



Embrace the World

*A journal of Congregational justice issues prepared by:
The Good Shepherd International Justice Peace Office*

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Networking and Growing! Justice Peace Office in Action

By Winifred Doherty, NGO Representative in NY

This July the Good Shepherd International Justice Peace Office team will gather in Bogota, Colombia with congregational teams that include the Congregational Leadership Team (CLT), the Latin American Circle of Unit Leaders (REAL) and the NGO Regional Designate team.

Our days will be days of conversation, communication, information sharing, and planning, guided by the Congregational Direction Statement. We seek to enlarge our understanding and develop capacity as a presence at the United Nations in New York, Geneva and Vienna as well as the UN Regional Offices in Addis Ababa, Beirut, Bangkok, Santiago and Geneva. With such capacity, we will link more effectively with local JP activities and contact persons. This work will position the congregation to contribute to the coming of the reign of a more equal, gender-sensitive, person centered world where structures and systems serve the dignity of the person. This is an exciting and challenging moment in promoting our development and strategizing for the future.



Good Shepherd Capacity Building

By Clare Nolan, GSIJPO Training Facilitator

The role of training facilitator of the Good Shepherd International Justice Peace Office (GSIJPO) supports the principle that our GS Congregation and GS ministries are learning organizations. That is, we facilitate ongoing

learning of all members and that such learning is a continuous transformation of the organization, the unit, the project or ministry. Such transformation implies change and renewal of the individuals involved. Such was my experience at the first major workshop undertaken within this new role: the Capacity Building Training Workshop (CBTW) in response to Trafficking and Migration in the Asia Pacific (AP) region, Feb. 2011.

The workshop was initiated by local GS



leadership in response to a need for more focus and vitality in responding to the crying issues of migration and

trafficking. It was big undertaking that included a number of units and substantial networking; it required funding, detailed communication, support of the Circle of Leaders, involvement of other GS people, and engagement of local networks involved with similar issues. It took about a year of planning to bring all the details together.

As the preparation progressed, GS sisters and GS people were also working to become aware of their own expertise while identifying areas requiring greater capacity to move the mission forward. They took time to do research, share summaries and present project descriptions. They became aware of some areas of very effective practices, and identified areas of need. These were shared in local units where everyone doesn't have a chance to know about each other's work, even in similar ministries. So capacity was built –

and awareness increased - on a very local level before the region came together.

When the 50 participants of the region came together, there were yet greater challenges: diverse cultures, varying levels of familiarity of speaking English, different national laws and contexts. Some groups were just learning the language of human rights and others were ready to submit reports and data to international groups for advocacy. The atmosphere of mutual acceptance, listening, patience, asking questions, was essential to the engagement of all in building their own capacity in their own way, while still being part of the larger group. As one participant reflected in evaluation, “the methodology – inputs, sharing, discussions, reflection, bonding... was most useful.”

All went home with tasks to do, with visions to fulfill. This is the process of capacity building. Already further meetings are scheduled, visits across units have taken place, echoes have been given in local communities, and real program changes have happened. The hope of capacity building is to “allow the Holy Spirit to guide us... in key directions for our future vitality, impelled and inspired by the creative audacity of St. Mary Euphrasia...” (quote adapted from the July 2009 Chapter Direction Statement)

(Summaries of the APCBTW can be found on GS Website)



Visitors - Always Welcome in Geneva

By Hedwig Jöhl, NGO Representative in Geneva



All GS people should know how the UN Human Rights bodies function and how NGOs can be involved. Visiting is a great way to learn. 2011 began with visits from Margaret Lynch, of Ireland and, Michaela Guthridge from Australia. Michaela came for

a brief internship experience. Visit highlights included a training workshop on CEDAW and observation of the CEDAW session. Networking is an important part of the process and along with various NGO contacts, Michaela was invited to the Australian Embassy!

At the same time, the 56th CRC session, Committee on the Rights of the Child was in process. The visitors were able to attend the sessions and observe the process. The human rights council was addressing the issue of children living/working on the street. Susan Chia of the CLT arrived in time to join us at this session. It was interesting to see how the UN is adopting language to give more dignity to children, using “children living on the street” rather than the label “street children.” We hope to host many more visitors to GS Human Rights work in Geneva. Genny Dumay from the MDO is expected in the summer. Maybe you are next! *Contact me if you can consider coming: hedwigjoehl@gmail.com*



Justice Active in Sri Lanka Ministry

Sr. Immaculate de Alwis RGS (Sri Lanka /Pakistan)

Inspired by the words of St. Mary Euphrasia, The Glory of God and the Salvation of souls, this is my Life GS have always sought new and creative ways of reaching the poor and down-trodden of our world. We do welfare work for men and women prisoners in Colombo’s largest prison. During our years of ministry new needs have emerged to which we are responding. We are in our seventh year of sponsoring education for the children of prisoners. The majority of the men and women in the prisons of Sri Lanka have young families. They live with the guilt of having failed their families and especially their children. The children are living their own unique experience burdened with the crimes of their parents and excluded from a

normal social life. Some of these children lead double lives pretending that their father/mother has gone abroad for work.

