



## FDNSC united together for JPIC

FDNSC Generalate, Rome  
2020

JPIC Bulletin, No 16, January

### Dear Sisters and Friends,

This is the last JPIC Bulletin before our General Chapter. One of the points the Provincials have been asked to report on is their engagement with Justice and Peace. This will certainly help us to get a sense of how to be missionaries of hope in a new world emerging. Even though many of us are not directly involved in justice and peace work, we all contribute to making this world a better world for everybody. I hope that the JPIC Bulletin has helped us to become more aware of that. Thanks for your interest, encouragement, prayers, contributions and actions.

In this Bulletin, you will find a report about a seminar organized by West Papua Network in Rome. Under the heading 'Did you know...' you will find information about some activities undertaken within our Chevalier Family. Hopefully, those actions will encourage you. This is followed by the events on the JPIC Calendar and we will end with a prayer.

### Seminar West Papua Network Rome



On **2 October**, West Papua Network in Rome organized the seminar "*West Papua, a neglected heaven - justice and human rights based on the Gospel value*" at *Augustinianum* to address the issue of human rights violation of indigenous West Papuan people. There were around 35 participants including a good number of Indonesian religious. Sr Merle and Sr Madeleine participated, while Sr Elly was a member of the forum.

The local Catholic Church of the five dioceses in West Papua and some religious congregations working in West Papua recently published the three-year human rights report, and the English translation was launched during this seminar. Fr Anthony Banks, OSA and Mr Budi Tjahjono from 'Franciscans International' introduced the context and the contents of the human rights report and showed a video of an interview with Bishop Datus Hilarion Lega, the bishop of Manokwari-Sorong Diocese. Bishop Lega expressed the necessity of continuous effort to work for the promotion of human rights. Fr Jan Pieter Fatem, OSA, who is an indigenous West Papuan himself and working in West Papua, spoke about concerns relating to human rights violations from the indigenous point of view as well as the environmental crisis due to development projects, such as palm oil plantations and mining projects. The indigenous people do not benefit much from the economic gain, but

they have to bear the environmental damage. He also mentioned about the humanitarian crisis, especially in the highlands, as a result of on-going political tension in the region.

Mr Peter Arndt, the Executive Officer of the Justice & Peace Commission of Brisbane Diocese, spoke online. One of the key issues was on-going human rights violations in West Papua since it became part of Indonesia in 1969. There is a need to have a sustainable solution which is acceptable to the indigenous West Papuans.

He was followed by H.E. Mr Antonius Agus Sriyono, the Indonesian Ambassador to the Holy See, who spoke about the policy of President Joko Widodo on the issue of human rights in West Papua. He mentioned the commitment of the Indonesian government on development in West Papua and the challenges.

Sr Elly van Dijk, FDNPC presented the concerns and work of the FDNPC and MSC in West Papua. She expressed the importance of interculturality and of conversations about the human rights violation issue in our own religious communities.

Fr Budi Kleden, SVD sent a video message and shared the experience of his recent visit to West Papua, during which time there was a huge protest. Mr Tjahjono spoke about the international advocacy effort, especially through the UN, for the betterment of the human rights situation of the indigenous people in West Papua. He made some proposals for the Indonesian government to follow up.

We hope that this seminar provided a good start to talking about the issue and to collaborate in different places to promote the human rights of indigenous people in West Papua and elsewhere in the world.

You can download the West Papua human rights report from here in English and Indonesian: <https://franciscansinternational.org/resources/publications/asia-pacific>

## Did you know.....?

**FIRST FRIDAY INTENTION**  
In order to help to combat climate change, let us in the month of June in our communities:

WATCH OR RE-WATCH THE FILM, "AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH." Its message has never been more urgent. Discuss together what your community can do.

GET KIDS ON BOARD BY TEACHING THEM to reduce, to reuse and to recycle.

**JUNE 2019**  
ENGLISH AS CHEVALIER FAMILY WE CONTINUE TO PRAY AND TO ACT TOGETHER

- Rita Cleuren and Alison Mackenzie always send our Facebook action via Email to our Associates. In **June**, Helena Gabčová from Slovakia wrote the following message to Rita:

“Thank you for sending us monthly Facebook actions. We have actively joined the combat of June: during the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, our lay members have handed out circa 100 pieces of reusable bags sewn from old curtains to the people present at the Mass.”

- Rita Cleuren shared with us: on Sunday **29 September** we, the Members of “the Open Heart Movement” (Lay-Movement of the MSC) had our national gathering in Asse near Brussels! The speaker, Bleri LLeshi, was very good and inspiring! He said: “Anger reveals a lot about a person and his reality, but that anger cannot be an end in itself, otherwise it leads to powerlessness, acidification or indifference. Citizens are

entitled to alternatives to the dominant world view that promotes self-interest, indifference and hardening.” We also had a special JPIC Corner in our meeting room.



