



FDNSC united together for JPIC

FDNSC Generalate, Rome

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Dear Sisters and Friends,

Even though, the New Year will already be one month on its way when you receive this bulletin, I would like to start it with a prayer for strength and wisdom, asking that we as Chevalier Family, may be able to bring friendship and peace wherever we go. While Sr Marife and I were on visitation in Australia at the end of last year, I invited Sr Philippa Murphy, the JPIC coordinator in Australia, to look back at what has previously been done in the Province in relation to JPIC. It is my hope that this will inspire all of us to continue our work for Justice and Peace in the year that has just begun. Her article is followed by “*Did you know....*”, which informs you about some works and actions within our Congregation and finally you will find the events on the World Justice and Peace Calendar, which invite all of us to prayer and action.

Prayer for Strength and Wisdom

Grant us the strength from day to day
to bear what burdens come our way.
Grant us throughout this bright New Year
more to endure and less to fear.
Help us live that we may be
from spite and petty malice free.

Let us not bitterly complain
when cherished hopes prove vain,
or spoil with deeds of hate and rage
some fair tomorrow's spotless page.
Lord, as the days shall come and go
in courage let us stronger grow.

Lord, as the New Year dawns today,
help us to put our faults away.
Let us be big in little things;
grant us the joy which friendship brings.
Keep us from selfishness and spite;
let us be wise in what is right.

A happy New Year! Grant that we
may bring no tear to any eye.
When this New Year in time shall end,
let it be said we've played the friend,
have lived and loved and laboured here,
and made of it a happy year.

--Edgar A. Guest



The Justice and Peace Focus of the Australian Province

Over the past few years the focus in our Province has been on two main justice issues: Asylum Seekers and Climate Change. In addition, information has been disseminated throughout the Province about events on the World JPIC Calendar. This calendar highlights various aspects of Justice and Peace at a global level on specific dates. The issues highlighted include: International days for trafficked people, women, harmony and care of the earth. The highlighted social justice issues have been accompanied by a request for prayer at both personal and community level.

Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Last year the Australian Catholic Bishops stated:

“When we Australians support policies of cruelty and rejection, we close our ears to Christ’s call and turn him away from our doors. We know that we are better than this. As Christians, we know that it is within us to hear the call of Jesus. As Australians, we’ve shown ourselves willing to take the path of generosity and leadership. We can do so again.”

The call of the Bishops echoes the call of Pope Francis for our brothers and sisters *“to be shown the love and tenderness of God.”* This call is also echoed in our own General Chapter recommendations (2011):

As Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, “we are working with, advocating for and empowering the poor and all who suffer, particularly women and children through our ministries ... among refugees and displaced persons.”



A group of sisters has been actively involved in standing in solidarity with refugees and asylum seekers who are suffering injustices and breaches of human rights. These sisters have joined JPIC groups at a local level, attending rallies organised at a State and Territory level, visiting and writing letters to their members of parliament, including the Prime Minister of Australia, urging an immediate release of children in detention.

Climate Change



This has been an important justice issue for us, particularly the way in which climate change impacts on our nearest neighbours in the Pacific.

The impact of climate change on the Pacific Island Nation of Kiribati was a matter of major concern for our Congregational General Chapter in 2014. As a result of this the **‘Empowering Women ... Kiribati Choose Life’** project has been initiated with our sisters in Kiribati in collaboration with the Australian Province OLSH Overseas Aid Fund. This

project provides funding to assist and empower the women of Kiribati through education and training.

A small group of sisters, including sisters from Kiribati, has been involved with the inter-congregational group *Pacific Calling Partnership*. Its aim is to be a voice for the people of Kiribati and other low lying areas in the Pacific. We contribute to an inter-congregational website www.pacificclimatewatch.com.au

This group initiated a very successful Conference Day at Del Monte School Strathfield in 2015. The theme of the conference was 'Climate Change and our Common Home in the Pacific'. Over 100 people attended the conference. A group of OLSH sisters gave one of the key presentations, speaking about our Congregation's response to Care of the Earth. This response is based on our 19th General Chapter Statements and Recommendations, with a particular emphasis on Heart Spirituality and the impact of Climate Change on the lives of the people of Kiribati.



The Sisters from Kiribati showed great courage as they shared their personal stories about the way in which Climate Change is having an impact on their people and the country of Kiribati. Sisters' sharing of their real life experience of fleeing king tides, rising sea levels and the pain and suffering of their own people whose houses are being destroyed and gardens decimated was very moving.

Many sisters have been involved in attending rallies in their State or Territory, especially towards the end of 2015, prior to the COP21 meeting in Paris. Also, some sisters have written letters to their local members to urge our Government to support policies that will reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

Prayers relating to care of the earth have been sent out to communities as it is important that we accompany all our endeavours with prayer. As a Province we have welcomed the Encyclical of Pope Francis, *Laudato si*.

