

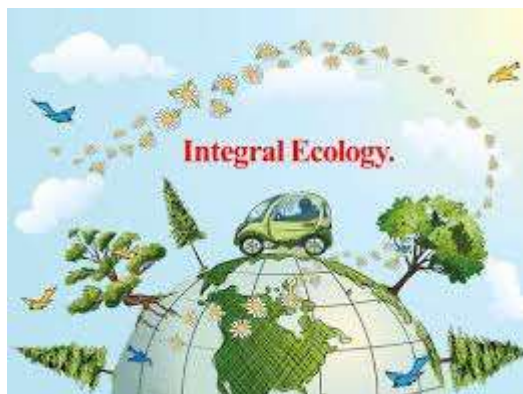


FDNSC united together for JPIC

FDNSC Generalate, Rome
2021

JPIC Bulletin, No 21, September

Dear Sisters and Friends,



In the last two issues of this JPIC Bulletin, we talked about the Roll-out plan of the Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development to involve the whole of the Catholic Church in a commitment to complete transition to integral ecology by 2030.

On April 15, Sr. Juana, Father André and Sr. Elly participated in a Webinar “Engaging the vision of *Laudato Si*”. Sr. Sheila Kinsey FCJM opened this Webinar saying: “Engaging the vision of *Laudato*

Si is “time to grow in solidarity, responsibility and compassionate care” (LS 210). We want to integrate what religious are already doing. So, we are not saying: Let us put on another program. No, we say: Look at what you are already doing and how you can integrate that into this platform. We want to share ideas that are simple and manageable, inspiring enough to motivate us and flexible enough to suit different contexts.”

That also is precisely the aim of our JPIC Bulletin. In this Bulletin, you will find an article about two activities within our Congregation, showing how the sisters are engaging the vision of *Laudato Si*. In “Did you know”, you can see that we are already working on the *Laudato Si* goals we spoke about in the previous Bulletin and you can read about two possible approaches to the seven-year plan of the Dicastery, illustrated by a variety of activities within our Congregation. This is followed by the Events on the World Calendar for JPIC. I hope that reading this Bulletin will help us, as a Congregation, in our search as to how we can participate in this commitment of the whole Church.

National Lenten Campaign in the Netherlands: Virtual walking



Walking through Africa at home, that was the idea. The



participants would walk their kilometres in their own environment and enter the distance they had walked on a campaign website with a map of Africa. Because the aim of this walk was to support the projects of the National Lenten Campaign financially, they asked all participants to contribute a minimum of € 25. The action started on Ash Wednesday, 17 February. In total, there were about 350

participants who walked about 780 kilometres every day. The FDNSC, MSC and lay people of our Care Home Notre Dame in Tilburg participated. Some participants - including the FDNSC and MSC - also had themselves sponsored.

The participants walked from Sierra Leone to Zambia, back to Sierra Leone via South Africa and continued to Ethiopia, passing through countries such as Mali, Niger, Chad, Congo and Sudan. They covered a total of over 35.000 kilometres. The director of the National Lenten Campaign, Peter van Hoof, visited the participants of Notre Dame and showed, in a short video on their website, how the elderly priests, brothers and sisters covered, in the garden and the house, some 130 kilometres every day. An achievement to be proud of! You can watch the video at <https://vimeo.com/536326638>

During the virtual walk, the participants received information about the countries they travelled through and about projects supported by the Lenten action. The participants heard, for example, **the cry of the poor in a project in the Democratic Republic of Congo:**

Insecurity and poor living conditions in the countryside have led to a mass migration to the capital Kinshasa. There, however, poverty has increased, and unemployment in the working-class neighbourhoods is over 80%. Tens of thousands of street children roam the city. Some of them were accused of witchcraft. Others fled the poverty at home and fell into the hands of child traffickers.

The Lenten Campaign last year supported a project of the 'Chemin Neuf' Community (CCN). This community cares for street children, tries to reunite them with their families and supports the families in building a stable life. The story of ten-year-old Elysée Mbuyi, a child with a mild handicap and epilepsy, is touching. One evening, when her family had gone to church, she walked out of the house and wandered the streets. She had a seizure. Standers-bye, who suspected her



of witchcraft, attacked her. Fortunately, a passing policeman was able to rescue Elysée and brought her to the CCN shelter. There, the staff managed to track down her parents, who were happy that Elysée was back home safely. They are now learning from CCN how to deal with Elysée's condition. When the schools reopen, Elysée will probably be able to attend special education.



