



NEWSBRIEFS



A monthly publication of the USG-USG Justice Peace & Integrity of Creation Commission

Newsbrief July - August, 2021

Editorial: In the Urbi et Orbi blessing, Pope Francis reminds us that “we are all in the same boat” and calls us to “row together, each of us in need of comforting the other”. The ecological crisis that threatens the planet affects all of us as well as our planet’s biodiversity. We must respect the integral dignity of all people, but we must also consider the sacred trust of the unique and beautiful organisms of our planet. Cooperation is crucial to our survival and to the survival of our precious mother Earth. We hear Pope Francis’s call to join hands and row together to protect our common home. We are called to help the vulnerable among us, the poor; the ill, refugees, but also the fragile creatures who share our world. Like us, they were created by God and deserve care and respect.

Our lives continue to be influenced by the coronavirus in our countries. Please pray for everyone affected economically and that soon all will have access to safe and effective vaccines and healthcare.



National Archives and Records Administration, <https://www.archives.gov/>

Clearly we see the significance of recognizing that: “Interdependence obliges us to think one world with a common plan.” (LS 164)

On May 25, Pope Francis announced the launch of the [Laudato Si’ Action Platform](https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/), a strategic plan to promote a sustainable ecology. All of our efforts are necessary to make this a reality. We honor the progress made in several areas. More information on the LSAP, including the LSAP Goals can be found at their website: <https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/>

In this Newsbrief, we will discuss the relevant areas of the economy, the work of [Sowing Hope for the Planet](#), efforts to understand our responsibilities, and how to effectively create the change to counter the ecological crisis threatening the planet, our common home as well as upcoming events and days of observance.

Let us keep one another in prayer. Blessings on your summer months, or winter for those of you in the southern hemisphere, and on all you do to make this world a better place!

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An Alternative Economic System for a World Ravaged by the Pandemic and Ecological Crises



The Covid19 pandemic continues to plague the world triggering an economic crisis. It could take over a decade or more to recover from the economic crisis. Meanwhile, the ecological crisis continues to threaten humanity and all living creatures. The question is what economic system can effectively address these crises? Will it be business as usual? Will the global neoliberal capitalist economic system continue to dominate? In his encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis assails the neoliberal capitalist system for its failure to address crises the world is facing. He asserts the need for a new economic system that can best serve the common good rather than just benefit a few. In November 2020, young economists, entrepreneurs and change-makers gathered in Assisi and online to respond to the pope's appeal to imagine a new economic paradigm. This has been dubbed the Economy of Francesco. In May 2021, the Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development launched the *Laudato Si* Action Plan – a seven year plan – to address the ecological crisis. Among the seven goals is ecological economics: “sustainable production, fair-trade, ethical consumption, ethical investments, divestment from fossil fuels and any economic activity harmful to the planet and the people, investment in renewable energy.”

Coming up with a new economic system in a world ravaged by the COVID19 pandemic and the ecological crisis is not the task or competence of the Church. What is important is to be aware of the developments that are already happening that will have an impact on the global economy as well as the political and social order. Whether we like it or not change is already taking place and is accelerating due to the pandemic crisis. What is important is to recognize these systemic changes and to support and promote a new economic system that expresses the Church's social teachings such as : (1) respect for human dignity and human rights as well as the rights of workers, (2) universal destination of good, (3) promoting the common good, (4) freedom, justice, peace (5) integral human development, (6) subsidiarity (7) option for the poor, (8) care for the earth, etc.

The world is in the threshold of a new industrial revolution as a result of rapid changes brought about by the digital information and communication technology, the development of renewable energy and new forms of mobility. This is

giving rise to a different kind of economic system: collaborative/sharing/giving economy, circular economy, regenerative agriculture, etc. This emerging economy emphasizes access rather than ownership, mutual interest rather than self-interest, community rather than individualism, empathy and trust rather than greed and suspicion. These are concrete expressions of universal communion promoted by the Church – (a) communion with one another as brothers, sisters and friends, (b) communion with nature. In addressing the pandemic and ecological crises, what matters most is not just how we can act together as members of the Church following our own plan but collaborate with others as part of a single human family.

