Feast of the Sacred Heart

"The Sacred Heart is the Heart of the heart of the world, the Center of the center of the Universe."
Teilhard de Chardin

During this time of global pandemic, it is only fitting that we pause to recognize and remember with freshness the legacy of devotion to the Sacred Heart that Nano left us. The compassionate Heart of Jesus is a significant symbol for us. It invites us to live in love and communion, to listen with compassionate hearts to the joys and hopes, griefs and anxieties of our time, to act justly and to walk humbly with Earth and the community of all life.
Compassion, Creativity and Communion are the gifts of the Spirit during these troubled times to journey from: I to WE to US. Our human compassion binds us to one another as human beings who have learnt how to turn our common suffering into hope for the future. So, we pray to Awaken our hearts.

[Click here for the prayer for the Feast of the Sacred Heart]

*From the IPA Spirituality & Charism Committee PBVM Srs. Terry Abraham, Maria Lazzaro, & Dorothy Scesny*

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**Update from the Programme Action Leader**

During May, the world celebrated *Laudato Si* Week, honoring the 5-year anniversary of the encyclical’s release. It offers wisdom into our lives as Presentation People and is as relevant today as it was five years ago.

The quote above from *Laudato Si* was embodied during our “Chicago” and “Bangkok” Gatherings. The sharing of stories, the passion for justice, the spirit of Nano, and the love for one another was evident in both sessions. I felt and continue to feel incredibly humbled to be among women and men who are making a significant difference locally and globally as IPA.

This Update and the May Update have been filled with stories and photos of Presentation People responding to COVID-19 in meaningful and practical ways. Thank you, thank you, thank you, for sending in your stories, participating in the Gatherings, and continuing to be a light of hope. May we continue to inspire and walk with one another on this journey.
In peace and gratitude,
Mary Therese Krueger, PBVM
IPA Programme Action Leader

The IPA team is grateful to have virtually gathered and listened to our Justice Contacts from Oceania, Asia, Africa, Europe and North America as we discussed the IPA Strategy.

Update from the UN IPA NGO Representative

Dear friends, mark your calendar on June 26th, 2020! It is the UN Charter Day!!
International Organization, and came into force on 24 October 1945. Peace, justice, human rights and dignity, tolerance and solidarity are enshrined in the UN Charter. At a time of great disruption for the world, amid the COVID-19 global health crisis with severe economic and social impacts, the UN is marking its 75th anniversary by launching an ambitious initiative to give voice to the public; to listen to their hopes and concerns; and to learn from their experiences. Since January 2020, the UN75 initiative has sought to spark dialogue and action around the world and across borders, sectors and generations on how we can build a better world despite the many challenges we face.

In this context, I as the IPA NGO Representative, uttered my voice by declaring #MakeUN75Count in a video created for the UN75 People’s Declaration and Plan for Global Action. The IPA endorsed this Declaration and Plan for Action, entitled “Humanity at a Crossroads: Global Solutions for Global Challenges.”, which was released during the UN75 People’s Forum for the UN We Need (May 14-15, 2020) that I also attended. You can watch a creative and moving rendition of 'The People’s Declaration and Plan for Global Action' filmed by individuals globally from the confines of their home during this pandemic here.

The UN Charter opens with the words “We the Peoples of the United Nations.” These words put people at the center of the UN. Hence, with this declaration and relevant video, “we the peoples” sent a strong message to the UN and Member States that a stronger multilateral system is needed as a matter of urgency. We need to #MakeUN75Count by enhancing the mandates of the bodies established to oversee SDGs implementation, like the HLPF.

