“Energized by the Spirit we risk together for mission” is the theme of our coming Congregational Chapter 2015 (June 7th to July 2nd) and in this ‘SPECIAL EDITION’ of ‘Embrace the World’ you can see that around the world the Holy Spirit is energizing and inspiring us to act and to live justice together in the mission.

Pause for Peace 2015: Climate Change - What has this to do with us/me?

By Winifred Doherty, NGO Representative, New York

“Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd joins with other Congregations in this initiative to create awareness of the climate change conference and to take action on a daily basis between now and December 2015. Integrate personal and community action with prayer on behalf of the planet, sustainability and people. There are many suggestions in the 'Pause for Peace' with the invitation to become an artisan of the revolution of tenderness ... in the face of global inequality. The threats are interrelated, our awareness and actions are also interrelated and bring change.”

You can also read the Good Shepherd Position Paper on Ecology in this link: http://www.buonpastoreint.org/downloads/index/333

Excerpt from the Document ‘Pause for Peace’:

“Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd joins with other Congregations in this initiative to create awareness of the climate change conference and to take action on a daily basis between now and December 2015. Integrate personal and community action with prayer on behalf of the planet, sustainability and people. There are many suggestions in the 'Pause for Peace' with the invitation to become an artisan of the revolution of tenderness ... in the face of global inequality. The threats are interrelated, our awareness and actions are also interrelated and bring change.”

When world leaders gathered for the Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) in Lima, Peru, in December 2014, there was consensus that climate change is a danger to the planet and to the community of all life. As people of faith who are committed to solidarity and the common good, we are called to respond both individually and communally to the question:

What can we do? What can I do?

These questions, which are deeply engraved in our hearts, are about how we, as communities and individuals, can contribute to mitigate and/or adapt to climate change.

Sister Pascal El Arid is sharing with us her experience of visiting Women’s Prison for 12 years.

My mission requires a lot of love, patience, mercy and the zeal of our Founders. My job consists of listening to the women, respecting them, understanding them, but sometimes also buying certain things for them such as medication. My role also is to be a link between them and their families, their parents, their friends and their children. I visit their families to facilitate certain steps as well as reconciliation, because it is important that the woman is reconciled with herself as much as with her family.

The prison about which I speak to you has only 5 rooms for 90 women, and I would like to tell you one story among so many others, that of an incarcerated woman that I shall call ‘X’.

X arrived in prison at the age of 19 years with a sentence of 5 years. Abandoned by her mother, X was entrusted to a family where she stayed until the age of 10. At the death of her mother, X was put into an orphanage where the director looked after her and helped her a great deal. She left the orphanage at the age of 14 years and became acquainted with a young man who used her and made her sell drugs. At the age of 19 years, she was arrested by the police.

X is an intelligent person who used to learn easily, but who persistently needed to be encouraged. After one year in prison, I contacted her brother-in-law, whom she trusted. He thanked me profoundly, because they had not heard from X for a long time. He said that he did not want to trouble me, and that he would come to see me. Actually, he came the following day, and then 24 hours later he came once again, this time with his wife. My role was to prepare the ground and 2 weeks after having contacted them, they began visiting X in prison. Since then, they have come often to see her and when she will be released from prison, they will welcome her in their family. They asked me to stay in contact with them, even when X will be at their home. I continue helping X to become more responsible and strong, and in 9 months she will leave the prison.

I also organize exhibitions to acquaint people with the work that the women do in prison, so that they can earn a little money. I try each time to display their work in a new place in order to sensitize the largest possible number of persons to the situation of the prisoners. People never lack generosity to help the women who suffer. I can say to you that Jesus, Good Shepherd, gives me the strength to follow my beautiful mission, because I am not young. Thank you for reading these lines.

