



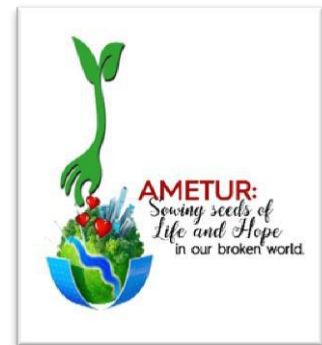
# FDNSC united together for JPIC

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## Dear Sisters and Friends,

Now that preparations are starting for our Provincial Chapters, I would like to bring to mind the theme of our last General Conference: “*Sowing seeds of life and hope in our broken world.*” Our world is broken, but in this bulletin you will read ways in which we try to sow seeds of hope. Sr. Jenny has written about two interesting conferences she attended in Rome. Sr. Elly attended a two day conference on *Laudato Si*. The report about this conference is written by Marisa Vertrees from Global Climate Change Movement. In ‘did you know’ you can read about some activities that took place in our own Congregation. As usual you will find the events on the JPIC Calendar and the bulletin ends with a prayer. Hopefully, this bulletin will inspire you to continue sowing seeds of life and hope!



## Three Interesting Conferences in Rome

“**Women Religious on the Front Lines**” was the title of the symposium offered by the *Ambassador of the United States of America to the Holy See*, Callista L Gingrich, in partnership with the *International Union of Superiors General* and with *Solidarity with South Sudan*. This half-day symposium took place in Rome on **April 11<sup>th</sup>**. In attendance were twenty ambassadors and representatives, as well as representatives of many religious congregations. Due to the commitment of our Congregation to missions which are on the Front Lines, such as South Sudan, this symposium was of particular interest to us.



The meeting was opened by Callista Gingrich who said: “We are here today to recognize and celebrate women religious – often the unsung heroes of the Catholic Church. Women religious are the last beacon of hope for millions of people suffering from famine, disease, and conflict. They serve the displaced and the desperate, frequently at the risk of personal harm. They work in countries like South Sudan and Syria, where governments have failed and humanitarian organizations struggle to operate.

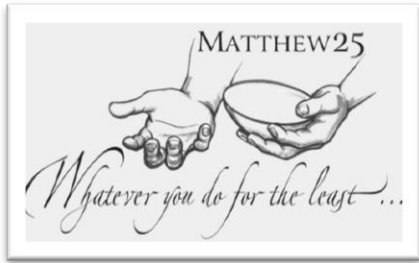
They also play a critical role in the global fight against human trafficking.”

There followed a discussion panel composed of three women who spoke on the topic of “*Women Religious Combatting Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery*”. One member of the panel, a Nigerian woman, was herself a human trafficking survivor. She moved to Italy

attracted by a job proposal which proved to be deceptive. The story of her experience touched participants of the symposium deeply.

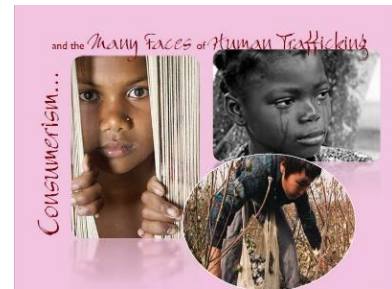
A second discussion panel composed of three women then spoke on the topic of “*Women Religious in Conflict Zones*”. It was very inspiring to hear the Sisters speak of their work empowering women, advocating for women, assisting victims of human trafficking, assisting victims of war by offering psychological and educational assistance.

The symposium highlighted many areas of concern: war, trafficking, famine, disease, conflict...It also highlighted the contribution of women’s religious congregations to those affected...While we weep for the injustices; we rejoice that we are able to play our part in assisting those affected by these injustices. Let us offer once more the support of our prayers for all those victims of injustice and also for those who strive to serve them and to improve their reality. “Whatever you do for these....you do for me.”



A seminar entitled “**Consumerism: A Push Factor in Human Trafficking**” was held in Rome on **April 18<sup>th</sup>** of this year. The topics were:

- *The Church’s Teaching Against Consumerism*
- *Consumerism: Demand and Supply*
- *Sexual Exploitation*
- *Government’s Response* (given by the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Holy See)
- *Consumerism: An Unobtrusive Catalyst for Push-and Pull Factors in Human Trafficking*
- *Trafficking*



The purpose of the seminar was to raise strong awareness of the need to promote respect for human dignity and to end modern slavery especially in vulnerable communities. It was hoped that, by becoming more conscious of how products are made, we participants would see opportunities to make a personal response. To this end, there were discussion groups following the presentations. Possibilities for action were shared and discussed in these small groups.

