



FDNSC united together for JPIC

FDNSC Generalate, Rome

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Dear Sisters and Friends,

In 2016, three intercontinental meetings took place in our Congregation. The European Provincials came together in Rome. The main topic of their meeting was “ageing”. In the intercontinental meeting of Africa-Brazil they spoke about Formation, while the intercontinental meeting of Asia-Pacific-Australia was the first one on the theme of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation! Because of the topic some JPIC Coordinators accompanied their Provincials. In the last Bulletin you have already read about the Climate Change Conference which was part of this meeting. Now I would like to share with you a summary of the presentation that Sr. Betty Baroro, the JPIC Coordinator of the Philippines, gave about how the sisters in her country have integrated JPIC issues into their ministries. Thank you for sharing this with us, Sr. Betty!

As usual you will find the events on the World Justice and Peace Calendar. “Did you know....” will inform you about some other activities within our Congregation. We end with a quotation of Pope Francis and a prayer attributed to Oscar Romero.

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation in our FDNSC Philippine Region

Sr. Betty started to explain that her country is facing two groups of problems, namely:

- **economic problems**, such as unemployment, a growing gap between the rich and the poor, low wages, corruption and a trade deficit.
- and **non-economic problems**, such as poverty due to a lack of education, skills and work. The consequences of poverty include prostitution, human trafficking, hunger and violence against children and women; a second non-economic problem relates to environmental issues, such as pollution, mining, conversion of agricultural land to commercial use, illegal logging and clearing the ground by burning, displacement of the indigenous people and dispossession of their land in favour of mining and logging concessions; a third non-economic problem is related to issues of climate change.

As Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart we are called to mission; therefore:



- We take into our hearts and our prayer the hopes and concerns of the people in our time (Const. 58). Like Mary, we hasten to go and bring the good news to the poor.
- We endeavour to bring Christ's saving love to others by engaging in education, health care and pastoral ministries (Const. 59).

As Daughters of the Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in the Philippines, we address the issues mentioned above in the following way:

We try to improve our awareness by informing ourselves and by bringing the problems to prayer. Seeing the reality leads us to action. Even though the problems are huge, we, as a Region, try to integrate the issues into our different ministries.

In our educational ministries:

- we help young people to become aware of the beauty of the universe and how certain people are violating this beautiful gift of God to us;
- we integrate in our curriculum care of mother earth and we teach the children, in word and in deed, to separate waste into the following categories: reusable, recyclable and biodegradable;
- we teach our students to share their blessings with their brothers and sisters who are less fortunate, using community involvement programs.



Sr Evelyn "Dove" Ortiga with students



Sharing the blessings in remote areas



Mangrove planting on the nearby shoreline

In our health care ministries:

- we give seminars and lectures on proper nutrition and hygiene;
- we give food and supplements to malnourished children;
- and we assist pregnant mothers to give birth.



Nutrition Program: sharing a meal



Giving food and supplements to malnourished children



Assisting in delivering a baby

In our pastoral ministries:

- we use the resources available to assist the people we journey with and work with in our parishes;
- we contact our sisters from overseas for funding in order to continue the ministries for the poor such as: skills training, tutorials, feeding programs, seminars;
- we integrate the issue of climate change into the formation we provide for Basic Ecclesial Communities and Chevalier Family Lay Associates;
- we attend meetings of tribal and vulnerable people to support them in upholding the dignity of their tribe, to strengthen the bonds with other tribes, and to foster unity as Filipinos.



Skill training:
candle making



Informal education in
Badjao community



Supporting indigenous people

In all our ministries our goal is to move from “I” to “we”, and to care together for what Pope Francis calls “our Common Home”! Therefore **we pray**:

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 the world in which we live. The poor and the earth are crying out for our help. 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, Oh God! Amen.

Events on the World JPIC Calendar

May 8 and 9, Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for those who lost their lives during the Second World War: This two-day observance gives us the chance to remember people who died during World War II. The UN General Assembly held a special meeting to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the end of World War II during the second week of May in 2005. The Assembly stressed that this historic event established the conditions for the creation of the United Nations. At that meeting the UN also declared May 8 and 9 as a time of remembrance and reconciliation, to be observed annually worldwide.

How well do you know the United Nations? Take the test on:

www.csmonitor.com/World/2015/1203/What-do-you-know-about-the-United-Nations-Take-our-quiz/Year-founded

Let us pray: Lord God, remember Christ your Son who is peace himself and who has washed away our hatred with His blood. Because you love all men and women, look with mercy on all who are engaged in battle. Banish the violence and evil within all combatants, so that one day, we may all deserve to be called your sons and daughters. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



May 17, World Telecommunication and Information Society Day: The purpose of this day is to help raise awareness of the possibilities that the use of the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICT) can bring to societies and economies, as well as of ways to bridge the digital divide.

Let us pray: Thank you, God for the good gift of the Internet and social media through which we can communicate, learn, and glorify you. We pray that you would help us to avoid technology's unintended consequences like idolizing gadgets, using gadgets to feed other idols in our lives, or to keep us from relating to others you have called us to love. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

May 21, World Day of Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development: This day provides us with an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the values of cultural diversity and to learn to live together better.

