# CONTACT

QUARTERLY BULLETIN OF JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION, OFM



Mexico, JPIC Course

### Special event dedicates Synod to St. Francis and closes Season of Creation

At a powerfully symbolic event held in the Vatican Gardens on October 4, Pope Francis planted a tree alongside Amazonian leaders from Brazil and dedicated the upcoming Synod on the Amazon to St. Francis of Assisi. Consecrating the synod to St. Francis is a powerful symbolic gesture with strong resonance in Amazonian countries, where Catholics constitute a majority of the population.



Chile, Franciscan activities for Climate



Assisi, Event of 40th Anniversary of St. Francis as Patron Saint of Ecology

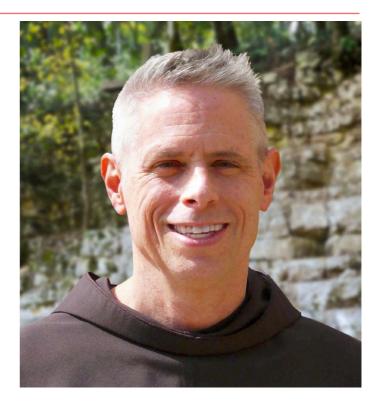


## Challenges of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation for the Order of Friars Minor Today<sup>1</sup>

My dear brothers (and sisters), May the Lord give you peace!

It is a great joy and honor for me to share with you today some thoughts on the challenges that friars of the Order, indeed, all Christians, face as we struggle to come to terms with the conditions of what it means to be disciples of Jesus Christ, members of the Church, of the human community, and bearers of the joy of the Gospel (Final Document, OFM General Chapter, 2015). As the 1971 Final Document of the Special Synod of Bishops entitled Justice in the World cited above makes eminently clear, discipleship in the community of Jesus and the Church necessarily implies that we embrace an integral understanding of the faith. In 1971, the Bishops proclaimed that justice is an intrinsic dimension of the faith, of evangelization. While some in the Church have made efforts to weaken this radical declaration, a growing number of Christians, of Friars, and other members of the Franciscan movement are opening their minds and hearts to a much broader, more integral vision of the intersection - better yet, the inseparability - of faith and human development, solidarity, and justice applied to both the social and the natural realities.

Recent efforts by some members of the Church's hierarchy and faithful have sought to drive a wedge between *Caritas* and *Justitia* but these efforts have met with little satisfying success. Still, far too many Christians, including Friars and other religious, fail to recognize the Biblical and ecclesial calling to embrace a wider vision of God's dream for humanity, and of the responsibilities for promoting a world defined by the practice of justice, mercy, truth, peace, solidarity, and care for the natural world, a



vision promoted by Pope Francis in the encyclical entitled *Laudato si*<sup> $\cdot$ </sup>. 3.I hope that what I now share with you will encourage you to look beyond the daunting challenges of trying to convince Christian believers who struggle to understand and embrace the spiritual unity that exists between Credo – I believe – and Praxis – therefore I love.

When applied to the concept of a Franciscan vision of the intrinsic nature of JPIC at work in the construction of our identity, the DNA of Franciscan identity serves as an instrument for giving shape and expression to each and every thought, each and every action conducted by Franciscans everywhere in the world. When Francis of Assisi met up with those who were socially excluded, marginalized, those who were poor, the lepers, he recognized that God was present in these brothers and sisters. Conversely, when he took time apart to pray and reflect on his relationship with God, he felt also the presence of all of humanity and of creation present, especially the suffering of humanity and creation. It is for this reason that Franciscans living and working in Indonesia, South Sudan, Italy, Canada, Peru, Poland, Brazil or in any other part of the world should all be seeking to give public expression to the truth of their identity as Friars Minor and as members of the Franciscan movement/family.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This editorial is an excerpt of the discourse of the Minister General at the JPIC Course 2019 at PUA. The whole text is available <u>HERE</u>

Let us turn our attention to some very specific, practical challenges that confront the Order of Friars Minor in attempting to understand and integrate the transverse values of JPIC into daily spiritual, fraternal, and missionary/pastoral life. The following are not meant to be exhaustive but rather illustrative.

- 1. Lack of belief in integral understanding of God, Church, world/human community, the natural environment/ecology, and the radical demands of the Gospel life proposed by St. Francis and communicated in and through the Order's vision of itself (GGCC, other documents).
- 2. Lack of commitment on the part of Ministers and friars in the Order to the transverse, integrating values of JPIC, and failure to take seriously this central aspect in the life of the Friars Minor and the life of the entity.
- 3. Lack of discernment in selection of JPIC animators, thus reflecting the lack of importance given by leadership to this intrinsic (DNA) dimension of our Franciscan life and mission.
- 4. Lack of a credible witness on the part of some JPIC directors or other friars engaged on issues of relevance to JPIC.
- 5. Lack of proper, adequate preparation of those entrusted with the task of serving as Animators for JPIC in their respective entities. The 2009 Guidelines for the Animation of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation should be considered an essential part of formation for all friars of the Order but especially for all animators.
- 6. Need for all those engaged in JPIC animation to open themselves to ongoing human, Christian, and Franciscan formation, in light of the transverse values of JPIC.
- 7. Learn new tools for JPIC animation, including formation in strategic planning and evaluation.

8. Learn how to serve as bridges between friars and people who are suffering, who are excluded, marginalized, helping to reveal the humanness and dignity of those who experience suffering in all of its diverse forms, and the suffering of the planet.

What is essential for all of us Friars Minor is to come to a renewed understanding of what it means to live fully the vocation into which we have been called as beloved children, members of the Body of Christ (the Church), brothers to all peoples and all of creation, radical disciples empowered by the life example of Christ and our founder Francis of Assisi. By examining their lives, and modeling our lives on theirs, we are offered the opportunity to catch sight of an integral vision of life, an ecological spirituality that enables us to participates in a more profound way in the reconciling act of Jesus who seeks to bring all things together in justice, truth, love, and peace.

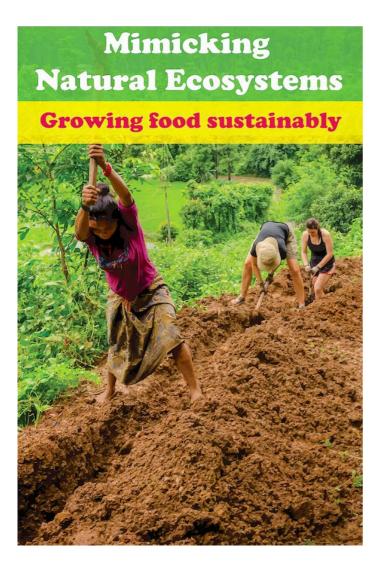
My brothers, this is God's dream, God's prophetic vision for the future of the world. This is the dream we are called to embrace and to live, seeking first the Kingdom of God, God's righteousness, and allowing God's dream to become ours!