“SAVE THE LIFE OF MARY JANE VELOSO”

By Maureen Catabian, JP Contact, Province of the Philippines

Mary Jane Veloso is a Filipina migrant worker sentenced for execution in Indonesia last April 28, 2015. She is a victim of sexual harassment, attempted rape, forced migration, human trafficking for labor and drug trafficking. She and her family (her father is a former Hacienda Luisita farm worker) are struggling daily against 'chronic impoverishment' in Philippine society. They are caught in exploitative systems operating in national and global society, that perpetually prey on vulnerable and impoverished women and children and their families.

“Mary Jane” is the face of every Filipina impoverished woman who struggles to defy the indignities wrought on them by societies that cater only to the rich, the powerful and the affluent. Mary Jane is struggling for life and dignity for the sake of her kin and her children.

In the face of all these odds and contradictions- death versus life, good against evil, light over darkness- “Mary Jane” prevails by not giving up on hope for her children. Her deep aspirations for a better life united with the aspirations of peoples and their struggles to prevail against evil systems that exploit- have become actualized in reality. This is the miracle. The deep desire not to give up on hope became “a lighted candle” cursing the darkness of apathy and despair.

Continued on page 3
Each one got involved and participated in the collective prayers, solidarity actions, petition signing, gestures of support for Mary Jane and her family. Every action, no matter how small, contributed to the bigger endeavor of saving a life in peril.

The signature campaign and candle lighting activity initiated by the Good Shepherd Sisters and their partners in mission last April 24 and April 27 symbolized hope in NEW LIFE! We prayed for all victims of tragedies– OFWs who continue to be exploited in all parts of the world, including the victims of the earthquake in Nepal and other natural calamities.

For any tragic circumstance or victims of indignities, we shall continue with our collective prayers and show actions of solidarity and support because we hope and believe in the Light of New Life in Christ!

The daily struggle for life and dignity continues. Save the lives of more “Mary Jane’s” through collective prayer and actions of solidarity!

The mother of Mary Jane Veloso, Nanay Celia shared her story and struggles of her family during the dark moments of anguish on the impending execution of Mary Jane Veloso in Indonesia, - she did it during the National Consultation of an Ecumenical Network of Women in Theology last May 12-13, 2015.

In the midst of their pains and sufferings, she requested that we convey her deep gratitude and message of indebtedness to the Church Peoples' Network who expressed their solidarity with her family.

This is a message of gratitude and hope, and we continue our prayer and solidarity for all victims of human trafficking! In Unity there is Strength!

Photos were taken from the Church groups initiated Petition Signing done in Sta. Cruz Church in Manila.

"Prayer and Candle Lighting Activity" was held at the gate outside of the Good Shepherd Convent in Quezon City last April 27.

The Signature Campaign/Petition Signing for "Save the Life of Mary Jane Veloso" done last April 24 at the Good Shepherd Chapel was able to gather 120 signatures from Good Shepherd Sisters and Lay Mission Partners.

**Useful information and material**

A report *Progress of the World’s Women* was launched by UNWOMEN. The title of this edition is “Transforming Economies, Realizing Rights”. A comprehensive social media package, along with a large number of visual assets, is available in English, Spanish and French here: http://owl.li/LW246

19 Days campaign 2015 Call to Action and Prevention Kit

WWSF is happy to share with you our 2015 Call to Action and Prevention Kit for you to register online your participation in the 19 Days campaign and to share your activities to prevent and end violence against children and youth - an idea whose time has come. The Prevention Kit is available in this link: http://19days.woman.ch

Updated web page - Human Rights and Post-2015 Development Agenda


High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Report 2014

St Anne House (Casa de Santa Ana) started its activity in September of 1980. On 6 February 1996 we celebrated a cooperation agreement with the Social Security, thus becoming a “Community of Insertion for Women in Vulnerable Situations”. The Community of Insertion has as its objective, to end domestic violence, poverty and social exclusion, and to promote the socio-professional and family integration of women and children. We have the capability to host 25 people and provide temporary housing, individual accompaniment of an expert of the Social Service and a clinical psychologist, integration of mutual help for a group of mothers, and an activity room for children under 6 years of age. The program also provides religious formation.

