



FDNSC united together for JPIC

FDNSC Generalate, Rome

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Dear Sisters and Friends,

As you all know I accompanied Sr. Marife, our Congregational Leader, on her visitation of Indonesia. And since I am the one in our council who is responsible for justice and peace issues, I decided to focus on these issues during our journey. In this bulletin, therefore, you will find an article about Indonesia on its way to democracy, events on the World JPIC Calendar, *Did you know* and, as usual at the end of the bulletin, a prayer.

Indonesia, a country on its way to democracy

The first thing that became very obvious to us during our stay was that there are many Muslims in Indonesia. It is the world's most populous Muslim nation - of a population of 257 million, 87.2 % are Muslim. Wherever we went, we heard the sound of the call to prayer coming from mosques five times a day. In the Borobudur, a Buddhist temple, 40 kilometres from Jogjakarta, a Muslim guide showed us around and he told us very proudly that in Indonesia people of many different religions are living together in peace.

And, indeed, Indonesia is often seen as one of the success stories of democratisation. Since the fall of President Suharto in 1998 and the launch of Reformasi (Reform), this country has gradually evolved into a democracy in which the government adheres to the ideology of Pancasila, the official philosophical foundation of the Indonesian state based on communal peace and monotheism. Unfortunately, the human rights situation is not quite as rosy as it might seem.

President Joko Widodo took office in 2014 and public hope was running high that he would address the human rights failures of his predecessors. He made a commitment to religious freedom, officially recognising however only six religions: Islam, Protestantism, Catholicism, Hinduism, Buddhism and Confucianism. Religious minorities face continuing harassment, intimidation and violence by Islamist militants. Local Islamic bylaws violate the rights of women, LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) people and religious minorities.



President Widodo shocked many by implementing the death penalty against many convicted drug traffickers. When we were in Indonesia, a Dutch man had just been put to death and a Philippine woman was still in death row.

It became clear to me that the way to democracy is a very long one. In Merauke, I visited SKPKC (Secretariat for Justice and Peace and Wholeness of Creation), a church based organisation of the Merauke Archdiocese. Father Anselmus Amo MSC is the director and Sr. Irene Bane FDNSC the bursar. This organisation was established in 1999 when the Conference of Bishops became aware of the increasingly difficult situation of the West Papuan

people. They have been economically marginalized by the economic system developed by the Indonesian government. This economic system is based on three aspects of economy - Marketing, Hinterland Production and Transportation - and is actually a market-oriented system. To run the system, the government brought in migrant farmers from other islands who quickly outnumbered the natives. Thousands of acres of land were cleared for rice and palm oil production to meet the market demands. These land-clearing operations had a serious impact on the ecological system and deprived Papuans of the land they relied on for survival. The Conference of Bishops decided that something had to be done. Monsignor Duivenvoorde set



up the SKPKC in Merauke, aiming to achieve a peaceful Papua where - reflecting the wholeness of God's creation - people could be true neighbours. Nowadays there are SKPKC offices in all five dioceses of West Papua.

One of the SKPKC's key issues is "the right to live". Many Papuans have suffered from violence during the fight for the land and most politicians of the resource-rich country support the multinationals. Another key issue is "the right to food". Because half of the land is

used by multinationals, the Papuans can no longer practise traditional farming methods. SKPKC tries to create awareness among the population and engage them in the problem-solving process. SKPKC tries to build and strengthen communities, achieve peace, do research by conducting a social analysis and support people's fight for human rights. The problem of the rights of the Papuans' has already been brought before the United Nations.

One of the organisations giving financial support to SKPKC is the Dutch organisation "People with a Mission". After the visitation, when I went back home for my holidays, this organisation had invited Poengky Indarti, a lawyer and the Director of *Imparsial*, the Indonesian Human Rights Monitor, to give a report. *Imparsial* reports violations of human rights by the military, police or security services, and protects people who fight for human rights. *Imparsial* also supports SKPKC. At the request of the government, *Imparsial* teaches about human rights and Indonesian law to police officers. Another guest of "People with a Mission" was Lian Gogali, an inspiring leader of Mosintuwu, an interreligious school for women in Central Sulawesi. Each class consists of Muslims, Christians and Hindus. The students in the class were made aware of the fact that, when they waste their energy fighting each other, they will not have any strength left to fight for their rights. Therefore they have to unite and become agents of peace.



