



# FDNSC united together for JPIC

FDNSC Generalate, Rome

JPIC Bulletin, No 14, May 2019

**Dear Sisters and Friends,**

At Easter we remember how Jesus Christ showed his ultimate service of love to the world, giving hope of eternal life through his death and resurrection. May we be able to give some of that love to the most vulnerable people in our society and help them to find a new life, and hope for the future. In this Bulletin you will read how all over the world members of the Chevalier Family make efforts to make this happen. Hopefully this bulletin can encourage you in your efforts.

Firstly, you will find a report about two of four sessions about migration and the challenges for the Christian Community. This is followed by the events on the JPIC Calendar. In “Did you know...” you can read about initiatives taken by members of our Chevalier Family throughout the world. And we conclude with “The pilgrimage song of a refugee”.

## Migration and the Challenges for the Christian Community (part 1)

**MIGRATIONS AND THE CHALLENGES FOR THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY**

For a Pastoral approach of migrations and to help us to give a prophetic answer:

**Saturday 9am-12pm**

**12 January 2019**  
Aldo Skoda, CS  
The phenomenon of human mobility and the Christian community, between challenges and prophecy

**9 February 2019**  
Eunyoung Choies Diaz, msc  
Biblical pathways reflections on human mobility

**9 March 2019**  
Giuseppe Compagnoni, CS  
The church's teaching on migrants and refugees

**6 April 2019**  
Testimonies of people working in concrete projects  
Thinking about the future, acting now: pathways of welcome and integration

The formation is organized by:

- Justice Peace Integrity of Creation - Rome
- UISG Migrants Project
- Scalibrini International Migration Institute

**REGISTER for the LIVE MEETING AT UISG:**  
click here  
The conferences will be in English, Spanish and Italian.

**TO PARTICIPATE ONLINE:**  
English: <https://zoom.us/j/28352111>  
Italiano: <https://zoom.us/j/294725833>  
Español: <https://zoom.us/j/63023333>

Suggested donation to cover expenses: 5 € per person per meeting

**Venue:** UISG Langobardene Tor di Moia, 7, Roma  
Info: [robo.migrants@uisg.org](mailto:robo.migrants@uisg.org)

On **January 12**, a training program of 4 sessions on Migration and the Challenges for the Christian Community was launched by the UISG Migrants Project in coordination with Scalibrini International Migration Institute and the JPIC Secretariat. Sr. Jenny and Sr. Elly participated.

The **first session** was presented by **Fr. Aldo Skoda, CS**, a **Scalibrini**, who spoke on the “**The Phenomenon of Human Mobility and the Christian Community, between Challenges and Prophecy.**” Migration is a normal phenomenon that always has and always will happen. Even our own Church is a migration Church with the experiences of Abraham, Israel and Jesus leaving their land to go to another country. The only difference today is many migrations are forced migrations due to poverty, violence and environmental disasters. That is a problem the world must face. Our challenge is to promote an integral and sustainable development to address the problem. But fake news in the media about migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, and the use of electoral campaigns to polarize public opinion through

fear-based tactics, tend to make us indifferent. Pope Francis often stresses the human dignity of migrants and says that no one can stay indifferent about forced migration. As Christians we



must approach migrants with a positive attitude. If we cannot see a migrant as a brother or a sister in need, if we choose not to help them, why would we call ourselves Christians? The focus needs to be on the person and the family and not just on faceless statistics. As Christians we are invited to pass from *Oikos* (= my house, my family, my parish, my congregation) to *Oikumene* (= the whole world). To be able to do this, we have to build sustaining, integrated communities that are open and in which people want to learn from one another. Pope Francis said: “Christ asks us to welcome our brother and sister migrants and refugees with arms wide open.”

The **second session, on February 9**, was given by Prof. Elizangela Chaves Dias, who spoke about “**Biblical pathways of Reflection on Human Mobility**”. She stated that the Bible is written by migrants for migrants. The Bible tells of the experience of people whose stories of faith have been marked by migration. This experience is presented as an essential element for the formation of the identity of ancient Israel and even of Christians.



God chose migrants, Abram a landless ancestor of ancient Israel, and Sara, a sterile woman who seem to run away from death, to make a covenant with them. (Gen 15) The son of the promise, Isaac, was born of a couple of immigrants without land ownership. Joseph’s story of slavery in Egypt brought the salvation of the elected people.



Prof. Elizangela focused on the Genesis story of Hagar. (Gen: 21). Hagar is an icon of vulnerability whose cry reaches out to God. A lonely woman with her son, walking to an unknown destination, she is helped by God and promised to be safe. Hagar is the woman who named God: “You are the God who sees me!”