> Br. Michael A. Perry, OFM Minister General – Rome



## Promoting Integral Ecology

A further project developed by the Franciscans in Malta



The Maltese OFM Province of St Paul the Apostle has teamed up once again with the Centre for Environmental Education and Research of the University of Malta, and the Inter-diocesan Commission for the Environment to launch another course inspired by the spirit of *Laudato si*<sup>2</sup>.

The course 'Mimicking Natural Ecosystems – Growing Food Sustainably' is meant to be yet another tool in the rediscovery of a better quality of life through simple and archaic processes such as agriculture. It aims at helping participants strengthen their connection to all that exists, while learning clean and sustainable ways of practicing agriculture.

This was the first time that this course has been offered, but the organizer's intention is to offer it every year. This particular session has been designed in collaboration with the Foundation for Social Welfare Services of the Government of Malta that – amongst other operations – runs a therapeutic community for drug and alcohol addicts. The friars have been collaborating with the community for the last few months, giving their assistance to create and sustain a therapeutic environment following principles that belong to franciscan spirituality and permaculture alike. Permaculture is a design system for creating sustainable human environments.

Sessions were held in the premises of the 'Santa Marija' community, precisely to offer the opportunity to participants to experience a close encounter with the world of some of the marginalized of our society. And the experiment proved to be very fruitful, both for guests and residents together with members of staff.

'Mimicking Natural Ecosystems' forms part of a wider project implemented by the Franciscans in Malta to promote integral ecology, further inspired by the words of the Nairobi Plenary Council: 'The Friars Minor want to bring about the vision of Laudato si' through networking and collaborating with other groups, organizations, specialists and social movements. Although the rich heritage of our Franciscan tradition and spirituality allows us to offer an important contribution to dialogue, there are other organizations working in this field that we can listen to, from whom we can learn a lot and with whom we can collaborate in common projects (PCO/ 18, n. 157). We must all commit and devote ourselves towards the good of the human being, as there is an "inseparable bond between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace" (Ibid. n. 117).

> **Br. Mark Ciantar, OFM** Province of St. Paul the Apostle – Malta



## *Laudato si'* Pilgrimage in Asia

The Icons of Francis and Clare for the Laudato si' Pilgrimage finally arrived in Asia

The OFM East Asia Conference JPIC Animator and member of the JPIC General Animation Commission of the Order, Br. Angelito Andig Cortez, OFM received the *Laudato si*' Pilgrimage Icon of Francis and Clare last September 30,2019 in the General Curia in Rome. It was turnover by the JPIC General Animator, Br. Jaime Campos, OFM and witnessed by the General Definitor for Asia and Oceania, Br. Lino Gregorio Redoblado, OFM. After visiting 18 countries in latin america, the icon will now go on pilgrimage to the different countries and OFM entities in Asia.

The objective of the pilgrimage was to revive the life and commitment of the Friars and the Franciscan Family in the promotion of the Encyclical Letter *Laudato si*' by Pope Francis and the experience of the values of Justice and Peace in the care of the common home. According to the testimony of several brothers and sisters, the visit of the icons to their countries was a moment of grace in which they met, as a family, the different organizations moved by the spirit of Saint Francis and Saint Clare of Assisi.

As a sign of welcome the icon will be officially unveiled by the East Asia Conference President and the Provincial of the San Pedro Bautista Province of the Philippines, Br. Cielito Almazan, OFM on October 4, 2019 6pm after the final prayer on the Eucharistic Celebration in honor of the Solemnity of Our Seraphic Father St. Francis of Assisi. The icon will begin its visit in Asia in the Philippines.



**Br. Angelito Andig Cortez, OFM** JPIC Animator of the San Pedro Bautista Province Philippines



## "Chile's waken up." ... "We are not at war."

Effort in Solidarity of the Franciscans in Chile for struggling people

In recent days, the people of Chile have experienced a transformation that could describe in an emotional way, ranging from resignation and social passivity to rebellion and action against a social model that has caused great inequality in the distribution of goods and resources of the land of Chile, inequality of access to justice, education, health, pensions and so many other demands. People are confronting the situations that caused greater poverty and a quality of life of enslavement and are subjected to the market that increasingly enriches only the few who benefit from a socio-economic structure that abuses the majority of the population.

"Chile's waken up" is an anthem we have sung in the demonstrations. We sing it to tell the government, the politicians, the businessmen and all those who have allowed social inequalities that enough is enough. The social awakening is happening in various forms of demonstration, both peaceful and violent, and protests on the street and in the different churches and spiritual traditions on the days of reflection and prayer (although they are not visible by the mass media). "Chile's waken up" is an expression of each and every citizen in the country, calling for a structural, profound transformation that would allow us to overcome injustices. But it is also no less true that if we want to ask for changes in the economic model, we must also do so in our lifestyle which is shaped by that same model, lacking fundamental human values such as equality, justice and equity. We should bring changes in a competitive, selfish, individualistic and consumerist lifestyle, changes to a collaborative lifestyle of solidarity. This movement means waking up to get out of oneself by opening to a more fraternal (serving each other) social coexistence.

# LA PAZ ES FRUTO DE LA JUSTICIA

"We are not at war" was the reaction and the counter-moto to the hate speech and the propaganda ("We are at war.") of the authority that wanted to justify the announcement of the state of emergency. The government has sent the armed forces to the streets with curfew in the repression of demonstrations which started out of the helplessness of the poorest. "We are not at war" because we only seek for peace through a just society, because we want to end the violence and suffer daily from living with the anguish of not knowing how to survive every month. "We are not at war" because there is no internal enemy in the country, but rather brothers and sisters who seek to improve their living conditions. "We are not at war" because we do not want looting in the neighborhoods nor in the laws that allow only the powerful to benefit.

The Church of Chile is called to fully live our mission, prophetically proclaiming the Kingdom of God and His Justice, which call us for the "*integral ecological conversion*" of our social structure. We Friars Minor of Chile are called to bear witness to fraternity, serve the people of God, promote justice, peace and integrity of creation, and build socially active communities for dialogues and pastoral engagement in the service of the Lord and humanity. Sowers of hope can recover faith in the conversion of the other, overcome the distrust that closes us to the encounter, dialogue and acceptance of the different, and make it possible to build the universal unity while respecting diversity.

