During 2017 and 2018, the international community is focused on developing a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) as a follow-up to the New York Declaration, which was adopted by the UN in September 2016. The first phase of this process is the consultation phase, with a number of thematic and regional dialogues taking place this year to gather ideas, assess challenges, and highlight best practices related to human mobility.

The International Organization for Migration’s annual International Dialogue on Migration in 2017 is focused on supporting Member State development of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) by providing an inclusive policy dialogue forum focused on key issues for consideration for the GCM. IOM held the first IDM workshop of 2017 in New York on the 18th and 19th of April, 2017, the second IDM workshop will take place in Geneva in July. The New York workshop was dedicated to discussing the theme “Strengthening international cooperation on and governance of migration towards the adoption of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration in 2018”. This event gathered over 300 participants, representing governments, United Nations and other international and regional organizations, academia, the private sector, diaspora and migrant organizations, as well as civil society. Over the course of two days, participants discussed both the substance and the process leading to the development and planned consideration for adoption of the GCM in 2018, as well as it shared experiences and lessons learned regarding migration governance and international cooperation on migration. Participants highlighted that the GCM presents an historic opportunity to strengthen the protection of migrants’ rights and enhance governance of and international cooperation on migration and stressed the necessity to make the most of this unique opportunity. Throughout the workshop, many echoed that this is a pivotal opportunity to make concrete commitments to vulnerable populations to ensure nobody is left behind.

The second thematic session for the GCM took place on 22-23 May, focusing on the drivers of migration, including issues related to poverty eradication and sustainable development, human-made crises, and natural disasters and climate change. Good Shepherd NGO representatives were able to make statements during the consultation – Winifred was invited to be a respondent following the first panel presentation (full statement here; Webcast at 2:50:17) and Cecilie made a statement during the informal dialogue with the co-facilitators – the Ambassadors from Mexico and Switzerland to the UN (full statement here). Both mentioned the necessity of a human rights-based, gender sensitive approach to addressing the root causes of migration, and highlighted implementation of social protection floors as a tool to eradicate poverty and empower people so that migration is a choice, not a necessity. The Good Shepherd NGO office is looking forward to actively engaging in the upcoming consultations in New York, Geneva and Vienna, and in the intergovernmental negotiation process next year.
For almost a year now I have been in the US - my province and the community of San Luis Misuri have allowed me the opportunity to study English to obtain my law degree. Even though I feel I have dedicated a lot of effort and dedication, I did not achieve my goal. Although at first I felt frustrated and discouraged, I decided to leave that behind and look ahead towards what was to come, which was certainly for the best.

At the end of 2015 I was appointed as JP Contact for the North Mexico Province. At first I had no concept of the complexity and responsibility of this new mission, considering that for our province it is a new way of viewing reality and accomplishing the mission. So coming here was one of the most important decisions in my life, because it has helped me rediscover my mission as ROLCGS in a globalized and changing world.

In my planning I had not thought to come to New York - it was thanks to Frances Robinson, after hearing my passion and my experience in the defense of human rights in Mexico, who gave me the idea to learn more about this matter with the International JP Office team, as they have the experience and expertise to do so.

My formation experience at the GSIJP Office has really been enriching, not only for me, but also for each of the sisters in the province of Mexico. To discover the sources of the JP’s commitment to the Congregation, such as the letter of the Synod of Bishops of 1971, the statements of the General Chapters, the position papers on various social issues, among other documents, has helped me to understand the integralty of our mission as ROLCGS. Similarly, coexistence with various social actors working in the same line of promotion of justice and peace, as well as marginalized and excluded groups such as the indigenous, ended up increasing my passion and has driven me to dream about the future of my province in a renewed way.