[Link to complete text](#)

Contributed by Fr. Amado L. Picardal, CSSR

Sowing Hope for the Planet Vision Presented in Webinars

Sowing Hope for the Planet webinars continue to highlight



the work of religious. “Engaging the Vision of *Laudato Si*” developed the theme of integral ecology with beginning with guiding prayers and a presentation on transition plans. This was followed by a series of talks by experienced presenters. Community plans on the realization of *Laudato Si*’ Goals were shared with along with an animation approach used by Sisters in Africa. Plans for a sustainability covenant with an eco-retreat concept were discussed. Another important example centered on the path between religious and lay life and the issues of indigenous people. The video of this engaging event has been posted on the *Laudato Si*’ Action Platform.

Laudato Si’ Week continued to create dialogue and action to help realize its goals of developing and living the important concept of integral ecology. This significant online event was sponsored by the [Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development](#) and was supported by the [Global Catholic Climate Movement](#), with the collaboration of over 150 Catholic organizations. Materials and resources from the event are available at the [Laudato Si’ Week website](#). As part of this event, a *Sowing Hope for the Planet* webinar with the theme of “eco-spirituality - bringing hope to a troubled world” was developed by men and women religious. Presenters spoke of personal, community



and institutional conversion. Personal stories were shared along with the impacts upon institutions. The conversation continued with influences of the congregation on the local community and a presentation on the [Creation Care Prayer Network](#). The video of this presentation is also available to Laudato Si' Action Platform participants.

The discussion on Laudato Si' continued with "Moving Forward with the Laudato Si' Program". This webinar began by acknowledging the suffering caused by climate change, stressing the impact on the Philippines. A thoughtful presentation on the usefulness of the See-Judge-Act systemic process was given in a study on the transition to integral ecology. Speakers gave engaging and moving talks about the work their communities have done in deepening and advancing the goals of ecology and Laudato Si', especially in regard to discernment and accountability. The video of this event is available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Italian](#) and [French](#) on the Sowing Hope for the Planet YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/c/planetHope/>

Prophetic Dimension of Religious Life

The Spanish Team meeting explored "The prophetic dimension of Religious Life on the path of Laudato Si' today". Father José Miguel Díaz began the discussion on the topic beginning with reflections and questions about whether Religious are a prophetic sign of the Kingdom of God in the world today. Fr. José Miguel commented that this is not



always evident in the congregations. Therefore, life must be opened to a process of conversion to integral ecological commitment. This is necessary to have a prophetic role that allows us to overcome personal limitations. Being prophetic gives credibility to consecrated life. Many times, you may be fragile and incapable of carrying out a task, but with the presence of God in your life, the mission becomes possible. To achieve a prophetic path to an ecological conversion, dialogue must be the path, collaboration the conduct, and the gift of self the criterion.

The space where this prophetic role is achieved, said Fr. José Miguel, is the [Laudato Si Action Platform](#), where the critical mass exists to change the world. This change will only be possible if hearts are changed. There are in fact 4 reasons to change, as Fr. José Miguel points out: an evangelical radicalism that transforms borders, a charism that contributes to and joins Laudato Si', a relationship between the local and the global - "Glocal", and being a bridge that unites diverse realities to form a people, which are elements to generate encounters.

This consecrated life is a praise that brings joy to the people of God, it is a prophetic vision that allows us to understand what is important, what the living encounter with God and his people is like.

