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## JPIC Roma News Brief, October-November 2022

### Introduction

*"There needs to be a covenant between human beings and the environment."* (Pope Francis' message for the Season of Creation 2022). With these words, Pope Francis continues to call us to dialogue in order to be faithful to how we care for one another and all of creation. In these challenging days we are called to be in dialogue with each other, to listen and understand so that we can determine our role in solidarity with all people.

In this issue we are aware that we are facing many important needs of our time. The Ukraine conflict is deeply troubling, as well as other areas of conflict where people are suffering from needless violence. This crisis is also affecting the world's economies causing inflation with energy and food prices. The vulnerable poor are suffering disproportionately with rising prices for the basic

needs for life. The impact of climate change is become more obvious as extreme weather events are increasingly common. Many people in the Caribbean and Central America are still suffering from the storms of the hurricane season. Flooding from unusually heavy rains has caused much suffering in Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, South Africa and other regions. This is compounded by the poverty and lack of government infrastructure that is making aid and recovery proceed slowly.



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In light of this, we have the hope of COP27, the current meeting of world leaders who will meet to discuss future directions and who have pledged to holding governments and corporations accountable for honoring past commitments, particularly the COP21 Paris Agreement. Topics of conversation will also include climate change, economics, and biodiversity loss. COP27 hopes to discuss the impact of changes on Africa, as the poverty and lack of resources cause the people of Africa to be particularly vulnerable to climate change and global economic instability.

Our synodal process of listening to everyone is a continuation of the spirit of Vatican II in our contemporary times. This process is critically needed now more than ever. Our upcoming JPIC Promoters' Formation Workshop will engage in the profound messages of *Pacem in Terris* and *Laudato Si'* in vital ways of sharing. We are becoming more conscious of our decisions. What we do is affecting the future of our young people and the delicate ecosystems of the planet. Now is the time that we must consciously work together in creating a just, sustainable, and thriving future for all.



### The History of *Pacem In Terris* and *Laudato Si'*

*Pacem in terris, quam homines universi cupidissime quovis tempore appetiverunt, condi confirmarique non posse constat, nisi ordine, quem Deus constituit, sancte servato.*

*("Peace on earth, for which all men of every era have most eagerly yearned, cannot be firmly established unless the order which God laid down is dutifully observed.")*

Pope John XXIII published his last encyclical *Pacem In Terris* in 1963, two years after the Berlin Wall was built. He emphasized human dignity and equality for all people as an essential consequence of Christian values. The previous year, the Cuban Missile Crisis had raised the specter of nuclear war. The Vatican had acted as an intermediary between the USA and the USSR attempting to peacefully resolve the conflict. Awareness of the possibility of escalation led Pope John to strongly advocate for nuclear non-proliferation. He addressed the encyclical to all peoples, not just Catholics, to ask everyone to participate in building peace, not only the rich and powerful. The encyclical was strongly influenced by Pope John's study of Saint Augustine and Thomas Aquinas as he wrote to present Gospel values in relation to modern times.

*"Praise be to you, Our Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruits, with colored flowers and herbs."*

Canticle of the Sun, St. Francis

*Laudato Si'*, released in 2015, was the second encyclical of Pope Francis, written after *Lumen Fidei*. Before his election, Francis had worked with Pope Benedict XVI and completed his writings on charity and hope in *Lumen Fidei*, which discussed the relationship between reason and faith, role of the Church and the role of faith in society and the common good. Pope Benedict and Pope Francis wrote that faith is a light that dispels darkness and illuminates the way, but faith is also a "leap in the dark" that guides subjectively. With *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis continued commentary on the environment and our role in its protection. Strongly influenced by St. Francis of Assisi, it is a critique of consumerism and irresponsible development, and a call to repair damage to the environment and biodiversity by over-development and climate change.

