Justice Contact Update
April 2021

Spirituality and Charism Reflection

Earth - Our Whole and Holy Home
As we gather...take a few moments to focus on your breathing...in...out...let your breath lead you to the depths of your inner soul...breathe there...in ...out...breathe with one another...breathe with Earth...breathe with Earth’s peoples.

We invite you to watch (with a companion if possible) this short video - Our Whole and Holy Home - a global world view seen through the eyes of International Space station astronauts enabling us to see earth as an indivisible wholeness...one shared place...one home for us all.

Take some time for personal reflection...

*What has stirred in your heart as you watched this video?*

*What does this ask of you in the way you respond to the cries of Earth?*

*How does Mother Earth nourish and expand your experience of the divine...open a new window into Mystery?*

Jot down in your journal any thoughts that are with you.

Share with a friend.

Let us pray with one another across the globe.
One home as vast as the universe, one universe filled with Presence, one Life within every life.

In the darkness of the night in the stillness that surrounds us in the unknown depths of our being we pause to listen…

\[\text{to be still}\]

\[\text{to be aware.}\]

Amen.

_Spirituality and Charism Committee_
_Presentation Sisters, Terry Abraham, Maria Lazzaro, & Dorothy Scesny_

Click here for a copy of this month’s reflection

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**Programme Action Leader Update**

![Image of Hope](image-url)
“We are not myths of the past, ruins in the jungle, or zoos. We are people and we want to be respected. Not to be victims of intolerance and racism.”

*Rigoberto Menchú Tum*, Guatemalan Feminist, Indigenous Rights Activist and Peacemaker

This Update is filled with great stories and good news from Presentation People around the world. Despite the ongoing pandemic, we continue to find new life with and among each other.

Throughout the month of March, the world celebrated women and IPA focused our efforts at the United Nations by hosting the parallel event during the 65th Commission on the Status of Women, “Transforming Gender Stereotypes: Making the Uncomfortable Comfortable”. Many Presentation People attended the webinar and showed their support of our IPA NGO Representative, Dr. Despoina Afroditi Milaki. We thank you for your commitment and support for IPA at the local and global level!

Alongside our UN Advocacy focus of “Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children”, April brings into view the intersectionality of our two additional foci: care of the Earth and the rights of Indigenous and Tribal peoples. The world celebrates International Mother Earth Day on April 22nd. May we take some time to reflect on how the Earth has been cared for by Indigenous and Tribal People, especially by women. The United Nations begins the 20th Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. May we take some time to reflect on how the issue of violence continues to affect Indigenous and Tribal women and children at a higher rate.

As we celebrate the Easter season, I pray we can recognize the good in our lives and rejoice in who we are as Presentation People. We are people of hope. We are people of love. We are people of the Resurrection.

Please continue to send in your stories and reflections. IPA would love to hear of what is happening in your local area! Thank you!
In peace and gratitude,

Mary Therese Krueger, PBVM
IPA Programme Action Leader

Click here for a PDF of this update.

IPA NGO Representative Update

Dear friends,

The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) is a high-level advisory body to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The Forum was established on 28 July 2000 by resolution 2000/22, with the mandate to deal with indigenous issues related to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights. The first meeting of the Permanent Forum was held in May 2002, with yearly sessions thereafter. In addition to the six mandated areas, each session is thematically focused on a specific issue.

It is widely known that the 2020 session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues was postponed due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The UN ECOSOC decided that the 20th session of
the **Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues** would take place from 19 to 30 April 2021 at the UN Headquarters in New York. The special theme of the session will be: *“Peace, justice and strong institutions: the role of indigenous peoples in implementing Sustainable Development Goal 16”*. Here is the Calendar of meetings for the two weeks of the Permanent Forum. The Forum will take place in a hybrid format with mostly virtual (online) meetings. Participation of indigenous peoples’ organizations and civil society will not be possible in-person and will take place only online.