We are immersed in an increasingly globalized world, and with it social differences, violence, injustices, hunger and poverty are growing, as we see every day in each of our apostolates. So I consider it necessary to respond to the cries of our people just as Jesus would if he came today, or if SME and SJE had lived in this age. A few years ago Marta Iris said a phrase that has remained deeply engraved in my mind and heart: We have been working with the product of unjust structures, but when do we collaborate to change those structures? I believe that this is precisely the mission of OLCGS in its JP work all over the world. The justice and peace established in the OLCGS position papers on the different social issues are the lifelong cross-cutting axes of our mission work, and that is how I understand the interconnectedness between the areas of Spirituality, Mission and JP, because we cannot have one without the others.

I would like to end by encouraging each of the Sisters of the Congregation to allow ourselves to embrace the mission in an effective and fruitful way by empowering people themselves to be the architects of their own future, to collaborate in the transformation of unjust structures that harm human dignity, and support each other in the most difficult moments of our mission.

I am infinitely grateful to Clare, Winifred and Cecilie for their hard work in the International Justice Peace Office, which often goes unrecognized. They really do impressive work.

Erika Patricia Sanchez, Province of North Mexico, reflects on her experience at the GSIJP Office in New York
On 05 Jun 2015, a couple of Good Shepherd Sisters felt the ground beneath their feet shake as they sat down for breakfast. While they were used to mild rumbles as heavy vehicles past the Convent in Likas, Sabah, they were alarmed on that morning. One of them who had served in the Philippines where earthquakes were more common, cried out “Earthquake!” and ran out of the building. They later learnt that a 6.0-magnitude earthquake had strike Mount Kinnabalu, which at 4,092 meters, is South East Asia’s highest peak. Among the 18 people who died in that tragic 30-second quake were 7 students, 2 teachers and an expedition guide from Singapore. The small nation set aside a National Day of Remembrance as she mourned the loss of its citizens, most of them 12 years old.

In the village of Kiau Nulu in Kota Belud, the community mourned for local mountain guide, Robert Sappingi, fondly known as Robbi, who reportedly lost his life while rescuing a tourist. Most of the men in Kiau Nulu work as guides and porters contributing about 70% to household income, so when the mountain was closed after the earthquake the community faced economic hardships. The women who cultivated pineapple were afraid to return to their plots in the face of daily tremors and landslides.

In August 2015, in line with Good Shepherd Congregational Direction on Economic Justice, Good Shepherd Services (GSS) gingerly embarked on an inaugural community-based socio-economic project with the women to produce pineapple chutney and pineapple jam. The recipes were contributed by volunteers, who also made the arduous and sometimes dangerous fortnightly trips with staff to Kiau Nulu to supervise the production. The project was aptly named, “Everything Pineapple”. Besides providing emotional, psychological and business strategy support, GSS helped to market and sell the products in Kota Kinnabalu, mostly to parishioners of St Simon Church.

Fast forward to 24 April 2017. Staff and volunteers of GSS Sabah, the leadership team from the Province of Singapore/Malaysia and other well-wishers gathered with the women of Koonduan Kiau Nulu Enterprise (KKNE) for a Thanksgiving Service to mark the opening of their newly built pineapple product processing center, Sunduan Pisompuruan. The cost of building the 2-story center, with a built-up area of 2,000 square feet was sponsored by Sabah Credit Corporation. KKNE grew from an initial membership of 11 women to 49 at the time of opening and there are plans to incorporate another 11 from the waiting list by July 2017. The product list has also grown to include pineapple juice and pineapple chutney with anchovies. As the women are empowered to develop KKNE, their creativity and business acumen have blossomed. With the addition of new technology in the bottling and canning process, shelf life is extended from one month to one year. There are talks about expanding to markets overseas, so watch out for KKNE products on a supermarket shelf near you!

There was palpable rejoicing in Kiau Nulu as we celebrated Foundress Day with prayers, songs, and dances, topped off by the sharing of delicious food contributed by the villagers and volunteers. You’re guessed it; pineapple featured prominently. More details of the event here.