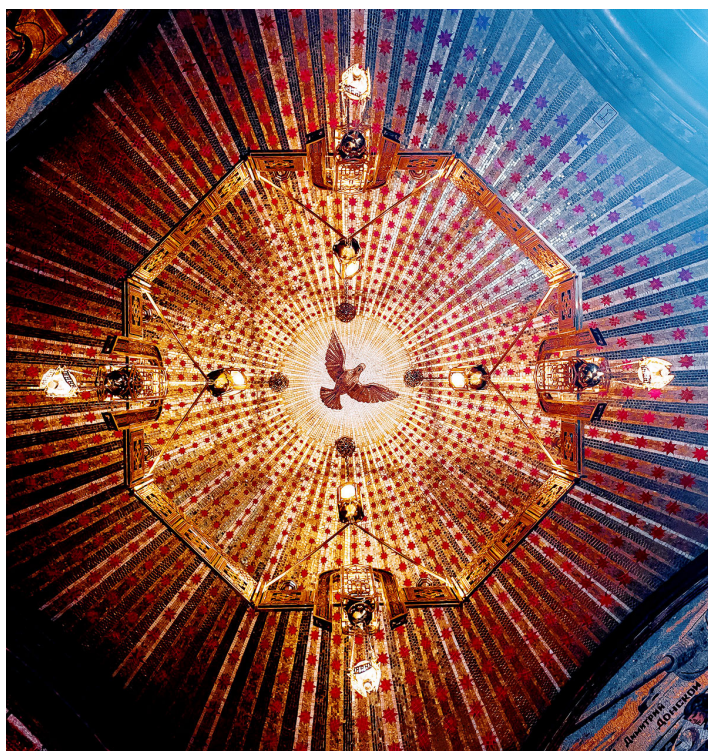
Pondering the messages of *Pacem in Terris* and *Laudato Si'* in Action: Caring for our Common Home in Truth, Justice, Love and Freedom creates wonderful opportunities for us to come together to discuss the two encyclicals in our daily life. We have taken this theme for our JPIC workshop because *Pacem in Terris* was written after the Cuba crisis standoff between Russia and the United States. St. John XXIII, was a mediator in this serious conflict that could have easily escalated into a war. Through dialogue they were able to reconcile the differences and come to a suitable compromise. St. John XXIII was so inspired by that resolution that he wrote in *Pacem in Terris*:

*We are hopeful that nations will come to a better recognition of the natural ties that bind them together ... namely, that love, not fear, must dominate the*



*relationships between individuals and between nations. It is principally characteristic of love ... sincerely united in the bonds of mind and matter; and this is a union from which countless blessings can flow. (PT, 129)*

When we read these words now, we can be saddened by the fact that the vision was not realized. April 11, 2023, will be the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the encyclical and so we celebrate its fruitfulness and we honor the dream still to be achieved. Pope Francis wrote that we are "now faced with a third world war found in piecemeal". The current conflict in Ukraine is a stark reflection of the Cuban Missile Crisis 60 years ago. Once again, the world is facing the possibility of nuclear war. It is vitally important that we listen to the message of St. John XXIII that the responsibility for peace is shared by all, and that all voices must speak and be heard in a worldwide cry for peace and a nonviolent resolution to the conflict.



### **Pacem in Terris in Today's Wars**

We are living in a world where young people are afraid of their future, discouraged and have lost their hope due to climate change, conflicts, and wars. We are a generation that receive so much information and there are so many options that you are not able to choose anymore. However, we also see in this moment many young people who are gathering to build a different present and future. In fact, from 22 to 24 September 2022, during the Economy of Francisco Global Event with 1000 young people from all over the world, we experienced the engagement and hope of the young generation. For three

days the young people worked together in 12 thematic groups to find concrete ways to change the economic system and to propose projects, start-ups, narratives, and ideas to change reality.

The first day, there was a session about peacebuilding and nonviolence actions. The title of this moment was "The just war is the one we are not fighting", in which one peacebuilder agent who works with the NGO 'Un ponte per', and three young people from Colombia and Iraq shared their life experiences and the obstacles and challenges of living in armed conflicts or war zones. The session linked the suffering, pain and fear of people living in war areas, and how they are dealing those struggles through nonviolent actions. The commitment of these three young people is supported by the adult generation, who have accompanied them in the process of changing the reality.

