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Dear readers,

Welcome to the MW JPIC newsletter. In it you will find stories from many parts of the globe where Mary Ward Family is involved in life and mission. We are very grateful to all who have contributed to this edition, in particular you will be interested to hear the stories from Vietnam and Timor-Leste who have generously shared about their life and mission.

However, in the backdrop of release of this edition we are aware about the pandemic situation in many parts of our world. We continue to pray for all people most affected by COVID 19, especially the people of India and Brazil. May the Vaccines become accessible to all peoples.

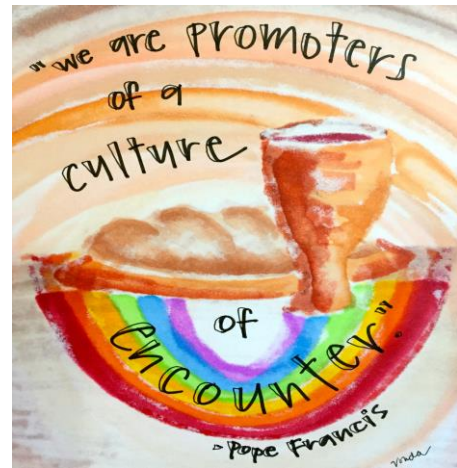


THE CULTURE OF ENCOUNTER IN FRATELLI TUTTI

The call to “a culture of encounter” by Pope Francis is a way of being and a style of leadership worth universal emulation. Only this culture can lead to sustainable justice and peace for all, as well as genuine care for our common home. It is a call to look beyond ourselves, to the needs of others. The global health crisis has painfully highlighted the urgency to promote passion for “meeting others, seeking points of contact, building bridges and planning a project that includes everyone”. Inclusivity is the core of this call.

The Pope says that “the hubris of the powerful” should give way to a greater awareness, and we should ask how we can “raise our sights to recognize our neighbours or to help those who have fallen along the way” as did the Good Samaritan of the Gospel. This call is for dialogue across religious, racial and national lines to help to heal our broken world. He reminds us that without the other we are nothing. “Love shatters the chains that keep us isolated and separate; in their place it builds bridges.” This call will cross boundaries of time and space and will keep echoing in the hearts of all future generations attuned to the one Lord and Father of us all because of whom we are all brothers and sisters.

Text: Prisca Vadekepolikulum, CJ and Igora Pinto, IBVM



ENOUGH OF THIS INDIFFERENCE

In Brazil we live a harsh reality, where a "fever against the PPP" has spread, this acronym refers to poor people, "pretas" (blacks) and people from the peripheries, who are excluded and badly regarded in society. This discrimination has been aggravated by the catastrophic situation of the COVID19 pandemic. A Brazilian singer expresses this reality in one of his songs' refrain: "The cheapest meat on the market is black meat" (Mr. Jorge). Faced with the pandemic situation, it has been noted that black people are the ones who die the most in Brazil, while those considered "white" have fewer deaths due to their quality of life. Indigenous people



are another part of the population that suffers discrimination, and they are helpless; many die and do not even have a coffin available to bury their loved ones. In many cases, indigenous newborns are recognized as brown in order to survive. This is a denial of their culture and a masking of the reality they live in. The government has not been able to control the situation and now there is a very high number of infections and the hospitals are full. This is due to two factors: firstly, a delay on the part of the government in ordering the vaccine for the

country and manufacturing it nationally; and secondly, "denialism" on the part of many people, who have not followed WHO biosafety standards. Faced with this reality, there are people who refuse to take the vaccine, do not seek to use the mask, and do not take healthy distance seriously. And all this further aggravates the situation and disregards the care of others. For "if you take care of yourself, we all take care of ourselves". That should be the motto in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Text: Eliana Diaz Correa Lima, CJ Brazil



LORETO JPIC IN VIETNAM



"Vietnam was taken over by the Communists 46 years ago. It has a long history of colonization: a thousand years under Chinese colonization, a hundred-year under French colonization and thirty-years North - South division and a domestic war. Vietnamese people unconsciously carry their

historical wounds and grow in the context of cultural fragments. Vietnamese communist governors are dictatorial and use atheistic materialism to govern the country. The Catholic Church has been affected by these governing ways as well. Those persons who have grown up in this context are not really aware of their rights to

speak up or to gain the dignity of a human person.