Our Friends of Prisoners' Children includes many Good Shepherd partners who provide opportunities for positive relationships and ensure follow up care. These Good Shepherd people are an inter-religious group inspired by zeal.



Our success is measured by stories such as the 16 year old girl who wrote to her sponsor: "I remember well the day I received very good grades.

Our neighbors taunted me saying that: "there is no use in continuing further studies since no one will give you a job because your father will go to the gallows." I cried and hid my face. But finally when I looked up into the face of my mother, she was smiling, happy to see my good grades. This was the first time I saw my mother smiling since my father was taken into prison. We are privileged to participate in this work of justice.

Keep up to date by exploring these links:

Winifred's Blog:

<http://winifredd.wordpress.com>

Marie Helene Halligon's Blog:

<http://marieheleneh.wordpress.com/>

UN WOMEN:

<http://www.unwomen.org/>

CEDAW

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/cedaw.htm>

Convention on the Rights of the Child:

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/crc.htm>

Palermo Protocol:

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/protocoltraffic.htm>

News from Vienna

By Melitta Fragner, NGO Representative in Vienna

When I was asked to be the NGO Representative for Human Trafficking in Vienna, I knew that I had much to learn. For instance, it was a surprise for me to discover that in 1949, just one year after its foundation, the UN set up the first "Convention of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others."

There is so much to learn about how the UN deals with human trafficking today! It is a violation of human rights. It is essential to know the elements of the definition in order to affect policy and change systems. Human trafficking is a complex issue that can be considered from a number of different perspectives: human rights, crime control and criminal justice, migration, labor and sexual exploitation.

Dr. Saisuree Chutikul (Thailand) one of the trustees of the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking states "Education and knowledge of trafficking in persons among all members of society are keys to beating human traffickers. You have to use all of the means at your disposal to raise awareness about the crime, its nature, causes and damage to victims... each and every entity must work toward promoting knowledge of this issue... Civil society and the NGO sector are key players as they understand on-the-ground needs and realities."

I am happy to now have in my hands the Good Shepherd position paper on 'Trafficking of Women and Girls' where we express our responsibility to work on the eradication of this crime. Also, I hope to learn from you in the grass roots; I hope we can strengthen our effectiveness as Good Shepherd continues its priority to "work zealously with women and children, especially those who are trafficked. *"Please contact me if I can be of help: rgs.melitta@aon.at*

Understanding Political Systems - European Parliament Visit

*By Sister Mary Bernadette Brommer, RGS
Community assistant in the parish of St. Joseph, Munich*

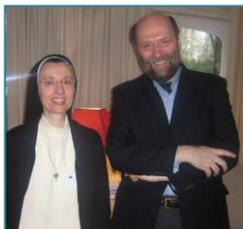
My work is in Pastoral Care but when I was invited to join the “Information Drive to the European Parliament” in Brussels, January 2011, I accepted. The concerns of those who visit the parish office are complex and multilayered; this experience has led me to address problems holistically.



Through Ms. Dr. Niebler, Member of European Parliament, I had a tour of the building and an

insight into the mode of operations. I had the opportunity to participate in the meeting of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs. A more “at home” feeling prevailed during an interview with Dr. Robert Aures in the castle-like building of the Bavarian delegation.

I was able to engage in active networking in conversations with the Commission of Bishops' Conferences of the European Community. I presented my focus in relation to evangelization. Dr. Michael Kuhn will follow up with a visit to me in the parish when he is in Munich at the end of February.



Then with Mr. Ulrich Tiburcy, the Head of Mission of the Federal Association of Voluntary Welfare, I spoke of my experiences and made proposals in the social policy field - from the perspective of pastoral care.

Additional contacts were made during waiting times in the foyer. Having had many positive impressions, I will continue to link my pastoral work with larger systems.

Some dates to Commemorate:

9 August	International Day of the World's Indigenous People
12 August	International Youth Day
23 August	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition [UNESCO]
8 September	International Literacy Day [UNESCO]
21 September	International Day of Peace
15 October	International Day of Rural Women
16 October	World Food Day
17 October	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty of Poverty
24 October	United Nations Day

Good Shepherd at World Social Forum WSF, 2011, Dakar, Senegal

By Juanita Danos Renos



People of all religions and of all nations attending the World Social Forum, carry a dream that

“Another World is Possible” As the forum of 2011 unfolded in Dakar, I purposely chose to attend a variety of themes for enrichment. I will give you a shot look at the variety I experienced.