When the Economy of Francisco staff asked Catalina to prepare this session, she understood that the life experiences are connected to what the encyclical *Pacem In Terris* states: "Everyone must sincerely cooperate in the effort to banish fear and the anxious expectation of war from people's minds. But this requires that the fundamental principles upon which peace is based in today's world be replaced by (...) mutual trust." This has been the experience of Sayda and Roviro from Comunidad de Paz, Colombia in their fight against the armed groups that relate to the multinational interest in the region, which have increased violence in their territory. With a lot of effort, the community was able to buy a piece of land in which all their members could benefit and work together to protect their families. The land is now fertile, and they are living in a solidarity economy. However, there are still armed groups that threaten to kill community leaders, but people have chosen peace and nonviolence to overcome conflicts and to keep fighting for their rights, their lives and to protect their land and environment. Also, Fatima is one of the examples in Iraq of how nonviolence activities and mutual trust through sport and arts have been helping the society to rebuild hope and change people's mindset. She is part of a group of activists who have prepared research to know which the best way is to overcome violence. Based on the data they collected, they found out that sports were key to bring people together, despite their backgrounds, or religion. Thus, they decided to conduct a Baghdad Marathon for peace in 2015 and it was the first peace activity in the capital city, which included areas of conflict that were under ISIS. As Fatima said reversing the images requires the effort, time, and collaboration of everyone, but that change was a great starting point for peace.

Both experiences showed the importance of the Encyclical in today's conflicts and the role of the different generations to commit for present and future transformation. This 'third world war' fought piecemeal" (FT 25) that Pope Francis explained in *Fratelli Tutti*, should touch people's hearts to understand that the social doctrine is helping us to act in today's realities. We cannot be indifferent to wars in the world, we must see, judge and act, and create bridges with all the generations to make changes happen.

**Contributor: Catalina Salome Hinojosa Lopez, a leader in the Economy of Francisco**



## JPIC Promoters Formation Workshop 2022, 28 November - 2 December

Our third JPIC Formation Workshop will be an innovative experience in the spirit of *Pacem in Terris* and *Laudato Si'*. This will be an opportunity to reflect on how the vital message of these significant documents is important for us today. The five-day journey from Monday, November 28, to Friday, December 2, will provide new JPIC Promoters and those continuing in this service with tools needed to vitalize their ministry and animate members of their Congregation.

We will begin with the foundations of the legacy of Christ's peace to the world and elaborate on themes exploring how religious can connect to the needs and concerns challenging us today. The workshop will focus on the integrative values for building peace in caring for the environmental and social concerns of our common home. During these days we will experience both theoretical and practical aspects that will help JPIC Promoters understand their role. This formation will focus on the methodology of See, Judge, and Act.

This year, the Workshop will be offered in three languages: English, French, and Spanish. For more information on the itinerary and the speakers, you can

download the Workshop Program in English, French, or Spanish at these links. All times for presentations are for Rome, Italy. We're very excited to offer this program again and we hope to see you there! Registration is still open. Just as in previous years, we will record the Workshop and post the videos and support materials on the JPIC Workshop website hosted on Thinkific. If you cannot attend the Workshop, you are welcome to watch the videos afterwards.

*Our mission is to transform the world in the spirit of the Gospel through conscious prayer and sacred action, leading lives of justice, peace and care for the integrity of creation (JPIC).*

**REGISTRATION CLOSING ON NOVEMBER 11, 2022**

[Link to Register](#)



## Young Brazilians Committed To The Common Good: A meeting that encourages hope.

**Rome (Italy).** A group of young Brazilians who are carrying forward the process of the Economy of Francisco and Clara in Brazil shared the journey with JPIC promoters at the headquarters of JPIC USG-UISG. The Economy of Francisco and Clara has become a social movement in Brazil, a space of denunciation, a place to make proposals regarding public policies and cultural dynamics of the State. Their dream: to change the current economic model starting from the bottom, from the poorest and developing the potential they have. Inspired by Clare and Francis, these young people promote a profound change in the approach established so far for economic relations. The purely material and productivism economic perspective has distorted the meaning of social welfare, producing inequity and unhappiness.

It was an intense two hours where the young people shared their experiences and processes in action. For example, the project "Francisco y Clara Houses" is a response to the call to build together an economy of proximity, care and defense of rights. It is a path of collective search for alternative ways of doing economy



promoting a Solidarity Economy, Community Banking, rural-urban integration initiatives, projects of local entrepreneurs, collectives of community producers and cooperative work.