In a canvas under fabrication... each thread... is unique and participatory. In this way, we want mothers and children in the House of Saint Anne, to become aware of the existence of a unique and special place that exists inside each of them and their children, where develops, throughout their lives, an individual canvas with singular threads.

Thus, our work has as a primary objective, to contribute to a better quality of emotional life of all children and mothers, since they have already suffered painful situations that have compromised their harmonious and comprehensive development. This work is intended to allow empowerment, self-esteem, and the development of personal and social skills, considering their current social inclusion.

Our program is usually for 6 months, but this period may be altered, depending on the specifics of the problems of each case, and the development of the program of Social Integration for mothers and their children. After arrival at the house, women are integrated into the Program "School for Women". This 6-month program is divided into two stages:

Stage of Integration - the women will have the opportunity to learn day-to-day domestic skills, kitchen, washing and household, with accompaniment of a monitor, and they participate in the meetings of the “Mutual Help Group”, with the objective of learning new personal and social skills related to the following themes: education, management of daily tasks, money, conflicts and future employment.

Stage of Insertion - The women will be accompanied by technicians in order to succeed in finding a job or vocational training, daily care for their children and also housing. After their final release from the Institution, if it is necessary, we continue to give our support with the distribution of food products, which we get from the Food Bank. To obtain positive results of our mission, St. Anne House builds and relies on the values of equality, responsibility, respect, transparency, freedom, worth of the person, solidarity, universality, justice and peace.

Together against trafficking in human beings:

By Marie Helene Halligon, NGO Representative in Vienna

The Collective "Together against trafficking in human beings" is a network of 23 associations, including the OLCGS congregation: [http://contrelatraite.org/](http://contrelatraite.org/). In this respect, among other activities, the congregation participated in the drafting of a "Opinions on France to report on the fight against human trafficking 2011-2014".

We also drafted early in 2015 a "Shadow Report on the 5th periodic report of France on the implementation of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child and its additional protocols."

The Collective wants to highlight the points of progress needed in the fight against trafficking in minors, in France and in connection with France in 2015 under the International Convention on Children Rights and protocols him are linked. Child victims or potential victims of human trafficking or child of trafficked victims are exploited or in danger of being so. These minors are entitled to the full recognition and exercise of all children's rights enshrined in the International Convention on Children's Rights entered into force in France on 2 September 1990. They must have access to the common law.

The restoration of their fundamental rights is also the best way to defeat the criminal networks or individuals that exploit and dry up the profits they derive; it also reduces the vulnerability of the young people against the risks of human trafficking. Finally it helps rebuild and redress the serious damage they have suffered.

Click here to read the Child Trafficking Report
The team of the Foundation Levantate Mujer gathered in the city of La Paz from 5 to 7 May 2015 for personal and spiritual enrichment. In addition, information spaces were developed and we were delving into issues related to the mission of the Foundation, in order to analyze the critical path of the violence suffered by women, as well as to recognize the work that is developing in the regions on the subject of manhood and determine the position of the Foundation on this topic, everything from the aspect of the Good Shepherd, and under the teaching and the charism that we inherited from Saint Mary Euphrasia. Sister Rosa Apaza accompanied us in the development of this Conference and made possible the creation of spaces for reflection, analysis and fraternal coexistence in an atmosphere of communion. Fr. Sabino was present on the day in which we approached the subject of manhood; his presence and contribution enriched this topic.

During the first day we reflected on the critical path of violence against women based on law N° 348 and the intervention of each of the regions. At the end of this time we shared a series of techniques of self-care and self-awareness, allowing time for relationships, relaxation, and the management of stress in each of the participants.

The second day, we addressed the subject of manhood and the position of the Foundation based on the principles and values of Jesus the Good Shepherd. There were moments of reflection and changing of attitudes and behaviors by the different work teams.

