

JUSTICE
& PEACE

EUROPE - MIDDLE EAST

NEWS

04/2020

EDITO

The Newsletter focuses on our news in Europe and the Middle East: how to think about the health crisis?

It therefore proposes a few articles, meditations and reflections to nourish our common journey.

- A meditation by Xabier Gomez, European JPIC promoter, on the theme of "fraternity in times of pandemic".
- A reflection by Cardinal Ravasi on the emergence of the coronavirus
- An article by the Italian JPIC promoter, Alessandro Cortesi

And also...

- News from the last general chapter on the role of local, regional and international promoters of JPIC
- an invitation to join the Laudato Si Week from May 16 to 24.

Finally, take advantage of the confinement to train yourself: online courses are offered 100% at a distance (scholarships).

Enjoy your reading!

Fr. Xavier Gomez et Sr. Marie Monnet, op

FRATERNITY IN TIMES OF PANDEMIC

As regional promoters we were going to write an editorial focusing on the suffering of refugees and the situation on the borders of Europe, especially Greece and Turkey. Now the Covid-19 pandemic is getting all the attention and also requires reflection. All analysts agree that after this global crisis, there will be a before and after, as after World War II.

As Pope Francis so often repeats, we live in a world where

"everything is connected" and in a "change of era". Two "signs of the times" have imposed themselves on our so-called security. I am writing this reflection from that of confinement with my neighbours in Madrid and probably when the Bulletin is among you, in many other countries of Europe and the world. This year's Lent has led us into an unforeseen desert, it has revealed that we are a single humanity connected and facing





the same challenges, the same fragilities and capacities of resistance. Viruses know no borders, neither does human suffering, and Christian brotherhood even less so, because it is universal.

This moment in its harshness will test our authorities, our economy, the prevailing values, individual and collective responsibility. I hope it will also test our solidarity. Recruited in our houses and convents we are invited to make a believing reading of what we are living. To not withdraw our gaze from the horizon that gives meaning to Christian life: even in the desert of uncertainty, fear, our eyes rest on "Easter morning".

Although it has cost us, we are able to articulate shared and coordinated responses to the challenge of the pandemic. Both within countries and between countries on the continent, also counting on collaboration beyond our borders. Together we will stop the threat to our health and lifestyles, accompanying and comforting those who are now suffering most, open to learning from this experience. This same

strategy is also the best way to stop other "viruses": aporophobia, fear of migrants and refugees, and racism. These global challenges invite co-responsibility and universal empathy. Let us assume that above and beyond homelands and "patrimonies of humanity", humanity and humanism, which is rooted in the Gospel, are the true patrimony. Let us resist and manage this pandemic together until it is overcome, inspired by two icons of the Gospel: that of the Good Samaritan and especially that of the Good Shepherd. As brothers and sisters of an international family, in the "catholicity" of the Church, let us be more fraternal, prayerful and proactive communities. Let us take advantage of the creativity and the means at our disposal to strengthen a pastoral and charitable care that knows no boundaries. By strengthening the conventual, provincial, regional and international fraternity, let us live and preach consolation, mercy and hope in the God of life, whose Risen Son "makes all things new".

Xabier Gomez

What does this crisis show us?