In preparation for the 2021 session, the Permanent Forum has organized a series of regional dialogues for an in-depth consideration of the situation of indigenous peoples in each of the seven socio-cultural regions of the world. The overarching goal of the regional dialogues has been to contribute to policy development and decision making that affects indigenous peoples and promotes the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. You can find below the sessions, themes, objectives and recordings (wherever available) of these dialogues:

- **Central and South America and the Caribbean**: 27 and 29 October 2020 (available only in Spanish)
- **The Pacific**: 12 and 14 January 2021
- **Asia**: 18-19 January 2021
- **Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia**: 3-4 March 2021
- **North America**: 9 and 11 March 2021
- **Arctic**: 23 and 31 March 2021
- **Africa** (more info to come soon)

**Gender-Based Violence and Indigenous Women and Girls**

Our IPA UN Advocacy Focus for 2020-2022 is the elimination of violence against women and children. Indigenous women and girls are disproportionately affected by violence and discrimination. Violence against indigenous women and girls cannot be separated from the wider contexts of discrimination,
poverty and exclusion to which indigenous peoples as a whole are often exposed in social, economic, cultural and political life. Challenges – such as land dispossession, conflict, insecurity, displacement, low rates of birth registration, limited access to culturally appropriate education and health services (including sexual and reproductive health), the lack of access to justice and other essential services, including social services – create conditions affecting their development, human security and the exercise of their human rights. These conditions ensure that indigenous women and girls do not benefit to the same extent as their non-indigenous counterparts from services which would otherwise protect them from violence and enhance their ability to seek redress when it does occur.

Indigenous women and girls are also at increased risk of violence in communities that conform to deeply-rooted patriarchal systems and practices that relegate women and girls to subordinate roles and positions in society. Furthermore, the COVID-19 global pandemic has disproportionately affected indigenous peoples around the world, especially indigenous women and girls, thus deepening existing inequalities and discrimination.

In many regions, indigenous women face disproportionately high rates of domestic violence, sexual abuse and exploitation, along with harmful practices. In the United States, the statistics from the National Institute of Justice show that 84 percent of Alaska Native and American Indian women have experienced some form of violence in their lifetimes, ranging from psychological to sexual and physical violence. In 2018, police-reported data in Canada showed that the homicide rate for Indigenous women and girls was nearly seven times higher than amongst non-Indigenous women and girls. In an emergency context, like the COVID-19 pandemic, the risk of violence against women and girls, especially domestic violence, rises due to increased tensions at home (UN Women, 2020). Furthermore, due to quarantine, social distancing or self-isolation in response to COVID-19 women, including indigenous women, are at an increased risk of danger as possibilities to escape domestic violence diminish.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), adopted in 2007, marks a turning point in the history of indigenous peoples. It calls for actions to address the common experiences of discrimination and exclusion faced by
the estimated 370 million indigenous peoples across 90 countries. In particular, Article 22 of the UNDRIP calls on States “to take measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination”. Today the Declaration is the most comprehensive international instrument on the rights of indigenous peoples. It establishes a universal framework of minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of the indigenous peoples of the world and it elaborates on existing human rights standards and fundamental freedoms as they apply to the specific situation of indigenous peoples. Click here to access the full text of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. An adolescent friendly version of the Declaration can be found here.

It is critical that indigenous peoples, often among the most vulnerable members of society, are not left behind. Indigenous peoples are inheritors and practitioners of unique cultures and ways of relating to people and the environment.

Stay safe everyone!!

Respectfully,

*Dr. Despoina Afroditi Milaki*
IPA NGO Representative at the UN

Click here for a PDF of this update.

Grassroots Updates
In late February and mid-March 2021, two groups of Justice Contacts gathered virtually. Sister Ann Marie Quinn, IPA Executive Director, in her welcome said, “So much has happened in our world since our first gathered in May 2020. Little did we know ten months ago, the unprecedented challenges that COVID-19 would have on our world and the impact it continues to have on our own lives and the lives of the people we journey. You, Justice Contacts, have shown remarkable resilience in these challenging times in how you have engaged with our IPA Strategy 2020-2021 Priority Actions and for that we are very grateful.”

The objectives of the gatherings were:

1. To review the progress of the IPA Education and Action for Justice 2020 -2022 Strategy implementation.
2. To understand more about IPA’s involvement in Priority Actions 2 (to honour and advance the rights of the Earth) and Priority Action 3 (to honour and advance the rights of Indigenous and Tribal people), and to develop a further sense of the spirituality that underpins these Actions.
3. To remind us to think about how the priority areas are connected to IPA’s UN Advocacy Focus (Elimination of Violence against Women and Children)
As an IPA Team, we were grateful for the conversation and input from each Justice Contact. Once again, it was a pleasure to partner with the Caplor Horizons Team, who facilitated the gatherings. We plan to share the record of these gatherings in the near future.

Where Do You See Yourself in IPA?