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May the Lord give us His Peace!

**Br. Máximo Cavieres Iturriaga, OFM** JPIC Animator, Province of Holy Trinity – Chile







## First Province-wide JPIC Workshop

## The first JPIC Commission Workshop was held in Calpan, Puebla (Mexico).

From October 25 to 27, 2019, the first JPIC Commission Workshop was held in Calpan, Puebla (Mexico). The objective was to let the wider Franciscan family of the Holy Gospel Province (Mexico City) gain a deeper insight into JPIC as well as its three main lines of action: *Laudato si'*, migration and extractivism.

During the first day, different documents of the Church such as *Gaudium et Spes* (n. 90) and *Pastor Bonus* were shared, helping participants get a sense of the overall work of Pontifical Commission for Justice & Peace: namely, 1) to promote justice and peace in the world according to the Gospel and the social doctrine of the Church; 2) promote the development of peoples; 3) work specifically on human rights, with special attention to their defense and the reporting of violations and 4) the care, defense and protection of creation.

On the second day, the participants took a closer look at the two principal actions of JPIC worldwide: *Laudato si'* and migration, including the specifics of how these two areas have been implemented in the Province of the Holy Gospel. Regarding ecology, an analysis of the encyclical *Laudato si'* was carried out where we were invited to reflect on the relationship that Francis of Assisi had with sister-mother Earth, especially on how he saw God Himself and His greatness in every aspect of creation: so if God is reflected in everything, we are called to be caretakers. (Ps. 24, 1-2).

Regarding migration, some of the new faces of immigration were shared: women, families, unaccompanied minors, seniors and LGBT groups, forced to leave their home countries for economic. natural, social and political reasons. In order to understand the migrants' realities, we were treated to a live performance by (the OFM) Cisneros School in Cholula theater company called "An Altar for Migrants," which showed us the suffering of our brothers and sisters during their transit through Mexico. Additionally, the group learned how the Church, and specifically the Friars at a Conference level, are committed to migrants through the Franciscan Network of Migration.

On the third day, we had the presence of two members of the Center for Ecumenical Studies, who shared how extractivism affects Mexico, our sistermother Earth, as well as the aboriginals and other native communities. We also studied how mining only benefits transnational companies, countries such as Canada and the United States, and a scarce political elite within Mexico.

This workshop sought to raise awareness of the three work areas of the Holy Gospel Province's JPIC Commission while reiterating its commitment to continue working despite obstacles and social limitations even from our own fraternities who continue to assume a "technical" mentality, often forgetting an option for the poor, the forgotten and the marginalized. Participants were invited to commit themselves to think globally and act locally. The task that remains for us as members of our Province and members of a larger Franciscan family, is to think, see and act horizontally.

> Beatriz Toxqui JPIC Team, Puebla



Pope Francis emphasizes solidarity with indigenous leaders ahead of Amazon Synod

#### Special event dedicates synod to St. Francis and closes Season of Creation

Today, at a powerfully symbolic event held in the Vatican Gardens, Pope Francis planted a tree alongside Amazonian leaders from Brazil and dedicated the upcoming Synod on the Amazon to St. Francis of Assisi.

The Amazon Synod, which begins Sunday, is a gathering of bishops from around the world who will meet in Rome for three weeks of discussions on how to better care for the Amazon and accompany its people. Long-held concerns about the Amazon's deep social and environmental challenges were recently made evident in the catastrophic wildfires that destroyed forests and indigenous communities. The tree-planting is Pope Francis' first gesture to mark the Season of Creation, building on a <u>message</u> he issued last month that invited the world's 1.2 billion Catholics to celebrate the season. The <u>Season of Creation</u> is an annual celebration of prayer and action for the environment that is observed by many Christian churches. It begins on September 1, the World Day of Prayer for Creation, and concludes today, the Feast of St. Francis.

Consecrating the synod to St. Francis is a powerful symbolic gesture with strong resonance in Amazonian countries, where Catholics constitute a majority of the population. In the words of Pope Francis, "St. Francis is the example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically." Dedicating the synod to St. Francis signifies the Church's strong commitment to protecting indigenous peoples and the Amazon rainforest.

Ednamar de Oliveira Viana, the indigenous leader from the Maués region, Brazil, who planted the tree alongside the Pope, said, "To plant is to have hope. Planting in the Vatican Garden is a symbol that invites the Church to be even more committed to the forest peoples and all of humanity. But also, it is the denunciation of those who destroy our common home by greed in search of their own profit."

The vulnerability and knowledge of indigenous peoples will be a special focus of the Synod. In the words of the Synod working document, officially called the Instrumentum Laboris, the goal is "to listen to the voice of the Amazon and to respond as a prophetic and Samaritan Church." The indigenous Amazonian concept of "good living," which includes living in harmony with nature, is a guiding principle of the synod's working document. The also contains firsthand accounts and quotations taken from the hundreds of Amazonian community workshops that served as preparation for the synod.

The tree that was planted is a Holm Oak, the tree reputed to have been at the center of one of St. Francis' famous conversations with nature. Its inclusion in the event further emphasizes the Church's commitment to protecting the Amazon rainforest, where deforestation has been accelerating. In the last year, deforestation has increased by as much as 60%, according to Brazil's monitoring agency.

The synod begins October 6 and runs through October 27. Its official website is <u>here</u>. Although the synod is open only to bishops and special auditors, a public event series around Rome will bring its themes to the wider public. More information about the event series, "Amazon: Common Home," including an event calendar, is <u>here</u>.

This event was organized by the Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM), the Pan-Amazonian Ecclesial Network (REPAM), and the Franciscan Order (Order of Friars Minors, OFM).





## Voices from the Amazon: its land, peoples, and religions

The Amazon Awareness Seminar, which took place on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019, at the Antonianum Auditorium, Rome, attracted a large gathering with a cross-section of people from different walks of life.

The Pan-Amazon region was chosen as the focus of the Special Synod of Bishops convened by Pope Francis, taking place in Rome this October. The Church wants to hear the voices of the Amazon through its people and its pastors. The listening process began several months ago with a preparatory document that led to the *Instrumentus Laboris* (IL). The nearly 200 members of the Synod — including 10 Franciscan friars — will work on the IL during these days of "walking together."







The Order (through its JPIC Office), together with the Pontifical University Antonianum, The World Catholic Movement for Climate (WCMC), and the Ecclesial Network "*Red Eclesial Panamazonica*" (REAPAM), put together a seminar of reflection and listening. The intention is to contribute to the synodal process, by raising the various issues that affect the entire Amazon region.

