

## WUCWO Newsletter October 2015

### Maribeth Stewart Wedding Announcement



It is with great joy that we announce to you that our Vice-President General, Maribeth Stewart, got married to Dr. Walter Blogoslowski on September 19 at St Lawrence Church her local parish.

We express, on behalf of WUCWO, to her and her husband all your **congratulations**. May the Holy Spirit accompany them in their new life together and may their family life be a bright witness of the love of our Lord.

### Request of His Holiness: accommodation for a family of refugees



The Holy Father constantly asks us to open our hearts to those who are forced to abandon their home and belongings and seek refuge in other countries. Now, he has asked that every parish in Europe offer accommodation to a family of refugees. As WUCWO women, committed to the promotion and respect of human dignity, we want to respond promptly to the invitation of Pope Francis and urge our reality to act with courage. For this reason, our President General,

Maria Giovanna Ruggieri, together with our Vice-President for Europe, Araceli Cavero Pérez, wrote a **letter to all European organizations members of WUCWO**, on September 17<sup>th</sup> 2015 (See the letter...).

### WUCWO at an International Conference in Fribourg



The Director of the Observatory of Finances of Fribourg, Prof. Paul Dembinski, invited the Secretary General of WUCWO, Maria Lia Zervino, *Servidora*, as the coordinator of the Family Working Group within the Forum of Catholic Inspired NGOs in Geneva, to the International

Conference: ***The Common Good between the Past and the Future***. The event, which took place from the 3rd to the 5th September 2015, was sponsored by Mons. Ch. Morerod, Bishop of Lausanne, Geneva and Fribourg and the Most Revd and Rt Hon J. Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, Church of England.

### **Working together against Human Trafficking**



WUCWO, under the direction of Sister Gabriella Bottani, director of Talitha Kum, together with several other international organisations including UISG, *Caritas Internationalis*, the Pontifical Council for Migrants, the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, and 'Slaves No More', is preparing for the **International Day Against Human Trafficking which will be celebrated on the 8th February 2016**, feast of St. Bahkita, in Rome and across the world.

### **Interconfessional Platform for Women of Ivory Coast (IPWIC)**



Preceded by a National Day of Prayer with the participation of women from different faiths, on the 9th September 2015 the Platform (IPWIC) was officially opened. The President of which is Mrs. Jeannette Touré, President of *Association des Femmes de l'Eglise Catholique de Côte d'Ivoire (AFEC)*, WUCWO member organisation. It is **a contribution towards peaceful elections and social cohesion in the country**. AFEC, with real success, has called on all women not just Catholics, but also women of the United Methodist Church, Evangelists, Muslim women, Harrist, Papa Nouveau, Messianic (the last three are African religions based on Christianity) so that the country can be built in tolerance.

### **Homage to the Pope: From the countryside to the big stage**

On September 21<sup>st</sup>, 1953, Jorge Mario Bergoglio, heard the call to the priesthood of Our Lord, who said, "By mercy, I choose you". Indeed, that sentence reads on his papal coat of arms: *miserando atque eligendo*. On this anniversary, on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015, young people from "Growing in Harmony" and "Choirs for Equity" along with important national artists gave a concert **in honor of Pope Francis, at the Teatro Colón, in Buenos Aires, Argentina**. "Growing in Harmony" is a project of the *Asociación Argentina de Cultura*,



member of WUCWO, to promote children and young people from poor and excluded rural areas.

### The Union of Catholic Mothers England (UCM)



The UCM members have lobbied their Members of the Parliament (MPs) **to vote against a Bill that was being brought before Parliament.** The Bill would have brought in a law that would enable doctors to give assistance to critically ill patients who wanted to commit suicide. Attendance of MPs at the session when the debate took place was unprecedented but there was a strong majority against

the Bill. We hope that successful lobbying will inspire others to further engage in public debates which affect the well-being of all God's creation.

### Mary's Woods, Philippines



The members of the Catholic Women's League of Philippines take care of land donated to them and have planted many trees, flowers and plants in order to have a peaceful nook where anyone can go and take time to rest, known as Mary's Woods. **The project was envisioned as one of a nationwide reforestation and beautification** and has since been replicated all across the country from

parish grounds to public parks or vacant land. The latest project was Our Lady's Garden within the Manila Cathedral grounds, inaugurated by Cardinal Antonio Tagle.