



NEWSLETTER

No.1 / February to April 2020

UPDATES ON JPIC OFFICE

We, Pauline Macharia, IBVM and Adina Balan, CJ, arrived in Rome at the end of January, set with ideas of how we would settle down, learn Italian, set up office and just get things going. And we did kick off to a good start: registered with the language school and begun to not only have a feel of the language but also of our surroundings! And a gentle rhythm of office work in the afternoons in order to begin working together and bonding. Little did we know that the world around us was shifting fast, COVID 19 was redefining the entire world as we knew it. We thank God because we have kept well through it all and continue to stand with the many people of our world suffering in one way or the other.



COVID 19 ACTIONS



We are aware that in different parts of the world, the Mary Ward family has been on the forefront in giving service to those who need it the most at this time. Thank you for reaching out, for prayer and supporting those who have been pushed to the margins. It is a challenging moment for all of us but we take courage in knowing that in moments like this when we feel vulnerable, the grace of God is sufficient to carry us through! May we remain hopeful for we are an Easter People!

KOREA

Sisters in Korea sewed cotton masks with their own hands for participating as contribution towards combating covid-19. They donated the masks to the vulnerable who needed them but couldn't get them, especially the immigrants in collaboration with the Daejeon Diocese.



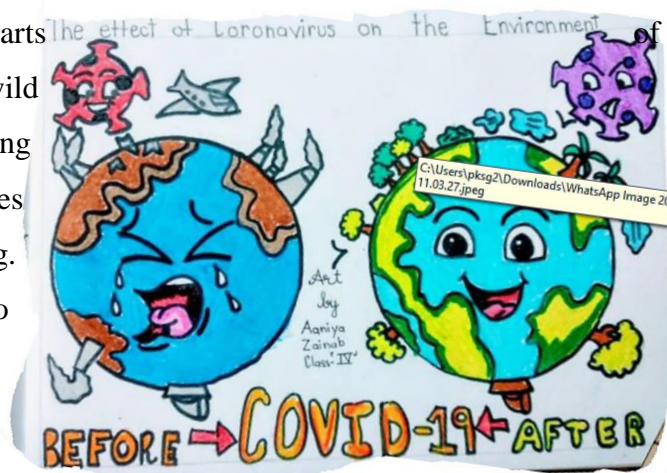
Seoul community, including the eldest sister made sandwiches and lunch boxes for health care workers and volunteers in the local community. Hyehwa community also made and shared side dishes that could be kept for a long time for senior citizens who live alone in the local community. In the lunch boxes, they packed not just the food but also messages of love.

THE EFFECT OF THE CORONA VIRUS IN THE ENVIRONMENT

Corona virus is a war with the environment which leads to pandemic. It is the latest new infection disease which causes a respiratory illness. The message from environmental health experts, it is the pandemic sweeping across the world. There is an inter connection between COVID-19 and environmental crises even though they sound unrelated. According to the reports of the doctors and the scientists we come to know that most of the infection diseases in people come from different types of animals. At present situation deforestation, is more rather than afforestation.

Therefore, clearing up the forest in different parts of the world removing habitat, and bringing wild animals closer to human settlements. Hunting wild animals for sell is the risk of diseases transmission from animals from human living. Types of diseases transmitted from animals to human beings are HIV/BIRDS FLUE etc. likewise infectious diseases like scars and COVID-19 is also thought to have originated in bats and transmitted to human being through

another animal host. COVID-19 a war with environment which leads to pandemic. Many lives are gone. Many lives are quarantined. Let's not forget to join together, to fight such a panic attack. (*Chuzong Lepcha*, Class 5; Loreto Convent Lolay, India)



NEW ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES

Here in Rome we are part of a vibrant JPIC network and we feel blessed to not only represent our two branches but also appreciate the networking and solidarity that comes with it. The JPIC ministry is at the heart of expression of our religious life. Participating in the working groups that deal with Integrity of Creation, Migration, Anti-trafficking, Africa Working Group, is a rewarding experience.

- Facebook page – Mary Ward JPIC Office. Please like and follow our page, and we would appreciate if you could invite your friends, colleagues, families to follow us. Feel free suggest or propose items and articles that we could post! Help us to make it a tool of communication and bringing the Mary Ward family together.
- The JPIC website development is in progress; (www.marywardjpico.org) will be launched soon. Your contribution will be critical so that it is not only keep it updated but will also form a strong network that has materials and resources that can benefit all. Please share with us your resources, toolkit and other materials, no matter the language.
- Anti-trafficking – in February Talitha kum launched a Documentary: Wells of Hope’ shows how Christians, Muslims are fighting trafficking together. Find more on www.talitha-kum.info.
- February was also the month when 6th International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking was celebrated, on St. Bakhita Day. The next event on human trafficking will be held in July, on the International Day of fight against human trafficking.
- Global Catholic Climate Movement organizes each year in March a *Laudato Si* animators online training.
If you are interested, please visit <https://catholicclimatemovement.global/animators/>.
- Earth Day celebrated – this year marked its 50th Anniversary. The theme was Climate Action. We are grateful to the JPIC coordinators for sharing the activities on Earth Day; here we share some articles and pictures received.