Opening the event, the OFM Vicar General, Br. Julio Bunader, welcomed the participants and, in line with the Special Synod on the Amazon, highlighted two concepts: Integral Ecology, because "it is based on the recognition of being-inrelationships as a fundamental human category. This means that we develop as human beings on the basis of our relationships with ourselves, with others, with society in general, with nature/environment, and with God." (IL47). The second concept is that of Integral Conversion, because it is "an 'integral personal conversion' that comes from the heart and opens up to a 'communal conversion' recognizing its social and environmental links, that is, an 'ecological conversion'." (IL101)

The seminar developed in three sections. "Voices of Governments" had presentations from María Elvira Velásquez Rivas-Plata, Ambassador from Peru to the Holy See and Jorge Mario Eastman, Ambassador from Colombia to the Holy See. Then, "The Peoples Voices", which included presentations from José Luiz Cassuppà, an indigenous leader invited to the Synod, Sr. Laura Vicuña, a member of the Congregation of Franciscan Catechists, and Br. Joao Messias Sousa, OFM. The president of CELAM, Mons. Héctor Miguel Cabrejos, OFM and theologians Tania Ávila and Alirio Cáceres spoke during the third part of the seminar, entitled "Voice of the Church".

## UISG Conducts Seminar on the Mining Activity on the Planet

A three-day JPIC Seminar on the negative impacts of extractive industry and the response of the Catholic organizations was convened in Rome.

A three-day JPIC Seminar on the negative impacts of extractive industry and the response of the Catholic organizations was convened by the JPIC Office of the UISG (International Union of Superiors General) at the *Casa La Salle* in Rome on September 25 - 27. May have joined on behalf of their religious and secular organizations to share experiences and propose joint actions to the dangerous threats of mining companies.

About forty participants from different Continents shared their achievements and challenges in the face of aggression by transnational mining companies that take advantage of situations of institutional weakness in developing Countries and exploit precious mineral deposits in their territories. The basic methodology of the seminar was "see, judge and act," which defined the structures of the seminar and the final document.

Various lectures and panel discussions were given with simultaneous translation: English, Spanish, French and Italian. The Franciscan presence was significant. One of them was Br. Rodrigo Péret, who stood out in the organization, coordination and moderation of the sessions.

It is noteworthy that countries that sponsor mining companies and have deposits of precious minerals put great legal requirements on them to exploit their territories. It makes easier for them to venture into legally unprotected regions that are governed by personages of low moral quality. It lends themselves to dirty businesses and allows companies to propose development projects to local communities by offering them basic services that they do not have such as work, health, education, recreation, etc. But they are promises that are never fulfilled since, at the end of the mining projects, the communities become more impoverished and their environment as lethally poisoned as the localities must be abandoned. Once companies obtained juicy







profits, they would leave the region and disappear from the national and international legal scope so that there is no one to claim and demand reparation for damages caused. In addition to these serious damages, mining projects undermine social coherence causing violence, aggravating crime against the defenders of human and environmental rights and accelerating the corruption of institutions and people. The list of defamations, persecutions and murders they have promoted is very long. In my participation, I had the opportunity to elaborate on the theme "*The presence of the OFM JPIC Office in the fight against mining in El Salvador.*" I shared our way of accompanying the socio-environmental organizations. For more than 10 years, we were able to experience the progress of awareness in

communities at the local level, to carry out campaigns to disseminate reality in El Salvador at the national and international level, to support vulnerable people and ask for international help against the companies, such as Pacific Rim of Canada and Oceana Gold of Australia and Commers Group of USA. At the same time, we promoted the creation of a national legislation against mining that protects the environment mainly soils and water for a decent life and coexistence. The efforts focused first on accompanying the Salvadoran State to the World Bank and its legal arm, the ICSID (International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes) where our Country had been sued for a disproportionate amount of US \$ 250 million. In the end, the court unanimously ruled in favor of El Salvador, forcing the companies to leave the national territory and pay 60% of the procedural costs that in more than 10 years already amounted to 12.2 million. It was also opportune to share in the international seminar, having achieved the approval of the anti-mining legislation, which was promoted by our organizations, reflection tables and technical



support, petitions, organized demonstrations and strong alliances. We also have created conditions for the support of faith groups with forums, workshops, homilies, prayers, vigils and pilgrimages, etc. Particularly, in the concluding stage, the Catholic Church pressed the government by presenting of

public petitions to the Congress so that they approve the new legislation they had in their hands. And it was so that on March 29, 2017, the metal mining prohibition law in El Salvador was passed unanimously by the congressmen, which make El Salvador the first country to win this victory in favor of life, health, coexistence and care for the environment.

Both achievements were presented and applauded at the seminar, which motivated us to continue working on the care of the environment. There was an opportunity to talk about the other campaigns for struggle that are being waged in El Salvador, such as the promotion of a legislation for water, support for peace campaign, monocultures, housing projects, monitoring over mining companies so that they do not stalk communities waiting for a socio-political situation that allows them to return to the load.

#### **Br. Domingo Solís, OFM** JPIC Animator – El Salvador



## Seminar on West Papua in Rome

#### On October 2, West Papua Network in Rome organized the seminar in Rome.

On October 2, West Papua Network in Rome organized the seminar "West Papua, a Neglected Heaven - Justice and Human Rights based on the Gospel value" at Augustinianum in Rome to address the issue of human rights violation of indigenous West Papuan people. The local Catholic church of the five dioceses in West Papua and some religious congregations working in West Papua recently published the three-year human rights report, and the English translation was launched during the seminar.

Fr. Anthony Banks, OSA and Mr. Budi Tjahjono from Franciscans International introduced the context and the contents of the human rights report. and showed the interview video of Bp. Datus Hilarion Lega, the bishop of Manokwari-Sorong Diocese. Bp. Lega expressed the necessity of continuous effort to work for the promotion of human rights. Fr. Jan Pieter Fatem, OSA, who is the indigenous Papuan himself working in West Papua, spoke about the concern about the human rights violation from the indigenous point of view and the environmental crisis due to the development projects, such as palm oil plantation and mining projects. The indigenous people do not benefit much from the economic gain, but they have to bear the environmental damage. In addition, he also mentioned about the humanitarian crisis, especially in the highland, as a result of on-going political tension in the region. Mr. Peter Arndt, the Executive Officer of Justice & Peace Commission of Brisbane Diocese, spoke online. One of the key issues was the on-going human rights violation in Papua since the integration to Indonesia in 1969. There is a need to have a sustainable solution which should be acceptable for the indigenous Papuan. He was followed by H.E. Mr. Antonius Agus Sriyono, the ambassador of Indonesia to the Holy See, who spoke about the policy of President Joko Widodo on the issue of human rights in Papua. He mentioned the commitment of the Indonesian government on development in West Papua and the challenges. Sr. Elly van Dijk, FDNSC presented the concerns and



work of their sisters and brothers in West Papua. She expressed the importance of interculturality and the necessity of talking about the human rights violation issue in our own religious communities. Fr. Budi Kleden, SVD sent a video message and shared his experience of his recent visit to West Papua when there was a huge protest. Mr. Tjahjono introduced the international advocacy effort especially through UN for the betterment of the human rights situation of the indigenous people in West Papua. He took up some pledges that the Indonesian government has to follow up.