Loreto Sisters from Australia came to Vietnam in the 1990s to support the country recovering after war. Their hard work has been fruitful with Loreto NGOs and the humble group of 6 Vietnamese sisters, including Ai Thien in Timor. Five other sisters come from the North and the South sharing the common mission of Loreto." The Ministry of St. Mary's hostel has been providing 48 rooms for college students; training in household and financial governance; Christian education;

and community living. Trang has been collaborating and teaching teenage students in a charity school.

They have also taken a new ministry on trial: outreach to the poor people in Binh Chanh district, an outskirts area of HCMC where the migrant people live. Thoa has been supporting the charity group, giving food and home-visiting in Vinh Loc church. Trang teaches English and accompanies some girls for their further education and vocation.

They support the faith in many ways, especially personal accompaniment. Trinh and Vi have been studying Theology and formation.

They have started a project on care for the environment by sorting out the garbage; composting biodegradable items and tree planting of various species, in the compound of St. Mary's hostel. They also plan to train 48 students of St. Mary's hostel on environmental justice.



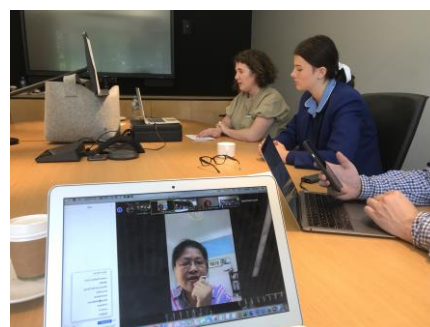
Text and photos: Phạm Thảo Trang, Vietnam



LORETO JUSTICE NETWORK - AUSTRALIA & SE ASIA

The early part of each year challenges Australians to consider the historic and contemporary reality of our indigenous sisters and brothers. We mark Invasion/Survival/Australia Day (26 January), the Anniversary of the National Apology to the Stolen Generations (13 February) and Close the Gap Day (18 March). Increased public attention to violence against women and harassment in the workplace

saw Sisters and co-workers join marches across our land, while others joined the traditional Palm Sunday rallies in support of refugees and asylum seekers. Past pupils, Aislinn, Charlotte and Evangeline, joined forces with Janet and Cynthia as UN interns, providing oral statements and reports during the Commission on Social Development. A highlight of the first quarter of 2021 was undoubtedly the webinar hosted by our school network of 500 Year 10 students to celebrate International Women's Day via an online webinar exploring the Mary Ward Schools Compass point – **Engaging with the Bigger Picture** (through the lens of girls' education). Students heard from Orla Treacy ibvm and Thi Kim Hoa Tran ibvm and Thao Trang Pham ibvm on the importance of access to quality education for girls and young women. Libby Rogerson ibvm joined forces with other Sisters to petition the federal government to strengthen income support for people who find themselves out of work, especially in this Covid landscape. We updated the justice resources on our province website, always encouraging responses in faith to our five province justice priorities. <https://www.loreto.org.au/justice/justice/>
Image: Anne Muirhead (LJN Co-ordinator), Jane Kelly ibvm and Angela Slattery ibvm protest violence against women in Melbourne.



SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT IN TIMOR-LESTE



Timor-Leste is one of the newest and least developed nations in the world, with more than half the population living in severe poverty.

Since it gained well fought independence twenty years ago, the country is slowly developing, but most families continue to rely on subsistence farming.



Loreto sisters from the Australia & South East Asia Province are working with communities in support of development opportunities. One of these is a sewing project which involves a group of women making school uniforms to sell to local families and the other is an Agribusiness project. Thanks to a generous donation, the Agribusiness project began with the purchase of a tractor, which has not only made farming easier, but allowed families to increase the size of their farms and their crop production. Support has also been given to a group of young men to develop an agricultural enterprise which is not only producing a variety of vegetables that are now being sold at local markets, but offering training in agriculture, finance and enterprise development. It has led to new-found income for the community and an example for other young men and families to follow.