Thanksgiving Service/Official Opening of Sunduan Pisompuruan at Kiau Nulu on 24 April 2017
From left: Ms Chin Poh Choo, Executive Director, Good Shepherd Services; Rev Fr Nicholas Stephen, Parish Priest, St Peter Claver Church, Ranau; Sr Joan Lopez, Province Leader, Singapore-Malaysia, Good Shepherd Sisters; Datuk Vincent Pung, Chief Executive Officer, Sabah Credit Corporation

In gratitude for Clare Nolan’s leadership and dedication to the work and the mission of the Good Shepherd International Justice Peace Office as the NGO Representative from 1996 to 2008 and as the Training Facilitator from 2010 to 2017.

On the occasion of Clare’s planned retirement from the GSIP Office, we wish her abundant joy and blessings. We will miss her very much!

Congratulations to Yolanda Sánchez upon her election as Provincial of Colombia, Venezuela & Cuba. We give thanks for her years of dedicated work in New York and Geneva, creating networks and advocating for the human rights of all people with the Good Shepherd International Justice Peace Office from 2010-2017.

We wish her blessings, joy and much success in her new mission.
Winifred Doherty was one of the panelists during the event, and she noted the similarities in approach offered at Welcome House in Cebu and at Ruhama in Dublin, Ireland. The advocacy work of Ruhama was instrumental in the passing of the new sexual offense criminal bill whereby anyone who buys sex is prosecuted and women in prostitution are decriminalized. Watch the entire event here.

The 16th Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues was held from 24 April – 5 May 2017 in New York. It focused on the evaluation of progress and challenges related to the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Persons at its tenth anniversary. Different indigenous peoples from Latin America, Asia, Europe, Africa and Oceania came to New York to participate, as well as other members of civil society, and governments.

The Pan-Amazonian Ecclesial Network (REPAM) brought a delegation of indigenous leaders from South America to share their experiences and to advocate for stronger protections of indigenous rights and the rights of the environment. In a series of events co-organized with New York-based groups like the Mining Working Group and the NGO Committee on Migration, Munduruku and Yanomami peoples of Brazil shared how they are threatened by the intrusion of hydroelectric and extractive companies into their territories and serious problems due to the lack of demarcation of their lands, and the Kukama people of Peru discussed how they are being affected by the contamination of their rivers and their territory, by the impact of the oil companies that are hurting their environment. In solidarity, and recognizing the interconnectedness of our struggles, indigenous leaders and NGO representatives discussed the possibilities for support, joint action and a common agenda, with a view to defend human rights, collective rights and the rights of Mother Earth, all of which are being threatened.

On Wednesday 22 March, Good Shepherd co-sponsored the parallel event “Inherent Dignity, Real Choices: A Preventative Approach to Ending Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation,” in collaboration with the Sisters of Mercy - Mercy Global Action, UNANIMA International, the NGO Committee to Stop Trafficking in Persons, Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary and US Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking. Marietta Latonio, advocate, researcher, professor of social work, and monitor and evaluation officer at Good Shepherd Welcome House, Cebu in the Philippines was awarded the 2017 UNANIMA Woman of Courage Award by Sr. Jean Quinn, Executive Director of UNANIMA International in recognition of her work and dedication. Congratulatory remarks were given by Her Excellency Irene Susan B Natividad, Deputy Representative of the Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations, and niece of Sr. Mary James Wilson RGS. NGO Representative
Marymount Centre Launches New Service – Pilot Small Group Care – In Singapore

Marymount Centre (MC), the social service arm of Good Shepherd Sisters in Singapore, has been quietly but stoically living out its vision of “Touching Lives, Building Hope”, fulfilling Good Shepherd Position on the Girl Child.

In 2016, the Ministry of Family and Social Development (MSF) accepted MC’s proposal to fill a gap in service to the girl child through a Pilot Small Group Care (PSGC), which will provide midterm care to girls aged 7 to 12 years who have higher needs. We are excited, yet humbled that we are ready to receive the first girl child into PSGC on 01 Jun 2017.