On **July 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>** the Vatican hosted a “**conference on the third anniversary of *Laudato Si.***” People from seemingly every background and place on earth were present—the head of the UNFCC stood by indigenous



leaders from the Amazon . . .who stood by classically trained economists...who stood by teenage environmental activists . . . who stood by ministers and members of Parliament . . . who stood by climate prophets from the Pacific. It was a beautiful picture of the unity in diversity that we need in order to solve the climate crisis. And it was a beautiful



picture of the power of faith bringing us together in hope. As Pope Francis said in his address to the conference, “Dear brothers and sisters, challenges are not lacking, but injustice is not invincible.”

One of the most exciting moments of the conference came on the last day, when “lines of action” were developed. These are specific proposals for making progress in achieving Pope Francis’ vision of integral ecology.

The lines of action are:

- Renew the commitment to the *Laudato Si’* requests for an urgent radical ecological conversion to take action in relation to the care of creation.
- Raise ambition at COP24 for a just transition to achieve the 1.5°C goal and to protect the most vulnerable.
- Deepen action among young and indigenous people during the synods on youth and the Amazon, and beyond, to ensure long-lasting ecological justice.
- Encourage financial institutions to support decisions towards an integral ecology by “walking the talk” as a Church, including investments with positive social and environmental impact.
- Engage the faithful in the celebration of the Season of Creation with other Christian churches, to motivate radical conversion and transformative action.

I see an exciting roadmap for the next few years in these lines of action. I hope that you see yourself there, too. What a blessing it is to see the people of the earth come together in support of prayer and action for our common home. With you, I pray with gratitude for the guidance of Pope Francis, and for the daily efforts of people around the world who are bringing this teaching to life.

If you would like to learn more, the [www.laudato-si-conference.com](http://www.laudato-si-conference.com) has several resources including [www.laudato-si-conference.com/live-stream/](http://www.laudato-si-conference.com/live-stream/).

Many of the presentations of individual speakers are better viewed on:

the [www.youtube.com/channel/UCJga8HUEhZmiTv1JuRzok0A/videos?disable\\_polymer=1](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJga8HUEhZmiTv1JuRzok0A/videos?disable_polymer=1)

### Did you know.....

From **April 11<sup>th</sup> untill 17<sup>th</sup>**, while Sr. Marife and Sr. Elly were on visitation in PNG, there was an Assembly of the Federation of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Oceania. The theme of the Conference was **“Care for our Common Home: a sea of possibilities.”** “This theme is fitting now that countries are subject to natural disasters. In PNG we have been experiencing a lot of issues that concern our environment,” said Cardinal John Ribat msc, who is the President of the Federation of Catholic Episcopal Conferences of Oceania. He mentioned the volcano that erupted in Cardova and the earthquake that effected the Solomons Islands. “These disasters have serious effects on the infrastructure and the lives of the people and the nation. Most of the islands are in danger. Drinking water is also at risk,” according to the Cardinal. “Some communities have seen their wells infiltrated by sea water, causing an increase in salinity and some people had to abandon traditional gardens.”



Since being appointed the country’s first cardinal in 2016, Cardinal Ribat msc has focussed much of his ministry on addressing climate change. He has called the environment the most important issue to be addressed by the Catholic Church of PNG because of the risks that thousands of people are facing. “We’re

accompanying people through this,” he said. He referred to climate change as a family issue that connects the words of Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation on the family ‘Amoris Laetitia’ and his encyclical on the human relationship with the environment ‘Laudato Si’. He said that his fellow bishops agree that immediate action is needed to assist people who are forced to relocate.

Other issues that the Assembly discussed were: practical ways to address the refugee issues on Manus Island, local migrants and the plight of West Papuans.

At the same time a delegation of the **West Papuan Network in Rome visited Indonesia** to seek collaboration with their local members in West Papua.

