



FDNSC united together for JPIC

FDNSC Generalate, Rome

JPIC Bulletin, No 22, January 2022

Dear Sisters and Friends,



Happy New Year to all of you. May we experience the intense peace of Christmas in our hearts and radiate it as we work together for Justice and Peace in our broken world.

The past year has been buzzing with activities concerning Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation. There were activities

on a personal, national and international level. On the international level, there was COP26 (The United Nations Conference of Parties that met in Glasgow from October 31-November 13), described by some as the last chance to save our planet. Many people had signed a petition to urge leaders to use their power to avoid a climate catastrophe. The summit resulted in the Glasgow Climate Pact (GCP), agreed to by all of the nearly 200 participating countries. They promised to strengthen the global commitment to address climate change, as well as various pledges among participants to address particularly the danger posted by carbon-intensive industries. However, according to the Climate Action Tracker, current climate policies are not implemented at a rate sufficient to prevent temperatures from rising more than 2 degrees Celsius. This suggests that current emissions reduction commitments have the potential of solving the problem. However, without appropriate implementation, they will fail to adequately address it.



Jos Vriesema, one of the Lay Associates in the Netherlands, writes in the following article that signing a petition is not enough for us as individuals. He wonders what he can do personally. Pope Francis said that we need a revolutionary change in our attitude towards Mother Earth. This change is only possible when we reach the “Critical Mass” necessary for radical societal transformation. Therefore, we need to create networks of *Laudato Si* inspired people. In “Did

you know”, you can read how we within the Chevalier Family are trying to form our own network and connect this to the *Laudato Si* Platform. We hope that reading this Bulletin will inspire you to continue your efforts to work together for a better world for all. **We invite everyone to take part in our network by filling in the attached Declaration Form.** You can also download it in different languages from our website. (<https://www.olshgen.com/news/uncategorized/12-first-friday-steps-towards-more-sustainable-living-step-12/>)

Just go for it! Climate justice for our earth

On October 4, in our church, we sang the Canticum of the Sun of St Francis, to thank God for his creation - for Brother Sun, Sister Moon and Sister Earth - and at the same time to realise how unique our globe is. In recent decades, all kinds of rockets have been launched into space, but we have not yet discovered a second Planet Earth. For this reason alone, it is our sacred duty to take good care of our planet. To treat nature, the earth’s resources and everything that lives, responsibly.



Jos Vriesema



In the 1960s, the Club of Rome addressed this theme in their report. In the 1990s, it was brought up again in the Conciliar Process, using the words Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation. In 2015, Pope Francis' Encyclical, *Laudato Si, on Care for our Common Home*, was published.

Closer to home, the Online Course, Spirituality of the Heart and the Intention for First Friday, which we receive monthly, also reflect this theme.

There was a petition of the so-called ‘green churches’ in preparation for COP26. Of course, I read and signed it! Why not, you might say, it is a heartfelt plea for governments to use their power to prevent an impending climate catastrophe. "We are counting on you", it said at the bottom of the petition. But signing alone is too easy for me. Governments and multinationals can not deal with the climate crisis alone. If people don't care, and here I am thinking primarily of the Western world, governments may well reach an

agreement, but it won't work, and they will look for ways to back out of it again.

Therefore, the question ‘What can I do about this crisis’, keeps me occupied. And I do not find it easy to answer. After all, it is



not so much about doing or not doing concrete things (for example, turning the heating down by one degree), but more about how I live my life, my attitude towards life. In his time, St Francis renounced all possessions, but that is a bridge too far for me. Instead, I try to handle them responsibly. A frugal life is often said to be ideal, but what does that mean? I am now in the age group of the grey heads who, in general, have a more moderate lifestyle.

In short: while still looking for a way to live differently, I think it's important to express my concern for the climate. I signed the petition because I am involved in this global problem. Therefore, I force myself to think how I can contribute to a liveable planet. A beautiful sentence from a Eucharistic Prayer comes suddenly into my mind. "May we build houses for God's city of peace." Building houses is perhaps too much for me, but I am happy to do my bit!

Did You Know.....