Religion and violence are valid topics these days. In the media we read and hear mainly about conflicts and violence. But it is more important to pay attention to the courageous work of Indonesian men and women who use all their energy to strive for peace, interreligious dialogue and recovering relationships in local communities. Many of our Sisters and members of the Chevalier Family are, more or less, in the front line by being involved in this process of democratisation.

Events on the World JPIC Calendar

September 1: World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

Like their Orthodox brothers and sisters, Pope Francis has decided that Catholics will formally mark September 1 as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. This day of prayer, the Pope said, will give individuals and communities an opportunity to implore God's help in protecting creation and an opportunity to ask God's forgiveness "for sins committed against the world in which we live." Pope Francis announced his decision to add the annual prayer day to the Catholic calendar in a letter to Cardinal Peter Turkson, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, and to Cardinal Kurt Koch, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.



September 15: International Day of Democracy

The United Nations' (UN) International Day of Democracy is held annually to raise public awareness about democracy and to promote democracy.

September 16: International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer

This event commemorates the date of the signing of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in 1987 when representatives from 24 countries met in Montreal and announced to the world that it was time to stop destroying the ozone layer. In so doing, these countries committed themselves, via the Montreal Protocol, to rid the world of substances that threaten the ozone layer.



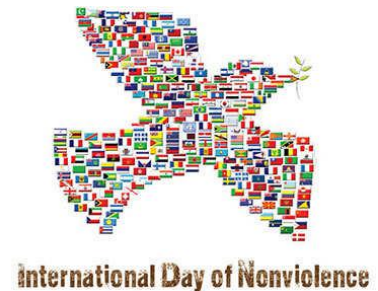
September 21: International Day of Peace



This day is devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples. The theme of this year's commemoration is "Partnerships for Peace – Dignity for All" which aims to highlight the importance of all segments of society to work together to strive for peace.

October 2: International Day of Non-violence

This day is commemorated on the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence. This day is an occasion to disseminate the message of non-violence through education and public awareness.



October 5: World Habitat Day

The United Nations has designated the first Monday of October of every year as World Habitat Day. The purpose of World Habitat Day is to reflect on the state of our towns and cities, and on

the basic right of all to have adequate shelter. It is also intended to remind the world that we all have the power and the responsibility to shape the future of our cities and towns.



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.

October 16: World Food Day

World Food Day is a day of action against hunger. On this day, people around the world come together to declare their commitment to eradicate hunger in our lifetime. Because, when it comes to hunger, the only acceptable number in the world is zero. World Food Day celebrates the establishment of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on October 16, 1945 in Quebec, Canada.



FAO estimates that there are 805 million hungry people in the world. This means they regularly do not have enough food to live an active life. The actual number of hungry people in the world is even higher when we include those who face seasonal food shortages or those who do not eat a varied diet that includes protein, vitamins and minerals.

November 16: International Day for Tolerance

On the day of its fiftieth anniversary, 16 November 1995, UNESCO's Member States adopted a Declaration of Principles on Tolerance. Among other things, the Declaration affirms that tolerance is neither indulgence nor indifference. It is respect and appreciation of the rich variety of our world's cultures, of our forms of expression and of 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.



December 1: World Aids Day

This day provides an opportunity to draw attention to the HIV epidemic around the world. Many people choose to organise an event on this day to raise awareness of HIV, to remember loved ones who have died, to show solidarity with people living with

HIV, to celebrate survival and health, and to raise money for HIV and related causes.

For many people, the day is associated with the red ribbon, an instantly recognisable symbol. Wearing a red ribbon is a simple way to show your support.