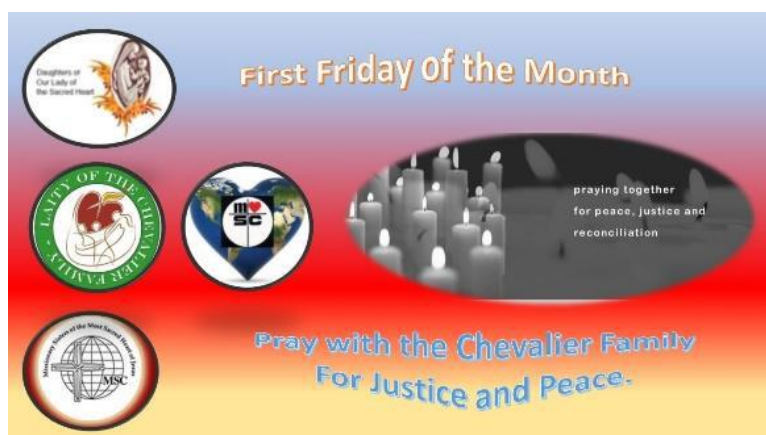


Through a questionnaire on ongoing formation, they tried to identify the current activities and the needs for ongoing formation, especially on human rights issues. They organized a meeting in Merauke, where they met with Archbishop Nicolaus Adi Seputra msc, Fr. Anselmus Amo msc and around 35 other religious, among whom were a number of msc and fdnsc.



Sr. Stephanie Kaki is the Secretary of the Caritas working group in the parish of Vunakanau (PNG). This group is made up of lay people from the seven Catholic Christian Communities in the parish. They meet once a month to talk and to discuss and raise issues that concern the communities. They plan a program to address the issues, raise awareness concerning drugs, alcohol and betel nut addiction. They seek assistance for the needy, the elderly and those affected by natural disasters. They also raise awareness of our common home and the environment, *Laudato Si* etc.

On **June 30<sup>th</sup>** the three councillors of the three Generalates who are responsible for JPIC, Father André Claessens, Sr. Juanna Valera and Sr. Elly van Dijk had their **first meeting as a working group for JPIC**. We really want to work together and join forces. Our first initiative was to invite the whole Chevalier Family to pray for justice and peace issues each first Friday of the month. If you haven’t yet let us know that your community is participating in this action, please, do let us know. In this way we experience our unity in prayer as one family.



## Events on the World Calendar for JPIC

**October 15, International Day of Rural Women:** Rural women are key agents for achieving the transformational economic, environmental and social changes required for sustainable development. But limited access to credit, health care and education are among the many challenges they face, which are further aggravated by the global food and economic crises and climate change. Empowering them is key not only to the well-being of individuals, families and rural communities, but also to overall economic productivity, given women's significant presence in the agricultural workforce worldwide.



*Loving God, we celebrate your faithfulness and love. On this day we commit ourselves to the promotion of the full humanity of all women everywhere, especially those in the rural areas. We know that whatever denies, diminishes, or distorts their full humanity is not of God. Help us to be faithful to your call. Amen.*

**October 17, International Day for the Eradication of Poverty:** This year, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty holds particular significance because it will be the first observance following the formal adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals by the General Assembly of the United Nations. Within this new development framework, designed to replace and carry forward the aims of the Millennium Development Goals, all countries committed to “ending poverty in all its forms and dimensions.”



*God of justice and compassion, we ask forgiveness for the widening gap between rich and poor, for the use of money as a measure of all things, for the culture of self-gratification, for the continuing disparities between those who have so much and those who have so little and for the suffering of those people who are excluded from the table of abundance. Fill us with a living faith that we may become lively seeds of your kingdom, continually growing in your way of love, prophets of a new dawn when those in poverty are welcomed to the table where compassion and justice meet.*

**November 16, International Day for Tolerance:** Tolerance is neither indulgence nor indifference. It is respect and appreciation of the rich variety of our world's cultures, our forms of expression and ways of being human. Tolerance recognizes the universal human rights and fundamental freedoms of others. People are naturally diverse; only tolerance can ensure the survival of mixed communities in every region of the globe.