Participants heard **the cry of the earth in the information about Mozambique** where Tropical Hurricane Idai ravaged two years ago. The heavy rains, accompanying the hurricane, caused unprecedented flooding. Ninety per cent of the city was underwater after Idai swept past. Even the tops of the trees were no longer visible. The United Nations

called Idai the greatest natural disaster that had ever occurred in the southern hemisphere. The official death toll stands at 1,300, and about 1.7 million people were injured or lost their homes and all their possessions. Together with other aid organisations the Lenten Campaign supported the reconstruction. The emergency aid packages included hygiene products, kitchenware, blankets and mosquito nets. Later, the aid mainly focused on rebuilding houses for families who had lost everything. Local craftsmen learned how to build houses according to the 'Better Build Back Method.' This method was developed by the United Nations to build houses, more resistant to natural disasters. Aid agencies also helped repair damaged waterholes so that water was available again in the affected areas.

Six weeks after Idai, Hurricane Kenneth hit Mozambique, and last January Eloise left a devastating trail. It will take the country years to recover from the effects of all these natural disasters. Africa contributes little to global warming, but it bears the consequences.



Our Sisters were sponsored by the MSC. Sister Margreet was quite an expense to them as she had walked the most kilometres of all the sisters, 480 km! The community rewarded her with a medal.

“Who will speak if you don’t”, written by Sr. Catherine R. Biyo, FDNCS

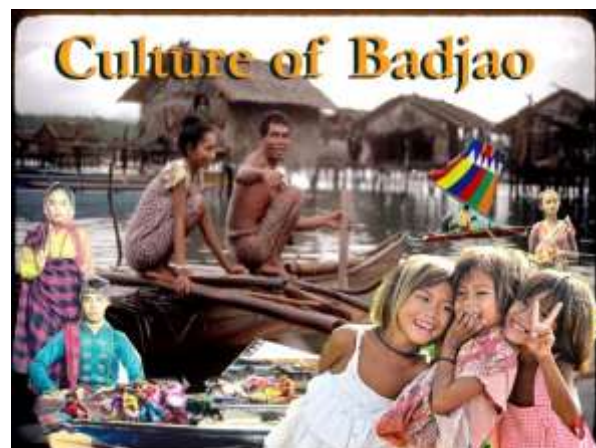
The best things happen sometimes in seemingly not so good events in our lives. That was what happened in our Ministry in Surigao City, Philippines. The Covid-19 pandemic brought us to another level of sharing God’s Love, in the field of media through radio and Facebook live streaming. The program started with the project for our Women’s Group in the Badjao Community (Badjao Tribe- “nomadic seafaring tribe or "Sea Gypsies")



The objective of this project is “Towards a Safer and Secure Normal: Ensuring Indigenous Peoples’ Protection, Health and Well-being Amidst the Covid-19 Pandemic.” Part of this project is the use of different media platforms for an information drive for the Badjao Community about Covid-

19 in their dialect. We asked the one in charge of DXSN1017 *Radyo Magbalantay*, which is owned and managed by the Diocese of Surigao if we can have a short infomercial for the Badjao Community. Instead of giving us a slot for the infomercial, they encouraged us to revive the weekly program “*Katalinbanong Kalihokan*” which had been inactive for two years. The main purpose of the Radio Program is to discuss and share the activities in our ministries for Indigenous Peoples, Environment/Ecology, Health, Political Good Governance and Prison. Last February 10, 2021, we started the program and discussed the activities for the Badjao Community, especially during this time of Pandemic. We invited some Badjao women to share their stories, culture, traditions, their hopes and dreams. They were so inspired and touched that they were able to share and be proud of their tribe. The Radio program has become the venue for them to share and hear their voices and sentiments. They developed a sense of identity and responsibility to their community. They felt a sense of belonging to the Society and changed their perspective, that they are not just problems in the Society.

Seeing the growth of the Badjao, the community makes me realize that this is an affirmation of God’s mission. We are encouraged to continue this new venture of Evangelization through media.



Last March 10, 2021, we began to re-echo the “Deep Journey into *Laudato Si* Animators training”. This training that we attended last November of 2019 was given by the Global Catholic Climate Movement-Pilipinas. Sharing Pope Francis’ *Laudato Si* on the Radio Program deepened my knowledge and understanding of *Laudato Si*. This inspired me to continue to spread it among and communicate it to other people. That particular topic spoke to me a lot and challenged me to look within and reflect on my contribution to what is happening to our Common Home as well as to share some concrete actions to help heal Mother Earth. Pope Francis said, “In as much as we all generate small ecological damage, we are called to acknowledge our small contribution, smaller or greater, to the disfigurement and destruction of creation (LS8).”