Have you ever committed a cultural faux pas? Take the quiz on our JPIC Facebook or on the internet at:

<https://about.futurelearn.com/blog/quiz-have-you-ever-committed-a-cultural-faux-pas>



Let us pray: We praise You, God, for the diversity we see all around us. We rejoice in the complex beauty of your creation. Help us to celebrate the wonderful blend of cultures and peoples in this world by actively seeking solidarity with one another. Amen.



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

Let us pray: Lord God Father of tenderness, You grace us with the capacity to receive, to love and to protect all children. Sadly there are many children who do not experience this love and security.

We ask your forgiveness for times we have failed to provide the nurturing and development that they deserve in our families, neighbourhoods and institutions.

With your help, Lord, may we never be responsible for causing children to suffer, feel rejected, excluded or abandoned but rather may we show them Your Love that brings them

comfort and goodness. Grant us the grace to build a world that respects their innocence and their right to life. Amen.

June 5, World Environment Day: World Environment Day is the UN’s principal vehicle for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the environment. It also serves as the ‘people’s day’ for doing something positive for the environment, galvanizing individual actions into a collective power that generates an exponential positive impact on the planet. What do you know about Climate Change? Take the test on:



www.csmonitor.com/Environment/2014/0827/Climate-change-Is-your-opinion-informed-by-science-Take-our-quiz/Gas

Let us pray: Lord, we pray that people everywhere become more caring towards the environment in which they live, and that politicians, planners and developers seriously consider environmental concerns when making decisions.

June 20, World Refugee Day: The refugee challenge in the 21st century is changing rapidly. People are forced to flee their homes for increasingly complicated and interlinked reasons. Some 40 million people worldwide are already uprooted by violence and persecution. Today people do not just flee persecution and war but also injustice, exclusion, environmental pressures, competition for scarce resources and all the miserable human consequences of dysfunctional states.



Let us pray: that we may find ways to unlock the potential of refugees, who have so much to offer if they are given the opportunity to regain control over their lives. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen



June 23, United Nations Public Service Day: The UN Public Service Day intends to celebrate the value and virtue of public service to the community, to highlight the contribution of public service in the development process, to recognize the work of public servants, and to encourage young people to pursue careers in the public sector.

Let us pray: Everlasting God, strengthen and sustain all those who work in public services; that with patience and understanding they may love and care for your people; and grant that they may offer their gifts and talents to the benefit of all; we ask this through Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

July 18, Nelson Mandela International Day: Every year on this day — the day Nelson Mandela was born — the UN joins a call by the Nelson Mandela Foundation to devote 67 minutes of time to helping others, as a way to mark Nelson Mandela International Day.

For 67 years Nelson Mandela devoted his life to the service of humanity — as a human rights lawyer, a prisoner of conscience, an international peacemaker and the first democratically elected president of a free South Africa. In December 2015, the General Assembly decided to extend the scope of Nelson Mandela International Day to also be utilized in order to promote humane conditions of imprisonment, to raise awareness about prisoners being a continuous part of society and to value the work of prison staff as a social service of particular importance.

What do you know about Mandela and his fight against Apartheid? Take the quiz on: www.csmonitor.com/World/Africa/2013/0404/Remembering-Nelson-Mandela-How-much-do-you-know-about-his-legacy/Nelson-Mandela-became-president-of-South-Africa-in-what-year

Let us pray: 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. Lord, we give you thanks for Madiba. When others surrendered to darkness, he kept faith with the promise of tomorrow. He envisioned a path to heal the wounds of the past with the intent of constructing a new order, based on justice for all. His work inspired the world. Lord, we give you thanks for Madiba. May we have an ounce of his courage. May we have an ounce of his faith.



Comfort those in South Africa and across the world who mourn. Let the work of Nelson Mandela continue in us. Amen.

July 30, World Day against Trafficking in Persons: Human trafficking affects every country in the world. At least 2.5 million people are trapped in modern-day slavery, according to the UN. All around the world, men, women and children are kidnapped, tricked, blackmailed, or manipulated into slavery, like prostitution, forced labour, or organ removal. One in four victims are children. More than half of these children are from Africa and the Middle East, and more than one third are from Asia and the Pacific. The UN launched the Day Against Trafficking Persons for the first time on July 30, 2014, to end human trafficking and raise awareness worldwide.



Let us pray: 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 speak up for modern-day slaves around the world.

August 9, International Day of the World's Indigenous People: There are an estimated 370 million indigenous people in the world, living across 90 countries. They make up less than 5 per cent of the world's population, but account for 15 per cent of the poorest. They speak an overwhelming majority of the world's estimated 7,000 languages and represent 5,000



different cultures. On 23 December 1994, the United Nations General Assembly decided that the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples shall be observed on 9 August every year.

Let us pray: O Great Spirit, God of all people and every tribe, through whom all people are related, call us to the kinship of all your people. Grant us vision to see through the lens of justice, the brokenness of the past. In your great love, O God, hear our prayer.

August 19, World Humanitarian Day is an annual reminder of the need to act to alleviate suffering. It is also an occasion to honour the humanitarian workers and volunteers toiling on the frontlines of crises.



