tribes too. In fact, other Dioceses are already trying to start similar projects and training in mapping was organized by different dioceses.

After this interesting explanation, the members of the West Papua Network in Rome, formed by 9 congregations and 3 Catholic NGO's asked Father Anselmus how the Network could support his efforts. Together we mentioned the following points:

- Being informed about the situation and being in solidarity with the people in West Papua;



- To encourage the local religious of our Congregations to work for JPIC;
- To empower local religious by helping to organize ongoing formation;
- To create a network of contact persons among the congregations in West Papua, so that congregations can support one another and take part in the formation that is offered by different congregations;
- To help to find funding for projects;
- To advocate: disseminate information within the Catholic network in Rome;

All the participants were encouraged by this meeting and strengthened in their will to be in solidarity with the people of West Papua.

Events on the JPIC Calendar

February 6, International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation:



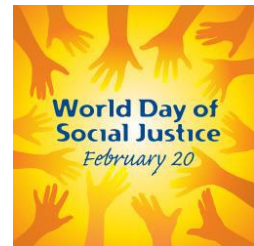
Globally, it is estimated that at least 200 million girls and women alive today have undergone some form of FGM. To promote the abandonment of FGM, coordinated and systematic efforts are needed, engaging whole communities and focusing on human rights and gender equality.

#EndFGM

Prayer: We pray for total elimination of FGM; that girls and women may be freed from this human rights violation;

We pray for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women; that real equality and justice may be achieved.

February 20, World Day of Social Justice: On this day there are media campaigns to raise awareness of the need for better social justice both within nations and between nations. Promoting human rights, removing artificial social barriers based on race, gender, or religion, and standing up for the rights of migrants, the disabled, and the elderly are among the observance's themes on any given year.



Prayer: Heavenly Father, we pray for the poorest and most vulnerable.

Let us not just speak of justice, but let us act in just ways. May the oppressed and needy feel justice and equality and experience a world without hunger and poverty.

March 1, Zero Discrimination Day: In a four-year study of religious discrimination around



the world (2006-2010), Christians were found to be the most-discriminated against group, experiencing harassment by the government and society in 168 countries. Muslims make up the second largest religious population in the world and were discriminated against in 121 countries worldwide between 2006 and 2010. Discrimination is a violation of human rights and must not go unchallenged. Everyone has the right to live with respect and dignity.

Prayer: Almighty God, creator and upholder of all things, take from our hearts that hatred which judges others by the colour of their skin and condemns others for the class of their families, so that love may rule and justice prevail to the benefit of all; for Christ's sake. Amen.

March 8, International Women’s Day: The campaign theme for 2019 is: “Balance for Better”. The future is exciting. Let's build a gender-balanced world. Everyone has a part to play - all the time, everywhere, from grassroots activism to worldwide action. Balance drives a better working world. Let's all help create a Balance for Better.

Prayer: God our Creator, you have built up your Church through the love and devotion of women everywhere: inspire us to follow their great example; that we with them may share in the vision of your glory; through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord. Amen.

March 20, International Day of Happiness: In contrast with other International Days the International Day of Happiness does not focus on any particular group. Though it certainly celebrates a quality that everyone wants but many lack, it is impossible to think of a program that would guarantee to make unhappy people happy. We can wish that other people will be happy but we cannot make them so. Happiness Day reminds us that happiness is a gift. We long for it and are grateful when we receive it.



Prayer: God grow in me a thankful heart. You give so many gifts each day; I ask one more: a thankful heart.

March 22, World Water Day: This day tries to remind people of the significance of freshwater and wants to advocate for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. The theme in 2019 is 'Leaving no one behind'. At a time of immense global challenges – poverty, inequalities, natural disasters, humanitarian crises and forced displacement – the 2019 edition of World Water Day looks at why people have been left behind and how access to water and sanitation and sustainable water management can be drivers of change.



Prayer: Today, on World Water Day, we pray for those who don’t yet have access to safe drinking water—and praise God that, through his strength, we can work to change that!

April 7, World Health Day: Observance of the day focuses on disseminating knowledge and awareness about human health, increasing life expectancy by adding good health to lives of people and promoting a healthier life style across globe. This day also provides a unique opportunity to mobilize action around specific health topics of concern to people all over the world.



World Health Day

Prayer: Merciful God, hear our fervent prayer for all who suffer from disease throughout the world, especially those who live in developing nations. May those who suffer receive the proper treatment and the comfort of your healing presence. Protect and guide those who strive to find cures, that their work may restore communities to wholeness and health. Guide and encourage global partners who work together to improve health systems. We ask all this through the in the name of your Son, Jesus, now and always. Amen.

April 22, International Mother Earth Day: Recognizing Mother Earth reflects the interdependence that exists among human beings, other living species and the planet we all inhabit. The UN General Assembly has declared 22 April as International Mother Earth Day to recognize the responsibility we have to promote harmony with nature and the Earth to achieve a balance between economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations.

The words of Pope Francis in *Laudato Si* reinforce this message: "... our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us." (Para 1)



Prayer: Lord, help us to maintain a reverent attitude towards nature, threatened from all sides today, in such a way that we may restore it completely to the condition of brother/sister and to its role of usefulness to all humankind for the glory of God the Creator.

Did you know.....?



Sr. Irene Banne in Merauke, who already works with Father Anselmus in the SKP Office, was asked to become our Contact Person in the contact circle of congregations in West Papua. This contact circle will help the different congregations in West Papua to work together in the field of ongoing formation for JPIC. Thank you very much for accepting this new task, Sr. Irene.

Last year we asked your special attention for the Season of Creation (from September 1 until October 4). On the World Day for Creation, that marked the beginning of this Season, **our sisters in the Netherlands** held a prayer service, during which they meditated on fragments of a speech of Brother Alois from Taizé: There is no place for indifference concerning the ecological devastation that is happening everywhere.



