



NEWSBRIEF

A publication of the USG-UISG Commission for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation.

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Editorial: The month of March is marked with two main events. On Wednesday March 5th the Church's calendar Lenten season begins with an energetic message from Pope Francis to commit ourselves to confronting the poverty of our sisters and brothers. It is also the month dedicated to women and their rights. March 8th is the United Nations International Women's Day which has been globally commemorated even before it was launched by the UN. The political and human rights themes designated by the United Nations runs strong. Each year, political and social awareness of the struggles of women worldwide are brought out and examined in a hopeful manner. This year's theme is "Inspiring Change", encouraging societies to improve Women's Rights. There have been positive developments, but the world is still unequal. This day celebrates the social, political and economic achievements of women, while focusing world attention on areas requiring further action.

[CLICK UNDERLINED BLUE TEXT TO OPEN A LINK.](#)

1. ROME UPDATES

1.1. Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions for the Month of March. The Pope's universal prayer intention for March is "*that all cultures may respect the rights and dignity of women.*" Let us pray that the Pope's intention be realized, that we "[...] create still broader opportunities for a more incisive female presence in the Church. Because "the feminine genius is needed in all expressions in the life of society, the presence of women must also be guaranteed in the workplace" and "in the various other settings where important decisions are made, both in the Church and in social structures". (Cfr. *Evangeli Gaudium* # 103)

1.2. Pope Francis' Lenten Message. This was presented on February 4th 2014 in the Vatican and it is strongly JPIC in tone typical of Pope Bergoglio, calling for concern for those "who live in material, moral and spiritual destitution." The title of the message taken from 1Cor. 8:9 invites us to "imitate Christ who became poor and enriched us by his poverty." Lent is a fitting time for self-denial; we would do well to ask ourselves what we can give up in order to help and enrich others by our own poverty. Take time to ponder on the message by visiting the [Vatican website](#).

1.3. Michael Crosby, OFM, Cap. to Speak on "Collegiality and the Paradox of Power." The JPIC Commission seminar on March 20, 2014 will feature Michael Crosby, OFM, Cap. at the Aula Magna of the Casa Generalizia Fratelli delle Scuole Cristiane, Via Aurelia, 476. Crosby lectures and writes on promoting a 'roadmap' that he has created which helps individuals, groups and organization move from control and conflicted relationships to greater collaboration and compassion. Don't miss this event! To register, e-mail Felix at jpicusguisg@lasalle.org.

1.4. Oscar Romero Memorial Events in Rome. This year is the 34th anniversary of the assassination of Mos. Oscar Arnulfo Romero which took place on March 24, 1980, while celebrating Holy Mass. Two events are featured in Rome: 1) an Ecumenical Celebration which will take place in San Marcello Church, Piazza San Marcello on Friday, March 28 at 19:00 and 2) the Eucharistic Celebration for the Latin American communities in Rome on Sunday, March 30, 12:00 at Santa Maria della Luce, Via della Lungaretta, 22/a.

1.5. Annual JPIC Formation Workshop in November. The 2014 JPIC Promoters Formation Workshop will be held November 19–22, 2014. To reserve or register, e-mail Felix Mushobozi, CPPS at jpicusguisg@lasalle.org.

2. OUTSIDE OF ROME

2.1. March is Women's History Month. Sr. Dianna Ortiz, OSU, Education for Justice (EFJ)'s associate director, has created a calendar that tells the tales of 31 remarkable women who have dedicated their lives to work for peace and justice. Many toil quietly. Others have won the Nobel Prize and others work behind the scenes of the world stages. The interactive resource is easy to use, with a grid that jumps straight to their stories, plus quotes, prayers, reflection questions and links to videos that will help you explore more! It will be a March to remember! Read more: https://educationforjustice.org/?utm_source=February+27%25252C+2014&utm_campaign=Feb.+27%25252C+2014+posting&utm_medium=email.

2.2. Neema Namadamu a Visionary Game Changer. Neema Namadamu is a Congolese woman from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) who defines herself to be a "Visionary Game changer." She has founded many projects and organizations, starting with *Maman Shujaa*, a national woman's group, which means "Hero Women." She also started The Synergy of Congolese Women's Associations (SAFEKO) as an association of local women-led associations that work together toward women's empowerment and community development. Her life story is worth reading and it resonates well with the 2014 International Women's Day theme: "Inspiring Change." Read her story on her blog: <http://namadamu.com/maman-shujaa-newsletter-hero-women-are-rising> and the interview by 1 Million Women, a community of women determined to act on climate change. Read more: <http://www.1millionwomen.com.au/2014/02/18/women-in-the-world-neema-namadamu/>.

2.3. Initiatives of Anti Trafficking in Brazil. Fernanda Cristianelli, CMS shares with us an initiative of the Union of Religious in Brazil launching a campaign against human trafficking and prostitution during the World Cup scheduled this year in June. It has news, proposals for initiatives, material for awareness programs, etc. They are available in Portuguese and Spanish but translation into other languages is also accessible. Visit their blog at <http://gritopelavida.blogspot.com.br/>.

2.4. Economic Justice Issues

2.4.1. The World Could Face War and Terror Over Water Shortages. On January 17, scientists collected findings among the small groups of researchers who track the world water reserves. The findings show that the world water reserves are running low in a world where water is increasingly in short supply because of growing demands from agriculture, an expanding population, energy production and climate change. Analysts believe that this will cause instability and state failure, increase regional tensions, and distract countries with shortages from working with the United States. Read more on <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/feb/09/global-water-shortages-threat-terror-war>.