I kindly ask you to join this large and inclusive global conversation on the role of global cooperation in building the future we want. Visit the UN75 website and take the one-minute survey. Your responses to this survey will inform global priorities now and going forward. It is vital that your voice is heard at this crucial time for the world. Your views will be presented to the world leaders and senior UN officials at the official commemoration of the 75th Anniversary during the UN General Assembly in September 2020. Civil society has played an indispensable role in the creation of public awareness and political change in the past. We lay the groundwork for a better future for all. We can determine how fast the world recovers, whether we achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and how well we address global challenges. On UN Charter Day, let’s recommit to working toward the values enriched in this document, which belongs to all people!!

Respectfully,

Dr. Despoina Afroditi Milaki
IPA NGO Representative at the UN
Presentation People Responding to COVID-19!
Click the blue buttons below to read more

Dubuque, Iowa, USA’s COVID-19 Litany

St Rita’s College, Clayfield (Brisbane, Australia)

Students from St. Rita's College spent part of their holiday sewing scrub caps for local doctors while catching up over zoom.
Student's from St. Rita's College enjoy some fun with the teachers' innovative ways for online learning.

A letter writing initiative to the elderly, veterans and healthcare workers offering virtual hugs which has been immensely popular and for which the students have received many return letters and emails of thanks and praise.

Click here to read some of the letters that were written!
The unskilled migrant workers and the daily waged laborers were hit the hardest by this uncertainty in Jammu & Kashmir, India. Hungry, helpless workers were simply left to fend for themselves by their contractors.

Sr. Sneha being a Delhi Minority Commission member, coordinated with government machinery and religious groups. She monitored the quality of food served by NGOs and the neglected Muslim areas by government machinery themselves to ensure that no community will suffer based on religion.

Prernalaya's Community's (Delhi) Reflection on COVID-19

People at Harsh Nagar slum were not given ration for their survival, because they don’t have ration cards. Srs. Lalitha and Basanti went to listen to their stories of not having food for few days and homelessness. The very next day, the Deepanjali Trust Presentation Community distributed rations to 35 families. Srs. Nisha, Teresa, Basanti and Lalitha were distributing rations to the slum people. They also communicated to the local authorities to reach them out continuously.
With the help of Jesuit fathers of Jahangirpuri Parish, the Bhalswa Presentation Community helped 106 families in and around Bhalswa. They have instructed our staff to help the people of their area with needed help line numbers. The sisters shared their garden vegetables with their neighbors. Ration was given to the construction workers by Sr. Jessy Lobo.

Sr. Nisha, PBVM's Poem: A Lock Down a Blessing in Disguise

Sydney, Australia's Response
New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

Hotel Hope, which provides short-term emergency housing, has continued to provide housing for women and their children with rooms at a local hotel during this crisis. Sisters Mary Lou and Julie check on families regularly to monitor their health, bring breakfast, lunch and snacks and provide weekly laundry service. Hotel Hope volunteers deliver a hot meal each day. The sisters pray daily for the health and safety of those around them and patiently await the day when the city lifts the quarantine so these families can prepare to move into their own homes. Sisters Mary Lou and Julie continue to receive crisis calls and expect a higher number of homeless families in the weeks ahead.

England’s Response

Wagga Wagga, Australia's Response
Blue Mountains East Timor Sisters are a group of volunteers who work in friendship with women in East Timor, Australia to help develop opportunities in their country.

Upcoming Webinars

9 June - "Are We in Danger of Alienating our Female Talent?" (Hosted by Caplor Horizons) Learn more here - Register here
10 June - Living Laudato Si': Reflection on a Global Plan (Hosted by Sowing Hope for the Planet) Learn more here
10 June - Science, Technology & Innovation for the SDGs and COVID-10 Recovery (Hosted by UN DESA) Learn more here

Upcoming Dates

1 June - Global Day of Parents
3 June - World Bicycle Day
4 June - International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression
5 June - World Environment Day
8 June - World Oceans Day
12 June - World Day Against Child Labour
15 June - World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
17 June - World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought
19 June - Feast of the Sacred Heart
19 June - International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict
20 June - World Refugee Day
26 June - UN Charter Day
26 June - International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
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