

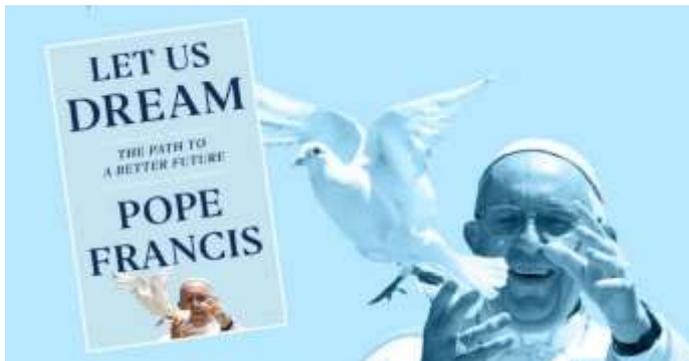


# FDNSC united together for JPIC

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**Dear Sisters and Friends,**



In our latest Generalate News Update, our sisters shared their experiences during the Covid pandemic. We have seen suffering and inequity, but also resilience, generosity and creativity. Reflecting on their experiences, many sisters asked themselves: “What is the sense of all this? What did we learn from it? How will this influence our

behaviour after the pandemic? What will our future be like?”

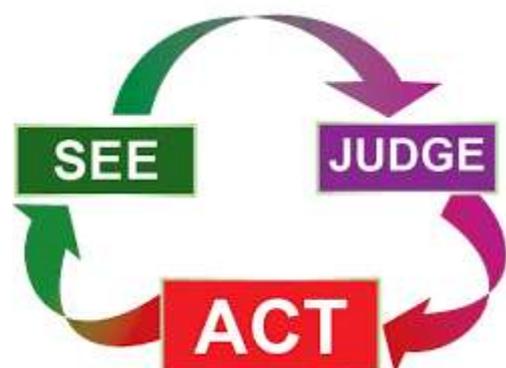
In his book *“Let us dream; the path to a better future,”* Pope Francis urges us not to let the pain be in vain. To come out of this crisis better, we have to see clearly, choose well and act right. The Pope invites us to talk together about how we can do that. Let us dare to dream together. (Cf. Cover text of the book “Let us dream”)

In this issue, you will find a summary of the Pope’s book made by Father Hans Kwakman. In “Did you know...” you can read about some actions that have taken place within our Chevalier Family and an invitation to do even a little bit more. Following these are the events on the JPIC Calendar. As usual, we will conclude with a prayer.

## **POPE FRANCIS’ DREAMS OF A ROAD TO A BETTER FUTURE**

At the beginning of December 2020 Pope Francis, in collaboration with the author Austen Ivereigh, published a new book entitled: "LET US DREAM: The Path to a Better Future". Because it is not an official Church document, the Pope can write more freely about himself and what is on his mind about the world today. He had already started writing this book when the COVID pandemic broke out, which even strengthened his conviction that the world needs radical renewal.

The book follows the well-known threefold division: "Time to See, Time to Choose, Time to Act." Time



to see what is happening in the world around us, positively and negatively; time to look for the root causes of the crisis the world is going through; time to set out a plan of action. In the first part, the Pope criticises the current economic and cultural system, which tries to take the highest possible benefits and promote material prosperity, especially for one's own group. This causes a depletion of the earth's wealth and a widening gap between rich and poor.

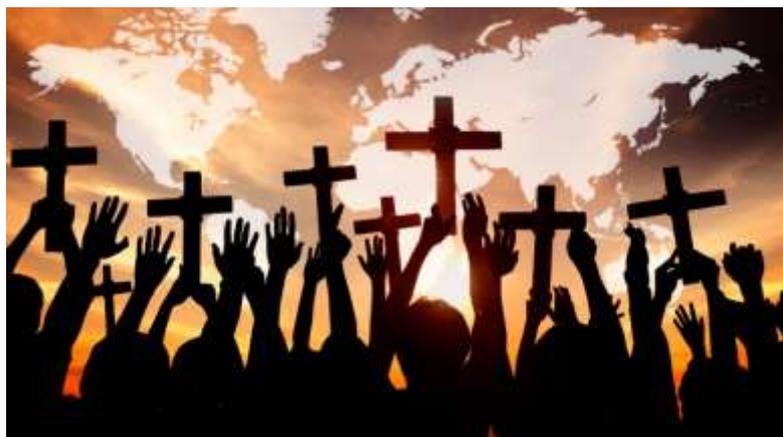


Usually, when solving problems, we go straight from the issue to a proposal for a solution, with each problem often being treated in isolation. It is interesting that in the second part, the Pope follows the path of "discernment". Central to this is the question by which "spirit" we are guided in social developments: by the spirit of selfishness and enrichment of those in our own group or by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit inspires us to work for the common good and to show