There were around 35 participants with a good number of Indonesian religious. We hope this seminar is a good start to start talking about the issue and to collaborate in different places to promote human rights of indigenous people in West Papua. You can download the West Papua human rights report from here.

- Indonesian: <u>https://bit.ly/36JBxXq</u>
- English: https://bit.ly/2PUSgkv

(Source: https://www.jpicroma.org/)



## St. Francis, Patron of Ecologists: Fortieth Anniversary Celebration

The JPIC Office of the Order wanted to commemorate this date in a symbolic place for Franciscan spirituality: St. Damian's Church in Assisi.

Forty years have passed since St. John Paul II declared St. Francis of Assisi patron of ecologists in the Bull *Inter Sanctos* of 29 November 1979.

Gradually a process of greater awareness of the care of creation has been developing in the Church. Since the 1980s, the Order has been reflecting, discerning and promoting actions that favour an awareness of the environmental crisis that we face these days. During his pontificate, St. John Paul II introduced the reflection on "the ecological question" in the Church, presenting St. Francis of Assisi as a model.

During the present pontificate of Pope Francis, once again the focus has been on the Saint of Assisi, being offered as a model of an authentically integral life, where the concern for creation also touches social issues. In the encyclical *Laudato si'*, we repeatedly find the figure of St. Francis, through his lifestyle and perfect relationship with all creation. Let us remember that the Canticle of the Creatures gives the name to this encyclical. In celebrating the 40th anniversary of St. Francis, patron of ecologists, the JPIC Office of the Order wanted to commemorate this date in a symbolic place for Franciscan spirituality: St. Damian's Church in Assisi. In this small church on the outskirts of Assisi, St. Francis confronts his vocation with Christ and begins to do penance. In this same place, two years before his death, he composes the Canticle of Creatures where he synthesizes his strong human commitment to all creation to praise God.

Together with the World Catholic Climate Movement, we organized an act of prayer and reflection on the canticle of creatures in St. Damian. We were accompanied by about one hundred young people from Assisi, as well as the mayor of Assisi, Stefania Proietti, Bishop Domenico Sorrentino, Bishop of Assisi, Rev. Josh Kureethadam, S.D.B. of the Commission for Creation of the Dicastery for integral human development, the brothers of the fraternity of San Damiano (Novitiate) and the JPIC animators of the Italian Conference (COMPI). After the prayer, we marched to the main square of Assisi to join the millions of young people around the world who demand new policies in the face of the climate crisis. The "climate strike" march ended in front of the city hall of Assisi, where the young people shouted: "Laudato si""! For an integral ecology, live Laudato si'.

> **Br. Jaime Campos, OFM** Director, JPIC Office – General Curia

## Franciscan Activities in Chile for Climate

The UN Climate Conference 2019 (COP25) was supposed to be held in Brazil. After the declination of Brazil, Chile accepted to host it, which later had to give up the plan due to its issues. Finally, domestic Spain took the responsibility of hosting the Conference. The JPIC General Office has been working on organizing a series of events in collaboration with the local JPIC animator, Br. Máximo Cavieres, OFM, and the Interreligious and Spiritual Alliance for Climate (AIEC) in Santiago several months before the UN have changed the venue of COP25.

The objectives of the activities were formation & conscientization on climate crisis for local Franciscans and others, taking acts of solidarity for climate justice, a projection for future action and celebration of the spirit of *Laudato si'*. Even when the president of Chile renounced to host the Conference, the JPIC Office decided not to change the plan to go to Santiago but continue to work with AIEC and other organizations in Santiago, for example, SCAC (*Sociedad Civil por la Acción Climática*). It's because one of the purposes of the participation is to get connected directly with the voice of the people with whom we need to search for possible solutions at the local level.

Friars have participated in the prayer gathering of AIEC and the climate march along with the members of AIEC. They have organized a conference on the climate crisis on Dec. 9. Six panelists were invited to the conference from various organizations, including the *Pastoral Mapuche* of Santiago, Caritas Chile, *Mujeres Iglesia Chile* (Women of the Church, Chile) and *Comunidad Semilla de Vida* (Seed of Life Community), etc. The talks began with the scientific facts on climate crisis and the climate negotiation, went on with the vision of the indigenous people and the Franciscans, and the work of the grassroot communities of the





Church. It ended in a roundtable discussion with the audience. Finally, the Franciscan delegates have visited a 'zona de sacrificio' (sacrifice zone), Las Ventanas, which was affected mainly by a coalfired powerplant for decades.

There was a massive demand for social/ environmental justice and equality among the people of Chile. However, the violent response of the government didn't seem to show that it understands the daily struggle of the people and the unjust structure behind it. The result of Cop25 was disappointingly the same as it was far from what's required to reverse the course of the climate crisis and establish climate justice. The international delegates didn't reach an agreement on the fund for the damaged people and the reduction of CO2 emission.

The current social movement of the people in Chile and around the world proves that the divine voice comes from the suffering, the afflicted and the marginalized, not from the rich and powerful. It also shows that the God of justice is always on the side of the victims and the oppressed. The participation in the movement in Santiago taught us, Franciscans, that we are granted such a mission to read signs of the times and follow the voice of the Lord that is in the cries of the people.

> **Br. Rufino Lim, OFM** Assistant of the JPIC General Office – Rome



## JPIC Continental Meeting for Asia-Oceania, 2020

The JPIC Continental Meeting for Asia-Oceania 2020 will be held on May 11 - 14 in Manila, the Philippines, with the theme, "*JPIC Advocacy on the issues of Human Trafficking and Migration,*" three years after the last meeting in 2017, Seoul, South Korea. All the JPIC Animators of the Conferences of East & South Asia, Australia and Oceania (EAC & SAAOC) are to gather together in order to report and evaluate their activities and plans, share information, deepen their consciousness on the chosen topics and discuss for future promotion work. It's an important gathering for the Animators in the region especially after the Plenary Council of the Order 2018, Nairobi and the JPIC International Council 2019, Jerusalem. The final documents of both Councils are indicating the urgent need of our collective action and radical change in our life in mission in response to the radically changing world.