Very interesting is the participatory methodology applied in these projects, which integrates them into community life. The community is the means and the end of the work developed and which promotes formative processes from the grassroots. In this way, the economic citizenship of all social actors is recognized. The participation of women and men in the countryside or the city is promoted as a means to transform the economy. These young people are committed to promoting new paradigms, moving from competition to collaboration; from exploration to sustainability; from accumulation to distribution; from unbalanced relations between people and countries to fair trade; from unbridled consumption to responsible consumption. It is a radical change of mentality that logically generates great resistance from those who do not see the need for change because "the system" suits their own interests.

In their testimonies we perceived the great commitment so that the poorest "may have life and have it to the full" (Jn 10:10), even risking their lives but firm in hope because they know "that things can change" (LS 13). Fighting for this change to become a reality, they also shared with us the document elaborated and already translated into Spanish and English where the vision of this movement is presented. "Articulação brasileira pela Economia de Francisco e Clara" that unites several organisms and institutions to promote a new style of progress, relearning a culture of peace and of the common good for all. Very interesting is the catechetical aid presented to the children the economy of Francis and Clare. "Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded." (LS13). We feel that this phrase is addressed to Consecrated Life. It is true that from our charisms we are committed to the poorest and to transform society. But young people want us to be with them... they want greater evangelical visibility.

**Contributor: Sr Ana Victoria Ulate, FMA, Daughters of Mary Help of Christians—Youth Ministry International Member and JPIC Promoter**

### **How Can JPIC Activities Promote the Future for Young People?**

On 19 October 2022, the JPIC Promoters Spanish and English Group participated in a session focused on providing the help young people need to prepare for the future. The Group defined the topics for the yearly



calendar for the JPIC Promoters in Rome. Fr Vincent Anes, CMF, began the meeting by offering a prayer for sustainability in the world and our responsibilities to care. After that moment, Sr Sheila Kinsey, FCJM, Executive Co-Secretary JPIC Commission USG-UISG, and Catalina Salome Hinojosa Lopez, Administrative Consultant in the JPIC Office, explored some thoughts about how to help young people prepare for the future. One of the activities in the session was to ask the participants to write a brief letter as a young person to themselves as the adult they are now. Afterwards, the participants responded to the letters with plans for the future. This was a very thought provoking exercise which was followed by a deep moment of sharing in small groups. The participants discussed concrete ideas that could become topics for the year to develop. Around 10 topics came out: detoxifying negative experiences to care for our common home and people, ethical discernment, ecological spirituality, adopting simple lifestyles, the economy, interreligious and intergenerational dialogue, new technologies, alternative health treatments, gender equality, and networking. The core group will work on this project to give more specific information like dates, speakers, and a calendar proposal. The meeting was an effective and concrete way of working together. It was good to explore and talk about the needs of young people facing the issues of our modern world and how religious can support and accompany them in the process of building together a better future together.

The young generation has more access to information, technology and knowing what is happening in other parts of the world. However, they are more disconnected with others, themselves, and nature. There is a feeling of discouragement and hopelessness with all the negative news. It is overwhelming to know that there is not an idea of future, what is the sense of it, and what they can do, if everything is changing. On the other hand, this is also a generation who are raising voices and trying to find solutions. Even with the negative news they are trying to create networks and collaboration to co-create and build a better future. To do so, they need to work with the adults who must accompany them in the process they are doing and give them hope in this world. Although the challenges are so many, the young people believe that

a soul can be given to the economic systems and to the world.