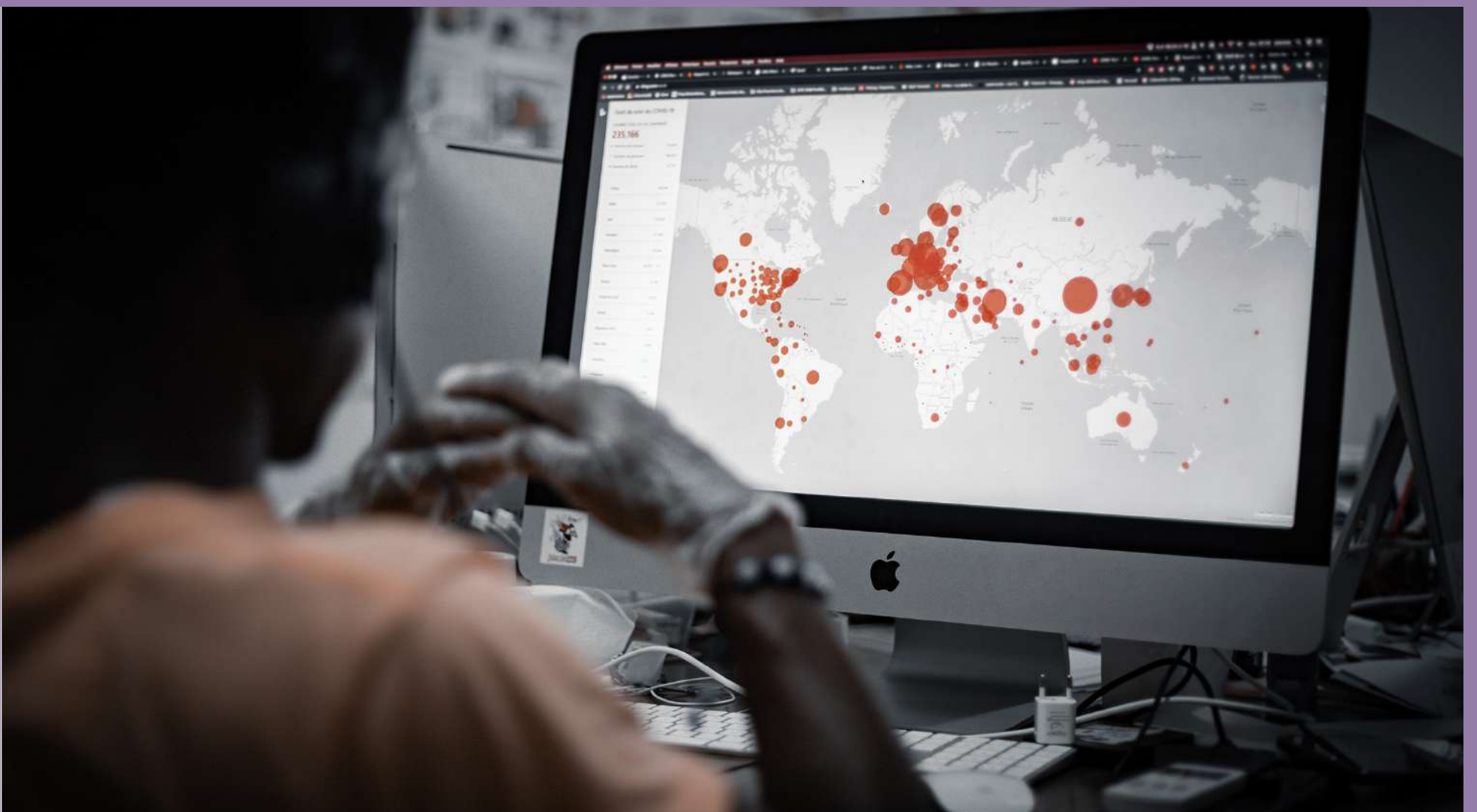
A little reflection from Card. Ravasi on the emergence of the coronavirus.

"That we see new patterns of love advancing. Let's take a picture of the nurse falling asleep exhausted at the keyboard. She's the symbol of generosity in a world that's tendentially selfish. Doctors who risk contagion are another example of love that is not rhetorical but concrete.

It's like a better scale of values is being created. Like when you're dealing with a serious illness. Even if you have a lot of money and the possibility of having better treatments, the scale of values takes on a different disposition. Affections, for example, as well as

the invocation to God of the non-believer. Not everything goes back to the concreteness of immediate selfishness. These days we are more concerned about family members, about our spouse. There is an education that is called the paideia of pain. Saul Bellow repeated that suffering sometimes serves to take away the sleep of reason and the emptiness of humanity. The superficial banality is put in crisis, and the essential becomes fundamental".

Cardinal Ravasi



REFLECTIONS ON THE PANDEMIC FROM ITALY

Fr. Alessandro Cortesi OP
Promoter of JP (St. Catherine's Province-Italy)

The pandemic caused by the Covid-19 virus arrived in Italy in February. The seriousness of the situation was not immediately apparent. Since the beginning of March, the government has determined progressive measures to close down all activities except essential services.