solidarity with the poor. In doing so, we should assist the poor, not as objects in need of help, but as fellow human beings capable of standing up for themselves. What will our path be? Will we in the Church only listen to those who agree with us, or will we also try to understand those who disagree with us and walk with them. God's spirit encourages us to dialogue and consultation, even with those with whom we disagree.

In the third part, the Pope makes concrete proposals for achieving a new society. First of all, people in the Church and Society need to become more aware that we all belong to one people: the people of God. Moreover, we are all rooted in the earth and share life with so many other creatures. A better future must, therefore, be built on solidarity. We are responsible for each other, and we must share the wealth of the earth. For example, with the money we now spend on armaments, we could overcome much of the world's poverty. That

is why, according to the Pope, "it is time to explore the possibility of a Universal Basic Income (UBI), an income for all citizens, with no conditions attached." He also goes into considerable detail about the role of women in Church and society, protest movements, the treatment of migrants and widespread populism.



The Pope also reflects on three difficult periods in his life, which he calls his personal COVID experiences and which, according to himself, turned him into a better person. During his second year at the diocesan seminary in Buenos Aires, at the age of 21, he almost died of a lung infection. "I can empathise with people who are on a respirator because of the

coronavirus". He then decided to become a Jesuit. In 1986, he went to Germany to look for material for a doctoral thesis. There, he did not feel at home. The third crisis was between 1990 and 1992 when he was sent to the Argentinian Cordoba. He had been too strict as novice master, provincial and house superior. It was a time of purification, which made him more tolerant and patient and gave him the ability to forgive. He then read the 37 volumes of Ludwig Pastor's "*History of the Popes*". Pope Francis confessed that after this, nothing of what happens in the Church, the Vatican and the Curia can surprise him any more.

Hans Kwakman msc

## Did you know.....?



- That the Pope has invited all Christians and people of goodwill to help him realize his dream? What can our response be to reach the goals that the Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development has formulated and that we mentioned in the last JPIC Bulletin?

**1. Response to the Cry of the Earth:** Can we use more clean, renewable energy and reduce fossil fuels to achieve carbon neutrality? Can we make an effort to protect and promote biodiversity, guaranteeing access to clean water for all, etc.?

**2. Response to the Cry of the Poor:** Can we defend human life from conception to death and all forms of life on Earth, with extra attention to vulnerable groups such as indigenous communities, migrants, children at risk through slavery, etc.?

**3. Ecological Economics:** Can we commit to sustainable production, Fair-trade, ethical consumption, ethical investments and invest in renewable energy? Can we divest from fossil fuels and any economic activity harmful to the planet and the people?

**4. Adoption of Simple Lifestyles:** Can we be frugal in using resources and energy, avoiding single-use plastic, adopting a more plant-based diet and reducing meat consumption, making greater use of public transport and avoiding polluting modes of transportation, etc.

**5. Ecological Education:** Can we re-think and re-design educational curricula in our educational institutions in the spirit of integral ecology. Can we create ecological awareness? Can we promote the ecological vocation of young people, teachers and leaders of education that urges them to action etc.?

**6. Ecological Spirituality:** Can we recover a religious vision of God's creation, encourage more contact with the natural world in a spirit of wonder, praise, joy and gratitude, promote creation-centred liturgical celebrations, develop ecological catechesis, prayer, retreats, formation, etc.?

**7. Community involvement and participatory action to care for creation at the local, regional, national and international levels:** Can we promote advocacy and people’s campaigns? Can we encourage rootedness in local territory and neighbourhood ecosystems, etc?

- Do we dare to take up Pope Francis’ challenge to work for seven years on these goals to achieve ecological sustainability? The commitment to integral ecology should not be another commitment added on top of the ordinary community project, rather the community project could include yearly targets based on the seven goals for making the transition to integral ecology.
- As the Pope did, we could use the method See – Judge – Act to formulate our specific targets and make a concrete action plan. Here follows a tool given by JPIC Rome to apply this method to your specific situation.