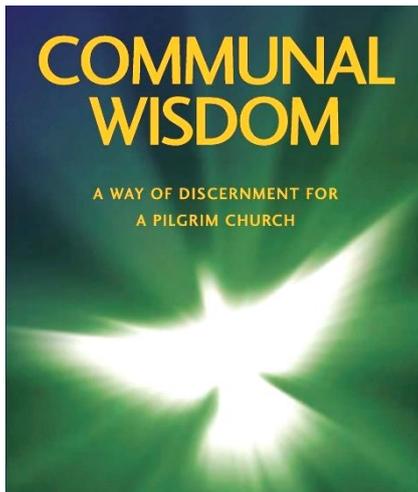
- In our JPIC Bulletins of last year, we have tried to raise awareness of what our Congregations are already doing in the field of JPIC. It was great to share what our sisters are doing. We discovered that many of us are already working on the *Laudato Si* Goals the Dicastery formulated for their Seven-year plan to reach sustainable living.
- In our Facebook Messages for the First Friday of the month



(which can also be found on our website), we were encouraged to make “*twelve steps towards a more sustainable living*”. We based this cycle of Facebook Messages on the online spirituality course of Father Hans Kwakman msc, about the spirituality of the Heart and its relation to the Encyclical “*Laudato Si*”. In the messages of the last three months, we looked back at the steps we had made so far. We also explored the *Laudato Si* Platform to discern what we, as Chevalier Family, can commit ourselves to for the coming year.



- Because some of our members still find it too difficult to commit themselves to the Seven-year-plan of the Dicastery, we have made a Declaration Form that can be used by individuals and groups. It is based on the seven *Laudato Si* goals, and it gives a lot of suggestions for concrete actions, but at the same time, it leaves room to plan one's own activities. Father André msc, Sr. Juana msc and many associates made a great effort to translate the Declaration Form into different languages. Thank you very much!
- We invite you to use this Declaration in your community or group to discuss what you can do personally and as a group. You will find a Word file of the Declaration in different languages on our website.



- On Sunday, 12 December, the Generalate Community used the Declaration Form for their monthly reflection Day. On Saturday evening, there was a para-liturgy in which the community members received the Form. After the celebration and on Sunday, they reflected in silence on the question: *How is God inviting me to respond to this Declaration?* After sharing on the personal level, the community tried to answer the question: *How is God inviting us, as a community to respond?* The method used is the Communal Wisdom Process that Father Chris Chaplin msc has introduced to the Chapter Delegates. He said that, in this process, the whole is more than the sum of its parts. That is exactly why the Pope wants us to form networks. So, let us start with our own Chevalier Family!

- The enrollment of participants in the *Laudato Si* Platform began on 14 November 2021, the Global Day of the Poor. The MSC, the FDNCS Australian Province and the Lay Associates have already created an account on this Platform. Thanks a lot for this courageous step! We will pray for you and follow your progress. Hopefully, your experience will help us, sooner or later, to make that step too.



- To deepen our awareness and care for our Common Home in 2022, we would like to use the Encyclical "*Fratelli Tutti*" and make "*12 steps "towards an ever wider we."*" You are invited to walk with us on <https://www.facebook.com/FDNCSJusticeandPeace> or on our website www.olshgen.com



Events on the World Calendar for JPIC

January 1, World Day of Peace: a feast day of the Roman Catholic Church dedicated to universal peace, held on January 1, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. In 1967, Pope Paul VI established this day, being inspired by the encyclical *Pacem in Terris* of Pope John XXIII

and his own encyclical *Populorum Progressio*. The theme for this year is ‘*Education, work and dialogue between generations: tools for building lasting peace*’. The Pope’s message for this day you can find on <http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace.html>

Prayer: God of peace, show us that, with your help, building peace together is possible when we, men and women of different creeds and generations, hold each other close. May the younger generations point the finger at us, if we choose the path of walls, enmity and war”.

January 24, International Day of Education: This day aims to stimulate striving for inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels. All people should have access to lifelong learning opportunities that help them acquire the knowledge and skills needed to participate fully in society and contribute to sustainable development.

Prayer: Lord, our God, in your wisdom and love, You surround us with the mysteries of the universe. Send your Spirit upon us and grant us that we may devote ourselves to our learning process and draw ever closer to You, the source of all knowledge.

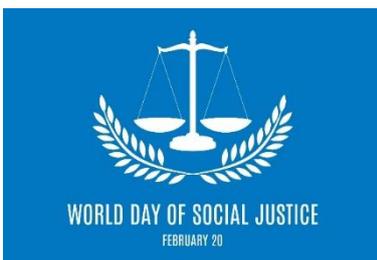
February 11, World Day of the Sick: is a feast day of the Roman Catholic Church, celebrated every year on the commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes as ‘an extraordinary time of prayer and offering one’s suffering.’ Pope John Paul II initiated the day in 1992 to encourage people to pray for those who suffer from illness and their caregivers. The Pope himself had been diagnosed with Parkinson a year before.

Probably, his own illness was the impetus for his designation of that day. While writing this Bulletin, the Pope’s message for this day was not yet published, but you will be able to find it on <http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/sick.index.html>

Prayer: Spirit Healer, I trust in the strong roots You have planted in my heart. Just as a tree, planted by the water’s edge, extends its roots towards the current, so do I turn to You, source of life. When my life is marked by loss or sickness, help me to trust in Your healing presence.



