



JPIC Newsletter

We open our hearts to the cries of our earth & its people

No. 02

July-August-September 2018

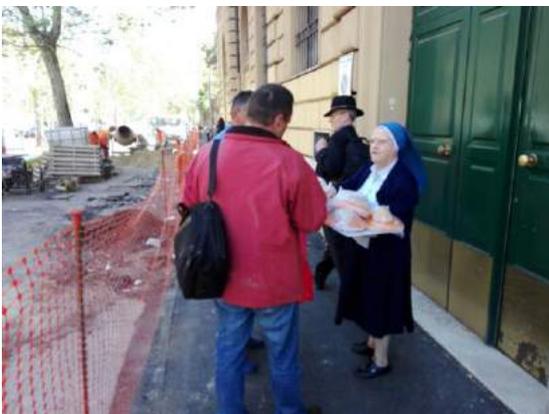
FROM "NOMENTANA 34" ROMA

Via Nomentana is an important street. Many people pass in front of our house at 34. Some of them notice that they are passing a convent of Ursuline Sisters.

Poor people are not afraid to knock at our door to ask for food. The sisters are very happy to share with them the food they have. Every day we share hot meals with between three and thirteen people. Sisters Rita and Celestina are involved in the preparation and distribution of the meals.

We are also on call to share our food with Caritas especially for women. When this organization does not receive enough food from donors, Sister Graziella, one of those in charge, calls the sisters to ask them for cooked food for women and their children.

We open our hearts to the cries of the people and do as much as we can.



Angela Poggi, OSU



A LOVELY REUNION

When Massa and Omar arrived in our house with their parents in 2016, Sr. Veronika was in the Community of the Generalate and looked after them.

Recently Sr. Veronika came to Rome for a few days and they were able to come to lunch and have a reunion. Massa and Omar and their parents are one of the refugee families brought to Italy by Pope Francis from his visit to Greece. They stayed at our Generalate for two months.



Now they are growing up, Massa is in her third year of primary school and Omar is in the second year of primary school. Both of them now speak fluent Italian and their parents have been able to find work.

Moekti Gondosasmito, OSU



TAIWAN - PLASTIC REDUCTION, TRACELESS DIET: NEW LIFE MOVEMENT

The theme for Earth Day, 2018, was “End Plastic Pollution”. From May 1, 2018, our school, Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages, began promoting a policy of: “Plastic Reduction, Traceless Diet: New Life Movement”.



Faculty and students were encouraged not to bring any longer plastic-bottled drinks, disposable chopsticks, and plastic bags to the University. In order to focus on morality and environmental protection, for all kind of meetings, participants should bring their own tableware, and avoid ordering lunches in disposable containers but order food that doesn't come in plastic bags or with throw-away utensils. Drinking fountains, tableware rental stations and utensil washing areas are now available throughout the campus.



To promote the University's New Life Movement, the Wenzao Student Union took the lead in posting a short version some questions about the Movement on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/B1GxnUY0fJM>

to encourage all students to be always ready to protect the environment.

This new initiative of reducing plastics and food waste is not only about simply promoting environmental awareness, but also a movement designed to urge the staff, faculty and students to become more responsible as citizens of the earth.

Hua Ying, OSU



POLAND – ST. BAKHITA

The relics of Saint Josephine Bakhita have been on pilgrimage from convent to convent in Poland for several months.

On May 14-16, in our community in Wroclaw we hosted the relics of this patron of victims of human trafficking. We prayed for the victims of human trafficking and for the perpetrators of violence - for all who hunger for spiritual liberation and healing. We asked for courage and light in the fight against the slavery that is around us and in us. Together, we prayed the rosary for this intention.

This meeting was an opportunity to get to know more closely the person and the life of Saint Josefina Bakhita and we watched the excellent movie "Bakhita".



Daria Klich, OSU



CELEBRATING EARTH DAY EASTERN PROVINCE - USA

On Sunday, April 22nd, the Sisters of the Eastern Province held a gathering to celebrate Earth day. The sounds of the Rain Forest played as we gathered and this led us into reflecting about how we each have experienced a strong connection to creation.



Remembering that Pope Francis called us to “a new dialogue”, “a conversation which includes everyone” and which builds “networks of belonging”, we considered the state of our common home now. Mary Sullivan shared the wisdom of Brian Swimme who wrote “Would the universe have worked for 13.5 billion years to produce **consumers?**” and that of Elaine Prevallet who encourages us to consider our energies for creativity and resistance. “How can we live differently?” and “What do I personally need to resist? How can I find others with whom to network?”