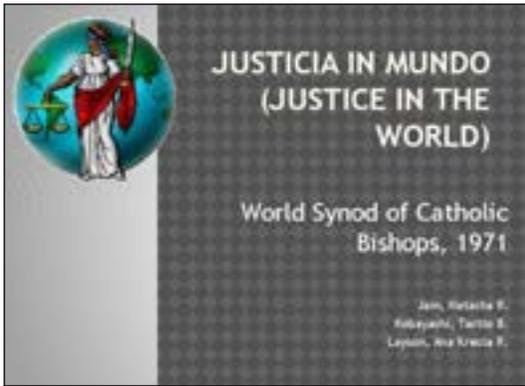
These elements were key for the participants who contributed with some ideas and who consider that there are challenges. Above all, this moment was one of reflection and deepening. The world can be changed little by little, starting from the little things. To do this, people should overcome borders, that is, go to the peripheries, and take steps towards conversion. This process, as one of the participants said, is acting in silence, praise from the simple. Challenges become possibilities. That is why it has been possible for consecrated life to grow with these challenges and that is the prophetic reason.

Contributed by The Spanish Group

"Justice in the World, 50 years after the publication of the Synodal Letter – Promoting JPIC in Africa Today: Joys and Challenges"

This was the topic of the Webinar organized on Monday 21st June 2021 by the *Africa Working Group (AWG)* with the participation of some JPIC Promoters from the African continent. It was in preparation for the celebration of 50 years after the publication of the Synodal Letter: '*Justice in the World*'. The guest speaker was Sr. Anne Béatrice Faye of the *Congregation of the Immaculate Conception of Castres - "Blue Sisters" (CIC)*.

Sr. Caroline Mjomba (CPS) led the opening prayer with references to the intention of the synodal letter. After the welcoming words done by the moderator Sr. Pauline Macharia (IBVM-CJ), the talk was preceded by a short



input by the Coordinator of the *AWG*, Fr. Andreas Göpfert (M. Afr.). He gave the geopolitical and ecclesial contexts in which the docu-

ment was published. He noted that the world of 1971 was experiencing the ‘cold war’, creating tension between capitalism and communism and the imbalance of power between of the rich countries the poorer countries of the developing world. At the end of the first UN development decade (1960 – 70) after the decolonization, the disappointment about the economic and political outcome was felt widely, also among bishops from the South. Further it is important to note that since the Second Vatican Council, the number of bishops from Latin America, Africa and Asia had increased. The synodal letter, published 30th November 1971, motivated many local Churches and Religious Congregations, especially in the developing world, to listen to the cry of the poor and to embrace service to the marginalized as an inherent part of the proclamation of the good News. This document had a great influence on the General Chapters and missionary orientations of the many Religious Congregations.

The guest speaker from Senegal, Sr. Anne Béatrice, a former *AWG* member with extensive experience working in Africa, invited us all to ponder on some key questions as regards Justice in Africa, 50 years after the document:

- What world, what Africa, what country often inhabits my silences?
- What world, what Africa, what country often provokes my tears?
- Which world, which Africa, which country often enchants me?
- How can I be a sign (of hope) for and in Africa, especially for and in my country?
- What should I do when the political regime does not allow any intervention by the Church?
- What to do when the Christian people are persecuted and subjected to harsh reprisals every time they raise their heads?

In a thought proving reflection, Sr. Anne Béatrice challenged us to rethink justice in Africa with lucidity focusing especially on human dignity. She invited us to pay particular attention on some key issues which raise many challenges to the value of human dignity in Africa, for example, the concern of modernization, the issue of political economics,

the place of women in the society, the ecological concerns, the education of youth, the migrations within and outside of the continent, the challenge of interfaith and intercultural dialogue, the rising wave of violence and ethical issues.

Finally, Sr. Anne Béatrice encouraged us to seize the opportunity provided by this anniversary year to confront some of these issues as part of our evangelizing and prophetic mission in Africa.

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Synodal Letter “Justice in the World”, the *AWG* members encourage JPIC coordinators and promoters in Africa to share the prophetic vision of the document at the local, diocesan and national levels and to be guided by its inspiring spirit for JPIC ministry today.

Contributed by Sr. Anne Falola (OLA), African Working Group

Shared documents available at these links:

- [Opening prayer](#)
- [Introductory presentation](#)
- [Conference in French](#)
- Recording in English: <https://youtu.be/9Q3x-uRLC-E>

Divestment in Mining - Care for the Common Home



Br. Rodrigo Péret, OFM, facilitated the session on updates regarding what is happening in mining areas around the world with the topics of the call to divestment, to dialogue with religious congregations and to advise an internal reflection.

