



June, 2009

NEWS BRIEF - JPIC COMMISSION OFFICE

Vol.2 No 6

1. ROME UPDATE

1.1 International Environment Day Prayer, June 5: A prayer prepared for the JPIC Commission is available in 14 languages [*English, Spanish, French, Italian, Croatian, Polish, German, Korean, Chinese, Japanese, Portuguese, Indonesian, Slovak and Swahili*]. Please distribute as widely as possible. It is available at: <http://jpicformation.wikispaces.com/>

1.2 Joint JPIC Commission/AEFJN Seminar: 4 presentations in 4 languages and the final letters - (i) synthesis of the Seminar (ii) request to lobby national governments before Climate Change meeting in Copenhagen - are available on the different language sections (Assisi09) of the JPIC office web page: www.jpicformation.wikispaces.com

1.3 JPIC Institute: A JPIC formation for JPIC international promoters takes place at Ancello di Cristo Re, Rome from the **15th of November** (afternoon) **to the 18th** (lunchtime), **2009**. The Cost is € 150 Euro. If you are interested in participating fill in the attached registration form and return to Gabe at: gabejpic@lasalle.org and jpicusquisg@lasalle.org

1.4 Letter to Pontifical Academy of Sciences regarding Study week on Transgenic Technology, May 15-19, 2009: The Co-Presidents of the JPIC Commission wrote a letter to Msgr. Prof. Marcelo Sánchez Sorondo, Chancellor of the Academy, expressing concern that there was not a broad representative cross-section of scientific opinion on the study topic chosen and asked that small scale farmers in developing countries and not those of agribusiness, [would] be of prime concern. The Commission letter reiterated concerns of over 270 international NGOs and religious communities in regard to transgenics (<http://www.jpicipassionist.org/Fao/index.htm>) sent to the FAO in June 2008. A copy of the letter and a reply from Dr. Ingo Potrykus, on behalf of Msgr. Sorondo, is available at the JPIC office.

1.5 Letter to USA President Barak Obama: A letter was sent to President Obama expressing the JPIC Commission's welcome to the commitment he expressed in Prague on

April 5, 2009 to "...seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons.' For a copy of the letter at: http://jpicformation.wikispaces.com/EN_Action_Letters

1.6 Mayor's for Peace Vision Campaign: The JPIC Commission sent a letter to Mayor's for Peace, an International organization of over 1,000 mayor's. They are committed to working for a nuclear free world by 2020. You are requested to encourage your membership to approach these Mayor's expressing their solidarity and to inviting others to join the campaign. For a copy of the letter sent by the Commission go to: http://jpicformation.wikispaces.com/EN_Action_Letters. For further information about the campaign in English, Spanish and French go to:
<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/> (English)
<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/es/pages/100> (Spanish)
<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/fr/pages/100> (French)

1.7 Africa JPIC Formation Working Group: The annual Assembly for JPIC Africa formation will take place on November 23, 2009, at a place yet to be determined. Both JPIC formation sessions taking place in 2009, in Mali and Uganda, will be evaluated and programmes for 2010 will be discussed. To date 30 religious have registered for each session in 2009. For future sessions please encourage your membership to participate.

2. USEFUL RESOURCES:

2.1 Resources available on the JPIC Formation Wikispaces:

Earth Community Booklet

English - http://jpicformation.wikispaces.com/EN_creation

Spanish - http://jpicformation.wikispaces.com/ES_creacion

French - http://jpicformation.wikispaces.com/FR_creation

JPIC Commission Information [Explanation of Commission + Strategic Plan]

English: http://jpicformation.wikispaces.com/EN_JPIC+PowerPoint

Spanish: http://jpicformation.wikispaces.com/ES_JPIC+Comision

French: http://jpicformation.wikispaces.com/FR_JPIC_Commission

Italian: http://jpicformation.wikispaces.com/IT_JPIC_Commissione

2.2 Indigenous Peoples and Amazon: A paper (English) by Bishops in the Amazon Basin can be accessed at: <http://bicusa.org/admin/Document.101179.aspx>