On the JPIC Page of the Indonesian Province, we read: **2 October 2019.** Together with Kak Hani from ‘Save the Children’, we visited the Mulyani family in Sidera. We and the family negotiated about the possibility to let Mulyani's sister, Luluk, who had dropped out of school, continue her school again. Mulyani, his sister and his mother work every day as vegetable pickers. He and his mother start to work in the morning, while his younger sibling work after school. Sometimes they work until 22.00 hours. The situation pushes them to work hard, even though they are still of school age. Even as Mulyani, Luluk is in grade seven of junior high school if she does not quit school.



- Sr Elly said in her talk on **2 October:** In the past, West Papua, the Moluccas and Java were separate mission areas of our Dutch Province. Mgr. Sol MSC, a Dutch missionary, worked hard to unite these areas into one Indonesian FDNSC (or as they say in Indonesia PBHK) Province. This happened in 1995. I was still a young professed sister and even though I had not yet been to Indonesia, I remember the impressive paraliturgy we celebrated on 13 July of that year in our Motherhouse in the Netherlands. Former Missionaries from Java, Moluccas and West-



Papua rolled out one red and two white ribbons from the left corner, the middle and the right corner from the back of the church to the front. There, in front of the altar, the ribbons were united into the flag of Indonesia. Long after the administrative process had been finished, our sisters were still working hard to really become one Province. This was not an easy task, because the three areas are very different, but the sisters persevered. While in religious life we have only been speaking more extensively about intercultural living in the past few years, it was already a lived reality in Indonesia.

Sr Elly reminded everybody that Pope Francis, during his recent visitation to Madagascar, asked the religious to speak up when something or someone makes life in the community difficult, even if it feels uncomfortable to do so. According to the Pope, this is how holiness and love are defended within the community.

- Our Brazilian sisters invited everybody to celebrate the World Day of the Poor with them on **17 November 2019**. This is a Roman Catholic observance, that has been celebrated on the 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time since 2017. It was established by Pope Francis in his Apostolic Letter, *Misericordia et Misera*, issued on 20 November 2016 to celebrate the end of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. On their Facebook, the sisters showed some of their activities on that day.

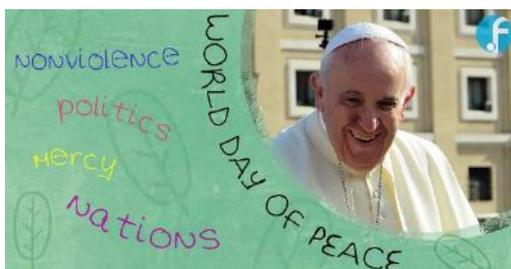


- Sr Aurelia Puspasari of the Indonesian Province wrote: We love our universe and go back to nature, mangrove planting with the students in Lapu-Lapu City in the Philippines.



## Events on the JPIC Calendar

**January 1, World Day for Peace:** a feast day of the Roman



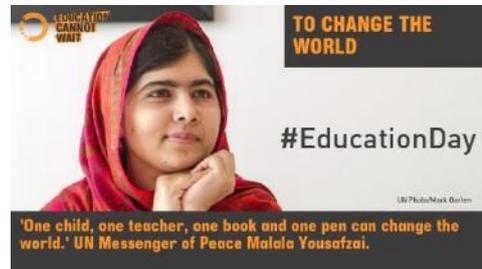
Catholic Church dedicated to universal peace, held on 1 January, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Pope Paul VI established it in 1967, being inspired by the encyclical *Pacem in Terris* of Pope John XXIII and with reference to his own encyclical *Populorum Progressio*. The day was first observed in 1968.

**Prayer:** We pray for the vision to see and the faith to believe in a world emancipated from violence, a new world where fear shall no longer lead people to commit neither injustice nor selfishness that brings suffering to others. Help us to devote our whole life to the task of making peace.

**January 24, International Day of Education:**

Education is a human right, a public good and a public responsibility. The United Nations General Assembly established this day, in recognition of the role of education for peace and development.

**Prayer:** Father, thank you for the ability to learn and the opportunities that come with an education. For the 58 million primary-school-age children who have dropped out of school, help us to take away barriers, open doors, and provide solutions, so that all children can sit in class and have the chance of a brighter future.



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



United Nations-sponsored annual awareness day that takes place as part of the UN's efforts to eradicate female genital mutilation. It was first introduced in 2003.

**Prayer:** Lord, help us to speak out and to use our voices and our networks to raise awareness about the injustice of female mutilation and help us to work and pray for those who have been mutilated or who are most vulnerable to this inhumane violation.