The webinar initiative of the **JPIC and Mining Network** and **Churches and Mining Network** sponsored by the **JPIC Commission USG-UISG** featured a provocative

discussion regarding the devastating effects, environmental and social, from mining in many parts of our world, especially in areas of poverty. Rich resources benefit many international corporations with their stakeholders but leave the local people suffering dire consequences of loss of land, jobs, and health hazards from pollution.

An overview of the JPIC Commission's involvement in this work since 2012, as well as the path that led to the creation of the JPIC and Mining Network, was given by Sr. Sheila Kinsey, FCJM. The survey on the impact of mining in vulnerable areas was recognized as ground breaking. The international seminar on JPIC and Mining, in September 2019, was a great achievement. Their statement is posted on the [Amazon Synod website](#).

Examples of mining impacts and struggles were shared. Jaybee Garganera, director of the **Alliance to Stop Mining (ATM)** from the Philippines spoke about the current social and political situation in that country. He spoke about modest victories in mining communities. Now, the coronavirus pandemic context has provided opportunities for secret agreements. Fredrick Ssemwanga from the **Uganda National Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace**, and Parliamentary Liaison for **Uganda Episcopal Conference**, presented a PowerPoint showing how open spaces and fertile land have been destroyed by mining. He revealed the reality of the labor claims of those working in mining and denounced the supposed promises of companies claims to Social Responsibility. This was presented during the discussion of the **“Right to Say No to Mining”** international campaign, from the **Thematic Social Forum on Mining and Extractive Economy (TSF on Mining)**, in response to the many tragedies around the world. The aim is to coordinate local voices to have a decisive say for the future of their land.

The discussion about divestment by Guilherme Cavalli, from **“Churches and Mining Network”**, raised up the complexity of the issues related to divestment since there are so many metals that are necessary for development. A question was raised “Would it be better to target some metals and to focus on the treaty for human rights?”

On July 27, all are invited to participate at the **RIGHT TO SAY NO: LEARNING FROM GLOBAL STRUGGLES - Global Webinar** - as a follow-up session focusing on more details for networking and advocacy. *(See webinar information below)*

Proposals:

- Strengthen the trajectory of the **“JPIC and Mining Network”** of the JPIC, UISG, and USG at the service of the Congregations and their governments in the areas of Care for Creation and Mining
 - Make available letters, documents and comprehensive development actions based on themes related to mining, economics, socio-environmental justice and divestments in mining



- Foster the connection between local realities and consecrated life by creating spaces for dialogue between faith communities and their accompaniment in the realities affected by mining.
- In face of the **“Churches and Mining Network Divestment Campaign”**:
 - Provide tools which allow a better understanding and analysis of the financial market; ethical investments; churches relationship with mining companies, as well as with banks and funds that have investments in the extractive industry.
 - Schedule a meeting, sponsored by the JPIC Commission USG-UISG, with economists and the JPIC and Mining of the Congregations to find joint paths for the construction of an Economy of Common Good at the service of the mission and charism of Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life
- Strengthen the participation at the **“TSF on Mining”** process:
 - Participation of TSF on Mining activities
 - approaching networks, movements and organizations that work with international promotion on key themes, such as due diligence; UN binding treaty on human rights and business as well as with mining struggles.

Contributed by Rodrigo Peret, OFM, Coordinator of JPIC & Mining

Global Webinar: RIGHT TO SAY NO: LEARNING FROM GLOBAL STRUGGLES

Date: July 27, Time: 2:00 pm Rome time. How to Join: Participation is FREE. To register for email updates about the webinar follow this link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DETyexCkRS2rn9YCCm2P9w

- [JPIC Promoters Engagement in Mining Historical Perspective](#)
- [Resources: Overview of the NCCP Extractives Advocacy Work in Uganda](#)

Conference for Migrants and Refugees

Many times we have shared and discussed the relevance in today's world of migrants and refugees. I am sending you information about the Conference "Migrants and Pilgrims as our Ancestors - Theology of Human Mobility in the 21st Century", which will take place from **September 20-22, 2021**, organized by the USG, UISG and SIMI (Scalabrini International Migration Institute).