Insertion Experience	Social Analysis	Theological Reflection	Concrete Plans
<p>Where and with whom—locating yourself to begin the process</p> <p>Whose experience is being considered?</p> <p>Are there groups left out when the experience is being discussed?</p> <p>Where are the poor and oppressed in the process?</p>	<p>Communication</p> <p>Politics</p> <p>Finances</p> <p>Natural resources</p> <p>Technology</p> <p>Networking possibilities</p> <p>Use of research reports</p> <p>Human Rights</p> <p>Sustainable Development Goals</p>	<p>Vision and Spirituality</p> <p>Through Congregational documents</p> <p>Scriptures</p> <p>Church Documents</p> <p>Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church</p> <p>Impact of Pope Francis</p> <p>Catechism of the Catholic Church</p> <p>Spiritual Reading</p> <p>Definition of JPIC</p>	<p>Who participates in the planning?</p> <p>What are the implications of the processes used to determine appropriate responses?</p> <p>Relationship between groups involved</p> <p>Clarity about specific action: Who, what, where, when and why</p> <p>How can our action change the situation?</p> <p>How can we tell if it is successful?</p>
<b>SEE (ASSESS)</b>	<b>JUDGE (DISCERN)</b>		<b>ACT (TRANSFORM)</b>

- Many more tools to help you make your own plan will be made available on the *Laudato Si* Action Platform <https://www.laudatosi.org/> and <https://www.sowinghopefortheplanet.org/search-resources>

- We are already doing a lot. Here are some actions that have taken place in our Congregation. Sr. Immaculata wrote about the **Advent Action in the Dutch Province to support persecuted Christians**: A few days before the beginning of Advent, we received an Advent calendar from the Open Doors Foundation, which offers help to persecuted Christians worldwide. The calendar had 28 doors, one for each day of Advent. Behind each door was a picture. In an accompanying booklet, we could read the story belonging to that picture with a prayer intention. Each day we could open a door and place a coin in the hole. That was done faithfully - by one of our sisters or msc's. At the end of the action, we were able to transfer a nice amount to the Foundation.



This action gave us an idea of the scale of persecution of Christians in all parts of the world. We will continue to pray for all our threatened and persecuted fellow Christians.

Our **Tri-Generate** this year base their **First Friday Facebook Messages** on Part 5 of the **Online Spirituality Course** of Father Hans Kwakman. In this part, Father Hans reflects on a Spirituality of the Heart in Pope Francis' Encyclical *Laudato Si*. Each month we make a step towards more sustainable living. Each step is divided into three points: awareness, prayer and action. You can find both the online course and the Facebook Messages on our website: <https://www.olshgen.com/>

On February 5, Father André, Rita Cleuren and Sr. Elly followed a **Webinar "Promoting *Laudato Si* in your Congregation: raising Awareness"**. Sr. Juana MSC said: We cannot do everything, but let us do something more!

On February 8, the feast day of Saint Bakhita, some of us participated in the **Online Marathon Prayer against Human Trafficking**. That was a tremendous multicultural experience.



In response to our latest JPIC Bulletin, in which we wrote about the **Seven Year Action Plan**, Father André already received some messages from Members of the Chevalier Family, showing interest in this Program. We hope some more communities, apostolates or members of the Chevalier

Family would consider participating. If you do so, please let us know, so that we can keep you up to date on more concrete plans. For the 7 *Laudato Si* goals, there are 7 Platforms. Each one will make a list with possible actions to suggest to all the groups and entities that want to join the 7 years program.



Sr. Merle gave an online **Lenten Recollection** based on Pope Francis' book "Let us dream" to the Employees of Saint Alphonsus Catholic School in Cebu (the FDNSC Manila community also joined) in **the Philippines**. During the reflection, they asked themselves: did we use our gifts to give life to others? Or were we just indifferent? Or did we even make a profit from the sufferings of others? Did we choose the Lord as our model and guide? They concluded: now it is time to act, time to give out of our giftedness, to heal, to care and to share.

Like many religious institutes, we have already developed many initiatives to promote integral ecology. However, there is a need to move on together, within and outside the Chevalier Family. The Dicastery hopes that new communities will join the initiative every year. That would lead to a growing network of communities inspired by *Laudato Si*. We would quickly reach the critical mass that is necessary for systematic change. Scientists tell us that when between 21 and 25 per cent of the population embraces change, then the social system will change. So, please, let us know if you with your group would like to explore participation in this worldwide initiative.

