



# NEWSBRIEF

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

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*Editorial: The month of February begins with the celebration of a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life: This day, instituted by Blessed John Paul II in 1997, is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. This “Candlemas Day,” the day in which candles are blessed, symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world, should remind us our mission of justice, peace and integrity of creation. This social mission helps men and women religious to be credible as we accomplish our evangelizing vocation, to share with our contemporary world: “The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the people of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ”.—GS # 1*

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

## ROME UPDATE

**1.1. Volunteers at the JPIC Commission Secretariat.** We wish to thank the two volunteers who worked in the JPIC Commission Secretariat Office during the past months. **Bibiana Bunuan, MM**, a Maryknoll Sister came to help us with the accessioning of the more than 500 books that we intend to make available to JPIC Promoters to borrow and use as resources to gain more depth in addressing global issues. Sr. Bibiana stayed for five weeks in October–pNovember 2013. **Celine Quinio**, a communicator for the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas and the Brothers of the Christian Schools for the last 12 years, worked as a lay volunteer for three months, designing a user-friendly website, improving the readability of our Newsbrief /Mini-noticias publication, creating a directory of JPIC Promoters in Excel to improve usage of information, as well as assisting Working Groups to communicate better through our new website. Blessings to both of you for your generosity in moving us along and as you move on. Their email addresses: [bbunuan@mksisters.org](mailto:bbunuan@mksisters.org) and [cquinio612@gmail.com](mailto:cquinio612@gmail.com). If anyone wishes to share her/his skills with the JPIC Secretariat, please write to [jpicusguisg@lasalle.org](mailto:jpicusguisg@lasalle.org).

**1.2. “Wake up the World” Conversation with Pope Francis about Religious life.** On November 29 Pope Francis met with the Union of Superior Generals and shared his reflections on the mission and value of Consecrated Life in the Church today. From the JPIC perspective, the following points can be highlighted: “... be a real witness of a way of doing and acting differently. The witness that can really attract is that associated with attitudes which are uncommon: generosity, detachment, sacrifice self-forgetfulness in order to care for others.” He encouraged men and women religious to go to the peripheries of the world, citing a letter by Superior General Fr. Pedro `Arrupe, SJ to the Jesuit social centers in which he stated that in order to make a preferential option for the poor it is necessary to live with the poor. To read more of the Pope’s message, please see attachment.

**1.3. JPIC Promoters meet with Walk Free founder.** A group of JPIC Promoters attended a meeting hosted by the Pontifical Council of Justice and Peace on January 27, to introduce a team from [Walk Free Foundation](http://Walk Free Foundation), led by its founder, Andrew Forrest. Mr. Forrest gave an overview of Walk Free and its campaign to end modern [slavery](http://slavery) in this generation. He presented a copy of the *Global Slavery Index* that ranks the prevalence and indicates the size of slavery in 162 countries. He expressed a desire to bring the stories of religious groups serving victims of human trafficking to the next World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland in order to encourage business leaders around the world to contribute to [The Freedom Fund](http://The Freedom Fund) and raise \$100 million to end slavery throughout the world. The [Fund](http://Fund) provides grants for anti-slavery/trafficking projects. For more information about Walk Free, visit [www.walkfree.org](http://www.walkfree.org).

**1.4. International Women's Day at the Vatican.** Pope Francis' call "... to broaden the space within the Church for women for more incisive feminine presence" is having its echo [is this echo?] with people beginning to take initiatives. To celebrate International Women's Day on March 8<sup>th</sup> Voices of Faith will feature a live streaming storytelling event on Cinema Vaticano at 2-4 pm and 5-7 pm. Eleven remarkable women will share their personal stories, demonstrating how their unwavering faith has positively impacted their life, greater society and the world. Visit [www.voicesoffaith.org](http://www.voicesoffaith.org) to read more about this event.

## OUTSIDE OF ROME

**2.1. South Sudan Bishops Appeal for Missionaries.** The [bishops of South Sudan are appealing for missionaries](http://www.bishops.org), particularly for the Diocese of Malakal, which has borne the brunt of the fighting, killing and destruction in the current conflict. The bishops believe firmly that the presence of the Catholic Church in the rural parts of this huge diocese (covering three states) will help to bring development and stability. Much of the population is unevangelized and there is virtually no Catholic presence, so primary evangelization is part of the task. The bishops note that it is a very challenging and difficult environment. (<http://jpicformation.wikispaces.com/file/view/appeal%20for%20missionaries%20feb2014.pdf>)

**2.2. Day of Prayer for Trafficked Persons:** The USCCB Committee on Migration has designated February 8 as an annual day of prayer for survivors and victims of human trafficking. More information and resources are available from the following websites: Bakhita Initiative (U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking), UNANIMA International and the USCCB—"Become a Shepherd" and Stop Human Trafficking and Exploitation, Protect, Help, Empower and Restore Human Dignity. [Click here to access Become a Shepherd Toolkit.](#)

