

WUCWO




UMOFC

## World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations

Please send this Newsletter to all members of your organisation.

Thank you very much!



*"I bring you good news: today a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord." – Luke 2:11*  
*"Je vous annonce une bonne nouvelle: aujourd'hui il vous est né un Sauveur, qui est le Christ, le Seigneur." – Luc 2,11*  
*"Os anuncio una buena noticia: os ha nacido hoy un Salvador que es Cristo, el Señor." – Lucas 2,11*

**Merry Christmas! Joyeux Noël! ¡Feliz Navidad!**

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| World Union<br>of Catholic Women's<br>Organisations | Union Mondiale<br>des Organisations<br>Féminines<br>Catholiques | Unión Mundial<br>de las Organizaciones<br>Femeninas Católicas |
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**Maria Giovanna Ruggieri**  
President General

**Fr. Gerard Whelan**  
Ecclesiastical Assistant

### WUCWO met Pope Francis



During the Board meeting in Rome, President Maria Giovanna Ruggieri, Vice-President Maribeth Stewart and Treasurer Dominique Jacquemin-Mangé met the Holy Father at the general audience on 22 November. Previously, Mons. Paul Gallagher, Secretary for Relations with States of the Secretariat of State, had celebrated the Eucharist together with Ecclesiastical Assistant Father Gerard Whelan at the tomb of St. Peter for all the Board members. [Read more.](#)

## Relaunch of the International Forum



Mons. Vitillo, Secretary General of ICMC with Maria Giovanna Ruggieri, President General of WUCWO

Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of the Vatican State, together with some 30 Catholic-inspired organisations represented in various international agencies in New York, Paris, Rome, Strasbourg, Vienna, Geneva, Brussels, Nairobi, Madrid and Addis Ababa as well as the apostolic nuncios in charge of the Holy See's Mission in these cities, participated in the meeting of the International NGO Forum which was relaunched with a new modality. The President General represented WUCWO, which will be particularly active in the areas of Family and Education.

## WUCWO spoke at UNESCO

The international representative at UNESCO, Maryvonne Kayser, delivered a speech introducing the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations to all the representatives of States at the 39th session of the General Conference on 6 November in a plenary session of general policy. This speech marks a milestone in the oral contributions of our organisation at the international level. [Read more](#). A few days later, the video on Ecology made by WUCWO on the occasion of the Fatima General Assembly was shown at the Climate Change Forum. [Watch video](#).



## Regional Conference of Latin America and the Caribbean



The Conference was held in Antigua, Guatemala (October 26-29). It was organised by the Regional Vice President, Imelda Escobar, with the cooperation of the other Board members from the Region. In the light of the problems of women and the family in the Region, and encouraged by the Word of God and the teachings of Pope Francis, nearly 100 women from 10 countries and 22 different organisations worked and studied guided by the theme: "Family, seed of a humanised society." Maria Giovanna Ruggieri and Marfa Lía Zervino were two of the speakers. [Read more](#).

## Migration and trafficking



Together with the Talitha Kum network and the other institutions that make up the Committee of the International Day for the Eradication of Trafficking, WUCWO co-organised a seminar on "Migration and Trafficking" at the LUMSA University in Rome on 28 November, with some 200 participants, mostly young people. The President participated together with 20 young Nigerian immigrants living in her own city. She also spoke on 1 December, at a meeting organised by the Women's section of the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life, entitled: "Francesca Cabrini, patron saint of immigrants: a saint for today".

## "Let us be at stake"

"Let us be at stake" is a national campaign against the risks of gambling. It is an initiative born in Italy in 2012 to raise awareness among people and institutions on the real characteristics of gambling in Italy and its social, economical, and health consequences. Its task consists also in making proposals to regulate the phenomenon, providing data and information, catalysing the commitment of many subjects that - at national and local level - are mobilised for the same ends. Italian Catholic Action is one of the promoters of the campaign.



## Venezuelan Catholic Action celebrated its 90 years



On November 18, Venezuelan Catholic Action celebrated its 90th anniversary with a Eucharist presided over by His Excellency, Apostolic Nuncio Mons. Aldo Giordano. Next, the President, Nelly Franchi de Madrid, recalled the history and the challenges of today's Venezuela, which is undergoing a profound crisis. She also encouraged to always have in mind the challenges posed by Pope Francis, who calls for a greater lay leadership to overcome poverty and exclusion, and achieve a world of justice, truth and peace.

## Next General Assembly in Dakar, Senegal



One year before the next General Assembly, WUCWO Board met in Rome from 20 to 24 November to define the contents and approach of the Dakar 2018 General Assembly, which will be held from 15 to 22 October, under the slogan: "WUCWO Women, Carriers of "living water" to a world which thirsts for Peace." It will have a "synodal" style and the SEE, JUDGE and ACT method will be used. All information will be sent in January to each member organisation, as stated in the Statutes. Hail Mary, and let's go forward!