December 10: Human Rights Day

This day aims to bring to the attention of the world the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as the common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations. Human rights are basically explained by the fact that all human beings are born free and equal in rights and that they are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brother- and sisterhood.



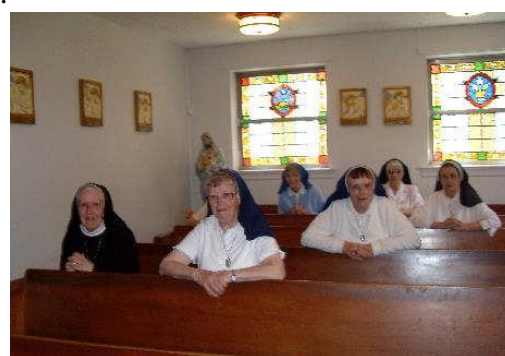
Did you know?!

The Vocational School in **Langgur**, Indonesia, where **Sr. Carla** is the director, won the first prize in their province because of their care for the environment. They not only separate waste, but also care for a green environment. Moreover they are very creative in recycling as these students show us. Their clothes are made of waste.



With some Sisters, we visited the World Peace Gong in **Ambon**. Since 2009 this symbol has had a very prominent position in the town, on the square "Taman Palita". The gong was placed there after the conflicts between Christians and Muslims, to show the great attention of the Indonesian and Moluccan government to peace. In the outer circle of the gong are flags from different countries; in the inner circle, symbols of different religions. Underneath the gong is a museum with photos of past conflicts.

Sr. Catherine, JPIC Coordinator for Ireland and the U.S.A., wrote: "Thank you for the great JPIC communications with World Calendar Events. We have been working quietly in the background for years both here in the U.S.A. and in Ireland trying to make a difference in the circumstances in which we found



ourselves. Currently, we are taking this to a new level. Having the calendar at hand we will pray in our communities for the intentions listed and will also integrate this program into our Associate meetings and prayer times. The Calendar of Events with the blurb will be posted on the website, with reminders posted on the special event days. We have visions of this initiative spreading to the workplace and, hopefully, a heightened awareness of the sacredness of our world and all who dwell on it will be achieved.”

It is great to hear this because we can only make a difference together!! For those who would like to pray with the news, www.worldinprayer.org is an interesting site. They give a weekly summary of the international news with accompanying prayer, normally posted every Thursday night.

Sr. Mairead, the Provincial of Ireland, passed on some interesting news of the conflict centre Shalom. On www.shalomconflictcenter.org you can sign up for their newsletter.

Sr. Philippa from Australia tells us that “Soon *Pacific Calling* will host a meeting ‘Pope Francis, us and our common home in the Pacific’. A small group of OLSH Sisters (Sr Lorraine, myself and 3 Kiribati Sisters) has been asked to present something on what our Congregation is doing re climate change and Kiribati.”

The Congregation has a **Facebook page for Justice and Peace**. There you will find the English text of Pope Francis’ Encyclical ‘Laudato si’ and a reader’s guide that can help you to discuss the Encyclical in your community - (www.facebook.com/FDNSCJusticeandPeace).

A Christian prayer in union with creation Pope Francis’ prayer on Climate Change

Father, we praise you with all your creatures.
They came forth from your all-powerful hand;
they are yours, filled with your presence
and your tender love.
Praise be to you!



Son of God, Jesus,
through you all things were made.
You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother,
you became part of this earth,
and you gazed upon this world with human eyes.
Today you are alive in every creature in your risen glory.
Praise be to you!

Holy Spirit, by your light,
you guide this world towards the Father’s love
and accompany creation as it groans in travail.
You also dwell in our hearts
and you inspire us to do what is good.
Praise be to you!

Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,
teach us to contemplate you
in the beauty of the universe,
for all things speak of you.

Awaken our praise and thankfulness
for every being that you have made.
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is.

God of love, show us our place in this world
as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.
Enlighten those who possess power and money
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,
that they may love the common good, advance the weak,
and care for this world in which we live.

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.
Praise be to you! Amen.