February 20, World Day of Social Justice: This day was observed for the first time in 2009.



It aims to contribute to poverty eradication, promotion of full employment and decent work, gender equity and justice for all.

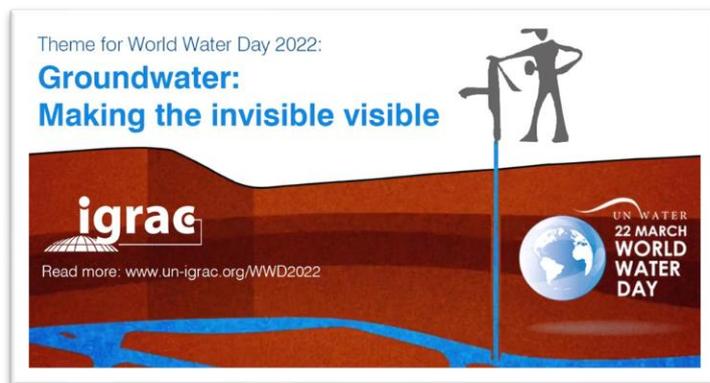
Prayer: God, we ask the grace to do your will on earth. Bless each act of welcome and outreach, drawing those in exile into the ‘WE’ of the community and the Church. Thus, our earth may truly become what You created it to be: the Common Home of all our brothers and sisters.

March 8, International Women’s Day: This day offers us an opportunity to reflect on the progress made and the call for change. We also celebrate the courage and determination of ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities. The campaign theme for this year is: *#BreakTheBias*.



Prayer: God, who created men and women, help us to create a gender equal-world, free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination; a diverse, equitable, and inclusive world, where difference is valued and celebrated. Help us forge women’s equality and to break all biases.

March 22, World Water Day: The theme of this year is: *“Groundwater: making the invisible visible”*. Groundwater is a vital resource that provides almost half of all drinking water worldwide, about 40% of water for irrigated agriculture and about 1/3 of water required for industry. Groundwater sustains ecosystems, maintains the baseflow of rivers and prevents land subsidence and seawater intrusion. It is a significant part of the climate change adaptation process. It often is a solution for people without access to safe water. Despite these impressive facts and figures, groundwater is out of sight and the mind of most people. Human activities (including population- and economic growth) and climate variability are rapidly increasing the



pressure on groundwater resources. Severe depletion and pollution problems are reported in many parts of the world. A World Water Day on groundwater aims to put a spotlight on this invisible resource, enhance knowledge exchange and collaboration, and thereby increase the awareness of the importance of taking care of our groundwater.

Prayer: God of life, You have given water to your creation so that we all

can live. On this World Water Day, we pray: Give us the water we need to avoid thirst and to wash our hands to resist the Covid-19 virus! Make us thankful and accountable when we use your gift of water.

God of life, provide clean water for those who do not have it. Give us open hearts and hands to seek water justice. May our lives be a source of living water, filling our communities, Provinces, Congregation, Churches, World and the whole creation with justice and peace.

April 7, World Health Day: This day’s message is simple: give people, regardless of where they are from, access to healthcare without the prospect of financial hardship. What matters to the World Health Organisation, is that there is Health for All.

Prayer: Loving God, we ask your care and protection for those who work to alleviate the suffering of our brothers and sisters worldwide. Bless their work so that it can affect real change in global health care. Bless the organizations that continuously work to increase community health, shape policies and help to distribute health resources. Help us all to be true servants to those in need.



April 22, International Mother Earth Day: This day helps us reflect on the interdependence among human beings, other living species and the planet we all inhabit. The UN General Assembly has created this day to make us aware of our responsibility to promote harmony between nature and the earth, and to balance the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations.



The words of Pope Francis in *Laudato Si* reinforce this message: “... our Common Home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us.” (LS. 1)

Prayer: Lord, grant us the wisdom to care for the earth and till it. Inspire us to act now for the good of future generations and all your creatures. Help us to become instruments of a new creation founded on the covenant of Your love.

Prayer

Living God,
 have mercy on us,
 for the times we forget
 that we belong to each other.
 You call us to be still,
 to hear the whisper of our Sister Wind,
 to feel the radiance of our Brother Sun,
 to be nourished by our Mother Earth.
 Renew us in your healing love.
 Inspire us to water the earth,
 and nurture one another,
 so all may flourish.
 Together, as one family,
 may we always sing your praise.
 Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Rachel McCarthy/CAFOD
 (taken from the resources on the
Laudato Si Platform)