The program is as below:

**Program** 

#### **MAY 11**

#### morning

**"Review of the Continental Meeting 2017, Seoul"** Joseph McKay, OFM

**Detailed Reports on the Works of Each Entity** JPIC Animators

#### afternoon

**Detailed Reports on the Works of Each Entity** JPIC Animators

#### **MAY 12**

Immersion

#### **MAY 13**

#### morning

**"Human Rights Issue in Asia-Oceania"** Budi Tjahjono

World Café Workshop I Dexter A. Toledo, OFM

#### afternoon

**"Migration in Asia-Oceania"** Ellen Sana

**"Human Trafficking in Asia-Oceania"** Talitha Kum

World Café Workshop II Dexter A. Toledo, OFM

#### **MAY 14**

morning

**Plenary Session** 

**Closing Mass** 

 Notes for registration and more information: JPIC Animators of EAC and SAAOC should register themselves either to the JPIC Office of the General Curia (pax@ofm.org) or JPIC Coordinator of the East Asian Conference, Br. Angelito Andig Cortez, OFM (ofmjpic.eac@gmail.com).

## JPIC Course 2020

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#### The JPIC Course 2020 will be conducted on May 4 - 9 in Manila, the Philippines, with the theme, "JPIC Promotion in the Times of Ecological Crises."

The JPIC Course 2020 will be conducted on May 4-9 in Manila, the Philippines, with the theme, "JPIC **Promotion in the Times of Ecological Crises.**" The course is designed according to the proposals of the Plenary Council of the Order 2018; "As individuals, fraternities, Entities and as an international Order, (we propose) to make a clear and radical option for the lifestyle indicated by Laudato si', authentically living out our charism and embarking on a journey of ecological conversion (189). It is important that we make our own contribution in translating Laudato si' from an encyclical to something that influences our life and preaching, from a written document to a lived document (159). The Friars Minor want to bring about the vision of Laudato si' through networking and collaborating with other groups, organizations, specialists and social movements (157). Engaging with young people means using languages and communication methods that reach them even within the digital world of social media (149)."

It consists of various formats and elements, not only lectures but also audio-visual tools, panel discussions and workshops. It will offer an opportunity to learn about the urgent global issues, such as climate crisis and exploitation of the mining industry, and how to build together a collective action as Franciscans toward environmental justice for the Creation. We hope to see many brothers and sisters in the region, especially the OFM JPIC Animators of EAC and SAAOC, at this gathering for JPIC promotion.

The program is as below:

#### Program

#### MAY 4

#### morning

**"Introduction of the course"** Angelito Andig Cortez, OFM

**"How to Develop an Animation Plan"** Rufino Lim, OFM

**"How to Develop a Project"** Bembet Madrid

#### afternoon

**"Metodología de Análisis Social"** Danny Pilario, CM

**"Biblical Foundations for Climate Justice"** Cristo Pine, OFM

#### MAY 5

morning "Cine-Talk on Climate Crisis & Climate Action" Lidy Nakpil

#### afternoon

"Cine-Talk on Extractivism & Advocacy" Jesus Vicente Garganera MAY 6

#### Immersion

#### **MAY 7**

#### morning *"Laudato si'* in the Gospel" Martin Carbajo, OFM

**"Franciscan Spirituality & Care of Creation" I** Martin Carbajo, OFM

#### afternoon

**"Franciscan Spirituality & Care of Creation"** II Martin Carbajo, OFM **"5 Years of** *Laduato si***" and the Contribution to the Franciscan Lifestyle"** Martin Carbajo, OFM

#### MAY 8

#### morning

*panel discussion*  **"The Responses of Religions: How We as Franciscans Can Help?"** ECOJIM Network *panel discussion*  **"Social Movements for Climate Justice"** GCCM, PMCJ, ATM, CEED

#### afternoon

**"Eko-Pastoral Project"** Mike Peruhe, OFM

**"PCO 2018, Challenges"** Jaime Campos, OFM

#### MAY 9

#### morning

"Climate Crisis Advocacy in Social Media Trends" I &II 350.org, Green Peace, CEED

#### afternoon

workshop "Climate Crisis Advocacy in Social Media Trends" III & IV: Engaging the Youth 350.org, Green Peace, CEED

• Notes for registration and more information: If you want to participate in the course, please register yourself or inquire for more information either to the JPIC Office of the General Curia (pax@ofm.org) or JPIC Coordinator of the East Asian Conference, Br. Angelito Andig Cortez, OFM (ofmjpic.eac@gmail.com).



## Pilgrimage to Damietta for the Franciscan Spirit of Dialogue

"Precisely in the field of dialogue, particularly interreligious dialogue, we are constantly called to walk together, in the conviction that the future also depends on the encounter of religions and cultures" (Address of His Holiness Pope Francis to the participants in the International Peace Conference, Cairo, October 2017).

The Commission of the Korean Province for Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue has organized a special pilgrimage to Egypt for October 2 - 15. It was to commemorate and celebrate the 8th centenary of the encounter of St. Francis with the sultan al-Malik al-Kamil in Damietta, Egypt and to try to find a way to make its significance and meanings alive in today's world. With the title of "East of Eden – by the riverbank of Nile," the program of the pilgrimage also includes eight lectures on ecumenical and interreligious dialogue and Franciscan spirituality for the last 7 months. 17 Franciscans (4 Friars Minor and 13 Secular Franciscans) and three other members have participated in the whole program.

Started from Cairo, the pilgrimage went on to Alexandria, Damietta and Luxor, etc. The participants have visited St. Paul Monastery and St. Anthony Monastery where the religious lifestyle of Christianity initiated for the first time, several other monasteries of the Coptic Church like that of St. Pachomius, the mosque in Damietta where one could sense the memory of the 800 years old



encounter and other historical sites that made us recall the refuge of the Holy Family in Egypt. We have celebrated Holy Eucharist not only at the Franciscan fraternities but also at the shrines of the Coptic Church and even in the middle of the Egyptian desert.

Throughout the pilgrimage, all the participants have prayed for the genuine Peace in the world, keeping in mind the fact that today's world needs the interreligious and intercultural dialogue and that our vocation lies in the fraternal attitude of openness that shines through in the life of Jesus Christ and St. Francis.