**2.3. Globalization of Indifference.** Jose' Antonio Josaba shares with us a link to an interesting article by Timothy A. Wise with the title: "[Why it's dangerous to trust corporations to lead the fight against World hunger.](#)" This resonates well with what Pope Francis says regarding our economic systems: "In this context, some people continue to defend trickle-down theories which assume that economic growth, encouraged by a free market, will inevitably succeed in bringing about greater justice and inclusiveness in the world. This opinion, which has never been confirmed by the facts, expresses a crude and naïve trust in the goodness of those wielding economic power and in the sacralized workings of the prevailing economic system. Meanwhile, the excluded are still waiting. To sustain a lifestyle which excludes others, or to sustain enthusiasm for that selfish ideal, a globalization of indifference has developed." (*Evangelii Gaudium*, # 54)

**2.4. Report on the Survey of mineral exploitation in Walikale North Kivu Congo DRC.**

You might already have seen the results of this survey which was conducted by the CERN (Episcopal Conference for Natural Resources), RDC in December 2013, titled "[The Impact of Mining on the Economy and Society of Walikale.](#)" It is striking to see in the summary of the report that despite a glut of precious minerals of all kinds, 900,000 people languish in absolute misery. And all this, it seems, in the absence of a state that has the mandate to manage the resources of its country to ensure a dignified life for its citizens! Visit [www.cern-cenco.cd](http://www.cern-cenco.cd) to read [the report](#). (Shared by Camille Piche, OMI)

**2.5. MEPs oppose authorizing new genetically modified maize.** The World Rural Forum secretary shares the interesting news about a resolution of the European Parliament on a new genetically modified maize variety. Find more detailed information on <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20140110IPR32334/html/Food-safety-MEPs-oppose-authorising-new-genetically-modified-maize>.

## 3. USEFUL RESOURCES

**3.1. The International Year of Family Farming:** For materials or resources that could be sent to your Congregation members so that you can inform them and involve them in this Year of Family Farming, go to the [FAO \(Food and Agricultural Organization\) website on the Year of Family Farming](#) Note that all the FAO links can be accessed in Spanish, French as well as English. The short address by FAO Director General Mr. José Graziano da Silva is in Portuguese.

**3.2. Resources for Homilies.** The Canadian Episcopal conference (CCCB) has made available suggestions for Sunday homilies and prayers of the faithful that connects with life and the family. These homilies and prayers can be easily adopted to local context. For the month of February themes are accessible on [the CCCB website](#). (Source: [www.zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org))

**3.3. Resource for Lenten Season.** Water—its preciousness, its sacredness, its precariousness globally—is a concern for everyone involved with justice, peace, and the care of creation. Terri MacKenzie, SHCJ has released her Lent 2014 resource, [I Thirst: A Lenten Journey from Desert to Garden](#). offers participants the opportunity to integrate their concern for water with the Lenten Scriptures and Jesus' experiences. Grounded in the cosmic story, participants deepen their awareness of the divine presence living and acting throughout creation.

**3.4. World Water Day resources:** March 22 each year is UN World Water Day. This has been an annual observance for all members of the UN since 1993. The UN and its member nations devote this day to implementing UN recommendations and promoting concrete activities within their countries regarding the world's water resources. In this year 2014, the UN brings to the attention of its members of the connection between water and energy. The attention is called particularly for billions of poor people who live in slums and impoverished rural areas surviving without access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation, sufficient food and energy services. For resources on this day go to:

<http://www.unwater.org/worldwaterday/campaign-materials/documents-and-information-resources/en/>

**3.5. The Priceless Gift: A Primer of the Theology of Consecrated Life.** A book by Fr. Kazimierz Wójciewicz cr, Translated from Polish by De Sr. Pascale-Dominique Nau, OP. This book is an initiative of the Polish Bishops' Commission for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. The author follows the path of the Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Vita Consecrata* and presents consecrated life like a mosaic. In short articles under specific keywords, he elucidates the most important elements. These articles are assembled in the key of contemporary ecclesiology, using the Church's threefold identity as mystery, community and mission. You can access the Presentation with the Table of Contents and the Introduction at <http://fr.calameo.com/read/0015806125d483ba899fa>; the [Printed book](#) and the [E-book](#) are also available.

#### 4. JPIC EVENTS: MARCH 2014

- **JPIC English Core Group: March 3, 15:00–17:00 at Fratelli**
- **JPIC Spanish/Portuguese Promoters' Group: March 4, 9:00–12:00 at UISG**
- **Africa Working Group: March 13, 15:30 at Missionaries of Africa**
- **Anti-Trafficking Working Group: March 29, 9:30–12:00 at Viale Tito Livio 26**
- **Integrity of Creation Working Group: March 10, 9:00–12:00 at UISG**
- **Economic Justice Working Group: March 12, 15:30 at Fratelli**
- **Refugee/Migrants Working Group: March 13, 15:00–17:00 at Fratelli**
- **ICR at FAO Working Group: March 25, 9:30 at ICR office, Passionist Curia**
- **JPIC Commission Seminar with Michael Crosby, Ofm Cap: March 20, 9:00–12:30 at Fratelli**
- **Collaboration Working Group: March 29, 9:00–17:00 at Via Nomentana, 250**
- **Mons. Oscar Romero Memorial: March 28, 19:00 at San Marcello, Via del Corso, 15**

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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](mailto:jpicusguisg@lasalle.org).

*Compiled and produced by the JPIC Commission Secretariat*

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