



FDNSC united together for JPIC

FDNSC Generalate, Rome

JPIC Bulletin, No 23, May 2022

Dear Sisters and Friends,

In the Film “A Virtual Pilgrimage in the footsteps of Mother Marie Louise Hartzler Part 1,” I said that Mother Marie Louise would probably have been very happy when looking down from heaven she could have seen how the European Union was set up to end the frequent and bloody



wars between neighbours. In 2012 the EU even received the Nobel Peace Prize for advancing peace, reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe. The Founding Fathers of Europe worked hard to build bridges of peace, and by sheer perseverance, they found a path to peace that had seemed unlikely.

... and now, in 2022, while still struggling with the Coronavirus Pandemic, we are confronted with another war in Europe. The War between Russia and Ukraine. The level of destruction and the number of people killed in this war rises every moment as people flee the country. The Ukrainian president called on the European Union to support them. Leaders, organizations, institutions and citizens around the world have condemned this conflict and called for its de-escalation. May God touch the heart of the Russian authorities to cease fire and dialogue with the Ukrainian authorities, and may we hear the cry of the poor, especially the victims of war.

War always harms the environment and the people, all the more reason to intensify our care for creation. In this issue, you will find an article about a Webinar in which the theme for the Season of Creation was launched. In “Did you know...” you can see photos’ from actions within our Chevalier Family concerning the *Laudato Si* Declaration. Following these are the events on the JPIC Calendar. In our concluding prayer we ask the Lord to hear our voice that is the voice of the victims of war and violence.



Launch of the Season of Creation

In response to the call of creation groaning due to human violations, the ecumenical family around the world is preparing to celebrate once again the annual **Season of**

Creation. On 23 February this year's theme has been **launched** in an online international event held by the *Laudato Si'* Movement, in the presence of leaders of the different Ecumenical Churches and the participation of Christians concerned with this global issue.



The theme for this year is “**Listen to the Voice of Creation**” and aims to spread awareness about our need to listen to the voice of Creation. To pray and work to protect our “Common Home,” the Season of Creation celebrations begin every year on 1 September, on the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and end on 4 October, on the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron Saint of ecology.

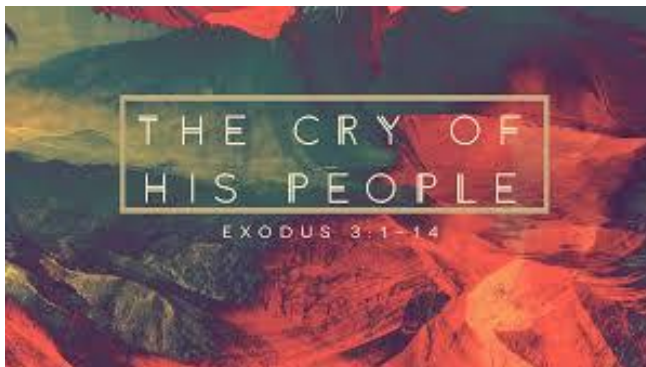
The Burning Bush

Ex 3,1-12

The logo of the year 2022 is **the burning bush**. The theme is taken from the book of Exodus 3, which revolves around the story of Moses and the burning bush. “I have witnessed the affliction of my people...” “Come, now! I will send you...” said the Lord (Exodus 3: 7 and 10). Focusing on this year's theme, the Spirit of God calls us to listen to the voice of creation and respond to it with faith through prayer, repentance and action.

The 2022 theme was chosen at a time when unnatural fires became one of the most destructive impacts of climate change that threaten the most vulnerable groups on our planet. **The Earth was crying** out with pain, the forests tasted death, the animals fled, and people were forced to emigrate because of the fires of injustice caused by us. At the time the theme was chosen, the War in Ukraine had not yet started, but what we hear now, more than ever, is **the cry of the poor** in that country at war.

In the panel discussion Reverend Rachel Mash (the environmental Coordinator of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa), Father Joshtrom Isaac Kureehadam (of the Dicastery for the Promotion of Human Development and Coordinator of the



sector Ecology and Creation) and Isabel Retamoza (of the National Association of Women Lawyers in the U.S) spoke about **the voices that are silenced and the importance of active listening**. “We need to listen to Creation so that we can move from a theology of plunder back to a theology of wonder,” they said.