The migration of Abram, Jacob, Joseph, Hagar, Ruth, and Esther is seen as formative for their faith and part of God’s plan. Obviously God sees and listens to the migrant. God turns evil into good and foreigners become a blessing for the whole country and even the surrounding countries. Nobody is excluded. Biblical stories like these enable us to recognise the saving presence of God. He is near to suffering people, especially in the most painful moments of the life of the migrant.

These narratives help us to unmask the ideological attitude towards migrants that we see in our current societies: the perception of the migrant as a danger and, therefore, as an enemy.

You can still watch the two sessions at [www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmeyxubEg3MlcQ2aV3TCD4iyalfC7GvnZ](http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmeyxubEg3MlcQ2aV3TCD4iyalfC7GvnZ)

Or at our Justice and Peace Facebook: [www.facebook.com/FDNSCJusticeandPeace/](http://www.facebook.com/FDNSCJusticeandPeace/)



## Events on the JPIC Calendar

**May 16, International Day of Living Together in Peace:** The UN General-Assembly established this day as a means of regularly mobilizing the efforts of the international community to promote peace, tolerance, inclusion, understanding and solidarity.

*Prayer: God of Love, God of Peace, the cries of this fractured world burn deep into my soul, and challenge me to make a difference. God of Love, God of Peace, create in me a heart for people, a desire for change, for new beginnings, to start this day.*



**May 21, World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development:** Three-quarters of the world's major conflicts have a cultural dimension. Bridging the gap between cultures is urgent and necessary for peace, stability and development. Therefore, in December 2002 the UN General Assembly declared this day to be the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development.

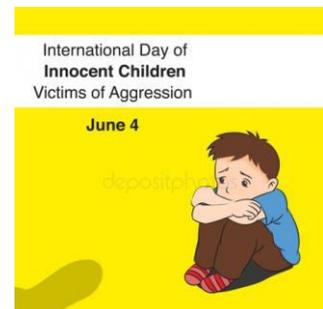


*Prayer: May the God who created a world of diversity and vibrancy go with us as we embrace life in all its fullness. May the Son who teaches us to care for strangers and foreigners go with us as we try to be good neighbours in our communities. May the Spirit who breaks down our*

*barriers and celebrates community go with us as we find the courage to create a place of welcome for all.*

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

*Prayer: With your help, Lord, may we never be responsible for causing children to suffer, feel rejected, excluded or abandoned but rather may we be a light, that brings them comfort and goodness. Grant us the grace to build a world that respects their innocence and their right to life. May the example of the Holy Family of Nazareth inspire and guide us.*



**June 5, World Environment Day:** is an environmental awareness day, run by the United Nations. It is sometimes also unofficially called Eco Day. The aim of the day is to raise awareness of the environment and specific environmental issues. World Environment Day was first held in 1974, which shows that concern about the environment goes back at least several decades. 143 countries take part in World Environment Day.



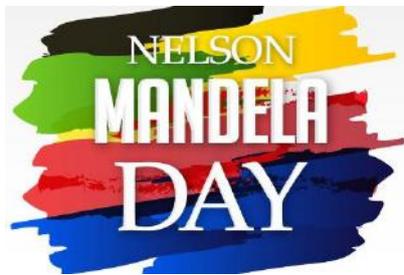
*Prayer: Lord, grant us the wisdom to care for the earth and till it. Help us to act now for the good of future generations and all your creatures. Help us to become instruments of a new creation, founded on the covenant of your love.*

**June 20, World Refugee Day:** This year is the 19<sup>th</sup> year of the event, run by the United Nations Refugee Agency, to state that the world supports and stands with refugees. The event is about raising worldwide awareness of global responsibility for refugees. It honours the strength and courage of refugees and encourages public awareness and support of the refugees, who have had to flee their homelands because of conflict or natural disaster.



***Prayer:** Almighty and merciful God, whose Son became a refugee and had no place to call his own, look with mercy on those who today, homeless and hungry, are fleeing from danger. Bless those who work to bring them relief; inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts; and guide the nations of the world towards that day when all will rejoice in your Kingdom of justice and peace; we ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**July 18, Nelson Mandela International Day:** This day is more than a celebration of Nelson Mandela’s life and legacy. It is a global movement to change our world for the better. Mandela Day asks us all to “Take Action; Inspire Change; Make Every Day a Mandela Day.” Each of us can make a small difference.