The rapid spread of the epidemic, especially in some regions of northern Italy, such as Lombardy, has caused a large number of deaths. So far more than 12,000 people have died from the virus. This pandemic has first of all brought great pain even in the impossibility of accompanying the dead and being close to them at the moment of death or in a last farewell with their loved ones and friends.

The state of emergency has also highlighted the suffering conditions of many homeless people who do not know where to find shelter, of prisoners forced to live in prisons where the rules of distance cannot be respected, of many foreign refugees without

support, of those who had to work even when the risk of contagion was obvious because profit motives took precedence over health care.

The closure of all work activities is also causing great suffering for families and the population: many have lost their jobs, most workers have been dismissed or have taken time off work. Only part of the work could be done telematically (Smart working) and many workers had to continue working without any guarantee of health measures.

During this period, doctors and health workers have shown great dedication, exposing their lives to the risk of contagion, and many have lost their lives. At all levels of social life, initiatives of solidarity and closeness to the weakest have multiplied thanks to civil protection and voluntary work.

This situation provokes reflection and invites us to think about how we can come out of this crisis renewed.

In the first place, the spread of the virus has led to an understanding of the fragility of a world with pretensions of omnipotence and in which projects of domination and war prevail. The invisible enemy unmasked the weakness of a world that is armed - with the weapons of finance and war - but fragile, a giant of clay, which had to be stopped despite the proclamations of inept political leaders who minimized the seriousness of the current epidemic. We don't even have the grammar to talk about this new situation of unforeseen fragility: we talk about war and we use the terminology of combat, but the epidemic is a condition of contagion that does not require war but care and makes the other person not see himself as an enemy but as an important presence to which the life of each one is linked.

This emergence has given rise to a new consciousness that had been lost: humanity at all levels is inseparably connected and interrelated. Different peoples from every corner of the Earth are living a history in which the possibility of life or death is closely linked to others. In recent years we have experienced a globalization that has generated injustices and exclusions. The interruption of the race for profit that the pandemic has provoked now opens our eyes to the fact that we are living the same human history. Only by discovering that we are united in one humanity and by paying



attention to each other can we generate health conditions and life opportunities for all.

Scientific studies have shown that the spread of the virus is closely linked to the fact that some animal species carrying the virus have been forced to change their natural habitat due to human intervention in large green and forest areas and in the devastation of ecosystems. This pandemic reveals that an imbalance has emerged in the relationship between humanity and the environment and this has also had devastating consequences for human life on the planet.

The emergency we are experiencing should be a reason for a profound revision of the economic and production system and the approach to human activities that have produced such a serious imbalance in the life of ecosystems and in the balance with life on Earth.

Finally, in these months we can see how an immense current of dedication and solidarity has moved in the face of great pain. This is a sign of a potential present in the fabric of social life and is a reason to learn a lesson for the future that will open up, a future that will see whole sectors of the population in conditions of

weakness and impoverishment. It is a question of discovering how to live new relationships marked by solidarity between individuals and peoples, in caring especially for the weakest and most vulnerable, in recognizing everyone: no human face can ever be considered a rejection and be eliminated.

The discovery that we are all in the same boat, that we are not saved alone, but only together and never in conflict with the weakest. This moment is an opportunity for a choice and decision that determines a possible different future for our societies is the lesson to be learned in this time of difficulties and so much pain.



INFORMATION ABOUT JUSTICE & PEACE PROMOTERS' DIRECTORIES

As you know, the MO promulgated the new directories with the function and roles of the General, Provincial and Regional JP Promoters. It was a request taken up by the General Chapter of Bien Hoa. The approved texts were worked on for some years by the JP Promoters General together with the Dominican International Commission for Justice and Peace. We invite you to get to know them, to spread them among the friars and sisters of Europe and especially now that we have a clearer understanding of our roles, to put them into practice with creativity and a team spirit and with a mission shared among us and as FD.

Mike Deeb, General Promoter of JP:

“ *This promulgation is indeed an historic moment for Justice and Peace in the Order, as the roles of JP Promoters at all levels are clearly defined and approved by the General Chapter for the first time. Therefore, each province or vice-province must appoint a JP Promoter, and all promoters now have clear guidelines of what they have to do and how their work should be evaluated.*

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Xabier Gomez

REGIONAL MEETING OF JP FIÉSOLE PROMOTERS JUNE 2020 SUSPENDED

For obvious health reasons, the organizing team of the Regional Meeting of JP Promoters June 2020 in Fiésole (Italy), has taken the decision to suspend or postpone it. It is not easy to foresee the evolution of events until the month of June. We hope that by then the situation in Europe and the world will have normalized, but in view of the uncertainty, we opted for suspension.