*At the end, a beautiful picture was taken of all the participants to remember the joy of being together after two years of COVID pandemic challenges.*

[Link to the Prayer Powerpoint presentation](#)

**Contributor: Catalina Salome Hinojosa Lopez**



## **Is Clean Energy Really Clean? Sustainable Mining, Climate-Smart Mining - an Intrinsic Contradiction**

**Br. Rodrigo de Castro Amédée Péret, ofm**

In today's world we are in the midst of a series of crises that interact in a synergistic way. This unprecedented synergy involves crises in all spheres - political, economic, social, and environmental. In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis talks about Integral Ecology and draws attention to the fact that everything is interconnected. The most vulnerable to crises are the poor, children, single parent households, women, people with disabilities, indigenous people, ethnic minorities, landless, migrants, LGBTQIA+ people, the elderly and other marginalized groups. In the midst of this synergy of crises is the climate crisis. The threat posed by climate change requires changes in our ways of life. A major challenge lies in the so-called energy transition. The need for a low-carbon future is critical. And every day we hear more about what has come to be called "clean energy". But are these energies really clean?

The extraction and processing of minerals for the production of solar panels, wind turbines and batteries, for example, causes significant social and environmental impacts, so the concept of "clean energy" must be

considered a contradiction. The demand for minerals will only increase, according to the report *Minerals for Climate Action: The Mineral Intensity of the Clean Energy Transition*, issued by the World Bank in May 2020, "large relative increases in demand of up to nearly 500 percent are estimated for certain minerals, especially those concentrated in energy storage technologies, such as lithium, graphite, and cobalt". This report also shows to achieve a future below 2°C, "solar PV will account for the majority of aluminum demand from energy technologies (87 percent), while wind and geothermal will account for most zinc and titanium demand, at 98 percent and 64 percent, respectively. Solar PV and wind, combined, account for 74.2 percent of all copper demand, while battery storage accounts for all graphite and lithium demand in this analysis".

In fact, the proposed solution for a low-carbon future limits the debate on the climate crisis to a simple replacement of energy sources. It places the mining sector at the tip of the solution. For this was created a new narrative such as "Climate-Smart Mining". The World Bank has launched the *Climate-Smart Mining Initiative* to ensure that minerals for the clean energy transition are produced and supplied sustainably and responsibly. For Riccardo Puliti, Global Director, Energy and Extractive Industries at the World Bank, the idea is to "make the clean energy transition possible without endangering the climate and the environment. By working together to reduce the carbon and material footprints of minerals, we can support the large-scale deployment of renewable energy and battery storage technologies required to meet ambitious climate targets and achieve a low-carbon future that benefits everyone".

The Mining sector insists on the myths of "green", "sustainable", and now "climate-smart" mining. It is a strategy through a play on words to describe mining, giving it a quality to make it more attractive to investors and public opinion. However, the mining industry always entails violence and human rights violations, environmental and ecological sacrifices, conflicts with and within affected communities, exploitation of labor and deepening socio-economic inequalities.

[The rest of this article can be found online at this link](#)

## **Season of Creation: Common Experience of the Via Aurelia Pilgrims**

During the Season of Creation 2022, some religious communities in Rome decided to live together strong moments of prayer and togetherness. Every Saturday in September a community gathered for the SOC prayer. Religious members of Via Aurelia Pilgrims in Rome, from near and far, joined in the prayer. We are all





pilgrims for ecological transformation in the light of *Laudato Si'*. The burning bush, the Symbol for the SOC 2022, accompanied our prayers. Prepared flames made of colored paper decorated a bush in the prayer garden and became a visible symbol of the flame of the Spirit revealed by God's presence. They affirmed that God hears the cries of all sufferings of the earth and of the people.

The first celebration "*Blazing, yet not consumed*" (Ex 3:1-2) was held at the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Apparition (SJA). We were reminded to be aware that nature is a constant source of wonder and awe. It is also a continuing revelation of the divine (LS 85). By being attentive to the cry of the entire creation, we prayed for our scorched earth. The second celebration "*Turn Aside*" (Ex 3:3-4) took place at the Oblates of Mary Immaculate's (OMI). By turning aside, we were urged to reflect on how time is a precious gift and that time is part of God's creation. Do we give space and time for listening to the voice of God? Do we take time for discerning what is holy in the midst of our daily life? The

burning bush awaits us in our own hearts; it does not go away, it continues to invite and wait...

The third celebration "*Take off your shoes*" (Ex 3:5-6) was held at the garden of the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother (SSM). During the prayer, some participants took off their shoes and put them in front of the burning bush. We were reminded how essential it is to discover and respect ever more deeply the sacredness of the ground where we are, the other we meet, and the reflection of God's presence in all creation.