Immersion Experiences in the Indigenous Community of Nguiu & in the Philippines

'Lord when did I see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or imprisoned and did not come to help you? Then he will answer, 'I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to the least of my brothers or sisters, you neglected to do it to me.' (Mt 25:45)

Another aspect of our ministry for justice has been to offer to the staff of our secondary Colleges 'Immersion Experiences' to Bathurst Island (Nguiu) and to the Philippines in order to give them a deeper understanding of the charism of Jules Chevalier. The immersions to Bathurst Island provided the participants with an opportunity to experience life in an OLSH community as well as to see the way in which the OLSH sisters have responded to and continue to respond to the needs of indigenous people and the poor.



The immersion programme in Manila gave the participants an opportunity to immerse themselves in the faith, culture and ministries of the OLSH Sisters in the Philippines. The immersion experiences were greatly appreciated by those who participated in them and a highlight was living in community with OLSH sisters.

We live in a time where there is a growing and concerning 'globalisation' of indifference. Multimedia has been used to highlight

the plight and suffering of our brothers and sisters around the world with the hope that we as individuals and communities will Act Now for Justice.

Did you know.....?

During our visitation to Australia we met Sr Anna Kaburoro from Kiribati, who works among the refugees in Nauru. To Father Meaney MSC she wrote: *“When Nauru re-opened the refugee camp, I immediately resolved to help these suffering people. During the last years my love for them has grown deeper and deeper. They are greatly hurt and seek peace. Since working with them, I have seen many changes in their lives. They are open and willing to share their sad stories about how they have been tortured and persecuted in so many ways. I have been able to assist eight families to be received into the Church. They approached me and asked for this assistance. They wanted to send their children to our Parish School.”*



On November 3 Sr Merle attended a meeting on behalf of Sr Elly, our JPIC Coordinator. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss collaboration among Congregations in order to promote human rights in West Papua. Input was given by a West Papuan religious and by an expert whose specialty is the defence of human rights of West Papuan people on the international level. Following the input, the 13 participants, representing 7 religious congregations, expressed the desire to

accompany the indigenous West Papuan people in the promotion of human rights. Therefore, the Congregations have decided to form a network in Rome in order to share information, to improve networks and relationships in West Papua, particularly in health and education ministries, to raise awareness and train their members and to network with religious non-government organisations. This network stays in contact with Father Anselmus Amo MSC, the director of SKPKC, whom Sr Elly met in 2015 while visiting Merauke. (See JPIC Bulletin no. 3 August 2015)

In *Vietnews*, we read about Sr Huyen’s and Sr Yen’s ministries in Vietnam: every Wednesday Sr Huyen joins a small group that does the cooking for and feeding of more than 1,000 people. They go to the mentally handicapped people and poor people in different places. Before Christmas, Sr Huyen helped a group to pack Christmas gifts and to distribute them to the poor on Christmas Day.



On December 12, Sr Yen started her weekly ministry at Lang Son Parish – cooking and feeding the handicapped and the poor every afternoon, and attending bible sharing in the evening. The parish priest talked to her about the possibility of the congregation taking

responsibility for the cooking and feeding program in the future in order to bring stability and continuity to the program.



On December 6, Sr Laurentia and Sr Merle attended a meeting about the Catholic Divest Project of the Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM). The GCCM endeavours to implement *Laudato Si* and one way is by encouraging institutions to divest from companies that contribute to the destruction of the environment. Together with Trócaire, the overseas development agency of the Irish Catholic Church, they have distributed a toolkit for **Ethical investments in an era of Climate Change**. It provides support for Catholic leadership as they seek to understand better and engage in a review of their financial choices in the light of climate change. You can find the toolkit and a PowerPoint presentation at the following links:

http://catholicclimatemovement.global/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/GCCM_Tr%C3%B3caire-Catholic-Toolkit.pdf

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1B7KUz9uebP6rrsK3en-hBtEtgbWu4nA0pbXGwE2f16E/edit#slide=id.p6>

Events on the JPIC Calendar

February 6-12, World Interfaith Harmony Week: provides an opportunity – one week in a

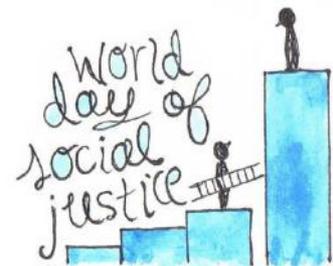


year – for all interfaith groups and other groups of goodwill to show the world what a powerful movement they are. It is hoped that this initiative will help all people of goodwill to recognize that the common values they hold far outweigh the differences they have, and thus provide a strong dose of peace and harmony to their communities.

A Prayer for Unity: Dear Father, just as it was when Jesus made his home on earth, the world can be a hateful and cruel place. We ask you to guide our actions as believers. Give us an eagerness to be humble and gentle. Help us to be patient and forbearing. Thank you for the hope you give us. May this hope unify our thoughts and decisions and invoke peace through the Spirit. Amen

February 20, The United Nations' World Day of Social Justice: encourages 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. For the United Nations, the pursuit of social justice for all is at the core of its global mission to promote development and human dignity.

A prayer for Social Justice: Heavenly Father, we pray for the poorest and most vulnerable. May the oppressed and needy feel justice and equality and experience a world without hunger and poverty. Let us not just speak of justice, but let us act in just ways.