Our experiences of the pandemic became the source of inspiration to continue God’s Mission as Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart to the Indigenous People and for the Care of our Common Home. Pope Francis said, “All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents (LS14).”

Going back to the time when they offered the Radio Program, first I was hesitant to accept because it was beyond my comfort zone, but the words that challenged me to accept this new mission of God as DOLSH was “Who will speak if you Don’t”.

Did you know.....

- ...that the sisters in the Philippines have already been working on some of the 7 *Laudato Si* Goals, as mentioned in the last JPIC Bulletin? They heard the Cry of the Earth (*Laudato Si* Goal 1) and therefore, they participated in the *Laudato Si* Animators training of the Catholic Climate Movement (*Laudato Si* Goal 5, ecological education). They heard the cry of the poor (*Laudato Si* Goal 2) and used in the Badjao Community what they had learned. The sisters learned to appreciate the Ecological Spirituality (*Laudato Si* Goal 6) of the Badjao. They connected working together with them for our Common Home to the spirituality of our Congregation. The sisters worked on involvement and participatory action (*Laudato Si* Goal 7) by participating in the Animators Course, working together with the Diocese and involving the women of the Badjao Community.



- ...that also the sisters in the Netherlands have been working on some of the 7 *Laudato Si* Goals? They participated in the National Lenten Campaign. (*Laudato Si* Goal 7: involvement and participatory action). The Provincial of the MSC and the Provincial of the FDNSC said, “Our participation in this Lenten Campaign shows once more that we want to open our eyes and our heart to a different and better world for every human being.” (*Laudato Si* Goal 6: ecological spirituality). They heard the Cry of the Earth (*Laudato Si* Goal 1) and the Cry of the poor (*Laudato Si* Goal 2).

- ..that in the webinar “Engaging the vision of *Laudato Si*” on April 15, Father Alberto Parise MCCJ introduced **two possible approaches to facilitate the transition to integral ecology:**

1) Making a strategic plan; a rather structured approach and



2) Starting an **animation campaign** to promote the *Laudato Si* vision, commitments and practises in the life and the ministry of the Congregation; this is less structured and less binding. As General Councillor responsible for JPIC, I feel most at home with this approach.



Such a campaign generally includes:

➤ **A vision**, often based on the reading of *Laudato Si* in relation to the Charism and Mission of the Congregation. Father Hans Kwakman, in his online spirituality course, reflects on how a Spirituality of the Heart is expressed in Pope Francis’ Encyclical “*Laudato Si*”. As Three Generalates, we

have based our Facebook Messages for the First Friday of the month on this course, trying to raise awareness and proposing a prayer and an action.

- **Awareness-raising:** the vision and good practices are shared and promoted within the Congregation, using various means; we have our JPIC Bulletin and our JPIC Facebook to share what we do.
- **Rolling out activities:** the animation wants to encourage communities to roll out other *Laudato Si* inspired initiatives. Hopefully, this Bulletin will encourage you to look at your own activities to see which of the *Laudato Si* Goals you are already working on.
- **Sharing of activities and experiences:** to nurture the sense of community.
- **Networking:** communication and sharing opens up the possibility of networking or joining advocacy campaigns.

- that Father Claude Mostowik and Father André Claessens MSC drew our attention to the Bulletin “*Rising Tides, Raising voices*”. You can find it on:

http://pacificclimatewatch.com.au/wp/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/RisingTidesRaisingVoices_final.pdf

Pacific Climate Watch is an inter-congregational group. Sr. Philippa wrote, “Because of our connection with and concern for the peoples in our region, who experience the negative impact of climate change, we aim to advocate and be a strong voice in solidarity with them. Many of us have witnessed first-hand the effects of climate change and rising sea levels on the health and future of these vulnerable people. Sr. Merrilyn Lee is our OLSH representative in this group.” (*Laudato Si* Goals 1, 2, and especially 7 Promoting Advocacy).



- ... that Sr. Rita sent us an article, “*Forest for Thieves: Why Illegal Harvesting of South Sudanese Teak Leaves Nothing for the People*”. It makes us aware not only of the difficult situation in South Sudan but also of the necessity to check the supply chain of products we buy. <https://www.theelephant.info/features/2021/03/12/forest-for-thieves-why-illegal-harvesting-of-south-sudanese-teak-leaves-nothing-for-the-people/>

(*Laudato Si* Goal 2, and especially 5, creating awareness).

- ... that Sr Marife and the General Council participated in the online Webinar “*Living Green Mission*” organized by SEDOS from 3 until 7 May. We were very proud of Father Richie Gomez MSC, who presented their work in the Ecological Education Centre in Butuan, Mindanao, in the Philippines.
- ... that Sr. Merle wrote a beautiful Novena for the Feast of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart using the seven *Laudato Si* Goals. This Novena was not only a good preparation for the feast but can also be used to pray with during the coming years when we try to involve the whole Catholic Church into a commitment to complete the transition to integral ecology by 2030.