The fourth celebration "*I have observed ... I have heard ... I know ... I will deliver*" (Ex 3:7-10) took place at the Missionaries of Africa Generalate. Due to the change of weather, it was celebrated in the main chapel of the Generalate. At the beginning of the celebration, prepared with the Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Africa, we listened to the cries of refugees from South Sudan living in refugee camps in northern Uganda. The focus of our prayer was related to the 108<sup>th</sup> World Day of Migrants and Refugees. The flames were then moved to the Marist Sisters for the fifth week.

All prayers and songs were done in the richness of various languages: Italian, Spanish, French, English and Kiswahili. We could also listen to the Pentecostal voices of all diverse languages, when we prayed together Our Father in our mother tongues. The songs were accompanied by talented musicians from different communities. Collaboration and spontaneity, harmonizing and performing together offered a wonderful atmosphere for listening and joyfully praising our common Creator. As Pilgrims of Via Aurelia, we have experienced for the second time a wonderful Season of Creation. New pilgrims joined our common journey towards ecological conversion and made the synodal pathway more visible and concrete. We hope that other communities will walk with us during the year when we live moments of being a pilgrim family.

**Fr. Prosper Harelimana, MAfr and Fr. Andreas Göpfert, MAfr**

### **Report on UISG Initiative: Sowing Hope for the Planet May 2019 - May 2022**

Sowing Hope for the Planet is a project in which all Sisters whose congregations are members of UISG and their connections, are provided an opportunity to actualize *Laudato Si'* and to make a difference in our care of the planet. Our goal is "*to become painfully aware, to dare to turn what is happening to the world into our own personal suffering and thus to discover what each of us can do about it.*" (LS 19) To carry this vision forward, the website of [Sowing Hope for the Planet](#) was developed





as a public witness of the work of the religious in their respective areas. The website is very interactive and includes a mapping of advocacy initiatives focused on the seven Laudato Si' Goals.

Based on advocacy data from its mapping survey tool, SHFP has hosted seminars on biodiversity, climate change, mining, migration, and ecological economics. The seminars provided a space for members to share information about their work and create networks. This is another way of enhancing our work with the LSAP and sharing our efforts with a wider concerned audience around these areas. Webinars have also been developed to update our participants on new developments such as the Season of Creation, the Amazonian Synod, and COP meetings, and other timely topics such as the upcoming JPIC Promoters' Formation Workshop in November-December. Topics have included sustainability, synodality, the Laudato Si' goals, and responding to the Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor.

The resources developed for SHFP are also shared with the LSAP website. [Sowing Hope for the Planet](#) continues to take special care of the religious, both men and women, even as we strongly support the involvement of congregations in the LSAP. We have developed for religious the LSAP guide, tools for planning, and the best practices notebook. These joint efforts continue because the LSAP is inclusive of 7 sectors with their various needs (1. Families, 2. Educational Institutions, 3. Economy, 4. Religious Orders, 5. Parishes & Dioceses, 6. Hospitals & Healthcare Centers, and 7. Organizations & Groups).

The goals of SHFP have been impactful and largely have exceeded expectations. We have helped to develop the capacity and the flexibility of the LSAP. Our Congregations and the Local Communities together comprise the highest number of enrollment. A survey was sent out to the representatives of the constellations asking for specific feedback as to what the members have

been doing regarding their specific actions as well as an evaluation of the fruits of Sowing Hope for the Planet and their experience of the Vatican's Laudato Si' Action Platform. The pertinent information is summarized in March 2022 as follows:

The constellations responded to the call of Laudato Si' in many ways including education efforts, environmental actions, congressional planning, and pastoral services. The constellations need support on these issues ranging from networking to funding. The greatest challenge regarding the realization of Laudato Si' goals reported has been the COVID-19 pandemic and its ramifications followed by the economic crisis and the burden of too many responsibilities. These factors call for more support of members as well as education and community building. Most congregations still hope to continue developing their Laudato Si' goals. There is enormous support within the constellations, especially concerning the environment. The constellations could benefit from access to more educational resources and support materials to further their work. The majority of the constellation respondents found that Sowing Hope for the Planet and its programs are helpful and should continue. Comments included caring for our common home, increasing awareness of our contribution to caring for the planet, responding to the changing times, increasing commitment to ecological issues, and helping with the struggle to protect life and creation.