PSGC will complete the continuum of our residential care service under the Ahuva Good Shepherd theme. Currently, Ahuva Good Shepherd - Children’s Home provides long-term care to girls aged 4 to 16 years, whose families are facing challenges, such as marital discord, domestic violence and parent’s incarceration, while Ahuva Good Shepherd - Interim Placement and Assessment Centre (IPAC) serves children who enter the MSF Child Protection Services due to abuse or neglect, loss or incarceration of parents, abandonment or experiencing breakdown in their current care arrangements. IPAC provides a temporary safe environment for these children while social investigations and assessments are carried out to determine their future care arrangements. During their short-term stay, usually between one and thirty days, we provide casework services and conduct structured programs for the children whose age ranges from 4 to 12 years. We work closely with MSF Child Protection Services to assess the care needs and critical emotional and behavioral issues of the children to better inform placement decisions. We help to facilitate the children’s transition to longer-term placements such as with next-of-kin, foster family or in children’s homes.

Marymount Centre has been blessed with staff who are dedicated and committed to the care of these girls. Sometimes staff are tested to the limits by the girls who are often unaware of their heightened state of anxiety and pain caused by the stresses and trauma they have been through. What keeps the staff patiently striving to sit through the storms with the girls is their belief in our Good Shepherd ethos and charisma and living out what St Mary Euphrasia has passed on to us, for example, “It is not enough that you love them, they must know that you love them.”

Financing for Development Follow-Up Forum

The second FdD Forum was convened from 22 to 25 May 2017 in New York. The event brought together high-level officials, representatives from the World Bank and IMF, UN experts, Member States, civil society organizations, business sector and local authorities.

Building on last year’s inaugural FdD Forum, which focused on setting up the monitoring framework for the follow-up to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), the 2017 Forum focused on the implementation of FdD outcomes and the delivery of means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It was made very clear that without financing, the Sustainable Development Goals will not be achieved.

The 2017 Forum featured a ministerial segment, including the Special High-Level Meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. It provided an opportunity for the heads of international trade and financial institutions as well as their intergovernmental bodies to interact with their United Nations counterparts on issues of common interest in the follow-up to the FdD outcomes.

The ministerial round tables, held on the second day of the Forum, were the main innovation of the 2017 Forum, responding to the mandate in the AAAA for the FdD follow-up process to promote the sharing of lessons learned from experiences at the national and regional levels. Each round table brought together a mix of ministers from developed and developing countries, as well as high-level officials of international organizations and other stakeholders to share their steps taken towards implementation of commitments contained in the AAAA and other FdD outcomes.

The FdD Forum also provided the opportunity for Member States to express their views through the general debate. The intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the Forum were adopted at the conclusion of the ministerial segment.

The expert segment, which took place on the final two days of the Forum focused on the seven action areas of the AAAA, as well as a dedicated panel discussion on the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force, and a dialogue with stakeholders. There was active participation throughout the Forum from the Civil Society FdD Group. The advocacy points for the CSO FdD Group for the Forum can be read here.
"The Pope of Peace in Egypt of Peace", was the theme of the apostolic visit of Pope Francis in Egypt, which took place on 28 and 29 April 2017. The logo of the visit was published on the website of the Egyptian Catholic Church, featuring the river Nile, pyramids and the Sphinx of Giza, a flying dove, and the Pope waving and smiling. The Muslim crescent moon and Christian cross also appear side by side, marking the interfaith connotation of the event. The streets of Cairo were decorated in preparation of the visit of Pope Francis, who came at the invitation of the Egyptian president Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, Pope Tawadros of the Coptic Orthodox Church; Sheik Ahmed Mohamed al-Tayeb, Grand Imam of Al-Azhar University; and His Holiness Ibrahim Isaac Sidrak, Patriarch of the Coptic Catholic Church in Alexandria. The director of the Holy See Press Office, Gregory Joseph Burke noted that the visit was threefold: there was a pastoral dimension for the local Catholic Churches; an ecumenical dimension to be in solidarity with all Christian communities, focusing particularly on the Coptic Orthodox Church; and an interfaith dimension to dialogue with the Muslim population of Egypt.