- ...that on Sunday 16 May, during the Mass in Santuário de Nossa Senhora do Sagrado

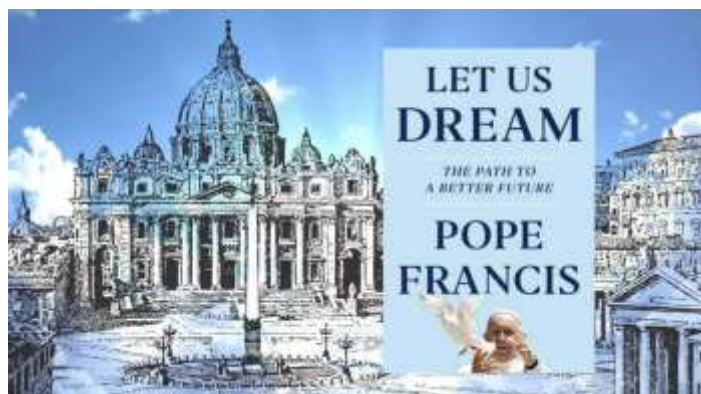


Coração in São Paulo Sr Maria José Cardoso Vasconcelos, Sr Raimunda Clara Campos and Sr Luciana Felipe Mariano were officially sent to their new mission in the Amazon! The Community was officially opened on 23 May 2021 during a celebration in the Cathedral of São Gabriel da Cachoeira.

- The JPIC Coordinators of our FDNCS Provinces were invited to enrol in the Thinkifik Platform of JPIC Roma. On

this Platform, they can find all Webinars that were organized, as well as all the materials, videos and speeches of the promoters of different congregations who have presented their experiences and plans. There is also a space to ask questions, discuss and get to know other congregations' life and experiences. This Platform will support them to work on the *Laudato Si* Goals and to be able to support communities that consider participating in the seven-year plan. If you would also like to enrol, you can write an email to jpicroma@gmail.com

- ..that in June, Cor Vitae started with a series of monthly Webinar *Conversations on Our Mission of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation*. This Webinar wants to deepen our conviction that the Ministry of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation is essential and constitutive in our Mission of Proclaiming the Love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus everywhere now and forever and to make this conviction concrete. These are Conversations on Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation in light of our Act of Reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, in response to the needs of our people and the “groaning of creation.”



- ...that while writing this JPIC Bulletin, I finished reading Pope

Francis' Book *"Let us dream"*. I was touched that in the Epilogue the Pope writes, "We might wonder: And now what must I do?" His answer we could also apply to this JPIC Bulletin, "Let yourself be pulled along, shaken up, challenged. Maybe through a group of people, you've heard about on the news, or that you know about in your neighbourhood, whose story has moved you. Perhaps it'll be a local elderly people's home, a refugee hospitality centre or an ecological regeneration project that is calling to you. Or maybe people closer at home need you."

Events on the World Calendar for JPIC

September 1- October 4, Season of Creation:



The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment together. During the Season of Creation, we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our Common Home. The theme for this year is: "A home for all? *Renewing the Oikos of God.*"

At the end of this period, there will be the launch of those groups who have committed to work for sustainable integral ecology in the coming 7 years.

Prayer: Creator God, give us your Spirit to work together to restore your creation and to hand on a safe environment and climate to the next generations.

September 21, International Day of Peace: provides a globally shared date for all humanity to commit to peace above all differences and contribute to building a Culture of Peace.

Prayer: God of all the Nations, help us to devote our whole life, thought and energy to the task of making peace, praying always for the inspiration and the power to fulfil the destiny for which we were created.

September 26, The Catholic Church's World Day of Migrants and Refugees: to express support and concern for people who are forced to flee their homes. Catholics around the world are invited to pray for refugees and migrants in their many difficulties and to learn more about the benefits which migration offers. The theme for this 107th World Day of Migrants and Refugees is: "Towards an ever wider we." Pope Francis' message for this day "stresses the importance of being attentive to the entire human family through an inclusive Church that reaches out and is capable of creating communion in diversity. It also gives special attention to the care of our Common Home, expressed in care of our common family, care of the 'we', that can and must become ever more open and welcoming."



Prayer: Lord Jesus, give us your compassion for the plight of migrants and refugees, soften our hearts to their situation, and help us follow your lead in seeking justice and mercy on their behalf.