After all the distressing images of war that have come to us through the television, I cannot avoid connecting the words “I have witnessed the affliction of my

people...” “Come, now! I will send you...” “with the suffering of the Ukrainian people and other nations at war.

The members of the panel encouraged all Christians to embrace the ecumenical Season of Creation and recognize how as one global Christian family united for our common home, we can be a force for so much good.

Did you know....



That our Sisters all over the world are answering the cry of the poor and the cry of the earth:

The Cry of the Earth:

Chevalier Family in **Central Java** turning natural household waste, such as veggies and fruits, into natural household cleaner, air purifier, antiseptic etc.



Symbol during the Community Meeting about the signing of the *Laudato Si Declaration* in the **Generalate**



Sr. Merle composting



Kiribati, 3 January 2022: Planting more than 2,000 mangroves with the Catholic youth of St Iotebwa Parish Bikenibeu as part of the fight against climate change at the closing of their one-week program.



The cry of the Poor:



Food distribution in **Merauke**



The Chevalier Family in **Merauke** visiting the Orphanage



Sr Rita in **South Sudan** checking on drilling progress for water



St. Alphonsus Catholic School Lapu-Lapu City, **Cebu**, the **Philippines** Help after disaster of the typhoon





Brazil mission in the Amazon participating in a radio program



Help after disaster of the typhoon in the DOLSH Centre of Hope in Surigao, the Philippines

Number of **Laudato Si Declaration Forms** that have been filled out until the end of March:

MSC: 2 Communities

MSC Sisters: 4 Provinces + 1 Community

FDNSC: 18 communities + 3 individuals

Lay Members of the Chevalier Family:

Thanks for your Commitment!

We continue to pray that you will be able to fulfil your Promise

You can still send in the Declaration form that you can find on:
<https://www.olshgen.com/news/un-categorized/12-first-friday-steps-towards-more-sustainable-living-step-12/>

“Now is not a time for indifference: either we are brothers and sisters, or everything falls apart!” Pope Francis

The events on the JPIC Calendar

May 3, World Press Freedom Day: aims to inform the international community that freedom of the press and expression are fundamental human rights. This day reminds people that many journalists brave death or face jail to bring daily news to the public, as we have seen during the war in Ukraine.



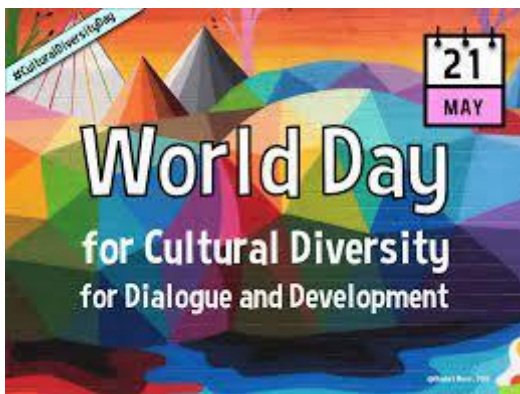
Prayer: God of justice, may our laws continue to uphold freedom of expression and opinion with which others disagree whilst wisely protecting people from violence, discrimination and marginalisation. Amen.

May 16, International Day of Living Together in Peace: The Day invites countries to promote reconciliation to ensure peace and sustainable development.

Prayer: the celebration of the International Day of Peace reminds us that we are all part of one global human family living together in a world that remains broken and divided. Lord God, help us to commit ourselves to the effort of promoting peace in the world.



May 21, World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development: is



annually held to help people learn about the importance of cultural diversity and harmony.

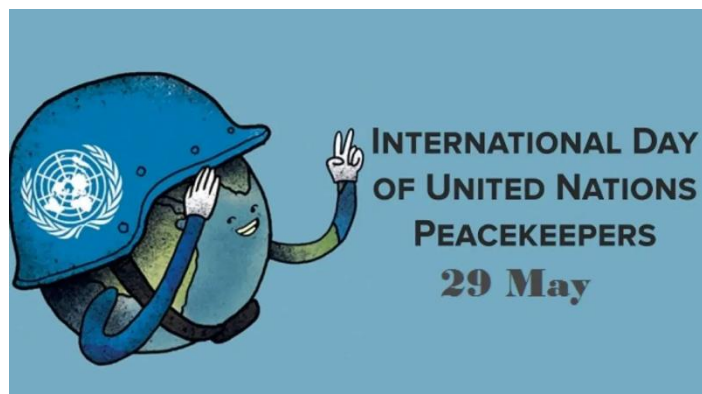
Prayer: O God, you created all people in your image. We thank you for the astonishing variety of races and cultures in this world. Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of friendship. May we see Your presence in people who are different from us. May our knowledge of Your love thus become visible in our love for all your children.