Fostina Moonga and Yvonne Rukuni, Novices, Africa Unit

As Presentation novices, we are inspired by the life of our foundress, Nano Nagle, who faced the challenges of her time by fighting poverty, educating the children of the poor and also teaching them their Catholic faith. She also visited the sick and worked for justice at the most difficult moment of the penal laws in Ireland.

As young sisters and as members of IPA, we are trying to live our life in the spirit of hospitality by welcoming everyone who comes to our door. Be it rich or poor, we help where can, even if it's just offering a slice of bread and water. We try to be compassionate toward the poor, people made poor and mother earth made poor by both people who are aware and not aware of the harm they are doing.

Today, millions of people are the victims of land, air and water pollution. Many trees have been cut down, which have greatly
contributed to climate change. Therefore, we try to sensitize people about the danger and consequences of the harm done to mother earth. We teach them how to use water sparingly, saving electric energy, to re-cycle, reuse and reduce, to separate the degradable and non-degradable wastes and how to make compost manure. We also emphasize on buying things that we need and not want. We take part in days such as environmental day, tree planting day, water day, etc.

During this time of the pandemic, we made masks to give people and we contributed some money in the feeding programme for front line workers. We also pray for those who have the virus and for the frontline workers. We also pray for those who are being trafficked especially girls, drug addicts, and the wounded, brokenhearted. We do pray for justice throughout the world and that one day we too will be the voice for the voiceless, especially, women, children and the physically challenged as Nano did during her life time.

Today Nano is depending on us.

Presentation Sisters and Associates Support Teen Power Against Human Trafficking

Sister Pat Davis, San Francisco Justice Contact, Conference of Presentations
Associate Loretta Nekota and Sister Rita Jovick, PBVM, virtually attended the 2021 Teen Power Summit sponsored by the San Francisco Collaborative Against Human Trafficking. The event was for ages 13 and up as well as families, teachers and other professionals working with youth. Sister Rita was one of the judges of the Teen Poster Contest. The contest was open to middle and high school students attending public, private, or home schools in San Francisco and the greater Bay Area. Posters reflected this year’s theme “My Body. My Mind. My Life.” The first, second and third place artists received cash prizes and will be recognized by the San Francisco officials during Human Trafficking Awareness Month.

In addition to the Summit, Sister Gloria Loya, PBVM, who represents the issue of human trafficking for the Diocese of Monterey, is facilitating gatherings with teens, for teens from five local high schools. Input from the teens and a guest speaker comprise the agendas for the meetings.

Read more here

“Young Pressies Service Group” at Iona Presentation College in Mosman Park, Western Australia
Year 7 – 12 students in the “Young Pressies Service Group” at Iona Presentation College in Mosman Park, Western Australia have recently engaged in a short term education and advocacy project around how women and children specifically are impacted by homelessness (reflecting Priority Action: To honour and advance the rights of Women and Children). Their focus is first to “see, then judge, then act”.

During their lunchtimes, the students have been listening to guest speakers from a range of organisations including Peter Vernon from the Salvation Army Outreach Program and Melanie Watkins from St Patrick’s Community Support Centre in Fremantle; both wonderful local organisations that works to help those who are homeless or who are at risk of being homeless.
The girls were surprised to learn that domestic violence is amongst the top 2 reasons in Australia that women and children can become homeless. Additionally, that when considering the impact of Covid-19, women lost more jobs than men in Australia (almost 8% at the peak of the crisis compared to 4% for men) and there are over 15,000 people in Australia on the waitlist for social housing with an average wait of 2.5 years.

The power of story in inspiring a call to action cannot be underestimated when working with young people. Making “homelessness for women and children” real in their local context has encouraged the students to begin to formulate an action plan that is student-led, achievable and educational. They will carry out their project in a few weeks time. Raising young people with a strong moral compass and a strong sense of justice is a huge part of our holistic Presentation education.

Global Sisters Report: Q & A with Sr. Anastasia Gill, rushing in to assist victims of Delhi riots
(Photo: Presentation Sr. Anastasia Gill, a member of the Delhi Minority Commission, in her office in New Delhi (Jessy Joseph)

Click here to read the article featured in Global Sisters Report

2021 Tasmanian Honour Roll of Women

Presentation Sisters Gabrielle Morgan, Marilyn Fryett, Majella Kelly & Monica Shelverton represented the Tasmanian Presentation Congregation as they were listed in the 2021 Tasmanian Honour Roll of Women.

Read more here

Planting and Growing Seeds of Peace
Kay O'Neil and Michelle Meyers, Aberdeen Presentation Sisters had the distinction of receiving the first annual Artisan of Peace Recognition by the South Dakota Pax Christi Chapters, via Zoom, on Saturday, February 27, 2021.