From this experience the suggested future directions are to continue to offer assistance through personal contact and specific tools, offer supportive webinars, enhance opportunities for networking through the Constellations and national religious organizations, promote collaboration in actualizing Laudato Si' Goals, strengthen the journey by developing programs and tools for skill development, and encourage LSAP enrollment.

Thank you for all of the ways you have made the world a better place through your efforts to actualize Laudato Si'. Your work is making a difference. This has been a remarkable and fruitful journey in the movement of the Holy Spirit. May God bless your efforts as you move forward Sowing Hope for the Planet.

## Listen to Creation Webinar

On September 15, the Religious Sector of the Laudato Si' Action Platform celebrated the Season of Creation 2022 with a webinar entitled "Listen to the Voice of Creation". Following the See – Discern (Judge) – Respond (Act) method, the webinar offered first a testimony from Silverius Perry, a Wapichan elder from Aishalton Village, South Rupununi, Guyana.

Silverius shared about the Wapichan worldview, people's





## LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF CREATION



13 September 2022  
3:00 - 4:15 pm (Rome time)



relational living with Creation, the moral imperative to live in harmony with all beings. Indigenous peoples have a very precious heritage that enables them to hear the voice of Creation very deeply. Indigenous knowledge is therefore crucial for maintaining ecosystems and harmony in the environment. Silverius also presented an initiative to pass on

such knowledge to new generations by introducing ecological education in schools, which is inquiry-based, facilitates learning experiences, and is grounded in local languages and cultural resources. The whole community is involved in the educational process, from parents to village elders. Climate consciousness of ecosystems and biodiversity is now inbuilt in the curriculum so as to promote healthy ecosystems and good living. Perhaps, and hopefully, this educational approach will become an educational policy in the years to come. Then Bro. Alberto Parise, a Comboni Missionary, elaborated on the message from the Encyclical *Laudato Si'* on ecological conversion, which flows from our life in Christ, from which comes the vocation to be custodians of God's handiwork. It is not something optional, but an integral part of what it means to be a Christian believer.

Ecological conversion involves a number of interrelated steps: acknowledging where we went wrong, working together at community level since simple individual actions will never be enough, and a communitarian conversion as well, developing an attitude of gratuitousness and gratitude, a loving awareness of the profound interconnectedness of all creatures, and honouring every creature as a reflection of divine love. Religious life, in all its various expressions, is always concerned with the prophetic response to the cry of the poor. Today we have become more aware that the Spirit of God challenges us to expand the understanding of our charism in terms of responding to the cry of the Earth as well. For the Religious, the call to ecological conversion now represents a vocation.

Finally, Sr Annette Tangwa, a Tertiary Sister of S. Francis from Cameroon, shared about her Congregation's experience of ecological conversion and commitment to the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform. They steadily integrated the *Laudato Si'* goals into the curriculum of the TSSF

schools as well as incorporating them into their formation program. They have a story to tell on their actions to save and protect our common home. They speeded up the management of the environment to bring significant changes in the vulnerable human landscape following the SEE-JUDGE-ACT methodology. They conducted seminars and workshops with various Christian denominations, with youth groups, and women have heard the clarion call of to save our common home from extinction. They have used the mass media and the pulpit in Churches to create awareness of this dangerous trend of environmental degradation. In all the Provinces of the Congregation, projects of going green, such as green lifestyles, green language, green fingers, green energy and usage of organic manure in sustainable agriculture, have been taking roots. A good number of people are beginning to emulate this example of the sisters to grow their crops with organic manure and to plant trees. They have taught people the consequences of burning vegetation in agricultural practices; the importance of rehabilitating endangered water catchment areas, providing affordable and portable water to some local communities; and they trained them on the judicious management of water since climate change is causing many water sources to dry up.

In conclusion, a message came across: the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor must be heard as the Religious communities draw inspiration from their charism and from the Encyclical *Laudato Si'* and stand at the forefront defending human rights, gender equality, ecological education and spirituality to promote good living and integral ecology.