October 11-14, UN Biodiversity Conference (COP 15) in Kunming China: This Conference of the Parties (the decision-making body of the UN) will outline what countries need to do, individually and collectively, in the next decade and beyond, to set humanity on course for achieving the CBD’s overall vision of “living in harmony with nature” by 2050.

Prayer: May the Lord of creation, who marvelled at the lilies of the field and transformed chaos into order, help us to renew our lives so that they reflect God’s glory in creation. Amen

October 17, International Day for the Eradication of Poverty: this day aims to promote awareness of the need to eradicate poverty and destitution in all countries.



Prayer: Breath of God, let there be abundant life. Inspire us with the vision of no poverty anymore, and give us the faith, courage and will to make it happen.

November 16, International Day of Tolerance: this day aims to celebrate diversity and tolerance in practice, and to ensure that we remember to make space for each other’s opinions.

Prayer: While the United Nations designates today an International Day of Tolerance, we know that You, God of all people, call us to something higher, to something beyond mere tolerance. We pray that You would enable and empower us to be people of love and compassion, who actively seek the good of the other and work to see your kingdom come on earth, that people from all tribes and tongues might come together in You.

November 25, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women: data and reports show that during the COVID-19 pandemic all types of violence against women and girls have increased. The objective of the day is to eliminate and prevent violence against women and girls. The day also targets to take worldwide action to ensure the essential services for the survivors of violence during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. The day also focuses on preventing and collecting data that can improve life-saving services for women and girls.

Prayer: God, we thank You for the love that You have for us; because we were created in your image and likeness, recognizing our differences, we seek to complement each other: each one respecting, supporting and protecting the other, particularly women and girls. May we know, understand, appreciate and help each other so that we can collaborate in the service of family, community, society and life.

December 5, World Soil Day: Soil is, without doubt, one of the most significant parts of the ecosystem, contributing to our food, water and energy and playing an important part in reducing the impact of climate change. For all of these reasons, World Soil Day was established.

Prayer: Creator God, sometimes we forget that the earth we walk on is one of the sources of life You have given to us. From it, plants, trees, and all living creatures are nourished. Help us to care for our earth and harvest its resources in moderation.



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

Prayer: 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 suffer from hatred, poverty and war. Amen.

December 20, International Human Solidarity Day: This event aims to raise people's awareness of the importance of global understanding of the value of human solidarity. The UN General Assembly felt that promoting a culture of solidarity and sharing was important in combatting poverty.

Prayer: Almighty and ever-living God, empower your one human family to join hands on our journey of faith. Send us your spirit of hope so that we may work together to alleviate human suffering and foster charity and justice in our world. Amen.

Intercessory Prayers for 7 days of the week on the *Laudato Si* Goals

You can find these prayers on Prayer Cards in Italian, French and Portuguese at https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13doqB6ZyuNFhR_uYEyJ5oW0dWkKo2GzJ

Sunday: the cry of the Earth (*Laudato Si* Goal 1)

Lord of Creation, we pray for all our communities, and especially for our leaders, that we may hear the Cry of the Earth and support clean energy, ensure clean air and water for all, and re-discover our original vocation as co-creators of a healthy planet.

Monday: the cry of the Poor (*Laudato Si* Goal 2)

Lover of the poor, we pray for all families that they may be “the place in which life – the gift of God – can be properly welcomed and protected.” May we work toward the fullness of life for all, especially those made poor due to neglect or indifference.

Tuesday: ecological economics (*Laudato Si* Goal 3)

Provident God, help us bring “together the different fields of knowledge, including economics, in the service of a more integral and integrating vision”, and create a new economic paradigm that promotes “new models of integral development”.

Wednesday: Adoption of simple lifestyles (*Laudato Si* Goal 4)

Caring God, we pray that our institutions, especially our hospitals and health care centres, may grow in the capacity to care. May we understand and value how simple gestures and simple life styles simply make it possible for others to simply live.

Thursday: Ecological Education (*Laudato Si* Goal 5)

God of Knowledge and Virtue, assist us to “grow in solidarity, responsibility and compassionate care.” May our educational institutions help to restore “harmony within ourselves, with others, with nature and other living creatures, and with God.”

Friday: Ecological Spirituality (*Laudato Si* Goal 6)



Triune God, help us to develop a spirituality of global solidarity which flows from the mystery of who You are, an interconnected community of love. May this spirituality “motivate us to a more passionate concern for the protection of our world.”

Saturday: Involvement and Participatory Action (*Laudato Si* Goal 7)

God of communion, enable us to become communities of participatory action and advocacy, for the Earth and the poor. May we form networks of open and respectful dialogue and use all the communication avenues available to us for the good of all.