The Conference will take place online, with a limited number of participants per Congregation. However, non-registered participants will be able to follow the various presentations live on social media. You can download the information brochure in five languages here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/10bVyZTE8XuNiXr5DjQq2j8wS71nG-u1b?usp=sharing>

Registrations for the Conference will be made **ONLY** through the general administration of each congregation, which can register **a maximum of 5 persons**, through this link:

<https://forms.gle/ZLhKcA3BbLQ2XDvG8>

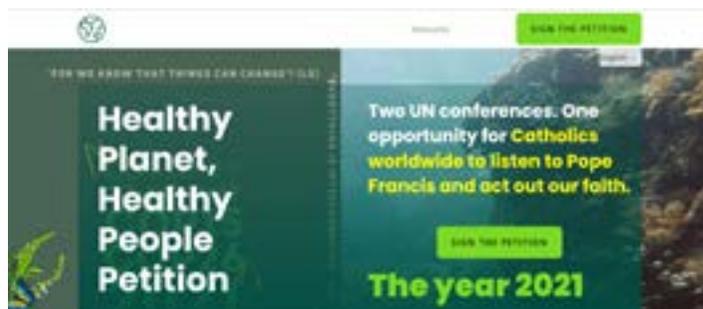
Registrations must be made **before July 15**. Each day in addition to the presentations there will be a moment of teamwork, this is where the richness of this conference lies: a moment of reflection that launches us towards the future, well rooted in reality (your experience of life and service) and the Biblical, theological-pastoral foundation.

Kind regards and see you at the conference ! Carmen Bando, ssp

Petition Healthy Planet Healthy People

Inspired by Pope Francis' Encyclical Laudato Si, we kindly ask you to partner with the Global Catholic Climate Movement to promote the Healthy Planet, Healthy People Petition, that seeks to harness global Catholic Action on the twin environmental crises of our time: climate change and biodiversity collapse.

In that context, the Healthy Planet Healthy People petition asks our leaders to take bold actions to stop biodiversity loss and to ensure that the international community adheres to the Paris Agreement's goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees celsius. This petition has been endorsed by the JPIC Commission USG-UISG. [Sign the petition here.](#)



Celebrate Creation

July 14 is the feast day for St. Kateri Tekakwitha, the first indigenous saint from the Americas, who is widely considered a patron of creation. We hope that this will be a good day for you to celebrate creation by celebrating Pope Francis's video which invites you to the Laudato Si' Action Platform. [YouTube link to video.](#)



JPIC Office Items

Thank you Fr. Amado

Fr. Amado Picardal winds up work as executive co-secretary on July 7. He will continue to write occasional articles and reflections for the JPIC commission. We thank him for his service and pray that God will continue to bless and protect him as he continues to promote justice, peace and integrity of creation through a life of prayer, contemplation, solitude and writing.



Remembrance of Celine Quinio

On April 20, the JPIC Promoters lost a dear friend, Celine Quinio, who died from COVID. For eight years Celine was responsible for the communications for the JPIC Commission--editing and layout of Newsbriefs, e-News, notices, flyers, and management of the website, surveys Celine provided her professional skills in performing these functions and developing these communication materials as a volunteer. We miss her



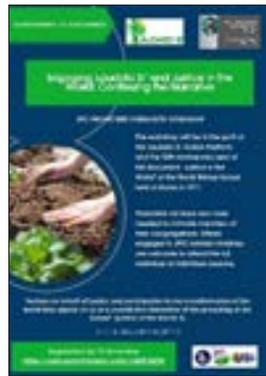
very much not only for the way she generously shared her professional skills, but her great kindness and thoughtfulness. We continue to keep Celine and her grieving family in our prayers. A video of the prayer service is available on our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ADRRO-4r26s>

Other Announcements

In January 2021, Sr. Sheila Kinsey accepted the appointment from Pope Francis to be a member of Dicastery Promoting Integral Human Development and to serve on the Board. This is a five year term.