## Events on the JPIC Calendar

**May 16, International Day of living together in Peace:** This day encourages living together in peace by listening, recognizing, and respecting others. It emphasizes inclusion and tolerance. The goal is to unite all communities, religions, and races.

**Prayer:** God, when people around us don't agree with one another and think differently, teach us to listen and try to understand. God, so many people are in pain, teach us the way to peace.

**May 21, World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development:** to help people learn about the importance of cultural diversity and harmony.

**Prayer:** May the Father, 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.





**June 5, World Environment Day:** to raise awareness of the need to preserve and enhance the environment.

**Prayer:** Lord, grant us the wisdom to care for the earth and till it. Help 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.

**June 20, World Refugee Day:** honours the strength and courage of refugees. This day also encourages public awareness and support of

people who had to flee their homelands because of conflict or natural disaster.

**Prayer:** God of love and compassion: may we always recognize your Spirit in the refugee family, seeking safety from violence; in the migrant worker, bringing food to our tables; in the asylum-seekers, seeking justice for their families; in the unaccompanied child, travelling in a dangerous world.

Give us hearts that break open whenever our brothers and sisters turn to us.

Give us hearts that no longer turn deaf to their voices in times of need.



**June 23, United Nations Public Service Day:** helps us to realize that democracy and successful governance build on a competent civil service. The day aims to celebrate the value and virtue of service to the community.

**Prayer:** Loving Father, You taught us the importance of service through the many examples set by your Son, Jesus Christ. Give us the strength to follow His example and serve our communities, each with our gifts and talents.



**July 30, World Day against Trafficking in Persons:** with this day, the UN aims to create awareness about human trafficking and encourage worldwide efforts to defeat this scourge.

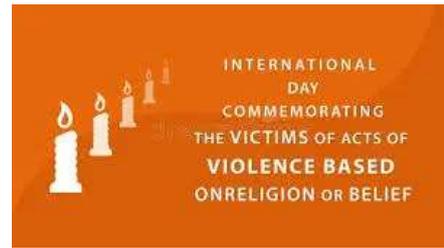
**Prayer:** O God, when we hear of children and adults deceived and taken to unknown places for purposes of sexual exploitation, forced labour, and organ 'harvesting,' our hearts are saddened and our spirits angry that their dignity and rights are ignored through threats, lies, and force. We cry out against the evil practice of this modern slavery and pray with St. Bakhita for it to end.

**August 9, International Day of the World's Indigenous People:** to promote and protect the rights of the world's indigenous population. This event also recognizes the achievements and contributions of indigenous people to improve world issues such as environmental protection.

**Prayer:** O God of every people and tribe, forgive us the colonialism that stains our past, the ignorance that allowed us to think that we could claim another's home for our own. Remind us that we are all gathered within your community. Mend the hope of our hearts through Jesus Christ, the One who came so that all people might live in dignity. Amen.

## August 22, International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief:

a day designated by the UN to encourage states to enlarge their efforts to combat intolerance, discrimination and violence against persons because of religion or belief. On this day we pay tribute to those who have lost their lives, are attacked, threatened or persecuted due to their religion or belief.



**Prayer:** We ask you to bless us in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty. Give us the strength of mind and heart to readily defend our freedom when threatened; give us the courage to raise our voices on behalf of your Church and the conscience of all people.

### Prayer

Loving God, Creator of heaven and earth and all that is in them,  
You created us in Your image and made us stewards of creation.  
You blessed us with the sun, water and bountiful land so that all might be nourished.



Open our minds and touch our hearts,  
so that we may attend to your gift of creation  
Help us to be conscious that our common home  
belongs not only to us but to all of your creatures  
and to all future generations,  
and that it is our responsibility to preserve it.  
May we help each person secure the food and resources that they  
need.

Be present to those in need in these trying times,  
especially the poorest and those most at risk of being left behind.  
Transform our fear and feelings of isolation into hope and fraternity  
so that we may experience a true conversion of the heart.

Help us to show creative solidarity  
in addressing the consequences of this global pandemic.  
Make us courageous to embrace the changes that are needed  
in search of the common good.  
Now, more than ever, may we feel  
that we are all interconnected and interdependent.  
Enable us to listen and respond  
to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.  
May the present sufferings be the birth pangs  
of a more fraternal and sustainable world.



Under the loving gaze of Mary Help of Christians,  
we make this prayer through Christ Our Lord.  
Amen. (CAFOD, Prayer for the fifth anniversary of *Laudato Si'*)