

WUCWO Day



On the 13th May, in Rome, Holy Mass was celebrated by the Ecclesiastical Assistant, Fr. Whelan, to mark WUCWO Day. The President General, Maria Giovanna Ruggieri, Virginie Rothey, member of Femina Europa and WUCWO International Representative at UNESCO, Elsa Tosi from Acción Católica Argentina and ex WUCWO Board member, together with the Secretary General, Maria Lia Zervino, and administrative assistant Virginia Pastor were present. Prayers were said for all of the organisations and women across the world who belong to WUCWO,

particularly for those who are suffering, who are deceased and also for encouragement for WUCWO to insert itself even further in the journey of mercy laid out by Pope Francis. A fraternal breakfast was held afterwards.

Asia Pacific regional conference



WUCWO Asia Pacific Region Conference began with a beautiful Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral Suva, Fiji on Sunday 1 May, 2016. The conference took place over six days with the theme "In Hope and Mercy we meet in God's Love". Two hundred delegates from Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand, Philippines, South Korea, Tonga, Vanuatu with the majority of delegates from the thirty four parishes across Fiji and of course, WUCWO President General, Maria Giovanna Ruggieri, from

Italy. Reports were received from India and Lebanon. The key topics covered were based on the Resolutions of the General Assembly in Fatima Portugal 2014. After six busy days, the Conference ended with a Farewell Island Night and Feasting after which it was home again. Thank you to all who attended and especially to the CWL Fiji who, despite the devastation of Tropical Cyclone Winston, presented and organised a great Conference.

Upcoming presentation of *Amoris Laetitia*



A presentation of Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation on the Family, similar to the one held in Rome in April, will take place at the June session of the UN Human Rights Council. Along with the Permanent Mission of the Holy See in Geneva to the UN and the Pontifical Council for the Family, WUCWO as coordinator of the Family Working Group at the Forum for Catholic inspired NGOs in Geneva, will invite representatives from different countries and NGOs with ECOSOC status to present the content, reflect together and discuss the scope and implications *Amoris Laetitia* has in the current climate. It will be the first time this document will be presented at the United Nations Human Rights Council.

Promoting dignified work



The Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, Caritas Internationalis, and the International Labour Organization held a Seminar on “Sustainable Development and the Future of Work in the Context of the Jubilee of Mercy”, in Rome (2-6th May), in which Father Whelan, WUCWO Ecclesiastical Assistant participated. They were encouraged by Pope Francis’ prayer Intention for May: “The contribution of

women in all areas of human activity is undeniable, beginning with the family...We have done little for the women who are in very difficult situations - despised, marginalized, and even reduced to slavery ... It is a prayer - that in all countries of the world women may be honored and respected and valued for their essential contribution to society.”

Children with AIDs



Caritas Internationalis with UNAIDS, PEPFAR and the Vatican’s paediatric hospital Bambino Gesù invited WUCWO, represented by the Secretary General and faith-based organisations from around the world to analyse the success and challenges facing children living with HIV and to develop strategic plans in order to extend early diagnosis and life-saving treatment to all children living with HIV. A roadmap was launched detailing what needs to be done by 2020 to prevent more children dying from AIDS-related illnesses. (Rome, April 2016).

An Iraqi Catholic woman invited to the European Parliament



Femina Europa invited Pascale Warda, to the European Parliament for a conference on the 7th April on the role of Christian communities in the Middle East. The participants recalled that only Christians know how to make peace because they follow the request of Christ to forgive one’s enemy. Accompanied by Alix Lejard, Femina Europa delegate, Pascale Warda, ex-minister for Refugees of the Iraqi government, president of NGO Hammurabi, and participant in the WUCWO General Assembly in Fatima, made an intervention to say that if the Middle East is at peace,

so too will Europe. If the Middle East is at war, so is Europe. She stressed the cultural and charitable importance of Christian NGOs on the ground and the need for unity and fraternity.

Interview with specialist on rural education in Argentina



Beatriz Esteves, a member of Misiones Rurales Argentinas, WUCWO member organisation, and a specialist in education and rural teacher trainer for more than 28 years, spoke to La Nación, an Argentinean broadsheet, about day to day life in the most remote schools in Argentina. She explained what these schools can offer to the country and what their needs are. The majority of students come from situations of extreme poverty.

ACF



At Action Catholique des Femmes, new people are often called to take on different responsibilities. Thus, training sessions are often organised at the national level. Women come from different regions across France, full of good will and eager to serve, they are welcomed at the ACF headquarters. The leaders were formed by a team at the national level according to the roles they taken on in the organisation. All of the participants reflected on the way in which they thought they should manage their responsibility. The journey finished with the new leaders going out on new missions. In March and June, there are training sessions for those women who will become spiritual assistants.

News from Senegal



The Mouvement des Femmes Catholiques du Sénégal started the year with an important event: opening Mass was celebrated on the 24th January 2016 at St. Peter of Baobab Parish followed by a talk on Ecology drawn from Pope Francis' Laudato Si and then a visit to the *Jardin des Pères*. The international day of Ecumenical Prayer was celebrated in Senegal on the 27th February. The women continue to carry out works of mercy for the sick and children in need. On the 15th May 2016, they shared a memorable day with Muslim sisters from Sindia and the following day they made their annual pilgrimage with all of the Dioceses of Senegal.

A Minute for Peace

With Pope Francis

A MINUTE FOR PEACE

Everyday but especially on **wednesday 8th June at 1.00 p.m.**
Anniversary of the prayer meeting for peace promoted by the Holy Father.

Wherever you happen to be at 1.00 p.m., stop, bow your head and pray for peace; everyone according to his own tradition.

+ Add your commitment and your continuous prayer for peace in all the world: In your family, at your place of work, in your neighbourhood, in your city.

"With everybody's good will and collaboration we could reap fruits of peace and start building a fraternal society, which respects the dignity and the rights of every citizen". Pope Francis

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For the third consecutive year, WUCWO, the International Forum of Azione Cattolica and Acción Católica Argentina are organising the international campaign: "A minute for peace", to mark the International Day of Prayer for Peace convened by the Holy See and Pope Francis on the 8th June 2014, in the Vatican gardens, in the company of the presidents of Israel and Palestine. Please, spread this campaign within your organisations, across your countries, and through social media by sharing this flyer and coming together in prayer for peace. Thank you very much.