***Prayer:** This day we give thanks for the life of Nelson Mandela. He led a nation on a long walk to freedom. He fought for reconciliation and not retribution. He argued for peace in place of war. Give us the same courage and the same faith to work for peace and freedom in our society.*

**July 30, World Day against Trafficking in Persons:** People trafficking and modern slavery is a massive worldwide problem. This day established by the United Nations is to raise awareness and increase prevention of this crime.



***Prayer:** Dear Lord, just as You helped Moses and Aaron, as they spoke boldly to Pharaoh on behalf of the Hebrew slaves in Egypt, help us to speak up against modern slavery around the world.*



*International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples*

**August 9, International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples:** This event wants to promote and protect the rights of the world’s indigenous population. It also recognizes the achievements and contributions that indigenous people make to improve world issues, such as environmental protection.

***Prayer:** That indigenous peoples, whose identity and very existence are threatened, will be shown due respect.*

**August 30, International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances:** Enforced disappearance is used as a strategy to spread terror within the society. It occurs when people are arrested, detained or abducted against their will and when governments refuse to disclose the whereabouts of these people. Enforced disappearance is a global problem and is not restricted to a specific region of the world. In December 2010, the UN officially declared that it would annually observe the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances on this day each year, starting from 2011.

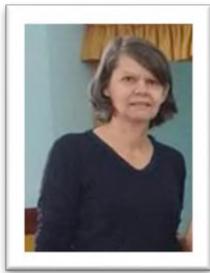
**Prayer:** *God our Father, as a child your Son Jesus Christ was lost in the chaos of a great city and was restored to the love of his family; watch over all the missing people, for whom we now pray and protect them with your love.*

*Be near to those who are anxious for them; let your presence change their sorrow into comfort, their anxiety into trust, their despair into faith, that they may know your loving care. Amen.*



## Did you know.....?

**In response to the latest JPIC Bulletin** Lynn Ditlow, one of our Associates from the USA wrote to us: This is excellent witness for JPIC! Articles, pictures comments give a real picture what is happening in other countries! Marie sent this out to all of the USA Lay Coordinators to share with their lay groups, spiritual directors, and council members/provincials/religious members. I am going to suggest that the First Friday prayer for JPIC be included in all quarterly issues of the USA Laity National News Letter of the Chevalier Family. *Thanks, Lynn, we feel very much encouraged by your reaction. This is exactly the aim of this Bulletin, that we encourage one another! Hopefully many members of the Chevalier Family will continue to share with us about their activities!*



Our **Facebook Actions of the First Friday of the month** (prayer and action) March reached 1862 people, of whom 242 showed involvement. Our messages were shared 29 times. **Ms. Edna Moraes Rocha**, one of our Associates in Brazil, translated the message into Portuguese for us. Thanks for doing that, Edna!! Of course, our messages were also shared via other social media and we know that many members of the Chevalier Family are praying and acting with us.

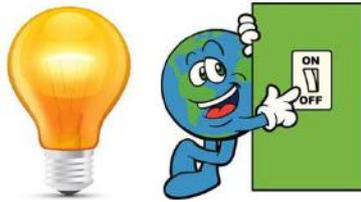
**The FDNSC's and MSC's in the Netherlands** sent us the prayer for justice, peace and integrity of creation that they used on the first Friday of March 2019. They ended the intercessions during the Eucharist with the following prayer, written by the late Father Nico Tromp, msc:

Dear God, teach us to respect and to love each other: that nobody will be rejected in our society; that we learn to appreciate fellow human beings; that individuals will not be crushed by the power of the masses; that we will offer assistance to victims of social contempt; that we will be kind and warm to each other. Amen.

*Thanks to all of you for supporting us, but even more thanks for all you do, to make the world into a better place!*

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.

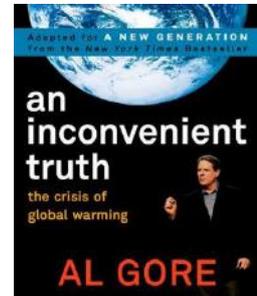
For the month of **May in your city** pay extra attention to the following possibilities:



- Reduce light waste by illuminating only the places that need it, putting shields on lights so they point down, and turning off unnecessary lights.
- Campaign, Protest, Lobby, Vote. Challenge your representatives at all levels of government

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

- 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.



For the month of **July in your home:**



- Clean or replace heating, ventilation and air conditioning filters every three months. A dirty filter in your air conditioner or heater will make the system work harder and waste energy.
- Wash clothes in cold water. Approximately 75 percent of the total energy use and greenhouse gas emissions produced by a single load of laundry come from warming the water itself. That's unnecessary, especially because studies have shown that washing in cold water is just as effective as using warm water.