Let us pray: We join together in praise today – that you are a God of justice and compassion. We are grateful that you know our stories intimately and that you also know the limitations of our humanity. Give us the eyes to see one another more clearly and help us enter into one another's stories.

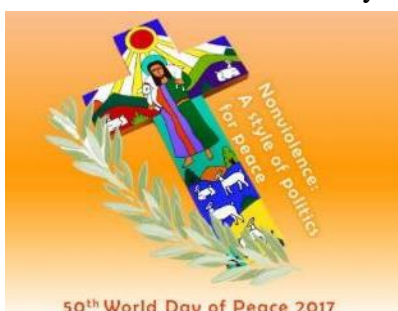
Thank you for those on the front lines – from development professionals to community leaders – who are working to eliminate oppression, right systemic injustices, and restore broken relationships. We pray that you would empower and protect them, as they remain steadfastly committed to see wrongs righted. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

September 5, International Day of Charity: Every year, charities all over the world help to save and improve people's lives, fighting disease, protecting children, and giving hope to many thousands of people. To honour the important work that these many charities do, in 2012 the United Nations decided to nominate an annual International Day of Charity as an official day of recognition and celebration. The reason the date was chosen is because it is the anniversary of the death of Mother Teresa of Calcutta.



Let us pray: Thank You, Lord, for the many graces and blessings you have placed in my life. I offer You my heart-felt gratitude for Your countless gifts to me each day. In turn, dear Lord, help me to be aware of the needs of my least sisters and brothers, and to respond to those who are poor and less fortunate with generous expressions of charity, kindness and caring. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

September 21, International Day of Peace: This day was established in 1981 by the United Nations General Assembly. Two decades later, in 2001, the General Assembly unanimously



voted to designate this day as a period of non-violence and cease-fire. The United Nations invites all nations and people to honour a cessation of hostilities during this day, and to otherwise commemorate the day through education and public awareness on issues related to peace.

Let us pray:

Make your ways known upon earth, Lord God, your saving power among all peoples.
Renew your Church in holiness and help us to serve you with joy.
Guide the leaders of all nations, that justice may prevail throughout the world.
Let not the needy be forgotten, nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
Make us instruments of your peace and let your glory be over all the earth. Amen

Did you know....?

On January 25, Sr. Anne Gardiner, who has spent half a century helping the Northern Territory's Tiwi people, was named Senior Australian of the Year. She accepted the award in the name of all Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart who have lived and ministered among Australia's indigenous people for more than a century. Congratulations, dear Sister!



On March 18, Sr. Jenny, Sr. Margaret and Sr. Elly attended a seminar on “Nonviolence: a style of politics for peace”. Pope Francis has written the first ever World Day of Peace Message on Nonviolence. This foundational document, with the same title as the seminar, urges us to build peace in our personal lives and in our world. Pope Francis reminds us that the politics of nonviolence has to begin in the home and then spread to the entire human family.

The seminar with Dr. Maryanne Cusimano Love, Professor of the Institute for Policy Research and Department of Politics of the Catholic University of America in Washington DC, challenged and inspired the participants to explore the implications of this message in their daily lives.

Dr. Maryanne started with a quotation from Pope Francis: “Peace building is people building” and she said that many people around the world have been working very hard, because peace is breaking through... By any measure from the 20th century until today, facts show that most people are living in peace and that there are fewer wars than ever in history. But we are still experiencing war in Syria and Iraq, Turkey, Yemen, Greater Sahel and Lake Chad Basin, DR Congo, South Sudan, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Ukraine and Mexico. (For more information about these conflict zones go to:

<http://foreignpolicy.com/2017/01/05/10-conflicts-to-watch-in-2017/>)

On 26 March the Mass intention of Pope Francis was for the conflict situations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. On our Justice and Peace Facebook and also on www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-39378901?SThisFB you can find an article about the background of these conflicts. We continue to pray for our sisters and their people in DR Congo.



The Australian Province is a member of Pacific Calling Partnership, which is a group that advocates for Climate Justice. On behalf of this group, Sr. Philippa, the JPIC Coordinator of the Australian Province, sent us an invitation to join the PCP Facebook Campaign by sending a photo of ourselves holding a sign that says: "Climate Change isn't a joke. We need climate action now!" This is the result.

Everybody is invited to participate by sending a photo to info@pacificclimatewatch.com.au Father Claude Mostowik MSC and Cardinal John Ribat MSC have already sent their pictures!

A quotation from Pope Francis and a prayer attributed to Oscar Romero

Let us not grow tired of knocking at God's door. Let us go to the heart of God through Mary, our whole life, every day, knocking at the door of God's heart! Mary prays - prays together with the community of disciples, and teaches us to have full faith in God, in his mercy. This is the power of prayer!

Therefore, let us pray:

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.

The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.

Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said.

No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No confession brings perfection.

No pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No program accomplishes the church's mission.

No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.

This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow.

We water seeds already planted,
knowing that they hold future promise.
We lay foundations that will need further development.
We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.
We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation
in realizing that.
This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.
Amen.