On the third day, we shared the experiences of work in each of the regions, and agreements were reached in the type of work of the Foundation. These areas of institutional strengthening occurred thanks to the financing of Mensen Met Een Missie, with whom we are working on the program of non-violence and the workshop named “Working with Manhood to Prevent Violence against Women”, addressed to young leaders of the cities of Oruro, El Alto and Santa Cruz. On this last day we identified that regional offices are already working on the issue of manhood under the approach of addressing the comprehensive care of women, and involving the immediate family circle, in many cases represented by men and children. It was established that the subject of masculinities must be a transverse axis in all the programs and projects of the Foundation, as well as prevention - looking for areas of training on this issue.

With these defined actions, we are confident that we will succeed in strengthening our mission and vision, as our goal is to raise the dignity of women, children, girls, adolescents and families, who live in a situation of disadvantage and social risk.

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The contact sisters, working against human trafficking and belonging to the “Network Towards Freedom”, met in Lima, Peru (8-11 April 2015) to participate in the workshop of training and strengthening and in the frame of the implementation of the project for Latin America.

The meeting had as objective to deepen and energize the work of the “Network Towards Freedom” from the point of view of the Good Shepherd, articulating the Strategic Plan of the network with the International Justice and Peace Office, and linking the work of the Good Shepherd against human trafficking with other networks of consecrated life, civil society, Government and others, in order to participate by increasing efforts to tackle this scourge.

Among the speakers were Sr. Clare Nolan, Training Facilitator of the GSIJP Office and Sr. Marta Iris López, NGO Regional Designate for Latin America and the Caribbean.

During the meeting we realized that steps have been taken, and that in most of the provinces we are working on the prevention of human trafficking, in coordination with ecclesial and civil agencies. The teams in the mission are motivated to get more training, since they experience a need to know in depth, the most important aspects of this issue that affects all humanity. Therefore, Training, Prevention and Advocacy, are urgent and we must work at all levels.

Continued on page 6
During the workshop Ms. Heidy Hochstätter, Coordinator of the Mission Development Office for Latin America reminded us of the process followed in the creation of the network, (decision taken by the REAL in 2012) as a response to the Congregational call, asking us to work with those affected by this slavery of modern times.

The meeting facilitated knowledge among teams, approach and exchange of experiences, and the availability to strengthen mutual support. Thanks to these trainings, clear and concise information, learning and knowledge are available about fundamental aspects, improving processes to follow in caring for life, the training of human resources, and the search for financial resources to provide effective services.

We thank God for the shared moments, experiences and the energy of the spirit that accompanies us to give "life abundantly in the mission" because we know that: **TOGETHER WE WILL DO WONDERS!**

You can read the Declaration made at the end of the meeting here: [STATEMENT](#)

You can also read here the [PROJECT](#)

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**Faithful Strategies for a Just, Sustainable Economy**  
*by Toni Palamar, Province Business Administrator (Province of New York)*

Patricia Daly, OP, Executive Director, welcomed the attendees with a gathering prayer and introduced Cathy Rowan as Panel Moderator. She is the Director of Socially Responsible Investments for Trinity Health, as well as consultant for corporate social responsibility issues for the Maryknoll Sisters and Tri-CRI (Tri-State Coalition for Responsible Investment).

Panelists were:
- David Berdish, Executive in Residence at Virginia Commonwealth University, recently retired as Manager of Social Sustainability at Ford Motor Company, Sister Margaret Mayce, OP, currently Representative at the UN of the Dominican Leadership Conference NGO, and Dave Stangis, Vice President for Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability, Community Affairs, and the Campbell Soup Foundation.

The discussion was centered on improving current corporate strategies in business development, particularly in sensitive, third-world economies with indigenous peoples. Participation and control by local populations was stressed. Appropriate government regulation was mentioned, particularly with regard to resource management.

All panelists agreed that the future must include improved corporate social responsibility in business development. Sr. Margaret stressed that monitoring corporate social responsibility is often difficult and requires as deep and thorough an examination as possible of corporate actions vs. their statements.