*Lord of all the nations, we are often divided, unloving, prejudiced at times, intolerant and inclined to misunderstanding. Make us united, loving, understanding, forgiving, tolerant and open to learning. May your Spirit be present in us as you are in all peoples.*

**November 25, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women:**

A staggering one in three women have experienced physical or sexual violence in their lifetime—a pandemic of global proportions. Unlike an illness, however, perpetrators and even entire societies can choose to commit

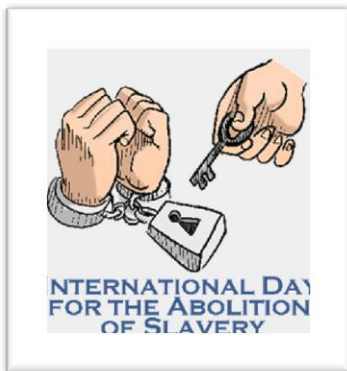


violence—and can choose to stop. Violence is not inevitable. It can be prevented. But it's not as straightforward as eradicating a virus. There is no vaccine, medication or cure. And there is no one single reason for why it happens. As such, prevention strategies should be holistic, with multiple interventions undertaken in parallel in order to have long-lasting and permanent effects. Many sectors, actors and stakeholders need to be engaged. More evidence is emerging on what interventions work to prevent violence—from community mobilisation to change social norms, to comprehensive school interventions targeting staff and pupils, to economic empowerment and income supplements coupled with gender equality training.

*God, we thank You for the love that You have for us; because we were created in your image as man and woman, recognizing us as different, we seek to complement each other: the men as support for the women and the women as support for the men. May we know, understand, appreciate and help each other, so that in a relationship, which is friendly and positive, we may collaborate together in the service of family, community, society and life.*

**December 2, International Day for the Abolition of Slavery:**

is annually held to raise awareness of the atrocities of modern slavery. The focus of this day is on eradicating contemporary forms of slavery, such as trafficking in persons, sexual exploitation, different forms of child labour, forced marriage, and the forced recruitment of children for use in armed conflicts. Today, more than 24.9 million women, men and children are trapped in slavery all over the world.



*God of our pilgrimage, who led the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land, go with the enslaved and trafficked today; be their protecting presence; provide what they need for each day; take away*

*their sorrow and wipe away every tear from their eyes. Thunder love and justice from the mountains and lead them, we pray, to opportunities to cross over into places of peace and plenty, which they can call home. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen*

**December 3, International Day for Persons with disabilities:**

The estimated one billion people living with disabilities worldwide face many barriers to inclusion in many key aspects of society. As a result, people with disabilities do not enjoy access to society on an equal basis with others, which includes areas of transportation, employment, and education as well as social and political participation. The right to participate in public life is essential to create stable democracies, active citizenship and reduce inequalities in society.



*Our gracious God, we come together as a diverse people with different abilities. Help us to recognize that we all have special gifts. Help us to recognise too that we are all in need of You, because we are all only able through You! Give us the strength to share our talents and gifts in your name. We ask this through Christ, our Lord, who always empowered people.*

**December 10, Human Rights Day:** On this day we are reminded of the fact that human rights belong equally to all of us. All people have the same rights to be free from fear and from want. Having similar needs and desires can bind us together as a global community.



*Merciful God, listen to us as we pray for a world that will respect the God-given rights of all.*

*We dedicate ourselves to work for the rights of each human person, especially for those who find life burdensome, and who know the suffering of hatred, poverty and war. Amen.*

### Prayer

A contemporary interpretation of the Beatitudes inspired by Laudato Si:

1. Blessed are those who heal the wounded earth for they will be restored to right relationship with all of Creation.
2. Blessed are those who hold the space for dialogue with the natural world, God, and each other, for they will hear the fullness of life.
3. Blessed are those who repent for life lost at human hands, for they will be forgiven by the Cosmic Christ.
4. Blessed are those who enter into relationship with the natural world, for they will know the intrinsic value of all of God's Creation
5. Blessed are those who discern the voice of Creation for they will receive the will of God in a language not our own.
6. Blessed are those with who see with the eyes of their heart for their vision will imagine the potential for new life to emerge.
7. Blessed are those who nurture the needs of the living and nonliving world, for they will be nourished in body and spirit.
8. Blessed are those who live simply, for their discipline will bring harmony with the rhythms of life.
9. Blessed are those who cultivate a life of prayer for they will know an inner cosmos that honors the outer world.
10. Blessed are those who participate in civil affairs for they will bring the cry and song of the earth to systems of power and policy.
11. Blessed are those who practice gratitude for they will receive the gift of abundance.