JPIC Promoters Formation Workshop

The workshop will be in the spirit of the Laudato Si' Action Platform and the 50th anniversary of the synodal document "Justice in the World". The program will be from November 29th to December 3rd. Promoters will learn new tools needed to animate members of their congregations. Registration is required by November 15th at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q8PJMFQ>



INTERNATIONAL DAYS

JULY



15 July—World Youth Skills Day seeks to raise awareness that a large number of youth have low levels of achievement in basic literacy and

numeracy and calls for a substantial increase in the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills. This year the World Youth Skills Day will be a virtual event to celebrate the resilience and creativity of youth throughout the crisis. ES <https://www.un.org/es/observances/world-youth-skills-day>

- [Laudato Si' in the Secondary School](#)—a slideshow with useful educational materials.
- [Teaching Kinds to Care for God's Creation](#)— by Sr. Mary Elizabeth Clark, Sisters of Saint Joseph. A 30-session booklet for the implementation of Laudato Si on Care for our Common Home

18 July—Nelson Mandela International Day urges action against poverty and for the promotion of social justice through conflict resolution and protection of human rights. ES https://www.un.org/es/events/mandeladay/events_2020.shtml



30 July—World Day Against Trafficking in Persons. Highlights the exploitation of men, women and children around the world and invites advocacy

for their protection, particularly that of migrants and refugees. ES <https://www.un.org/es/observances/end-human-trafficking-day>

- [Impacts of Mining](#) by JPIC Integrity of Creation Working Group presents a See-Judge Act Reflection. Also available in Portuguese, Spanish, French and Italian.
- [Prayer on Artisanal Mining](#)—a prayer for those who work in mines. Also available in French.

AUGUST



9 August—International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples recognizes the indigenous people who are holders of a vast diversity of cultures, tradi-

tions, knowledge, languages. They have a special relationship with their land and with nature. This day demands the inclusion, participation and approval of the indigenous peoples. The 2021 theme "Leaving no one behind: Indigenous peoples and the call for a new social contract". This year there will be a permanent forum on Indigenous Issues, as a virtual commemoration to discuss and redesign a new social contract for indigenous peoples. ES <https://www.un.org/es/observances/indigenous-day>

- [Woman and Panamazon Synod](#). An evaluation of the theme of women in the synod of the Amazon. EN



12 August—International Youth Day celebrates the voices of youth, actions, proposals and initiatives, and their commitment with universality and equity.

The youth play a vital role dealing with political, economic and social life issues. This day wants to strength the capacity of youth to make their own decisions to change the social, political, educational, health and economic challenges as part of their responsibilities. ES <https://www.un.org/es/observances/youth-day>

- [Reflection on Integral Ecology](#)—a slideshow for young students reflecting on ecology.



19 August—World Humanitarian Day remembers the humanitarian workers killed and injured doing their work. This day provides an opportunity

for solidarity with the millions around the world who need

humanitarian assistance to survive by honoring the work of those fighting for change and encouraging further advocacy. ES <https://www.un.org/es/observances/humanitarian-day>

- [Prayer](#)—Faithful Gardeners of our Common Home, Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange.

21 August – [International Day of Remembrance of and tribute to the Victims of Terrorism](#) aims to honor and support the victims and survivors of terrorism.