We were then invited to gather snacks, some vegan, all GMO free and served in non-plastic baskets and dishes. Armed with new energy, we gathered again to view “Plastic Planet” a short film giving us insight into the theme for this year’s Earth Day, Plastic Pollution .

As we became aware of the devastation of oceans filling up with plastic, destroying all kinds of sea life and feeding the fish we eat with plastic, the catastrophic reality

horrified us. This led to honest conversation about the urgency of our response. Many are attentive to recycling and taking reusable bags when shopping. We all recognized the difficulty of substituting other materials and avoiding plastic. There were suggestions about ways that we might help each other recycle things that are more difficult but equally harmful like medicines and electronic items. The positive effects of the use of plastic in keeping our food safe and providing artificial limbs helped us to consider the complexity of this issue.



Our Gathering came to an end as we listened to the song, “Beautiful Gaia”, once again taking strength and inspiration from the realization of all that we receive from Mother Earth, this “Beautiful Gem in the Universe”, in terms of innovation, ingenuity, resilience, and expansive hope.

Alice Marie Giordano, OSU



**DO YOU
REMEMBER?**

12 August



ECOLOGICAL EXAMEN



The Jesuits have offered us an ECOLOGICAL EXAMEN. Perhaps we can use it to come to some communal action in an effort to care for our common home.

1. I give thanks to God for creation and for being wonderfully made. Where did I feel God's presence in creation today?
2. I ask for the grace to see creation as God does – in all its splendor and suffering. Do I see the beauty of creation and hear the cries of the earth and the poor?
3. I ask for the grace to look closely to see how my life choices impact creation and the poor and vulnerable. What challenges or joys do I experience as I recall my care for creation? How can I turn away from a throwaway culture and instead stand in solidarity with creation and the poor?
4. I ask for the grace of conversion towards ecological justice and reconciliation. Where have I fallen short in caring for creation and my brothers and sisters? How do I ask for a conversion of heart?
5. I ask for the grace to reconcile my relationship with God, creation and humanity, and to stand in solidarity through my actions. How can I repair my relationship with creation and make choices consistent with my desire for reconciliation with creation?

6. I offer a closing prayer for the earth and the vulnerable in our society.

Prayer

In concluding our Examen, we give thanks to God for the gift of creation. We ask for God's help and guidance so we may care for creation and the most vulnerable among us, strengthened in our common pursuit for ecological justice.

"A Prayer for Our Earth"

All powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

(Laudato Si', n. 246)

Summary by Sr. Alice Marie Giordano, osu



“PEOPLES OF BRAZIL”

"Sowing respect for diversity is cultivating a world of peace!" The Brazilian people live immersed in a great cultural diversity. And among so many meanings of the word diversity, one of them expresses its meaning well: communion between opposites. Understood thus, diversity adds and allows the creation of something new, unique. If we look closely at the history of Brazil, we will realize that this communion among opposites was responsible for the construction of music, agriculture, and cooking, and composes the way of being of the Brazilian.

It is within this reflection that we inserted the "Peoples of Brazil" Project, which is part of the celebrations of the anniversary of Santa Angela College, whose celebratory theme is "75 years: Building a World of Peace." However, the idea goes even further because it allows the children to learn some details of the culture of the peoples that make up the Brazilian people (indigenous and African peoples, European and Asian immigrants), since knowing the root of a people's history is to allow them to build respect and to understand and learn more about their own culture. And to sow this idea in fertile hearts (children) is to cultivate the hope of a new society, a civilization of love.

In this way, we started our activities with the indigenous, native peoples of our Brazil, because on April 19 we celebrate Indian Day. We wish to show our respect and admiration for their culture and teachings, so present in the Brazilian's daily life.



If we depend on nature for our subsistence and survival, we must learn to care for it, and Brazil has one of the most important ecosystems and biomes on the planet, a national, cultural, social and economic wealth that cannot be lost. The Indians lived and live in harmony with nature. So we also need to educate our children to have respect and care for our natural resources so that tomorrow, as future adults, they can defend and preserve it for the good of the country and the rest of the world.



"If you want to go fast, go alone, but if you want to go far, go in groups"
(African proverb).

We believe that together we are stronger.

This project was designed and executed by Mrs. Valeska Domingues Ribeiro, agronomist and mother of one of our students, by Professor Sara Mariana Deolinda Silva, pedagogical coordinator of Early Childhood Education and 1st year of Elementary School 1, by Mr. Josué Evangelista da Silva, an official responsible for gardening, by Sister Cecília Vieira Célio, pedagogical director who offers all the necessary resources for the development of the activities elaborated, as well as the teachers, because they involve the children in the activities carried out within the project.