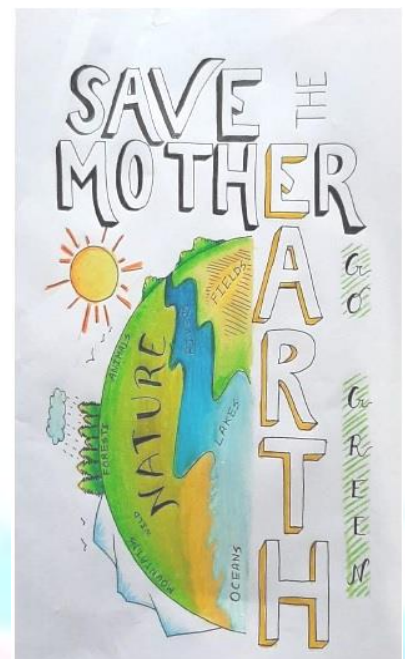


INDIA

Some students in India made some short videos on caring for the earth in which they symbolically dressed in green outfits. They also made re-usable grocery bags made of old clothes, face masks, posters, and old t-shirt paintings. They also made bird feeder and water baths in their balconies and terraces.

DELHI PROVINCE

Covid -19 has put the entire nation of India under lockdown from 24th March, 2020. Therefore, on the Earth Day 22nd April, all our communities had an hour of prayer imploring God’s Mercy upon



our earth. In order to experience our closeness to the earth, the sisters in some of our communities cleaned the surrounding, watered the garden and did some weeding. It was to say ‘We thank you Earth for letting us live!’

Ghana



“The picture I share with you was an immediate response to Earth day, it was right timely that the IBVM Community Ghana has to be in solidarity with nature by planting and taking care of more plants after the fall of one of the trees around the compound few days back due to heavy rain. At least 5 seedlings were planted and a few more already growing on the campus. In the evening, the community prayer focused on the day’s Event with a reflection by Pope Francis at the Audience during the day. The members shared

their reflections and petitions on behalf of Mother Earth. On the other hand, JPIC officials collected data on how various congregations went about the Activity of the day to be processed for national report. Praise be God for mother Earth where everyone one of us dwell.” (Nancy IBVM- Ghana)

AUSTRALIA AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA PROVINCE

Libby Rogerson, IBVM, wrote an important statement addressed to UN officials asking them to increase their efforts to bring industrialists and farmers together to discuss, plan and take action on that most fundamental of human needs – water. “Last year Australia, the driest continent on the planet, saw a prolonged drought morph into the worst bushfire season in the world’s history. But lack of water, due to climate change, is a global issue, as we have seen in many countries, and it is imperative that the UN, as well as bringing industrialists and farmers together, continue its efforts to bring nations around the table to reduce emissions and support the SDGs.” **Please visit:** <https://www.loreto.org.au/earth-our-mother-our-home-our-future/>

LAUDATO SI ANNIVERSARY

This year marks its 5th Anniversary; an encyclical that is a real gift to humanity by Pope Francis. He invites us to caring for mother earth through hearing the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. From 16th – 24th May 2020 is *Laudato Si* week. We would appreciate if you could share with us what you are doing in your provinces/regions



to mark this day. Very soon we will send you a proposal of a program for the week and if all goes well, we hope to organize an online prayer service with the coordinators on **22nd May 2020 at 9.00 am Rome time, in English**. Zoom details: Meeting ID: 897 1348 1316, Password: 6F1N8t and **3:30 pm Rome time, in Spanish**. Zoom details: Meeting ID: 834 3415 9044; Password: 6U83Jj.

In the meantime, please visit <https://laudatosiweek.org/> for more ideas and suggestions.

OTHER ISSUES

Our role as the JPIC Coordinators:

- Network with other JPIC coordinators (and participate in activities and programs)
- Be JPIC contact persons for the 2 branches
- Work with the Mary Ward Family – the sisters, staff, co-workers, parents and pupils, and Friends of Mary Ward to promote JPIC in a specific Mary Ward way: in line with the Just Soul.
- To motivate, encourage and support JPIC activities across the provinces/regions
- Network JPIC works across the provinces/regions
- Facilitate trainings and formation for JPIC
- Communication on JPIC matters



We draw our support from:

- Our constitutions, General Chapter directions or calls, 2006 JPIC Hand book (IBVM), Mary Ward Spirituality, the Catholic Social Teachings, Laudato Si, online resources and meetings with other JPIC coordinators here in Rome as well as with our IBVM/CJ members.

We appreciate deeply that some JPIC issues are specific in different regions and provinces. We do not wish to leave anyone behind; please share them with us so that the entire Mary Ward JPIC family are informed able to be more supportive. Feel free to send them on our email address: [**jplic@mary-ward.org**](mailto:jplic@mary-ward.org).

Text and design: Pauline Macharia, IBVM and Adina Bălan, CJ