On the first day of his visit, the pontiff addressed several topics with particular resonance in the Middle East, including the proliferation of weapons and "demagogic populism" that "do not help to consolidate peace and stability". Pope Francis said in a video message to the people of Egypt that "this visit is a comforting hug and encouragement and for all Christians in the Middle East; a message of friendship and esteem for all the people of Egypt and the Region; a message of brotherhood and reconciliation for all Abraham’s son, especially the Islamic world, in which Egypt occupies a prominent place."

After arriving in Egypt, Pope Francis went to the Presidential Palace for a meeting with President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi. The Pope was joined afterwards by the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His Holiness Bartholomew I, and they were received by Sheik Ahmed Mohamed al-Tayeb at al-Azhar University. The three religious leaders attended an international peace conference organized by the University which is the main center of Islamic learning in the world for Sunni Muslims. In his remarks, Pope Francis called to renounce religious intolerance, saying "No violence can be perpetrated in the name of God, because it would profane his name." (Full remarks)

In the church in Cairo which in December was bruised by an attack of the so-called Islamic State group, Pope Francis prayed for unity beside the Coptic Orthodox Patriarch Tawadros II, while liturgical songs echoed through the nave. (Full remarks & Common Declaration)

Mgr. Emmanuel Bishay, President of the Organizing Committee of the visit, planned a mass in a stadium in Cairo, despite the fact that Catholics and all churches were placed under surveillance for fear of an attack, while IS has threatened to increase attacks against Coptic Christians, mostly Orthodox, who represent about 10% of the 92 million Egyptians. Catholics represent less than 1% of Egypt's population. On April 29, the second day of the visit, the faithful arrived to the 30,000 seat stadium, with the several police roadblocks and the Egyptian army at the gates. After the special Mass which was a great blessing for Egypt, Pope Francis met with clergy, religious and seminarians of Egypt at St. Leo the Great Seminary in Cairo (full remarks).

Finally President al-Sisi accompanied Pope Francis to Cairo airport at the end of the Pope’s historic visit to Egypt, which confirmed the depth and excellence of the relations between Egypt and the Vatican, and sent a message of peace and tolerance worldwide. To each and every one of you, thank you for your prayers, your attention and drive with us during these great days of the visit of Pope Francis to Egypt.

Pope Francis Visits Egypt - By Jeannette Alfi, Province of Egypt-Sudan
Editor’s Note: “Embrace the World” can be published, thanks to each of your contributions with articles, stories and other news concerning justice peace issues in the world-wide Good Shepherd Congregation. We continue to count on you for the next editions of the journal. Share with us your activities, news and events in your Units and countries. Thanks to all who were helping with translations and proof reading and especially to those who sent articles for this edition of June 2017.

High Level Political Forum

HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The annual High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) was held from 10-19 July. The theme this year was "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world", and the HLPF reviewed the following goals (in addition to Goal 17, which will be considered every year):

- Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

44 countries volunteered to present their national voluntary reviews to the HLPF, addressing the efforts they have made and the challenges they face in implementing the SDGs. The list includes the following:

Afghanistan; Argentina; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; Belarus; Belgium; Belize; Benin; Botswana; Brazil; Chile; Costa Rica; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; El Salvador; Ethiopia; Guatemala; Honduras; India; Indonesia; Iran; Italy; Japan; Jordan; Kenya; Luxembourg; Malaysia; Maldives; Monaco; Nepal; Netherlands; Nigeria; Panama; Peru; Portugal; Qatar; Slovenia; Sweden; Tajikistan; Thailand; Togo; Uruguay; and Zimbabwe

Working to end poverty, human trafficking & gender-based violence

Advocating with women & girls, migrants & refugees

Recognizing our interconnectedness with the whole of creation, we seek to realize the rights of all and achieve gender equality

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Please distribute to all communities, programs, and Good Shepherd Friends in your Unit.

Thank you