2.4.2. Measuring Progress with GDP is a Gross Mistake. It is worthwhile to read David Suzuki's article as he illustrates the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as an indicator of well-being and progress of a nation. He argues that we deserve better indicators of societal well-being that extend beyond mere economic growth. Follow his argumentation by going to this link: <http://www.davidsuzuki.org/blogs/science-matters/2014/02/measuring-progress-with-gdp-is-a-gross-mistake/>. You can also find how this way accounting of economic growth does not take into account women and unpaid labor at http://www.unpac.ca/economy/unpaid_mb.html.

2.5. International Year of Family Farming and Agriculture

2.5.1. The 5th Global Farmers' Forum Calls for Greater Support to Smallholder Family Farmers. More than 90 leaders of national and regional organizations representing hundreds of millions of smallholder farmers, fishers, pastoralists and rural producers globally, gathered at the headquarters of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) for the 5th Global Meeting of the Farmers' Forum on February 17–20, in conjunction with the 37th session of IFAD's Governing Council held on February 19–20. They called on IFAD and governments to provide greater support to smallholder family farmers around the world. Read more on the Farmers Forum at <http://www.ifad.org/farmer/2014/index.htm>; and on the International Year of Family Farming Celebrations on <http://www.ifad.org/events/iyff/index.htm>.

2.5.2. Sustainable Agriculture to Feed the Planet. Everyone is invited to a Seminar on Integrity of Creation on Friday, March 21 from 10:15 to 16:45 at the Convention Center [Centro Congressi – Palazzo Rospigliosi](#), Via XXIV Maggio, 43 (Sede nazionale Coldiretti). The theme will be "Sustainable Agriculture to Feed the Planet." The initiative is in the regular annual study, usually sponsored by the National Office

for Integrity of Creation and Social Problems which works in collaboration with the National Service for the Cultural Project of the Italian Episcopal Conference. The Seminar will be conducted in Italian. You are invited to [register](#) online or call **06-66398218**.

2.5.3. A New Wave of Colonialism in Africa. Read *Guardian* Article February 18 to be aware of what the G8 Alliance initiative is doing. Instead of *boosting agriculture and relieve poverty, it favors big businesses to the detriment of small farmers. Critics say that this is a new form of colonialism after African governments agreed to change seed, land and tax laws to favor private investors over small farmers.* To read more, go to <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2014/feb/18/g8-new-alliance-condemned-new-colonialism>.

2.5.4. Rights-Based Approach to the Global Food Crisis. Read Timothy A. Wise's article, "Malawi's Paradox: Filled with both Corn and Hunger" to have an idea of some of the reasons for international monetary agencies to impose Agricultural policies that cause hunger and undermine efforts by developing countries to achieve food security. Go to <http://www.globalpost.com/dispatches/globalpost-blogs/global-pulse/malawi-corn-maize-hunger-food-rights>.

3. USEFUL RESOURCES

3.1. Food Tank's Spring Reading List. This week, Food Tank has hand-picked 16 books that have educated, inspired, and informed us. They highlight sustainable agriculture, wild food, backyard gardening, soil health, and more. Visit [16 Food Books to Read this Spring](#) to access the books.

3.2. The Nature of Human Trafficking in the Americas. Louisa Huni-Dadzie, SHCJ recommends the most recent United Nations Report (February 2014) and the annual U.S. report (February 2014) on human trafficking which provides the best updated information for what is happening in the Americas (USA, Canada, Mexico, Central America, South America). While this report is very comprehensive, the majority of photos represent situations of trafficking in countries *other than* the United States. You keep looking for a truck stop or a field of produce to be picked or a slaughterhouse or a restaurant dishwashing area—all possible locations for trafficking in the USA.

For the most current documents, visit <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/index.html> and <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2012/>.

3.3. A Lenten Stations of the Forest. Take time to meditate on the Stations of the Forest, a beautiful 'remake' of the Stations of the Cross, by the Columban Mission Society, Australia. It makes us reflect on how we have considered ourselves as human beings that learned to subdue or "dominate" the earth" as supreme beings who have all power over every other beings on this earth. We are not used to thinking about ourselves as "interdependent" and in relationship with all living things on earth and with the cosmos. This 15 Stations of the Forest film invites us to reflect on that deep relationship. Don't miss this really creative and powerful video at <http://www.columban.org.au/about-us/columban-videos/stations-of-the-forests/>

4. JPIC EVENTS IN APRIL 2014

- **Spanish Portuguese Promoters:** April 2, 9:00-12:00 at UISG
- **Stations of the Cross:** April 6, 8:30-13:00 at SVD Generalate
- **JPIC English Core Group:** April 7, 15:00-17:00 at Fratelli
- **Refugee/Migrants Working Group:** April 10, 15:00 at Fratelli
- **Africa Working Group:** April 10, 15:30 at Missionaries of Africa, Via Aurelia
- **JPIC English Promoters: Social Analysis, Prof. Barbara Sena, presenter:** April 16, 9:00-12:00 at UISG
- **ICR at FAO:** April 22, 9:30 at Passionist Generalate
- **Prayer for Peace:** April 25, 19:00 at Chiesa di S. Marcello, Via del Corso, 15
- **Collaboration Working Group:** April 29, 15:00-17:00 at Fratelli
- **Anti-Trafficking Working Group:** April 29, 15:00 at Via del Casaleto 115

Note: Please send a brief outline of information you think JPIC Promoters might find useful for publication in future issues of *Newsbrief* to jpicusguisg@lasalle.org.

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