SEASON OF CREATION

When a simple lifestyle is chosen there is happiness, where people not only work for profit, but also to discover the deeper reasons of our existence, where everything is shared and everyone contributes to a future. Extending our solidarity to the whole of creation is also a way to seek peace. The earth knows its limits and therefore, people also need to know their limits.



Sr. Kathleen Leahy from the Australian Province shared that being on the Alice Springs Social Justice Awareness Group has made her more aware of the needs of the planet. Therefore, she has taken the responsibility to ensure that the notice board at the back of the Church displays information about JPIC issues, such as nature, the plight of refugees and the welfare of citizens. She also related that when the electric clothes dryer in the community broke down, she



and Sr. Margaret Reis chose not to replace it as it uses a lot of energy and the clothes could be dried outside. Sr. Kathleen also decided to use pot plants around the house rather than keep a traditional garden outside. Pot plants take less watering and can be moved around to wherever they can take advantage of the sun. Moreover, this requires less labour and less water than a normal garden.

Thanks for sharing and caring, Sr. Kathleen!

As I mentioned before, on June 30, 2018 **the Councillors of the Three Generalates** who are responsible for JPIC had their first meeting. Many communities of MSC, MSC sisters and FDNSC as well as many associates responded positively to our request to pray for Justice and Peace in the world as a Chevalier community each first Friday of the month. Thanks! We felt very much encouraged. We felt even more encouraged by the many people who liked our message on Facebook asking for prayer on the first Friday. The many likes showed us how much we are united! Thanks once more and let us continue to pray together. We received requests for a prayer that could be used. Therefore, we posted a prayer in English and in French on our Facebook page. (<https://www.facebook.com/FDNSCJusticeandPeace>) For all those who don't have access to Facebook, I will place this prayer at the end of this Bulletin to be used.

Father Norbert Becker MSC from Germany sent us the song "Good God, JPIC prayer of MSC", that we could use as a prayer for JPIC. Thank you, Father for this sharing with us and for encouraging us. A copy of this song is attached to this Bulletin. A PDF file and a sound track can also be found on our website. (<http://www.olshgen.com/justice-and-peace>)

Sr. Ancilla White of the Australian Province wrote: Our three communities here at Kensington have joined in the Chevalier Family's special prayer Day.



We have Mass offered for the intention on the First Friday and then include it in our Intercessory Prayers at the Morning Office each day during the month. It's a great project especially when we do it in solidarity with our Chevalier Family members.

In September we had the following prayer intention:
"That a just solution will be found to the situation of those in detention on Nauru and Manus Island, and that host countries will welcome the asylum seekers."

In her Ametur Bulletin for the Associates she wrote: It's so good that we are united each First Friday praying for JPIC issues.

In our third meeting **the three Councillors for JPIC** proposed that we not only pray together but also act together In order to help to combat climate change, we would like to ask you to pay each month extra attention to a certain behaviour.

For the month of **January** in your home pay extra attention to the following possibilities:

- Use water carefully: turn off taps and make sure they don't leak; avoid long showers; install a "half flush" in your toilet; use your washing machine only when you have a full load.



- Unplug electronic devices when they aren't in use. About a quarter of all residential energy consumption is used on devices in idle power mode.



For the month of **February** at your table to:

- Reduce food waste; whether it's left on your plate or rotting in your fridge, wasted food is a big problem.
- Start composting; transforming food scraps into fresh nutrient-rich soil gives home gardens a new boost.



For the month of **March**, along your route to:

- Bring your own shopping bag; plastic bags are incredibly destructive to the environment.
- Start walking more; map a two kilometre circle around your house and walk everywhere within it instead of driving.
-



For the month of **April**, in your neighbourhood to:

- Shop local; this supports local businesses, provides community jobs and reduces transportation costs and carbon emissions.
- Eat fruits and veggies currently in season where you live. You'll reduce your carbon footprint by minimizing the distance the product has to travel to get to your plate.

Since November 9 **Father André Claessens MSC** is President of the Executive Board of the Africa Europe Faith and Justice Network in Rome. Much interesting information can be found on the website of the network: <http://aefjn.org/en/home/>



Sr. Sueli Lima of the Brazilian Province shared on Facebook that in December she participated in an Inter-religious prayer service in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Human Rights Decree.



Pope Francis said about this celebration in his message for the World Day of Peace 2019: In this context, let us also remember the observation of Pope John XXIII: "Man's awareness of his rights must inevitably lead him to the recognition of his duties. The possession of rights involves the duty of implementing those rights, for they are the expression of a man's personal dignity. And the possession of rights also involves their recognition and respect by others".

Do you want to explore the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and learn how it empowers you to claim and defend your rights and those of others? On January 21 a free internet course "Defending Dignity: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights" starts on www.futurelearn.com

During a spirituality course organized by Cor America many JPIC issues were discussed. At the end of the course the participants decided to erect a JPIC Commission for the Chevalier Family. **Sr. Diva de Carvalho from the Brazilian Province** was elected as team member for the FDNSC. Thank you, dear Sister for accepting



this extra task. We look forward to hearing about the activities of the group.

Prayer for Justice and Peace



First Friday: Pray with the Chevalier Family for Justice and Peace in the World



United with the Chevalier Family all over the world,
let us pray as Pope Francis taught us in 'Laudato Si':

Creator God, please guide us.

Help us act in love and courage to honor You, O Creator,
and to fulfill our role as protectors of the Earth,
our common home.

The poor and the earth are crying out.

O Lord, seize us with your power and light,
help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future,
for the coming of your Kingdom
of justice, peace, love and beauty. Amen.