Depending on events, the Meeting could be called in September, but we will wait. However, I would like to inform the friar promoters that, as in the last two years, they should prepare a simple report with what they are doing in each province

according to their respective programmes.

I will request this brief report from each of you at the end of May. This report serves to share and inform the Dominican International Commission for Justice and Peace with the General and regional Promoters of other regions, and is also sent to the Provincial Priors and partners of the MO for Europe (IEOP). It is part of the objective to improve communication and coordination in the region.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Xabier



LAUDIT WEEK

JOINT ACTION FOR EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST / 16-24 MAY

This year 2020 the Encyclical Laudato Si', turns five years old. If we pay attention to the events of the world in our local, national and global context, we see that the diagnosis, discernment and proposals of this Encyclical added to the Social Magisterium of the Church, is more current and necessary than ever.

The commemoration of the Fifth Anniversary is an excellent occasion to ask ourselves about the reception of this magisterial text in our local churches and in our Provinces or entities. Not so much how has it been received? But how can we help the Church and the Order to implement what is proposed in Laudatus Si'?

As a regional promoter I wrote to all the promoters inviting them to consider participating in Laudato Si' Week, May 16-24, which coincides with the

commemoration of NP Santo Domingo's Transit. We propose a "common activity" to the region of Europe and the Middle East.

We can be inspired by the proposals of the website www.laudatosiweek.org.

A celebration of faith, a specific novena, special prayers, specific formation on the theme, on-line formation, promotion of the care of the culture of life, of fraternal relationships and of the relationship with the environment (with concrete actions on the personal and community levels, etc.).

This common action in Europe and the Middle East is an opportunity to join an initiative of the Universal Church. We are invited to share it with the other entities and provinces.

Xabier et Marie

PRAYER RESOURCES FOR LAUDATORY WEEK SI' 17-24 MAY 2020

**O God of the poor,
help us rescue the abandoned
and the forgotten of this land that are so valuable in your eyes.**

**God of love,
show us our place in this world
as instruments of your love for all beings on this earth
(Laudatus Si', 246).**

**God of Mercy,
grant us to receive your forgiveness and
transmit your mercy throughout our common house.**

Praise be to Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Meditations with the Holy Rosary for Laudatory Week Si' 14-24 May 2020

<https://catholicclimatemovement.global/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Rosary-Meditations-Care4Creation-Month.pdf>



COURSES IN ENGLISH

**HUMAN RIGHTS 1
INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP RIGHTS**

**HUMAN RIGHTS 2
A CHRISTIAN VIEW**

SOCIAL POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

**CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE
MODERN THEORY OF HUMAN
RIGHTS: LACK OF A COHERENT
THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

**INTRODUCTION TO
INTERNATIONAL HUMAN
RIGHTS LAW:
THEORY AND PRACTICE**

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW

INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC LAW

**INTERNATIONAL
HUMANITARIAN LAW**

**JOHN LOCKE'S EPISTEMOLOGY
AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY**

**POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY: AN
INTRODUCTION**

**INTRODUCTION TO
PHILOSOPHY OF LAW**

COURSES IN ITALIAN

**INTRODUZIONE ALLA DOTTRI-
NA SOCIALE DELLA CHIESA**

**INTRODUZIONE ALL'ETICA
POLITICA**



COURSES IN SPANISH

**DOCTRINA SOCIAL DE LA
IGLESIA**

**LA TEOLOGÍA DE BARTOLOMÉ
DE LAS CASAS**

FILOSOFÍA MORAL Y POLÍTICA

**LOS DOMINICOS Y AMÉRICA:
ALGUNOS PERSONAJES
DESTACADOS**

LA ESCUELA DE SALAMANCA

MISIONOLOGÍA DOMINICANA



REGISTRATION

Domenican participants may receive scholarships to attend courses and seminars.

Thank you for writing to JPIC@domuni.eu



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