Text: Margaret Mary Flynn, IBVM, Timor-Leste



NEWS FROM NEPAL

On International Women's Day our community gathered, along with our hostel students, in the school assembly ground to celebrate all that our co-workers do for their loved ones and our school here. A meaningful prayer service was conducted by our hostellers in gratitude for the selfless and dedicated services of our co-workers. Everyone enjoyed the games and our co-workers proved their smartness in winning the games. The celebration ended with a fellowship meal together. On the feast of St. Joseph our community was invited to St. Joseph's School to celebrate the great feast. Rt. Rev. Bishop Paul Simick was the main celebrant of the day. The celebration concluded with an agape. The end of schooling is the beginning of something new. Moving on to new horizons signals the end of one season and the emergence of the another. A farewell program was organized, with great fervor and enthusiasm, by the students and teachers of Class IX on 18th April for the outgoing students of Class X. The juniors created varieties of enjoyment for their seniors to make their last memories in the school something to cherish forever. While the outgoing students expressed their gratitude to the school for giving them knowledge and good values for their lives, Sr. Catherine expressed her gratitude to the students for being a part of the Marian family for the past ten years. Today, it is with helplessness we watch in the media the pathetic and painful stories of Covid deaths in India and Nepal. We extend our prayerful support to all those who suffer.

You can read the entire article here: <https://www.marywardjpic.org/2021/05/19/jpic-activities-in-nepal/>

Text: Divya Kalamparbil, CJ Nepal



JPIC WORK IN IBVM SPAIN

The Spanish province has been working for many years in the [Madrid Antenna](#) of the [Africa Europe Faith and Justice Network](#). The Institute is a member of the European network and the Spanish province is an active member of the Madrid Antenna. This network and its 14 antennae, 13 in Europe and 1 in Cameroon, is an inter-congregational response of religious life to the reality of Africa, often harmed by the unfair economic and trade policies of the European Union and individual European countries. Each antenna is autonomous, and chooses the objectives to which it dedicates its work of awareness-raising and exposure. The Madrid Antenna aims for a change of system, for an economy at the service of human beings and the life of the planet, in order to build a new society of solidarity and justice, in which people are at the center, in connection with mother earth. Although we have been working for many years in the areas of food sovereignty, trade in small arms, access to medicines, climate change and trade agreements, we have recently been very focused on the phenomenon of land grabbing on the African continent and on denouncing the excesses committed by large European multinational land grabbers. Because, as the South African shack dwellers' movement says, "There can be no freedom with no land".

AEFJN in Brussels <http://aefjn.org/en/home/> In Spain <http://aefjnmadrid.org/>

Text and photo: Rosa Moro, Spain

THE USA JPIC COMMITTEE OF THE IBVM LORETTO SISTERS ANNOUNCES NEW ECO PROJECT!

The US JPIC of the IBVM have selected their agenda for the upcoming Creation of Earth Eco project. JPIC committees all over the world have been asked to participate. The US plans to call theirs “Our New Environmental Conscientiousness”. Here’s what it will entail:

- Online links to recycling sites in Sister and Companion based areas of the country.
- Eco Tips that will publish weekly to [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) so be sure to follow us on both!
- Hands on challenges and projects in Sister and Companion areas
- Art projects done by Sisters, Companions, and others that showcase the wastefulness (but also some hopefulness) of current human behavior.



In addition to this new initiative and commitment to our planet, US JPIC also works on other issues related to Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation such as human trafficking, immigration, social and racial justice, environmental policies, and more. Examples include ministry at the El Paso/Juarez border, supporting Catholic initiatives against human trafficking, support of Bethany House in Chicago, volunteer presence at Kino Border Initiative in Nogales, Arizona, and participation with the IBVM/CJ NGO at the United Nations. Please visit our [website](#) to learn more.

Text: **Carrie Goodale** – Communications Specialist at the IBVM US Offices, Companion, JPIC member, and Region Liaison to UN Photo: **Ariale Grace Goodale**

JPIC ACTIVITIES IN BANGALORE REGION

Mary Ward JPIC South Asia General Meet:

Mary Ward JPIC South Asia General Meet (virtual), with 45 CJ schools and Loreto schools, was held on 15th - 17th January 2021. At the conclusion of the General Meet, it was decided that the Mary Ward Schools would adopt the following goals by September 2024:

1. Gender and Water Audit through a survey conducted by the students and the staff.
2. Adopt the green campus program in all institutions and contribute to the SDG.



One Billion Rising (OBR): A good number of students took part in The ONE BILLION RISING global campaign in the month of February on the topic “Rising Gardens”. This was to commemorate, to value and protect MOTHER EARTH. Gardens remind us of our enduring connection to life, to each other and to Earth, which protects and nurtures life.