**February 11, World Day of the Sick:** is a feast day of the Roman Catholic Church which was instituted on 13 May 1992 by Pope John Paul II. Beginning on 11 February 1993, it is celebrated every year on the commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes as “a special time of prayer and sharing, of offering one's suffering.”

**Prayer:** Almighty and eternal God, you are the hope that never abandons us, and the Love that gives itself on the Cross. Make Your face shine on all sick people, the suffering and the dying. Help us to be good Samaritans who will serve and heal sick, suffering and dying people, and who help the weakest, disinterestedly.



**February 20, World Day of Social Justice:** is annually observed to encourage people to look at how social justice affects poverty eradication. It also focuses on the goal of achieving full employment and support for social integration.



**Prayer:**

May God bless us with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that we may live from deep within our hearts.

May God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of God's creation, so that we may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless us with tears to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger, and war, so that we may reach out our hands to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless us with just enough foolishness to believe that we can make a difference in the world, so that we can do what others claim cannot be done.

**March 1, Zero Discrimination Day:** Organizations like the United Nations (UN) actively promote this day with various activities to celebrate everyone’s right to live a full life with dignity regardless of age, gender, sexuality, nationality, ethnicity, skin colour, height, weight, profession, education, and beliefs.

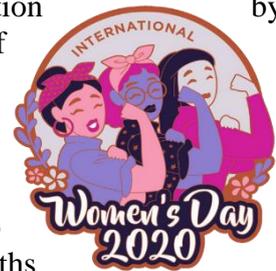


Many countries have laws against discrimination but it's still a problem in all layers of society in every country in the world. Many countries still use discrimination as a way of governing. The symbol

for Zero Discrimination Day is the butterfly.

**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:** This day offers an opportunity to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities. The 2020 International Women's Day will focus on the theme 'An equal world is an enabled world'.



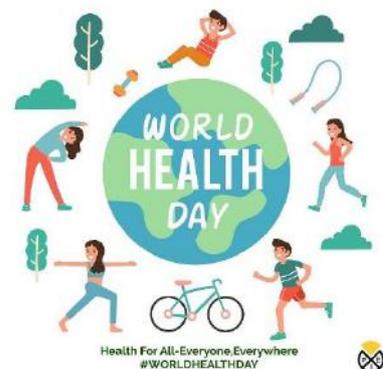
**Prayer:** Loving God, be with us as we gather together on this International Women’s Day. Bless women everywhere. We pray especially for all those mothers, grandmothers and sisters who work to care for family members and others in need, while forging their own paths in life.

**March 22, World Water Day:** is a day to celebrate water. It’s a day to make a difference for everybody who suffers from water-related issues. It’s a day to prepare for the way we will manage water in the future.



**Prayer:** We praise and thank You, Lord, for the gift of living water. Guide us to use it wisely, learn from its humility, consume it sparingly, and protect its purity, so that we may truly enjoy water. Amen.

**April 7, World Health Day:** This day’s message is simple: giving people access to healthcare without the prospect of financial hardship. This is regardless of where they’re from; they could be in Africa, Asia, South America or the United States. What matters to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the group behind it, is that there’s Health for All.



**Prayer:** “Jesus bestowed upon the Church his healing power...The Church’s mission is a response to Jesus’ gift, for she knows that she must bring to the sick the Lord’s own gaze, full of tenderness and compassion,” the Pope said. Help us, Lord, to carry out this mission with renewed enthusiasm in our communities, in our parishes, in our institutions and in our missions abroad.

**April 22, International Mother Earth Day:** is celebrated to remind each of us that the Earth and its ecosystems provide us with life and sustenance. It also recognizes a collective responsibility, as called for in the 1992 Rio Declaration, to promote harmony with nature and the Earth to achieve a just balance among the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations of humanity.



**Prayer:** Creator God, we thank you for all of creation. We ask Your forgiveness where we have failed to be just stewards. And

we now ask for Your guidance in restoring the face of the earth. May we learn to live in harmony, and safety with the just sharing of resources among all so that we achieve the kingdom of God. Amen.

## Prayer

Creator God,

We look at your world and praise you for the diversity all around us.

Thank you for the gift of relationships; our connection with people, animals and the land.

Help us, Lord, to see differences and diversity as strengths.

Help us to listen and understand; to meet one another with wonder and anticipation.

Help us to love as you love, without expectation.

Reveal to us your way of reconciliation

and guide us into right relationships with all living things.

Lead us to understand how Indigenous peoples have been and continue to be profoundly harmed by settler people and institutions.

Lead us to repent when we, as settlers, deny Indigenous peoples respect, dignity and fullness of life.

Help us to listen compassionately, to speak humbly and to act justly.

Help us to seek the peace, justice and reconciliation you desire among all your children.

Thank you for your mercy and grace. Amen.