For the month of **August at your table:**

- Eat less meat. Cutting out meat, or even reducing consumption and favouring fish and chicken can seriously save carbon.
- Drink as little bottled water as possible and use a reusable water bottle.



On **February 8**, the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita, a victim of human trafficking from South Sudan, Sr. Marife, Sr. Merle and Sr. Elly gathered with hundreds of other people at the Pontifical University Antonianum for a **vigil against Human Trafficking**.



Together, we commemorated St. Josephine's life. As a child she was sold in slavery and suffered severe beatings and cruel treatment from her masters. When she received her freedom she joined the Canossian Congregation in Italy. We prayed for her guidance, as we strive to end the scourge of modern slavery and find ways to help such victims renew their lives.

As a ritual of solidarity, balls of yarn were passed throughout the church and were unravelled with each person holding a part. The yarn united all of us, as we made a commitment to do what we can to end the conditions that support this slavery, and help victims.

Sr. Diva de Carvalho wrote to us about the **newly erected JPIC Commission in Latin America**: God has incarnated Himself with a human heart in our human history marked by poverty, suffering, injustice, inequality and destruction of nature. He has given us an example of how to live, even until death on the Cross, in solidarity and compassion with the victims.

From his pierced heart a new world was born. As Chevalier Family we want to continue his mission in a wounded and broken world. We want to live the Charism and the Spirituality of the Heart by committing ourselves to work for Justice and Peace.



Since the earthquake and the tsunami in September 2018 our **sisters in Palu on Sulawesi** are relentlessly helping the victims who have lost everything. The sisters received help from some of our Provinces, from many people and organisations, among whom was the Organisation for the Lenten Action of the Dutch Bishops Conference. After the first emergency aid, in consultation with other organisations and congregations, the sisters identified the greatest needs. It was decided that the sisters would

concentrate on financial support with school fees and school materials (books, exercise books, pencils, toys) for children of affected families. The sisters intended to do this for three years until the parents have regained financial independence.

Recently the sisters have opened a Facebook Page on which many photos can be seen. The address is:

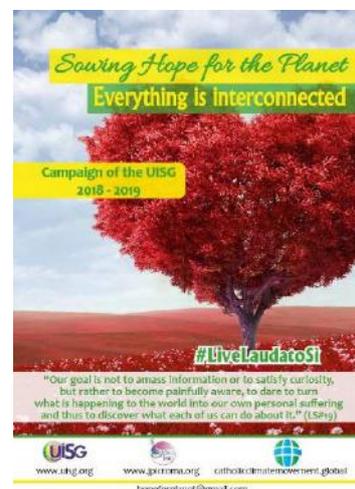
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While in Europe for the FDNSC International Bursars' meeting, the Srs. Eufrasia Wea and Philipita Wahyuningrum, together with Sr. Francesco Moens, went to the organisation for the Lenten Action in the Netherlands to thank them for their support.

Urged by the call of Pope Francis for an ecological conversion, “to become painfully aware, to dare to turn what is happening to the world into our own personal suffering and to discover what each of us can do about it” (LS #19), members of the UISG Board met on May 18 and decided to wholeheartedly promote **the UISG Campaign, Sowing Hope for the Planet**. To be able to do so, they have launched a new website for the campaign, [www.sowinghopefortheplanet.org](http://www.sowinghopefortheplanet.org), which has a complete section for the languages English, French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish. Here you will find information about the campaign, resources for upcoming and past events, resources shared from your own communities, and resources shared by the campaign collaborators (JPIC, UISG, and GCCM).

In the resources section there is a form provided for you to submit any resources you would like to share. Currently there are a few resources in every language with the majority being in English.



## Pilgrimage song of a refugee

The road along which my feet are going is long.  
I am traveling without knowing where I will arrive.  
I have lost my hope and courage long since.  
I can only dream of a home and a fireplace.

The train stops, the bus doesn't want to leave.  
Children are crying, it chills me to the bone.  
With Jesus, I call out: "I am thirsty!",  
but if I die, I die alone for myself.

Then I am nameless, one of the many,  
because I am only a refugee.  
However, I will go on and won't give up  
on this survival hike.

My trip has not yet been completed.  
I will not put my head down,  
and I will not hang my torn backpack  
on the branches of the willow along the  
track.

Do you have water to quench my thirst?  
Do you have a place where I can go?  
Can you offer me security and peace  
as the base of a new existence?

You are my hope, my pilgrim song  
on which I rely to keep going.  
For "what you do for one of your neighbours,"  
Jesus said, "you do for me".

Coby Verhey – de Peuter

(original in Dutch, published on: [www.christelijkegedichtensite.nl](http://www.christelijkegedichtensite.nl))