During the question and answer period, one question in particular was about the recent decision by Target to move some food staples like Campbell’s soup down the shelf to make room for new lines of organic, non-GMO and “healthier” foods and how Campbell’s was responding to that. Dave Stangis replied that Campbell’s has been acquiring some of these new food companies over recent years to position itself for this new food trend. A concern was also expressed about the need for better regulation and oversight of the “organic” and “non-GMO” labels, particularly as they become a part of larger, more traditional, corporate entities.

We are all aware that this work is slow and tedious, but events like this, when reflecting back over 40 years, remind us that it’s worth it – the thought of a position like Vice President of Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability wasn’t even on the distant horizon 40 years ago!

Watch the Video of the Panel Discussion in this link: [Celebrating 40 Years of Commitment](#)
A new Post 2015 Development Agenda with 17 Goals will be agreed by member states of the United Nations in September 2015. This new program will take forward the Millennium Development Goals adopted in 2000 for 15 years. This new program is also for 15 years and is the first integrated program of the United Nations seeking transformative change, leaving no one behind, and being a truly inclusive, global agenda. It proposed to bring together the social, the environmental and the economic. No longer will there be distinction between developing and developed countries. It is one world with common but differentiated responsibilities. At the upcoming Congregational Chapter in June of this year we will be risking new directions for the next 6 years. What will these new directions be? Presently, we have 6 position papers – Trafficking, Migration, Economic Justice, Prostitution, Ecology, and the Girl Child. Trafficking, Migration and Prostitution have their roots in structural inequalities of gender, patriarchy and the economy and finance to name a few. Trafficking, Prostitution and Migration occur because of poverty and sometimes results from climate change and other disasters resulting in the displacement of peoples. Our issues continue to be the issues of the new development agenda summed up in Dignity, People, Planet, Partnerships, Justice and Prosperity not for some people but for every person. These concepts are at the heart of our position papers and our ministries. How can we continue the struggle to end poverty and ‘fight’ inequality? (Goals 1 & 5) How ensure healthy lives, knowledge and the inclusion of women and girls (Goals 2, 3 & 4). How can we contribute to the protection of ecosystems for all societies and future generations (Goals 6, 12, 13, 14, & 15). Goals 17 is about partnerships. There is a significant move to have the corporate sector engage in the development agenda and rightly so. But how do we ensure that their tactics are people centered, focused on dignity and the sustainability of the planet and not merely profit driven and exploitative. Prostitution, Human Trafficking, Extractive Industry, Use of Slave Labor are all issues of concern to us and unethical practices need to be challenged. A number of goals are about prosperity, (Goals 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11) growing a strong, inclusive and transformative economy. Goal 16 is about Justice – promoting safe and peaceful societies and strong institutions.


At the same time two other significant processes will be taking place this year – the 3rd Financing for Development Conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia July 13-16, 2015. It will be preceded by a two day Civil Society meeting. I hope to attend this conference.

The other conference is the World Climate Summit in Paris in December 2015: ‘Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd’ joins with other Congregations in this initiative to create awareness of the climate change conference and to take action on a daily basis between now and December 2015.
In solidarity with women around the world we organized some activities for International Women’s Day in our place. Each community was encouraged to celebrate this event in creative ways. The main purpose of these activities was to increase more awareness of the people around us, that women also have an important role in developing society. Through this event, we hope that it will raise more awareness among women for their empowerment. The International Women’s Day that we celebrated on Sunday, 8 March 2015 became an opportunity for us to encourage the priests in our local Parish to speak of it in the homily. We also recited a Thanksgiving Prayer, an excerpt from “Letter of John Paul II to Women” as a prayer after communion.

Using the Parish newsletter, we posted a reflection about the situation of women in our world today, where women still become an object of exploitation. We are challenged to promote the dignity of every woman as God’s creation. We have to learn from the courageous women in the Bible how to become women of faith and have the courage to fight against unjust situations.