Cecília Vieira Célio, OSU



WEEK OF MOBILIZATION FOR LIFE – COLÉGIO SANTA ÚRSULA – RIBEIRÃO PRETO, BRAZIL

The Week of Mobilization for Life (WML) has taken place at Colégio Santa Úrsula of Ribeirão Preto in Brazil since 2007. Every year the whole school community is gathered around relevant social and environmental issues as the school promotes talks, activities and social service related to the theme to be discussed. The topics always refer to the UNESCO annual theme and to the discussion proposed by the Catholic Church in Brazil due to its Campaign of Fraternity.

In 2018, WML brought to light the violence crisis that Brazil – as many other countries in Latin America – has been through over the last decades. Statistics reveal a scenario comparable to war zones in certain areas of the country. It seems that the escalation of violence has been inefficiently addressed as authorities persistently treat the problem as a matter of public security rather than a much more complex issue that results of so many inequalities in Brazilian society.

Colégio Santa Úrsula has organized a series of initiatives to raise awareness of such a dramatic reality and to discuss in depth its causes and possible ways to promote and sustain practices that contribute for a more peaceful society.

All school levels were included in the campaign and a variety of activities was carried out by the own students appropriately to their age.



To mention just two of so many projects then developed, primary school discussed violence from the perspective of students' interaction with their own peers whereas high school students were motivated to scrutinize the perversity behind bullying.



The Week of Mobilization for Life goes beyond the classroom involving families and proposing practical outcomes for the benefit of vulnerable communities. Collection and donation of food for charities, tree planting in devastated areas, donation of goods to rest homes and collection of money for the construction of artesian wells in regions of great drought in the Northeast of Brazil can be cited among the projects that have impacted society through the results of the campaign.

This year, Colégio Santa Úrsula delivered over three tons of food to charities in Ribeirão Preto besides congregating teachers and other staff members for a massive blood donation day.



Helenice de Fatima de Souza, OSU



FRANCE, BELGIUM AND SPAIN

Community Saint-Saulve La Pépinière: the Saint Jean-Baptiste Fraternity

The Saint Jean-Baptiste Fraternity is for the sick who are dependent on alcohol, drugs or other addictions, for those who have given up an addiction, for their relatives and anyone who is involved, in addition to other mutual aid organisations. Its mission is to welcome all those who are affected by these problems and to accompany them according to the spirit of the Gospel and give them support, especially in the spiritual life, in the Church, through prayer, fasting and service.
www.fratemitesaintjeanbaptiste.org



I have belonged to the Fraternity in Paris since 2010. In December 2016, a group was formed in Valenciennes. There are about 15 of us in the group. (The attached photo shows our pilgrimage to Laon in May 2018.) Numerous signs show us that we are connected with a young woman, Véronique, who died in a road accident caused by a driver with too much alcohol in his blood. She accompanies us still.

I am always struck by the attention to the other, the fraternal spirit, the interior strength (different from courage) of each one. We celebrate with joy birthdays and anniversaries of periods of abstinence. Beyond very different "social situations", people meet and responsibilities are shared according to abilities. In fragility and trust, we walk step by step under the gaze of God.

Marie-Yvonne Le Gall, osu

Community Pau – Sainte Ursule: in link with Iraqi refugees in France.

For 3 years, the « Collège Sainte Ursule de Pau » and the Ursuline Community have woven links with the Chaldean Christians in Pau through Mr Dollié, brother in law of Sr Françoise-Marie Barbier and President of the Association aid to Christina refugees in the Middle East 64.



During Lent, a vigil was organised for the confirmation candidates of the « collège » and 4 young Chaldeans came to see and to pray with us.

On 14 January, one sister went to Mass in a parish in Pau on the World Day for Migrants and Refugees, followed by a social gathering where she met some Christian refugees staying in Pau.



In making some changes in our house, we decided to give some of our furniture, tables, chairs, bedding and kitchen equipment to these refugees. They will come on 23 June to collect them. These things will help to furnish houses for several Chaldean refugee families.

Marie-Jacqueline Gaudry, osu



**Community of Tours –
Marie de l’Incarnation:
making a wall flower on the
« Serviam 21 » Day 6 April 2018**



Our project for 6 April was to make an ugly cinderblock wall alongside our house flower. Together we prepared the ground, then we put in place the flower troughs, planted and hung the flowers.

At the end of the day, we were very happy with what we had done. Now we just have to wait for the honeysuckle, clematis, rosebushes and other small marvels to unfold, bloom and cover the wall!!!