Women's Day Celebration: International Women's Day was observed, by all the schools in different ways, to empower and celebrate the women around us. St. Mary's, Bangalore prepared a short programme through the self-initiative of our girls. <https://youtu.be/JKfXmJe4z2s>

Seeking Justice: The arrest and Judicial custody of Fr. Stan Swamy SJ, the Social Activist, had/had shaken the country and the values it stands for. The Church and many NGO groups had organized rallies, inter faith prayer services, webinars and discussions where most of us took part.

This and more on <https://www.marywardjpic.org/2021/05/19/jpic-activities-in-bangalore/>

Text and photos: JPIC Bangalore



IBVM JPIC Activities in the English Region

As more people in the UK receive their second COVID-19 vaccination we are gradually returning to our ministries with those on the margins. This is true not only for our more traditional work in education, formation and healthcare but also with those on the margins of society. We are back with the most vulnerable in our communities either directly, alongside them, or through volunteer work in charity shops. We continue to reflect

on **Laudato Si** as we move towards the Climate Summit in the Autumn and work on practical ways in which we can protect our planet. Our zoom meetings with other members of the Mary Ward family continue to be interesting and informative thanks to the work of our Rookwood Ambassadors.

We are united in a unique and global sense with our CJ and IBVM sisters. Aware of the extreme suffering and deprivation that the Pandemic continues to inflict on many parts of the world we remember the people of India and all who work with them and we thank God for the superb Indian doctors and nurses who have worked and are currently working here in the UK. We pray for the Mary Ward Family and our world: **Jesus Say Amen!**

Text: Kathryn Keigher, IBVM England

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE WITH HOPE

2020 and the first months of 2021 represent a "before and after" in our lives and that of all humanity. We have been strongly marked by deaths of loved ones close or not, people struggling between life and death, a trickle of contagions ... a hard and difficult time for everyone, also for the CJ and IBVM. In the light of these facts, gestures of great solidarity can also be seen.



In our province, the number of volunteers is increasing. Caritas has opened its doors wide to us and we have fully entered to collaborate: welcoming, listening, accompanying, helping... migrants who leave their land in search of a fairer society, employment, a roof under /over their heads... to be able to live, but see their goals truncated and their situation worsened by the pandemic. Here is the place of volunteer Sisters who support, encourage and try to lift their spirits and meet their material and personal needs.

FREEDOM - JUSTICE - SINCERITY - FELICITY



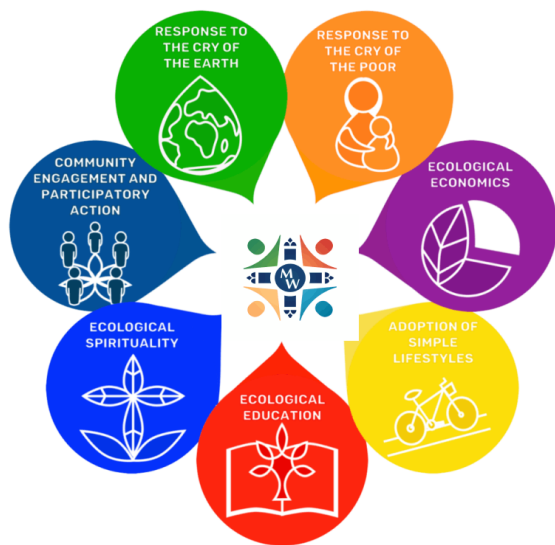
The number of people coming to the food bank is growing every day: people living in extreme need, people who have lost their jobs, people who cannot find work, people who are socially excluded... The pandemic is hitting them hard and the inequalities are becoming greater and greater. Our help is essential.

Read more here: <https://www.marywardpic.org/2021/05/19/jpic-cj-espana/>

Text and photos: Anselma dela Pisa, CJ Spain

LAUDATO SI 7YEAR ACTION ROLL OUT

In 2020 we celebrated the 5th Anniversary of the Laudato Si encyclical. Due to covid 19 the event was largely held online, and thanks to technology there were a lot of activities across the globe. No doubt technological advancements made it possible for more people to attend events and share resources. During the official celebration of the anniversary on 24th May 2021, the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development (DPIHD), announced a Special Laudato Si Anniversary Year. Again, there have been activities in the course of the year, and thanks to technology there has been many gatherings. The fruit of this special anniversary year has been the development of the Laudato Si 7 Year Action Platform as a way to invite the world into committing to deliberately be agents to avert climate change and its effect. Laudato Si challenges us to take action before 2030; otherwise the impact will be irreversible.