Read more here

In Good Faith with Sister Richelle Friedman, PBVM from the Dubuque Presentation Sisters
“Sister Richelle Friedman, PBVM, is Director of Public Policy at the Coalition on Human Needs in Washington, D.C., USA. She has over 30 years of legislative experience on a wide range of issues, with the goal of strengthening the economic reality of low-income families. Her recent work with the Coalition includes efforts to advance the American Rescue Plan, a coronavirus relief package with help for millions of families living in poverty.”

Listen to the podcast here

IPA Webinar: “Transforming Gender Stereotypes: Making the Uncomfortable Conversation Comfortable” - Parallel Event for the UN Commission on the Status of Women
Click above to view the webinar “See, Say and Do Something: Raising Awareness on Human Trafficking” featuring Ireland and UK Justice Contact, Brian O’Toole
Click above to watch a collated video of all the videos submitted for the 2020 International Day of the Girl.

Click above to view the playlist of the videos submitted for the 59th Session of the UN Commission for Social Development.

Click above to watch a video on digital technology and its impact on social development during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Click above to view a playlist of videos showcasing grassroots experiences towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
Webinar of the launch of the report “Toward 2030: Grassroots Experiences with Inequalities”

COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS: Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) Training

SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 2021
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Virtual Training sponsored by the Sisters of the Presentation
The training will take place virtually on Zoom.

The signs of the times call for courageous conversations. Join us for this practical, interactive workshop to help us individually and collectively raise awareness of non-violent communication. Practical applications will offer multiple ways to prevent potentially harmful or abusive situations. Activities embedded throughout the day will raise awareness, challenge thinking, open conversations and inspire leadership!

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?
Anyone interested in hosting courageous conversations!
Participants will increase skill and knowledge in:
• Practicing foundational principles of communication
• Sharpening verbal and listening skills
• Deepening courage to engage in transformational conversations.

ABOUT THE FACILITATOR
Alan Heisterkamp, Ed.D., serves as Director of the Center for Violence Prevention and Mentors in Violence Prevention Leadership Institute at the University of Northern Iowa. He coordinates the implementation of Mentor Violence Prevention Strategies training and outreach among Iowa’s higher education and PreK-12 educational systems in Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota and has presented at several state and national conferences.

How to Register
EARLY registration is strongly encouraged. Space is limited. Please honor your registration commitment.

Click the link to register:

Questions?
Email adminsister@sistersofthepresentation.org

Register here
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Women in the COVID-19 Crisis: Disproportionately Affected and Protagonists of Regeneration

The pandemic has increased the vulnerability of countless women across the globe. There is a need to pay close attention to the experiences and struggles of women so they can fully participate and flourish in the regeneration of human systems and the creation of new development models that are more respectful of people and the earth.

Working Group 2
Situation, Analysis and Proposals
Ecology | Economics | Health | Security

Women in the COVID-19 Crisis: Disproportionately Affected and Protagonists of Regeneration - Executive Summary - Vatican COVID Commission: March 2021
Upcoming Webinars

9 April - Monthly *Laudato Si’* Prayer Service (GCCM) - [Register here](#)

10 April - “Courageous Conversations: Mentors in Violence Prevention Training” (Dubuque Presentations) - [Register here](#)

15 April - Engaging the Vision of *Laudato Si’* (Sowing Hope for the Planet) - 2pm-4pm *Rome time* - [Join the meeting here](#)

26 April - “Nano Nagle’s Experience of Cultural Diversity in her Early Years” (Nano Nagle Place) - 17:00 *Ireland time* - [Register here](#)

7 May - Monthly *Laudato Si’* Prayer Service (GCCM) - [Register here](#)

4 June - Monthly *Laudato Si’* Prayer Service (GCCM) - [Register here](#)
Upcoming Dates

4 April - International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action - Learn more

5 April - International Day of Conscience - Learn more

7 April - International Day on Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda - Learn more

7 April - World Health Day - Learn more

7-8 April - UN ECOSOC Forum, New York

19-30 April - 20th Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues - Learn more

21 April - World Creativity and Innovation Day - Learn more

22 April - International Mother Earth Day - Learn more

24-30 April - World Immunization Week - Learn more

24 April - International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace - Learn more

April 26-29 - 77th session of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Bangkok - Learn more

28 April - World Day for Safety and Health at Work - Learn more