March 1, Zero Discrimination Day: Discrimination remains widespread: gender, nationality, age, ethnic origin, sexual orientation or religion, unfortunately can all be a basis



for some form of discrimination. “When the most marginalized and vulnerable face discrimination and abuse, all of us are diminished,” said former United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. “The United Nations is strongly committed to upholding human rights and dignity for all.”

Prayer against discrimination: Almighty God, creator of all people, 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, United Nations’ Day for Women’s Rights and International Peace: is a day when women are recognized for their achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political. It is an occasion for looking back on past struggles and accomplishments, and more importantly, for looking ahead to the untapped potential and opportunities that await future generations of women.



A prayer for women’s day: Lord, bless women everywhere. We pray especially for all those mothers, grandmothers and sisters who work to care for family members in need, while forging their own paths in life. May their loving hearts and nurturing spirits be blessed with strength and joy. Amen.



March 20, International Day of Happiness: has been established in 2013. A profound shift in attitudes is underway all over the world. People are now recognising that 'progress' should be about increasing human happiness and wellbeing, not just growing the economy. All 193 United Nations member states have adopted a resolution calling for happiness to be given greater priority. Do you also want to try to create more happiness in the world around you? Then you can join the movement for a happier world on <http://www.dayofhappiness.net/#join>.

A prayer for happiness: Father, please help me to rest in your happiness, to allow a smile to linger on my lips, to dwell within a wonderful memory, to walk back to sunlit places. Please help me not to miss a single drop of heaven, to catch each moment and drink in the great joy of life.

March 24, International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for Dignity of Victims: This annual observance pays tribute to the memory of Monsignor Óscar Arnulfo Romero, who was murdered on 24 March 1980. Monsignor Romero was actively engaged in denouncing violations of the human rights of the most vulnerable individuals in El Salvador.



The right to the truth is often invoked in the context of gross violations of human rights and grave breaches of humanitarian law. The relatives of victims of summary executions, enforced disappearance, missing persons, abducted children and torture need to know what happened to them. The right to the truth implies knowing the full and complete truth as to the events that transpired, their specific circumstances, and who participated in them. This includes knowing the circumstances in which the violations took place, as well as the reasons for them.

A prayer for Basic Rights: Lord of Wisdom, awaken us to our duty to care for the basic needs of all people. Strengthen with hope people denied their human rights and freedoms. Provide us all with the voice to cry out for justice for the poor and the oppressed. Amen

April 7, World Health Day: In 1948, the WHO held the First World Health Assembly. The Assembly decided to celebrate 7 April of each year, with effect from 1950, as the World Health Day. The organisation sees the World Health Day as an opportunity to draw worldwide attention to a subject of major importance to global health each year.



World Health Day

A prayer of Blessing on the Sick: May the Lord bless and keep all who are unwell today. May the Lord let His face shine upon all who are struggling with ill health and sickness of body, mind or spirit. May He rise up with healing on His wings and look with deep compassion and mercy on all who need His strength today. May He pour into all their hearts the peace and love that only comes from the Father – through the person of the Lord Jesus Christ –in whose name we pray, Amen

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 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. This year the theme for World Earth Day is: End Plastic Pollution. Watch the video on: www.youtube.com/watch?v=ACaFPq9wOp4



A prayer for Mother Earth

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, 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 in your risen glory alive in every creature. 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. Inspire us to do what is good.

May 3, World Press Freedom Day: is annually observed, to inform the international community, that freedom of the press and freedom of expression are fundamental human rights. This day reminds people that many brave journalists risked death or faced imprisonment to bring daily news to the public.



A Prayer for Journalists by St. Francis de Sales, patron saint of writers and journalists

Almighty God, strengthen and direct, we pray, the will of all whose work it is to write what many read, and to speak where many listen.

May we be bold in confronting evil and injustice; understanding of and compassionate to human weakness; may we reject both the half-truth which deceives, and the slanted word which corrupts.

May the power which is ours for good or ill always be used with honesty and courage, with respect and integrity, so that when all here has been written, said and done, we may, unashamed, meet Thee face to face. Amen

May 8-9: Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for those who lost their lives during the Second World War:

In November 2004, May 8– 9 were declared as a time of remembrance and reconciliation for those who lost their lives during the Second World War (WWII). The events of the Second World War created the conditions for the establishment of the UN as an international organization that focuses on promoting peace and co-operation. The United Nations was created in order to prevent other conflicts comparable to WWII.



A prayer for victims of war: God of all people, be a shelter and strength to the innocent who live in the shadow of war and terror, especially the frightened children; be their haven and hope. And to those who have already lost their lives as victims of human cruelty and chemical warfare, open wide your arms and enfold them all in the embrace of your compassion, healing and everlasting life.



May 21: World Day for the Cultural Diversity, for Dialogue and Development:

The day provides us with an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the values of cultural diversity. Watch the video on:

www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=12&v=2oKAK3Ls2qs

Diversity Blessing 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.