**Br. Joseph Seok, OFM** Director of the Dialogue Commission Province of the Holy Korean Martyrs – Seoul

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## 'Eliminating single-use of plastic.'

The theme of 2020 Earth Hour will be on '**Eliminating single-use of plastic...**' and this is one of the main challenges in Myanmar too.

OFM Myanmar Foundation has been actively participating in GCCM-Myanmar (Global Catholic Climate Movement) since 2017. We consider this as coordinated with the JPIC office that we serve for the common good, showing our Franciscan identity and promoting Franciscan spirituality among the people. Our main activities are organizing an Earth Hour celebration, symposium, training workshop on 'Deep Journey into *Laudato si*'' and day trip outreach program.



It is said that the theme of 2020 Earth Hour will be on '*Eliminating single-use of plastic...*' and this is one of the main challenges in Myanmar too. Due to a lack of basic knowledge and discipline, plastics are scattered everywhere. In our outreach program, the participants would visit a social enterprise called *Chu Chu* (which means plastic in Burmese). The center and production facility are a

house made of recycled bottles and tires. Daw Cecilia Wendy, a Catholic woman, manages the center with four young creative workers. They produce a wide - variety of products made from recycled packaging materials and other waste materials. They buy these materials from waste pickers around the city of Yangon.

Our participants are very much interested in it, and some items are also applicable to their families. For a broader sense, we need financial aids; to invite more participants for a training workshop, to establish a similar social enterprise for educating purposes, and to give awareness and service to other cities and towns.

Plastics concerned is one of many, and other topics are discussed in the training workshop on 'Deep Journey into *Laudato si*'' and in meeting's sessions. During the Earth Hour celebration, we invited parishioners from different parishes to pray for our common home and to listen to the talk of a specialist on climate change at the global and local levels.

Moreover, as we actively involve ourselves in the advocacy and awareness drives against the use of plastic through GCCM, it is much better if we live by it at home. We cannot give what we do not have, as the saying goes. In our formation house in Yangon, the brothers applied the "*Re-use and Repurpose*" by utilizing used plastic wares, bottles and packs in the garden instead of throwing them away. In this simple way, we can walk the talk. The photos itself convey the message.

Myanmar is among the top ten countries vulnerable to the consequences of climate change. Extractive industries like mining and logging destroyed most of the forest cover of Myanmar.

> **Br. Jerome Vungh Za Langh, OFM** Franciscan Mission Foundation in Myanmar



## Communiqué of the Our Lady of Guadalupe Conference

Mexico, Panama, Central America and the Caribbean

We express our regret for the situation that our brothers of Nicaragua are currently facing, and particularly for the youth, laity, religious, religious, priests and bishops of the Church. The persecution, repression, siege and violence they suffer are our suffering and of God.

We also express our solidarity with our sister country in search of peace and justice. We are with our Nicaraguan brothers in their struggle of liberation because we believe that God walks along with all those who are just, compassionate and peaceful.

Thereby, we make appeal to the government of President Daniel Ortega to establish peace and the good of every one of the people without any discrimination, as it is the mission of a political leader. Let repression, impunity, violence cease, freedom, justice, and solidarity come, respect for life dawn, and forgiveness and open dialogue flourish.

We ask the International Community, humanitarian organizations and, above all, the UN to cooperate decisively in the establishment of the peace and democracy of Nicaragua by the means that correspond to them. They are the demands made by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michele Bachelet in her report on the situation in Nicaragua, as well as in the report of the OAS (Organization of American States) Special Commission on this country.

We are in communion with the communiqués of the Latin American Episcopal Conference (CELAM), *Paz a Nicaragua*. The Conference of Latin America and the Caribbean, A Mission of reconciliation in justice, the Episcopal Conference of Costa Rica and Guatemala, have joined their voices to that of the Bishops of Nicaragua expressing their concern about the political crisis in which they are. Together with them, we want to read the signs of the times, through which the God of Love and Peace commits us to each other to work together for the lives of all without exclusion. In the words of Mons. Casaldáliga, it's a prophecy that pushes us to create another economy that is integral, ecological, intercultural and to be at the service of better life and coexistence in the construction of human fulfilment. We also want to add the Fraternal care of the entire creation.

We always pray for one another, the peoples and their rulers and particularly today for Nicaragua. While celebrating the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of St. Mary, the national patron of all Nicaraguans, we feel the intercession of Our Mother who carries her children in her arms, and that the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ Our Lord dwells in all and inspires the lasting reconciliation between the rulers and the people.

December 8, 2019, Solemnity of Immaculate Conception of Mary,

**Br. Flavio Chávez García, OFM** President of the Santa María de Guadalupe Conference

**Br. Juan Antonio Orozco Alvarado, OFM** JPIC Coordinator of the Santa María de Guadalupe Conference

## Climate Pilgrimage to Myanmar



The JPIC Commission of the Province of the Holy Martyrs of Korea has participated in the "Climate Pilgrimage to Myanmar" on Nov 5 - 12, 2019. The event was planned and conducted in collaboration with the *Interreligious Climate and Ecology Network* and *Green Asia*. The delegation that consisted of both Catholic and Buddhist priests and activists has visited Bagan, Inle and Yangon, mainly the arid central region of Myanmar.

Myanmar is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change, not only in Asia but also worldwide. According to the German Watch's 2019 Global Climate Risk Index, Myanmar has been the second most vulnerable country to climate change in the last two decades, from 1998 to 2017, after Puerto Rico and Honduras. Therefore, climate adaptation is crucial in Myanmar. The government is taking measures to adapt to climate change, such as building early warning systems through improved weather observations, developing drought-tolerant crop varieties, managing water resources, and reforesting.

According to the Myanmar Information Management Unit (MIMU), there are 99 international NGOs and 23 UN organizations operating throughout Myanmar, while 47 international NGOs and 10 UN organizations operate in the central drylands only. In Korea, the Korean International Cooperation Agency, the donor government's aid agencies, and Green Asia are active. Green Asia, in particular, has been working in Myanmar's dry areas since 2013 and is focusing on the issue of desertification.

It was the first climate pilgrimage prepared by the OFM JPIC Commission of the Korean Province, Green Asia, and ICE-Network since last year. The global climate crisis is already happening in the world. It's evident when we look at wildfires in forests and droughts. And the poor and the vulnerable are crying out for immediate action for justice. However, there is no consensus in Korea on the issue. The Korean governments and the people are either ignorant or neglecting this global problem. People are struggling to survive in a fierce competition to acquire more economic prosperity rather than to feel the responsibility for the disasters, even though they are responsible for massive carbon emission and the climate crisis.

