



FDNSC united together for JPIC

FDNSC Generalate, Rome

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Dear Sisters,

Happy New Year to all of you!! May the Lord bless us with the strength and the courage to be also in this year his Heart on Earth. We want to start this year well! In 2012 Sr. Dain, as General Councilor, started the JPIC Bulletin and it was a success. Due to unexpected events within our Congregation, the Bulletin hasn't been published for a while now, but this is a new year and a new start!! Sister Dain wrote: "The Bulletin will follow the World JPIC Calendar which commemorates various aspects of Justice and Peace at a global level on specific dates. We would like to invite the whole congregation to live these world days with enthusiasm, creativity and practical initiatives, even if they are small. Together we can make a difference and prayer is the greatest way to change the world!!"

This year we say: "Let us wake up the world!!"

In this bulletin you will find some information about the Pact of Domitilla, dates of special events on the World JPIC Calendar, "Did you know..." and a prayer. We hope you will enjoy reading this bulletin and that it may inspire you to go on to work for a good world for everybody.



The Pact of Domitilla:

Pact of the Servant and Poor Church

On 16 November 2014 Sister Dain, the former coordinator for JPIC and Sr. Elly, the newly appointed coordinator, went to a celebration in the Catacombs of Domitilla to remember the fact that on the same date in 1965 (exactly 50 years ago), as Vatican Council II drew to a close, 40 bishops met in this place to sign a document that expressed their personal commitment as bishops for a poor servant Church. The bishops were led by Archbishop Helder Camara of Brazil. The bishops said that they were conscious of the deficiencies of their lifestyle in terms of evangelical poverty. Some of the commitments they made, which we believe are also relevant for us, were the following:

- We will try to live according to the ordinary manner of our people in all that concerns housing, food, means of transport, and related matters.
- We renounce forever the appearance and the substance of wealth, especially in clothing and symbols made of precious metals.
- In our communications and social relations we will avoid everything that may appear as a concession of privilege, prominence, or even preference to the wealthy and the

powerful (for example, in religious services or by way of banquet invitations offered or accepted).

- Likewise we will avoid favoring or fostering the vanity of anyone at the moment of seeking or acknowledging aid or for any other reason. We will invite our faithful to consider their donations as a normal way of participating in worship, in the apostolate, and in social action.
- We will give whatever is needed in terms of our time, our reflection, our heart, our means, etc., to the apostolic and pastoral service of workers and labor groups and to those who are economically weak and disadvantaged, without allowing that to detract from the welfare of other persons or groups of the diocese. We will support lay people, religious, deacons, and priests whom the Lord calls to evangelize the poor and the workers by sharing their lives and their labors.
- Conscious of the requirements of justice and charity and of their mutual relatedness, we will seek to transform our works of welfare into social works based on charity and justice, so that they take all persons into account, as a humble service to the responsible public agencies.
- We will do everything possible so that those responsible for our governments and our public services establish and enforce the laws, social structures, and institutions that are necessary for justice, equality, and the integral, harmonious development of the whole person and of all persons, and thus for the advent of a new social order, worthy of the children of God.
- We commit ourselves to sharing our lives in pastoral charity with our brothers and sisters in Christ, priests, religious, and laity, so that our ministry constitutes a true service. Accordingly, we will make an effort to “review our lives” with them; we will seek collaborators in ministry so that we can be animators according to the Spirit rather than dominators according to the world; we will try to make ourselves as humanly present and welcoming as possible; and we will show ourselves to be open to all, no matter what their beliefs.

May God help us to be faithful.

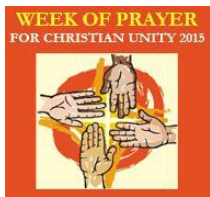
Although the meeting took place in the evening of a rainy Sunday, many people came to join this event. Together we reflected on the document. ***What touched us in this document? What does it mean for our own lifestyle as members of the church, as religious?***

Also Pope Francis shows us by his words and example that he regards the poor and marginalized to be the center of the life and the teachings of the Church. Maybe in this Year of the Consecrated Life also we can reflect on these questions.



Events on the World JPIC Calendar:

January 18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



In order to unite with one another, we must love one another; in order to love one another, we must know one another; in order to know one another, we must go and meet one another. The dates of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity are chosen because they represent the feasts of two saints significant to our understanding of Christian unity. January 18 is the feast of the confession of St. Peter. January 25 is the feast of the conversion of St. Paul. Peter and Paul can be understood as representing two competing experiences of Christianity which are reconciled in the gathering at Jerusalem (Acts 15). Recourses on: www.ctbi.org.uk/682

January 27: International Holocaust Remembrance Day

On this day each year, the United Nations (UN) remembers the Holocaust that affected many people of Jewish origin during World War II. The day also commemorates when the Soviet troops liberated the Nazi concentration and death camp Auschwitz-Birkenau in Poland on January 27, 1945. It is hoped that through remembering these events, people will remember the Holocaust and prevent genocide.

February 20: The United Nations' World day of Social Justice

This day 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.



March 8: United Nations' Day for Women's rights and International Peace

This day is celebrated in many countries around the world. It 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.

April 22: Earth Day



This year, Earth Day's 45th anniversary - could be the most exciting year in environmental history. The year in which economic growth and sustainability join hands. The year in which world leaders finally pass a binding climate change treaty. The year in which citizens and organizations divest from fossil fuel investment and put their money into renewable energy solutions. These are tough issues but we know what's at stake is the future of our planet and the survival of life on earth. On Earth Day we need you to take a stand so that together, we can show the world a new direction. It's your turn to lead. So our world leaders can follow by example.

As our General Chapter encouraged us to work together with other organisations, we would like to invite you to sign the petition on www.ourvoices.net , by which we declare that we

love the earth and that we urge our global leaders to take the necessary decisions to prevent the devastating consequences of climate change.

Did you know that.....

Father Chevalier said: Our love of neighbour should be tender-hearted and compassionate. The Samaritan should be our model... when along life's road we come across a person wounded by sorrow, bruised by ingratitude, calumny or sin, prostrate in the mud of disorderly life, or a poor person lacking everything, or a needy family. Like the Samaritan, let us draw near to these unfortunate people, and do everything in our power to comfort them.

(Chevalier, Méditations pour tous les jours de l'année II, p. 259)

We said on our website: We share in Jesus' mission and are faithful to the faith vision of our Founder by being women of heart, revealing God's compassion and healing love for all those who are victims of the evils of our times. We see Justice, Peace and Care of Creation as a new way of living and of being faithful to our mission to make known the strong and merciful love of God revealed in his Heart.

Sisters in all our Provinces work very hard on different projects to establish more Justice and Peace in our world today.

The sisters in the Philippines reflect once a month on issues of JPIC.

We would like you to let us know what in your Province is done in relation to Justice and peace! One sentence or picture is enough!

We have **contact persons for JPIC** in every Province. **We ask you to send us their names once more so that we can publish the list of names in the next bulletin. Thank you very much for your cooperation!!**

A prayer for global citizenship

God of yesterday, today and tomorrow
You created a world of beauty and
plenty for us all to share,
You gave us responsibility for this
earth, rich in life and variety.

Create in us a desire to act in
solidarity, sacrificing some
of our freedom and self-interest
for the sake of the common good.

Enlighten and strengthen us
so that we may challenge the social
and economic systems
that create and sustain poverty.

Show us the paths that lead
to mutual assistance among peoples,
to a deepening of human knowledge,
to an enlargement of heart,
and to a more human way of living
within society.

May we carry forward the work of
Christ under the lead of the
befriending Spirit.

*Inspired by Paul VI.
Populorum Progressio, 1967*