This day promotes the protection and guarantees the

human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law at the national level. ES <https://www.un.org/es/observances/terrorism-victims-day>

22 August -- [International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief](#) recognizing the importance of giving support and assistance to the victims of acts of violence



based on religion or belief and members of their families. The day strongly deplores all acts of violence against persons on the basis of their religion or belief. This recalls the state's responsibility to promote and protect human rights, including the freedom of religion. ES <https://www.un.org/es/observances/religious-based-violence-victims-day>

based on religion or belief and members of their families. The day strongly deplores all acts of violence against persons on the basis of their religion or belief. This recalls the state's responsibility to promote and protect human rights, including the freedom of religion. ES <https://www.un.org/es/observances/religious-based-violence-victims-day>

23 August—[International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition](#) offers a collective consideration of the historic causes, the methods and the consequences of the slave trade. This day



wants to be a memory for all the people who suffered with this tragedy. ES <https://es.unesco.org/commemorations/slavetraderemembranceday>

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29 August—[International Day Against Nuclear Tests](#)



stresses the goal to cease nuclear testing because of its powerful and negative effects on human life and the health of the Earth.

This day calls for increasing awareness and education about the effects of nuclear weapons in the world. ES <https://www.un.org/es/observances/end-nuclear-tests-day>

- [Tending the Tree: Voices from the Holy Cross](#). A reflection booklet on care for creation and climate change.

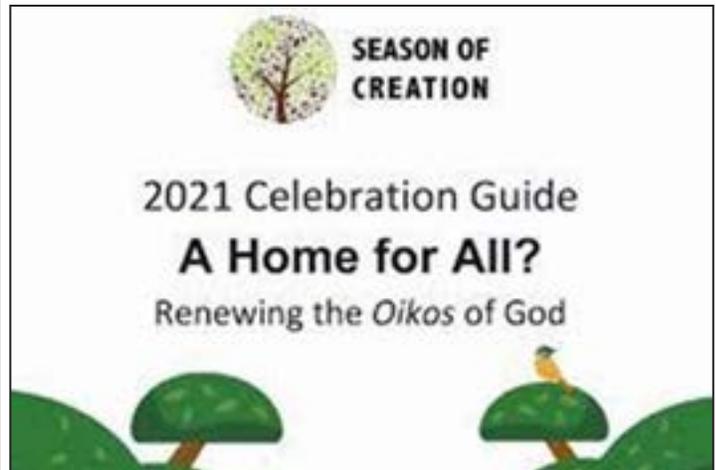
30 August -- [International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances](#) expresses the deep concern about the enforced or involuntary disappearances in various regions of the world. These disappearances include arrest, detention and abduction. This day calls governments and



people to protect vulnerable people and promote human rights. This helps also victims' families the right to seek reparations, and to demand the truth

about their loved ones' disappearances. ES <https://www.un.org/es/observances/victims-enforced-disappearance>

1 September to 4 October -- Season of Creation 2021: A



home for all? Renewing the Oikos of God. This year the Seasons of Creation invite thousands of Christians from the six continents to unite for a time of restoration and hope, a jubilee for our Earth, and discovered radically new ways of living with creation. More information click [here](#)

21 September to October 2 Catholic Nonviolence Days of Action - Special Consideration of Nonviolence –From **21 September that celebrates the International Day of Peace until 2 October which celebrates the International Day of Nonviolence and Gandhi's birthday**. This dates are aligned to [the Season of Creation](#), which extends from 1 September (Day of Prayer for creation) until 4 October (feast of St. Francis of Assisi.).

27 September - Refugees and Migrants Day. The 2021 theme is [TOWARDS AN EVER WIDER "WE" As Pope Francis explained in Fratelli Tutti](#) "Once this health crisis passes, our worst response would be to plunge even more deeply into feverish consumerism and new forms of egotistic self-preservation. God willing, after all this, we will think no longer in terms of 'them' and 'those', but only 'us'" (No. 35).

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Executive Co-Secretaries:

Sheila Kinsey, FCJM and Amado L. Picardal, CSsR

Design: Paul Johnston

Via Aurelia 476, CP 9099 Aurelio, 00165 Roma, Italy

Landline: +(39) 06 598 78 602

Mobile: +(39) 349 398 3236/+(39) 3888 109149

Email: jpicusguisg@lasalle.org / jpic.cosec@lasalle.org

Website: <http://www.jpicara.org>