

WUCWO Newsletter November 2015

We would like to invite our organisation members to make the most of this digital newsletter service by kindly sending your latest activities, with accompanying photos (in jpeg.), to the Secretariat before the 20th November. In turn, we would like to share with you a new institutional video about WUCWO which can be found on the homepage of our website: www.wucwo.org

We would like to ask you to ***forward this email to the members of yours organisations***; we are counting on you for spreading this news. Thank you very much.



The Synod as experienced by WUCWO

Two WUCWO members at the Synod



Agnes Offiong Eroguyane, National President of the Catholic Women's Organisation of Nigeria, who was invited to the Synod to the Family, said that African women are noted for the care they take of their families with or without the help of their spouses. She added that the Boko Haram insurgency shows the strength and the role of women dedicated to keeping their families united in the face of the chaos.



Giuseppina De Simone, member of *Azione Cattolica Italiana*, WUCWO member, was invited again along with her husband (she had already participated in 2014); on this occasion she was part of the contributors for the Synod Secretary General.

Contributions from organisations on the role of women

With regards to the *role of women*, point 30 of *Instrumentum Laboris*, used as a foundation for the Synod, WUCWO member organisations offered their contribution to the Pontifical Council for Family, at the request of its President Mgr. Vincenzo Paglia. On the 30th October, the President General, the Ecclesiastical Assistant and the Secretary General will meet with Mgr. Paglia to devise a path along which to walk together in light of the experience which will come from Synod.

Walking with the Synod

Whilst the Synod was taking place in Rome, with the presence of our President General, a cycle of meetings entitled: *Walking with the Synod*, on the 8th, 15th and 22nd October, was organised by WUCWO, *Azione Cattolica* and IFCA, in order to dialogue with the Synod Fathers, spouses, female auditors of the Synod from across different continents, and journalists. There were several interventions from: Cardinals Gualtiero Bassetti, Archbishop of Perugia (Italy) and Charles Maung Bo, Archbishop of Yangon (Burma); Bishops Fouad Twal, Patriarch of Jerusalem (the Holy Land), Baltazar Porras Cardozo, Archbishop of Mérida (Venezuela), Roberto Gonzalez Nieves, Archbishop of San Juan (Porto Rico), Pedro Laxaque, aide to Bahia Blanca (Argentina), Franco Brambilla, Vice President of the Italian Episcopal Conference, Petru Gherghel Bishop of Iasi (Romania), Marcelo Gonzalez Amador, Bishop of Santa Clara (Cuba) and Mihai Cătălin Frăţilă, Bishop of Bucharest (Romania); Sister Carmen Sammut, UISG President and lay people: Franco Miano and Giuseppina De Simone (Italy), Maria Gomes (Arab Emirates), Agnes Erogunaye (Nigeria) and Marcela Mazzini (Argentina).

Information on the Synod

During the Synod, the WUCWO Secretary General attended the press conferences at the Vatican Sala Stampa on behalf of *Women's Voice*. This first hand information will be shared on our website and in the Magazine, as well as in the weekly radio broadcast *Women: sowers of hope*, which is making particular focus on the comments and interventions of the Holy Father.

Supporting the Family at the United Nations



On the occasion of the next session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, recently issued a call to gather information on States' implementation of the Resolution on the Protection of the Family, adopted in July earlier this year. For this, the Working Group for the Family of the Forum of Catholic Inspired NGOs, coordinated by WUCWO, **launched a review of 'good practices' with relation to the family** with particular reference to the eradication of poverty and integral development, to gather examples of actions that organisations, inspired by the Gospel, are carrying out in different countries.

NCCW Convention



The nearly 700 attendees of the 2015 National Council of Catholic Women's annual convention in Orlando, Florida, were surprised by the guest appearance of Mickey Mouse and a special presentation on the 95 years of NCCW history at its **95th birthday luncheon celebration**. The NCCW convention is the annual gathering of women leaders from Catholic women's organizations in parishes and dioceses throughout the United States. The theme of this year's

Convention was "Be the Voice of Catholic Women: Sowers of Hope." New officers were installed at the closing liturgy: Sheila Hopkins as President, Maribeth Stewart as President-Elect, and Jean Kelly as Secretary.

Manos Unidas: training days

Each year from the 23rd to the 25th October, volunteers from Manos Unidas meet for training days. The organisation holds these days dearly and dedicates a lot of time and effort to them.

After having studied the background paper for LVII 2016 Campaign, they organised a trip to Paris to support the Campaign for the planet, as was requested by Pope Francis in the encyclical *Laudato Si*. The Campaign will be held during the Summit which takes place in Paris from the 9th to the 13th September.

S.O.S. Nigeria

The National Council of Catholic Women Organisation Nigeria is into helping the displaced members of the organisation especially in the north. We do this by providing them with relief materials to keep them going and as much as possible we try to make them happy in spite of all they are going through.

Some of our women have lost their lives, lost their children and husbands to the Boko Haram insurgent but yet they are so courageous and resilient in their faith. We ask you all to join us in prayers. Thank you.



Regional Vice-President at the Symposium on the Pastoral Care of Migrants

The International Symposium on the Pastoral Care of the Road/Street (in response to the phenomenon of street children, street women and their families) was held in

Rome from September 13-17 with participants from 42 countries, representing all the continents in the world and 12 catholic institutions and religious congregations. Mrs. Rosaline Menga who doubles as WUCWO Vice President for Africa and the President of the Association for the Promotion of Women and Children (APWAC) was among those invited to this meeting.

Good News from India



We would like to offer our congratulations and say that we are very glad to announce that the Council of Catholic Women of India have decided to move from 'associated member' to become a 'full member' of WUCWO. It will be a pleasure to present this topic at the next Board and General Assembly meetings. Briefly, some of their activities include: providing school assistance to poor Christian children whether ensuring they have a school to

attend or helping with the provision of necessary materials; providing financial help to women who find themselves in distress; helping those in need find employment; and ensuring elderly citizens receive the medical assistance they require.