2.3 Short film - Chicken a la carte: Shows some of the effects of Globalization. Go to: <http://www.cultureunplugged.com/play/1081/Chicken-a-la-Carte>

2.4 Bread for Life: This is an organization (and member of the Fair Trade Federation) that seeks to eradicate extreme poverty by creating bridges of understanding between impoverished Africans and concerned world citizens. Go to: <http://www.breadforlife.org/index.html>

2.5 Chief Fountain's address to Pope Benedict after his apology: After an apology by Pope Benedict on April 29, for abuse to first nation's children in Canadian residential schools run by the Church, Chief Fontaine made the following speech, available at: <http://www.straight.com/print/216494>

2.6 Guide to Creating a 7 Year Environmental Plan: The Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC) and the UN are encouraging organizations to develop a 7 year environmental plan. They provide a very good Resource Book in English to help at: <http://www.arcworld.org/downloads/UNARC%20-%20guide%20to%20creating%20your%20seven%20year%20plan.pdf>. They invite you to announce your plans by November 2009 before the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference.

2.7 Economic Crisis: The JPIC Commission of the Conference of Religious of Spain (CONFER) have published an article entitled 'Initiatives in the Face of the Crisis' (Spanish) at: <http://claretgazteak.nireblog.com/post/2009/05/26/compartiendo-iniciativas-ante-la-crisis>

2.8 Climate Action Network (CAN) The Climate Action Network (CAN) is a worldwide network of over 430 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) working to promote government and individual action to limit human-induced climate change to ecologically sustainable levels. There are several web sites linked to regional based NGOs. You can access these by going to <http://www.climatenetwork.org/about-can> and scrolling down the page.

3. Take Action

3.1 International Interfaith Campaign against Climate Change:

Last year climatologists showed that 350 parts per million CO₂ was the highest atmospheric concentration consistent with maintaining a planet "similar to the one on which civilization developed and to which life on earth is adapted." Carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere are already at 387 parts per million, and climbing rapidly--which is why the Arctic is melting etc. On October 24, a group called '<http://350.org>' is organizing thousands of events all over the world to add pressure on negotiators in the upcoming Copenhagen conference, December 2009, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. You can learn more about how faith communities are taking action on 350 at this link: <http://www.350.org/faith>.

3.2 Close the School of the Americas: You are invited to write to President Obama asking him to close this school, also known as the School of Assassins. Go to: http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/727/t/3823/petition.jsp?petition_KEY=1732
(English)

4. Outside Rome

4.1 9th Ecological March (El Salvador): 25 environmental organizations, including Church JPIC groups will participate in a march in San Salvador for the environment on June 5th. It will be the first public manifestation after the installation of the new president, Mauricio Funes. Part of the Environment Day Prayer will be used that day at an Ecumenical Service. (see 1.1 above about the Prayer)

4.2 Leadership in Environmental Protection: A 10-day Course for religious on developing organic farming methods, ecosystem management skills and use of international environmental law takes place in Bangkok, Thailand, from 16-27 of November. It is jointly sponsored by Franciscans International, Marist International and Edmund Rice International. For further information contact Peung Haga (p.haga@fiop.org) or M Murphy (murrphy@edmundrice.org)

5. Upcoming JPIC Meetings: May 2009

- **JPIC Spanish Promoter's meeting:** *June 3 @ 9.00 at UISG offices*
- **Anti-Trafficking Wrk. Grp. meeting:** *June 5 @ 15.00 at Caritas Internationalis*
- **English Promoter's Core Group meeting:** *June 8 @ 15.00 at Fratelli Cristiani*
- **Integrity of Creation Working Group:** *June 15 @ 10.00 at UISG*
- **JPIC English Promoter's meeting:** *June 17 @ 9.00 at UISG*
- **JPIC English Promoter's meeting:** *September 16 at UISG*
- **Africa Formation meeting:** *September 30 @ 3.30 at M.Afri*
- **JPIC Spanish Promoter's meeting:** *October 7 @ 9.00*

Note: Please send information (brief outline) you think JPIC Promoters might find useful for future publications to the JPIC Commission Office at the emails below.

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