**Contributor: Br. Alberto Parise, MCCJ, Comboni Missionaries of the Heart of Jesus—JPIC Coordinator in General Secretariat for Mission**



## The Letter

October 4th, I had the chance to be present at the premiere of *The Letter*, Laudato Si' Movement's film, the latest documentary in which several young people from around the world, Ridhima, Arouna, Chief Dadá, Greg and Robin,

travelled to Rome to speak with Pope Francis about Laudato Si' and share with him, among themselves and with others how the climate crisis affects their lives and the lives of their communities.

The film's participants were present at the premiere screening in Rome and shared with us some of their concerns, bringing perspective and solutions from the poor, the indigenous, the youth, and wildlife in the oceans. Greg and Robin from USA expressed their concern as scientists on the ecological crisis which affects wildlife, and how science is a tool to help us take action. Ridhima, a young girl from India was the voice of millions of teenagers and young people who are frightened of their future, so frightened that their anxiety for the future increases every time climate disasters happen. Her testimony was an invitation and a cry to us all to take responsibility as adults and act with courage and determination and allow the young generation to grow in a safe environment, enjoying the life God created them for. Young Arouna, a climate refugee from Senegal, pointed out in a very emotional and with strength, how in poor countries vulnerable communities are unfairly suffering the worst impacts of the climate emergency, their lives being changed by it from one day to the other. Chief Dada's testimony of courage and love for Mother Earth emphasized the dangers indigenous leaders face on behalf of communities whose predatory economic interests exploit their ancestral lands. The film's director, Nicolas Brown, revealed that the process of filmmaking changed him and helped him see that how the spiritual component is essential to resolving the climate catastrophe.

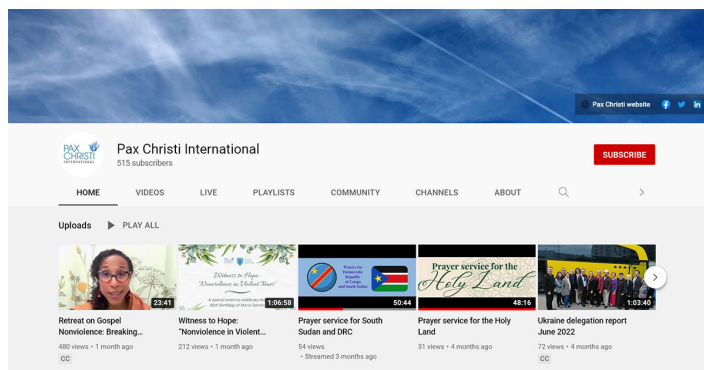
*The Letter* has had almost 3 million views in the first week. It is an invitation to a new engagement for Mother Earth and all creation knowing we are not alone, we belong to a big community of people who actively and relentlessly fight for humanity's future on the planet.

**Contributor Adina Bălan, CJ, Coordinator of the Mary Ward JPIC Office, Rome**

### Prayers for Areas Suffering Conflict

The JPIC Commission and Pax Christi are offering three videos focusing areas of conflict. [A Prayer Service for South Sudan and DRC](#) focuses on the wellbeing of those countries which are faced with economic and environmental problems. The next video of the series, [Prayer Service for the Holy Land](#), asks for support nonviolent engagement in the conflict in the Holy Land. The third video, [Pacem In Terris: The time is now](#), offers a prayer service to commemorate the 59<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of Pacem In Terris. It supports those who are providing assistance in Ukraine and prays for peace and nonviolence. The videos are available at the [Pax Christi](#)

[International YouTube channel](#). You can also follow the links above.



### Pope Francis' Monthly Intentions, 2022

#### *October: A Church Open to Everyone*

We pray for the Church; ever faithful to, and courageous in preaching the Gospel; may the Church be a community of solidarity, fraternity and welcome, always living in an atmosphere of synodality.

#### *November: Children Who Suffer*

We pray for children who are suffering, especially those who are homeless, orphans, and victims of war; may they be guaranteed access to education and the opportunity to experience family affection.

#### *December: Volunteer Not-for-Profit Organizations*

We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.



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