On Saturday night, 7 March 2015 some parishioners, sisters, lay partners, girls and staff in Jakarta community were gathered for the evening prayer. With the theme “Lighting Candle of Hope for Women” the prayer was held in the backyard of Mother Mary grotto in our compound. Our girls and staff performed a musical poetry. The performance narrated the story of a powerless woman, who was a victim of domestic violence until she found strength within herself and had the courage to fight for liberation. In the atmosphere of the night and solitude, we united our hearts with all women, especially those who are excluded from society, being exploited and having no access to education. In the closing ceremony, we lit candles and put them in front of our Mother Mary statue, as we united our prayer with her. The lighted candle is a symbol of lighting hope and burning spirit for every fight and effort to end discrimination toward women in the world.

One of our communities in Flores, in eastern Indonesia, the Ruteng Community, held some activities to celebrate International Women’s Day. The sisters were giving sessions for the staff and lay mission partners about gender equality for women, and explaining women’s rights in society, especially in Manggarai culture. Women have the right to access education, health services, protection in the workplace and fair wages. The sisters also visited some parishes to gave the same session, and because Flores is one of sending areas for migrant workers, they gave information about the safe procedure to work abroad. The series of these activities was concluded on 14 March 2015 with an interactive dialogue and discussion in a local radio station, so that the echoes of International Women’s Day were heard by many people.

Another community on Borneo island, Marau community, marked International Women’s Day with a group of Catholic women in the local parish. Beginning with a prayer for women around the world, they continued with group discussions, sharing their experiences and feelings as women. Deepened with the spirit of oneness, they shared the strengths of women and the opportunity of women to develop the quality of life for their families. The events were concluded with a dance as an expression of thanksgiving for the grace of companionship in their life journey. The sisters also held an activity with the girls. They watched a movie about the life of women from different places and discussed it as a group. Through this activity they were encouraged to find the strength within themselves as women, making this a source of the spirit to empower themselves.
In 2015, International Women’s Day was celebrated globally on 8th March, and highlighted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, a historic roadmap signed by 189 governments 20 years ago, that sets the agenda for realizing women’s rights. According to Gloria Steinem, the story of women’s struggle for equality belongs to no single feminist nor to any one organization, but to the collective efforts of all who care about human rights.

St. Philomena’s Composite P.U. College, Good Shepherd Convent, Ballari.

“Women are the real architects of the society.” This was the theme of the International Women’s Day celebration at Good Shepherd Convent, Ballari, St. Philomena’s Composite P.U. College.

The women were welcomed in the Indian tradition by placing kumkum on their foreheads and saffron on either cheek, which symbolizes the sacredness of womanhood.

The celebration brought joy to all the Good Shepherd Sisters, teachers and especially the women. During this celebration, the highlight was that three presidents of the women self-help groups were the guests of honor. The Women came forward to give a cultural program.

Sr. Shantha Selvaraj gave a talk on the importance of empowerment of women in this fast developing society. Sr. Margaret gave a talk on the importance of womanhood.

St. Philomena’s composite P.U College gave the cultural program.

CHALICE Bangalore

The CHALICE sponsorship Program, the sub-site of GSH celebrated Women’s Day on March 8th 2015 at 3 pm in St Euphrasia’s School auditorium. Nearly 68 mothers of the sponsored children came for the program. The program began with the lighting of the lamp.

The chief guest for the program was Mrs. Bharathithe, President of the Lions Club, Bangalore.

Sr. Vimala gave an introduction about the CHALICE program and also highlighted the achievement of sponsorship in the life of the girl child.

Mrs. Sundari, one of the CHALICE mothers, shared her experience of being a sister, wife and mother. She encouraged the mothers to educate girls, because if one girl child is educated the whole family is educated.

Special invitees for the program were Mr. Anandh, Mr. Jaipal from Care India and Fr. Praveen S.J Advocate at Karnataka High Court. Fr. Praveen S.J gave an input session on women’s rights.

Good Shepherd Convent, Bangalore

The Sisters offered a special prayer on 7th March 2015 praying for women, especially for those who are trafficked, abused and used and who are at the margins.

Good Shepherd Convent, Sandanapalya, Karnataka

The Good Shepherd Organization, together with the Sisters, Staff and the Women from different villages, celebrated The International Women’s Day on 18th March 2015 in Hoogym. Mrs. Selvi, a teacher of the Government School was the Chief Guest of the celebration.