Throughout the climate pilgrimage, we felt the urgent need for the South Koreans to pave the way for building up the relationship of solidarity and visit Southeast Asia and other climate-damaged areas. The Korean government and corporations should no longer emphasize only individual actions for the environment to their citizens but should enact legislation that promotes major industrial transformation. And the religious communities have to get out of the doctrinal debate and be concerned with environmental issues with other religious traditions. Otherwise, the climate crisis cannot be solved. Above all, the Church should put time and energy into becoming an ecological community. Next year, the members of the JPIC Commissions of the Korean and the Japanese Provinces will make a pilgrimage to Thailand. Let's pray together that the religious leaders may see the reality of the climate crisis directly, understand the gravity of the problem as it is, and take concrete climate actions in their respective communities and societies.

**Br. Jong Hwa Aloysio Kim, OFM** JPIC Animator Province of the Holy Martyrs of Korea – Seoul

## **Participation in COP25**

#### The JPIC Commission of the Holy Korean Martyrs Province of Korea has participated in Cop25 along with its ally NGOs.

The UN Climate Conference (Cop25) that began on Dec. 2 ended on Dec. 15, which was two days longer than its original schedule. The JPIC Commission of the Holy Korean Martyrs Province of Korea has participated along with its ally NGOs. Cop 25 was inaugurated with an ambitious theme, '*Time for Action*,' but even though it was recorded as the longest Cop in history, the international delegates didn't reach an agreement on several sensitive issues without any meaningful progress in the negotiation. Moreover, it was quite frustrating that the crying voice of the people in Chile and other neighboring countries suddenly disappeared in the mass media as the venue was shifted from Santiago to Madrid.



Here are some points that were significant at Cop25:

#### • Major points of negotiation:

- Climate adaptation, fiscal expansion and more ambitious emission target
- Agendas such as Double Counting, Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), Corresponding Adjustments, and Certified Emission Reduction (CER) in the International Carbon Market (Paris Agreement, Article 6)
- Transparency, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)
- Loss & Damage

#### • Interests of the Governments and Corporates:

The main concern of governments and negotiators is focused on the international trade markets that are transformed through the UN Climate Conference. In particular, they seek to reach a consensus over the interpretation of the market mechanism in article 6 of the Paris Agreement without giving up their national interests.

## • Interests of the Civil Society and Religious Communities:

As it was evident in the atmosphere at the Climate Summit, when compared to the Cop21, Paris, the civil society and religious communities were losing their interests in the UN Climate Conference. The main concerns of the UN and governmental delegations are strictly aligned with market capitalism, and they negotiate only for their interests. Therefore, civil society and religious communities should emphasize Just Transition, not the discussion based on the logic of market capitalism. In order to implement climate justice, responsibility for loss and damage to indigenous peoples in climate-affected areas must precede the carbon market discussion. To do this, phrases about loss and damage must be embodied in the agreement, but Europe and the United States are opposed to it.

## • Strengthening Climate Justice Network on Global Issues:

The Korean delegation consisted of the NGOs such as the Energy Climate Policy Research Institute, Green Korea, ICE (Interreligious Climate & Ecology) Network, Green Asia, and OFM JPIC Commission of the Korean Province. The participation in Cop 25 was smaller than ever before. There is hardly any networking between various organizations for climate justice in Asia or any other country. Indeed, civil society in Korea has not focused on the global climate crisis while focusing on several domestic issues. In the future, we will face the task of expanding the coalition for climate justice through international networking as well as training experts on the climate crisis. Religious communities also need to be more sensitive to the gravity of the climate crisis. After all, the Gospel is not about seeking only for the individualistic relief but the spirituality of community and solidarity.

#### Br. Jong Hwa Aloysio Kim, OFM

JPIC Animator, Province of the Holy Martyrs of Korea – Seoul

# Multi-religious women's swimming

There are very different ways of integrating people from other cultures into a society and entering into dialogue with them. One of them is initiated over water. The German Franciscan Sr. Gertrud Smitmans chose this way.

Sr. Gertrud Smitmans, OSF, pursues a probably unique approach within the context of the Christian-Muslim dialogue. This Franciscan sister has initiated "Multi-religious Women's Swimming" in Frankfurt am Main and Cologne.

Out of her previous experiences, she has learned that, among the Muslim primary school students, more than 70 percent did not pass the exam for the swimming badge 'Sea horse' in Germany. An important reason for this: Their mothers could not swim, and therefore they did not accompany their kids to the swimming pool. Together with the 1st Frankfurt Swimming Club and a primary school, Sr. Gertrud offered several courses with the title 'Mama learns to swim' at those times when the women could use the swimming pool for themselves alone and when the public swimming pool companies had released their pools for the women's use.

#### 'Water' in the Religions

Out of these small beginnings, the project "Multi-religious Women's Swimming" was first launched in Frankfurt, and in 2018 it was also initiated in Cologne. To be able to offer these courses, the 58-year-old sister completed the necessary examinations required for an honorary sports-badge-examiner and to become a swimming instructor. In addition to the swimming classes for women, she meets regularly on Sunday afternoons with women among the communities of Muslims, Buddhists. Christians. Sikhs. non-believers. humanists, etc. These meetings pertain to a common exchange on the subject of "Water in the religions."

Through these spiritual exchanges, the encounters in further swimming lessons became even more respectful and mindful. "You just have to know something from each other," said Sister Gertrud. Moreover, as she has observed, the experience of swimming strengthens the women's self-confidence and self-esteem enormously.

#### In the burkini

"Some Muslim women now dared to visit a public swimming pool in Burkini with their husbands and children. In addition to improving their swimming skills, this promotes social integration in Germany and intercultural and spiritual dialogue between people of different religions."



(Source:Franciscan magazine of the German Province, <*Franziskaner*>)

## International Days - January / March, 2020

World Day of Peace
World Day of Immigrants and Refugees
International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking
World Day of Social Justice
World Wildlife Day
International Women's Day
International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
International Day of Forests
World Water Day

## Agenda

January 22 - 23	Meeting of the Franciscan Mediterranean Network
January 28	JPIC presentation at the new Provinicials' meeting (Rome)
January 29 - Februa	ary 2 Serata Laudato si' (Santa Caterina, Brazil)

March 21 - 24JPIC Meeting of the Cono-Sur Conference<br/>Formation Congress for the OFS & YouFra<br/>in Argentina (Br. Jaime)









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