The wall mid-June



Laure Blanchon, osu



ENGLAND

JRS Service

The province has continued to support the JRS programme here. Each community has provided £100's worth of toiletries on a monthly rota. Initially these were provided in kind but experience has shown that it is often more manageable for communities to send a cheque or have orders delivered; the project has been happy to make this adjustment. Forest Gate Community have continued to offer their vacant flat on a 3 monthly basis to a refugee. We have built relations with a local Albanian refugee centre who have provided welcome training and volunteer opportunities for our last guest. Present government regulations make it impossible for us to involve refugees informally in our schools or local centres.

Ethiopia

This year has brought to an end our 12 year contact with The Ursuline Sisters of Ethiopia and has been marked by the final completion of the Sitam Fashion and Design College. Sister Elizabeth Campbell was unable to travel so far, but she was with us in spirit as Sisters Una and Kathy (Glencross) made a farewell journey in May. Our province through its communities, schools parishes, families and friends has been able to offer varied support to our Ursuline sisters in Ethiopia during these years, and both countries have built close bonds to the point where we have become household names to each other.

It has been wonderful to see the developments the sisters have made and how faithfully they have nurtured the spirit of their founding Italian Sisters whose aim was to raise the quality of life around them and to trust profoundly in Divine Providence. The present 62 indigenous sisters are well known in their country and are greatly valued; the contact between our two provinces has been mutually enriching.

Cafod Campaign Share the Journey: take action on the refugee crisis

Inspired by Pope Francis appeal for Refugees Cafod has proposed solidarity walks in Parishes, Communities and schools. Sister Angela Cronin has become involved in the Westgate area and our Sisters in *Lourdes* and Westgate Community have added their contribution by a trip to the sea and a prayer service outside a rented beach hut at Westgate. It was an enjoyable and moving experience for all involved and captured on Camera. See below



Una McCreesh, osu



REMEMBER



The theme for the International Day of Peace in 2018 is

“The Right to Peace “

The International Day of Peace ("Peace Day") is observed around the world each year on 21 September. Established in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution, Peace Day provides a globally shared date for all humanity to commit to Peace above all differences and to contribute to building a Culture of Peace.

CROATIA



During the school year 2017/18, the teacher of the eldest kindergarten group "Little bears" did a project with the children entitled "Children of the World". Throughout the year, they got to know children from different parts of the world and all the continents.

The objective of the project was:

- getting to know other cultures, faiths, races, lifestyles, traditions and education;
- developing a sense of tolerance, acceptance, empathy and understanding for those who are different from us, especially those who have been forced to leave their homeland and look for safety in other countries of the world.

Through stories, encyclopedias, videos, music and other diverse activities, children of the kindergarten get to know the life circumstances and culture of children in Syria, Afghanistan, Mexico, Africa, Norway, England ...

The project ended with the play "Life like mine" where children showed what they had learnt to their parents and other visitors.

Jasminka Pomper, osu



UNITED STATES PROVINCES
STATEMENT ON ZERO TOLERANCE
IMMIGRATION POLICY
JUNE 20, 2018

On World Refugee Day, June 20, 2018, the Roman Union Ursulines in the United States join with countless others in decrying the actions of our government in the zero-tolerance immigration policy being implemented at our southern border. A policy that cruelly divides families desperately seeking refuge cannot be considered just. A desire for increased border security cannot justify separation of children from their parents. Actions such as these may cause irreparable damage to young children – children who are our future.

We join with the U.S. Catholic Bishops in expressing our concern about changing asylum policy which Daniel Cardinal DiNardo has expressed:

The attorney General's recent decision elicits deep concern because it potentially strips asylum from many women who lack adequate protection. These vulnerable women will now face return to the extreme dangers of domestic violence in their home country.

This decision negates decades of precedents that have provided protection to women fleeing domestic violence. Unless overturned, the decision will erode the capacity of asylum to save lives, particularly in cases that involve asylum seekers who are persecuted by private actors. We urge courts and policy makers to respect and enhance, not erode, the potential of our asylum seekers to preserve and protect the right to life.

We recognize and affirm: Nations have the right to control immigration and an obligation to provide safety for citizens, but they do not have the right to close borders to all refugees and asylum seekers who are in need.

Our General Chapter 2013 statement urges us, “in solidarity and compelled by the Gos-

pel, we open our hearts to the cries of our earth and its people.” We are particularly mindful of refugees, immigrants especially women and children. St. Angela Merici, our foundress, reminds us to “love them all...because they are God’s children...Welcome them and bear with all of them impartially.”