May 22, International Day for Biological Diversity: on May 22, 1992, the text of the Convention on Biological Diversity was adopted by the United Nations at a conference in Nairobi, Kenya. Since 2001, the International Day for Biological Diversity is celebrated each year on the anniversary of this date.

Prayer: God, you speak to us through creation. Help us protect the biodiversity of the earth. May we enjoy the works of Your Creation, the birds and animals, trees and flowers.

May 29 International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers: is a day to remember those who served in United Nations (UN) peacekeeping operations and to honour the memory of people who died in the name of peace.

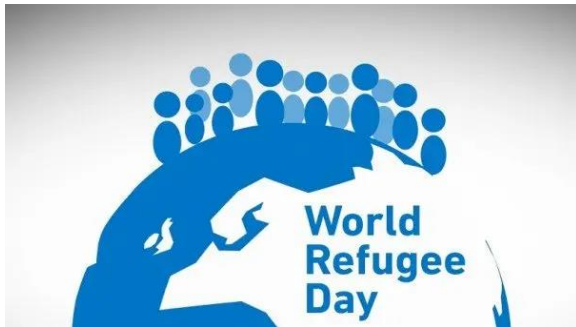
Prayer: We pray for the work of Peacekeepers everywhere in the world. May all the nations, working collectively, flourish in harmony with a shared vision: peace, sustainability, protection and love for all peoples, especially the most vulnerable and most exploited.



June 5, World Environment Day: is one of the principal vehicles through which the United Nations (UN) stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and enhances political attention and action.

Prayer: Lord, grant us the wisdom to care for the earth and till it. Help us act now for the good of future generations and all your creatures. Help us become instruments of a new creation, founded on the covenant of your love.

June 20, World Refugee Day: this event honours the courage, strength and determination



of women, men and children who are forced to flee their homeland under the threat of persecution, conflict and violence.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, you were once a stranger in a new land. We ask you to hold close those who have been driven from their homes. Enliven in us your welcoming spirit, that we wholly and open-heartedly may receive those

most in need. Give us the courage to advocate for refugees around the world. May we help them to create new homes in our communities.

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

Prayer: Through the intercession of St. Josephine Bakhita, patron saint of trafficked persons, we pray: For trafficked persons to be relieved of their suffering; for an end to this form of modern-day slavery; for the restoration of all victims' God-given dignity.

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



Prayer: Lead us to repent when we deny Indigenous peoples respect, dignity and fullness of life. Help us listen compassionately, speak humbly and act justly. Help us seek the peace, justice and reconciliation You desire among all your children.

August 29, International Day against Nuclear Tests: brings public awareness and education about the effects of global nuclear weapon tests. The day aims to end nuclear testing and to promote peace and security.

Prayer: Lord of all creation, make us instruments of Your peace. Let us learn lessons from the past and put an end to the use of nuclear weapons.

Prayer

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis denounces war and laments its effect on all members of God's creation. "War always does grave harm to the environment and to the cultural riches of peoples, risks which are magnified when one considers nuclear arms and biological weapons" (LS 57). Join us in prayer, using this **adaptation from Pope John Paul II's "Hear My Voice, Lord for Justice and Peace."**

To you, Creator of nature and humanity,
of truth and beauty, I pray:

Hear our voice,
for it is the voice
of the victims of the war and violence
currently happening in Ukraine.

Hear our voice,
for it is the voice
of all children who suffer and
who will suffer
when people put their faith
in weapons and war.

Hear our voice
when I beg you to instil
into the hearts of all human beings
the vision of peace,
the strength of justice
and the joy of fellowship.

Hear our voice,
for we speak for the multitudes
in every country and every period
of history who do not want war
and are ready to walk the road of peace.

Hear our voice
and grant insight and strength
so that we may always respond
to hatred with love,
to injustice with total dedication to justice,
to need with the sharing of self,
to war with peace.
O God, hear our voice.