This is a call to seriously see and hear the cry of the earth and that of the poor around us as occasioned by among other things: desertification, over fishing, deforestation, encroachment of water towers and forests, human trafficking, child labor, pollution of water and air etc. The reality is dire, and unfortunately human beings have been involved in this process of destroying the world around us. Once we have full realization of the impact, we must challenge or invite ourselves into serious discernment on what we need to do both individually and

communally. And we must take definite and deliberate actions to save our Common Home.

This year, on May 24th 2021, when we conclude the Special Anniversary Year, DPIHD will launch the 7year Action Platform to which we are all invited to contribute in whatever ways that are relevant to our culture, geographical situations, demographics, etc. Let us pay heed to the urgent call of Pope Francis to be instruments of change – to stand on the right side of history that we will safeguard Our Common Home for us and for generations to come.

Text: Pauline Macharia, IBVM Rome



LIVING JPIC IN THE CJ ENGLISH PROVINCE

Throughout this period, we have been in lockdown with very restricted movement. Nevertheless, at community level we strive to save air miles by buying food produced locally; re-cycling leftovers so nothing is wasted; feeding the compost heap (see picture of Sr Patricia); washing at no more than 30°; drinking from re-usable cups when out; lessening our consumption of meat, and continuing to support food banks. Educational and developmental JPIC initiatives have included a new on-line course at St Bede's entitled: *'Difference'- Transforming Relationships in the Face of Challenge and Conflict'*. At the Cambridge University Chaplaincy one member, working as a volunteer, has organized on-line sessions on 'Human Trafficking' and 'Peace' with Dr Theo Hawksley as the keynote speaker.

Individual members continue to keep in touch with the lonely and elderly by phone when restrictions prohibit one-to-one contact. One sister has ten such contacts! Others raise funds for national charities such as CAFOD and the Jesuit Refugee Service. Those who are awake at night pray for those who are suffering, and especially for prisoners and those with COVID.

Image: Patricia Harriss at the compost bin!

Text: Frances Orchard, CJ England

LIVING GREEN MISSION - SEDOS SPRING SEMINAR

Between May 3rd – 7th Pauline M., IBVM and I attended the online SEDOS Spring Seminar, on *Living Green Mission*. It was a week to listen, pray and reflect on the issue of taking care of our Common Home, and give attention to people all over the world who express their deep concern for damaged nature. The seminar was a space where we also explored the dimensions of Ecological Mourning so as to integrate it into *Living Green Mission*.

The reflections started from the truth that creation is the very first epiphany of God and its stewardship is the first task entrusted to Adam, the first human being, and this is the very first commandment given to humanity, our original "job description" as Fr. Joshtrom Isaac Kureethadam mentioned.

The meeting brought some concrete examples of our interconnectedness with creation such as the fact that 99.9% of our DNA is shared with chimps, 85% of our DNA with a field mouse and 60% of our genes are shared with a banana. Interesting!

We have heard and reflected upon many interesting and challenging realities of our mission today: the concept of ecological mourning proposed by Fr. Brian Grogan SJ as a first step to the individual process of ecological conversion, allowing the disturbing reality of ecological disaster to enter deeply into our souls and acknowledge that we are complicit in the sin against creation, to break down our self-sufficiency and let fragility take its place so we can be true delegates of prayer and action for a world in pain. We all need an ecological conversion where the effects of our encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in our lives and in our relationship with the world around us.

Text: Adina Bălan, CJ Rome

PRAYER FOR TROUBLED COUNTRIES

Dear God creator and giver of peace,
in whose image and likeness each of us has been fashioned,
with a human dignity worthy of respect. In so many parts of the world today,
we see pictures of killings, violence, war and the blood of mass shootings.

O loving and gracious God we pray for a commitment
to the dignity of all people and the protection of all lives.
Lord Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace, our peace and reconciliation,
You often said, "Peace be with you," grant us a peaceful world which our world cannot give.
Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for an end to violence, war and killing in our troubled world.
O Lord, have mercy and wrap all the suffering people in your love.

Come, Holy Spirit, enkindle in us the fire of your love and empower our lives to produce
your fruit of peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.
Almighty and peaceful God we ask all this through Jesus,
the Prince of Peace, who lives and reigns forever and ever.

Amen.

Text: Mercy Shumbamhini, CJ Zimbabwe

Image: Susan Daily, IBVM Australia



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FREEDOM – JUSTICE - SINCERITY - FELICITY