The day’s celebration began with the Rangoli Competition and various games and the public function began at 12 pm.

It was a great moment when a woman from the women’s group voluntarily came forward to share her views, desires and aspirations. Mrs. Nagaveni spoke from her own experience, that we too had desires and aspired to wanting to be someone. But then our desires were cut off, as we were deprived of education. Today we are awakened women and should not repeat the same thing with our children. Instead, let us take this opportunity to educate our children, especially girls, to fulfill their desires and be glad that they have become what we wanted them to be. This vital message of Mrs. Nagaveni silenced the whole crowd, and brought an awareness of the betterment of each individual, family and society.

International Women’s Day can be traced back to the women’s suffrage movement over two centuries ago, when women achieved tremendous progress in every walk of life. Women’s emancipation took a new meaning, when women traveled into space, and fought alongside men in battlefields. Today we acknowledge and celebrate the gift of women in the late nineteenth century and who courageously fought for our rights.

Please read the full article with other nice pictures in this link: International Women’s Day South West India
Living acceptance, merci and justice in daily life and mission
By Georgette Tannouy, NGO Regional Designate in Beirut

Sharing a meal to build relationships

To learn about diseases affecting children

Workshops on: Human Rights of Women, Dignity of people, others

Workshop on Justice Peace in Germany: We are part of a world-wide misión
By Hedwig Johl, NGO Representative in Geneva

Read the document in this link: Workshop on JP in Germany

Sisters and Partners working together in the mission on behalf of vulnerable women and girls
By Fabiola Tapasco, JP Contact, Province Colombo Venezolana/Cuba

Read the document in this link: Sisters and Partners working together

CELEBRATIONS, WORKSHOPS, VISITS...
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 worldwide 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. I take the opportunity to say thanks to all who were helping with translations and proof reading and especially to those who sent articles for this edition of June 2015.

Visit the regularly updated Good Shepherd JP website for news, events, JP training resources, and so on. Go to: http://www.buonpastoreint.org/jp-en

Good Shepherd Malaysia speaking on behalf of refugees

As part of an NGO coalition focused on the issue of migration and the rights of migrants, Good Shepherd Malaysia is active in responding to the urgent humanitarian crisis of refugees now off their coast. Mostly from the oppressed and non-state-recognized Rohingya minority of Myanmar, they are seeking asylum in Malaysia via Thailand. The governments of the region have been rejecting them resulting in a deplorable plight.

This situation is a multi-layered crisis with broad and deep root; it entwines issues of national identity, migration, trafficking, refugee status, international human rights and responsibilities and, most basically, human compassion.


Good Shepherd engaged in the Earthquake Relief Work in Nepal

Two days after the devastating earthquake struck Nepal, the first one of its kind after almost 80 years in this country, Sr. Taskila joined with Caritas, Nepal to distribute food materials at Bhaktapur district. 500 persons received food relief packets, and were very grateful to receive the same.

GS Sisters in Pokhara, being members of Children’s Home Network, joined with other NGO’s in Pokhara and planned relief work for Gorkha district, which is the epicenter of the quake.

Children’s Home Network from Pokhara, bought relief materials: Rice, dhal, and tents for 50 families and supplied the same in Goplaan village, in Gorkha district.

Aftershocks continued even five days after the earthquake. Heavy rainfall hampered relief work across many places. Sr. Lucy set off on the first aid expedition with the mobile clinic and administered medical help at Maachapoochrai village.

Sr. Taskila along with one sister from the Congregation of Jesus, Sr. Smitha, visited the District Health Department at Gorkha and met the Chief to seek permission to render medical assistance wherever required. Read full story in this link: http://www.buonpastoreint.org/jp-en/good-shepherd-international-justice-and-peace-office-gsip_1605/gsiip-news_1609

“We commit ourselves to work zealously with women and children, especially those who are trafficked, forced to migrate or oppressed by abject poverty”

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

Thank you