*The **Forum on Racism**: Unfortunately, racism across the globe is very evident despite the advances in advocacy and the struggles to eliminate it. The panels, composed of international persons from USA, Oceania and Caribbean ... unearthed the causes and the consequences of racism.

*The **Forum on anti-trafficking**, organized by CARITAS, reviewed the current situation and recent actions taking place. Panelists from different parts of the world informed the participants of strategies to connect and collaborate with each other in order to stop human trafficking. While the number of countries implementing laws is increasing yet the phenomenon of human trafficking continues to increase.



I learned about the new, Dakar based, network “Hand in Hand” a West-African network of Religious against human trafficking for the sub-Saharan region. This network can be very useful in Good Shepherd mission. Networking with all actors is really needed. Without the help of one another, human trafficking may be unstoppable creating havoc in so many innocent lives especially women and children in poor countries.

*The **Forum on Climate Change** and Global Warming sounded the alarm of the destruction of our world by our way of living. A lifeless nature means a lifeless humanity. If we will not act now, mother earth will be destroyed and lifeless. This is a Good Shepherd priority and I dream that we will become leader in this area in Africa.

The Forum on “Freedom of Movement” discussed the repressive system of migration operated by FRONTEX (the European border agency) created 5 years ago. External border control is done through military operations. Panelists shared information on how FRONTEX, with a massive surveillance

system, hunts boat people at sea level, block flight routes of migrants and traces undocumented people across Europe. The forum encouraged the participants to get involved, to resist such systems. The forum also asked a central question: “Do we really need to leave our countries to look for greener pasture, or can we stay and contribute to the development of our own countries? Can we each meditate on this question?”

*The Forum on “Justice and Peace: Movements seeking a solution to conflicts”, focused and reflected on the recent situations in Egypt, Tunisia, Ivory Coast as well as other countries that are experiencing conflict and war. Everyone in the room expressed their concerns and sought solutions that give priority to dialogue and negotiation. I wonder how Good Shepherd advocates for this?

The World Social Forum ended with the continuing hope that “ANOTHER WOLRD IS POSSIBLE... ANOTHER AFRICA IS POSSIBLE.” This “elusive change will take place” if everyone will do his/her part, that is, if everybody, every Good Shepherd person, really engages.



At the prison for women on International women’s Day.

By Georgette Tannoury, Regional NGO Designate To one ESCWA (Lebanon)



Sister Pascal, who works with women in prison, in Beirut, organized her colleagues to mark March 8 with a joyful day for women in the prison. In the presence of

officials who came for the occasion, prisoner and family spoke about the role of women in society. Sr. Pascal focused on the respect and the dignity of the woman, mother of the all generations. The women produced a theater piece, put on with enthusiasm. The day ended with a cocktail reception followed by a dance for all. International Women's Day in Lebanon was truly inclusive!



Lebanon Active on CEDAW

By Georgette Tannoury, Regional NGO Designate To UN ESCWA (Beirut)

Lebanon Women, Good Shepherd among them, are actively working to make CEDAW most effective. A regional campaign is underway, "CEDAW: from Theory to Practice." It was launched on International Women's Day with a media campaign and in the presence of many dignitaries. In opening remarks, Ms Zoya Rouhana, emphasized the importance of translating CEDAW's principles into reality, and lifting the reservations to Article 16 related to the personal status codes she added "laws should be introduced in order to guarantee equality between men and women, so that they come in line with the Lebanese constitution and to protect women from family violence". Testimonies were given by women survivors of family violence, about the suffering they endured while dealing with issues related to divorce, custody, guardianship and alimony. The project is designed to raise awareness of the importance of using CEDAW as a tool to improve respect for women's rights, as well as to demand governments to fulfill their obligations.



Tea in the Street: International Women's Day

By Danusa de Mello Vechini Amadeu. & Lucilene dos Santos Barros.

At CEPROMM (Center for the study and advancement of Marginalized Women) it has become a tradition of Int. Women's Day to celebrate "Tea in the Street." It is a day to awaken the recognition of the dignity of women. CEPROMM is an NGO begun by Good Shepherd Sisters Maria Lourdes Vicari and Ana Maria Rocha Bastos, in 1993. Good Shepherd continues the management and works in partnership with PMM, (Pastoral Marginalized Women), Sao Paulo-Brazil.

A special goal of Tea in the Street has been to strengthen relationships of respect and confidence with women in prostitution by facilitating the inclusion of these women, and to promote the well-being of each of them and their community. The diverse presence at the event of, women who are prostituted, transvestites, our own NGO, social network



partners, and volunteers, made for a rich cultural event. As we welcome people who make their source of income

and survival in prostitution, we are aware that constant listening and acceptance promotes the realization of every person, even as they seek positive changes to promote opportunities for a more satisfactory life.

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**Please distribute to all communities,
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Thank you.