VENEZUELA PROJECT

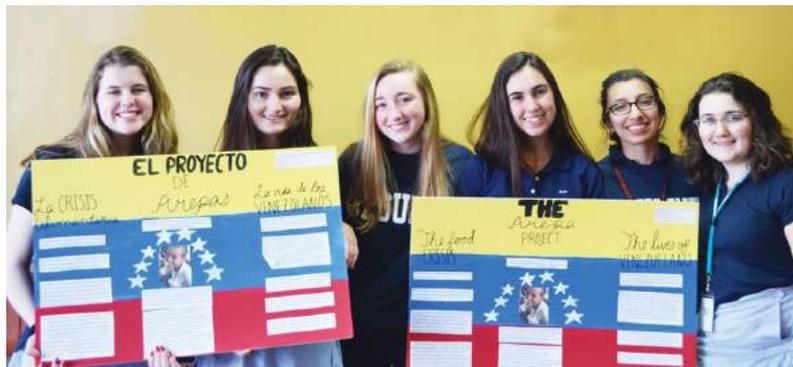


During the school year at The Ursuline School in New Rochelle, NY, the students in the Spanish 5 Honors class and their teacher Sr. Brenda Buckley, OSU, had been following the deepening humanitarian crisis in Venezuela through news reports and newspaper articles, especially the photos documenting the children suffering from severe malnutrition due to the shortages of food in Venezuela.



When information came concerning the efforts of alumnae from Academia Merici to provide a daily meal of an arepa, a traditional Venezuelan food, for the students of Corazon de Maria, a school in a barrio of Caracas, the Spanish class wanted to support this initiative of ActivatuServiam begun by the alumnae. The students realized that helping this initiative could be a response to the scenes they were seeing in the reports on Venezuela and a way to be united with the people of Venezuela.

Sr. Maureen Welch, OSU, the JPIC Coordinator for the United States, as part of the Lenten and Easter appeal for support of the work of the Ursuline Sisters and



their students to address the crisis in Venezuela, asked the Spanish 5 Honors students to prepare materials to help spread information about the campaign to feed the children. Sr. Maureen and Sr. Jacqueline Da Silva, OSU visited the Spanish class and spoke about the appeal. Sr. Jacqueline, recently returned from years of service in Venezuela, spoke of her experience at Academia Merici and about the work being done by Ursuline Sisters, students, alumnae and parents to help the most vulnerable victims of the crisis in Venezuela.

The Ursuline School students organized themselves into groups preparing a short

informative video as well as various print materials which would be circulated through JPIC. Here is the link for the video prepared by Sr. Brenda's class.

https://youtu.be/L3bj_alvkoA

The class then decided that they had to do more to support ActivatuServiam and worked on ways to raise funds for the project.

In collaboration with The Ursuline School Honors Choir, which agreed to donate to ActivatuServiam the proceeds from the sale of a CD that the group was recording, the class introduced the project to the entire Ursuline School community through a presentation of the video and a performance of the Honors Choir before the school's Lenten liturgy. The video was sent to the entire school community.

It was also sent throughout the United States by Sister Maureen Welch.

The initiative was announced at the school's spring concert.

This resulted in enthusiasm for and generous contributions to the project. At the end of the semester, a group from the Spanish class visited a popular Venezuelan restaurant, Arepa Mania, in New Rochelle. The manager agreed to post the materials the students had prepared about the appeal and stated his support and gratitude for their efforts.

Members of Sr. Brenda's Spanish 5 Class at the Ursuline School, New Rochelle Students from the Spanish class were interviewed by the Archdiocesan newspaper, Catholic New York. In response to questions about the inspiration for the students' pro-

ject, the students answered with a direct description of the meaning of Serviam and how it is at the heart of The Ursuline School's endeavors to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable: As the students explained: "It was so terribly important. We needed to do something to help them; we had to do something";" This is what the Ursulines strive for."

Through the response of the Ursuline School community and the efforts of the JPIC initiative, the contributions from the wide ranging Ursuline network have been generous and ongoing. Promotion of and support for the efforts of ActivatuServiam will also continue at The Ursuline School in New Rochelle.

Alice Marie Giordano, OSU



Please ensure that for any photos you send in for the JPIC Newsletter, and for any other publication from the Generalate, you have permission from the persons concerned to put them in the public domain.

Thank you!

Thank you very much
for your contributions!

We are looking forward to hearing from you for the next edition of JPIC Newsletter. Please send your contributions (half a page of A4 and photos) to your JPIC Promoter.

