Justice Contact Update
January 2021

Spirituality and Charism Reflection

Awakening to the Spirit

Today
I
Do not
Want to step so quickly
Over a beautiful line on God's palm
As I move through the earth's
Marketplace
Today.

I do not want to touch any object in this world
Without my eyes testifying to the truth
That everything is
My Beloved.

Something has happened
To my understanding of existence
That now makes my heart always full of wonder
And kindness.

I do not
Want to step so quickly
Over this sacred place on God's body
That is right beneath your
Own foot

As I
Dance with
Precious life
Today.

~ Hafiz ~

The Gift - Version of Hafiz by Daniel Ladinsky

Be ... Be still ... just BE ...

Allow yourself to awaken to the Holy Presence at the dawning of
a New Time...and dance with this precious gift.

Spirituality and Charism Committee
Presentation Sisters, Terry Abraham, Maria Lazzaro, & Dorothy Scesny
Programme Action Leader Update

“A soul of hospitality and a heart of humanity is a house of love, peace, freedom, liberty and justice.” ~ Auliq Ice

2020 has been a year filled with surprises and unforeseen challenges. Together, Presentation People have embodied a soul of hospitality and a heart of humanity. We have worked together to address injustices that were increased by the COVID-19 pandemic. Locally and globally, we have made an impact through our actions. We have reflected on our purpose individually and collectively as IPA.

As we enter this new year, may we continue to work together as Presentation People for love, peace, freedom, liberty and justice. May we embrace change with grace and openness, knowing we are not in this world. We have each other.

In peace and gratitude,

Mary Therese Krueger, PBVM
IPA Programme Action Leader
Dear friends,

The world celebrates the International Day of Education each year on 24 January, a day proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly to honour education and its centrality to human well-being and sustainable development.

The right to education is enshrined in article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The declaration calls for free and compulsory elementary education. The Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted in 1989, goes further to stipulate that countries shall make higher education accessible to all.

Today, 262 million children and youth still do not attend school; Six out of ten are not acquiring basic literacy and numeracy after several years in school; 750 million adults are illiterate, fueling poverty and marginalization; 617 million children and adolescents cannot read and do basic math; less than 40% of girls in sub-Saharan Africa complete lower secondary school and some four million children and youth refugees are out of school. Their right to education is being violated and it is unacceptable.

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a global learning disruption of unprecedented scale and severity. The closure of schools, universities and other learning institutions, as well as the interruption of many literacy and lifelong learning programmes, has affected the lives of 1.6 billion students in over 190 countries.
Without inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong opportunities for all, countries will not succeed in achieving gender equality and breaking the cycle of poverty that is leaving millions of children, youth and adults behind. Ambitions for education are essentially captured in Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) of the 2030 Agenda which aims to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all” by 2030. As the new year begins, now is the time to step up collaboration and international solidarity to place education and lifelong learning at the centre of the recovery and the transformation towards more inclusive, safe and sustainable societies.

This year UNESCO will celebrate the International Day of Education on Monday 25 January 2021 under the theme ‘Recover and Revitalize Education for the COVID-19 Generation’. The global event for the Day will be planned along three main segments: learning heroes; innovations, and financing. It will be organized in partnership with the UNESCO New York Office, UNHQ, the Global Partnership for Education and the Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies (CRI), and feature the participation of partners from the Global Education Coalition.

We, as IPA Members and Presentation People, believe in education - formal and informal - as a vehicle for transformation at a local and global level. For over 200 years, the Presentation Sisters have had a strong focus on educating young people, especially girls. This legacy has remained strong to this day. Education is a human right, a public good and a public responsibility!

Stay safe everyone!!

Respectfully,

Dr. Despoina Afroditi Milaki
IPA NGO Representative at the UN

Grassroots Updates
Presentation Sisters in Dabwali, Haryana, North India took part in the rally Nation bandh to support farmer's rights. The children's parliament helped to lead the rally for 2000 people. Present were activists, farmers, women, youth, farmer's union of Sirsa, Anganwadi and Midday Meals Women's Group in Haryana.
IPA is involved in a Sustainable Agriculture group in Dominica. The Presentation Sisters follow their activities online, have contacted the Civil Society group active on Human Rights, and also the person working for Dominica Broadcasting station (DBS) to find out if they could help in disseminating information on SDG’s, UDHR and CRC to the public.
Annmary Andrews, PBVM taught a child who is learning online. In the lesson, she came across an exercise where the child had to complete an exercise ‘One Earth, One Home’. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s) were integrated into the school curriculum and the child of age 6 is taught to segregate waste, do composting, to grow plants to protect Mother Earth and all living beings. Today the family has managed to start composting, stop using plastic bags, promote local markets and growing potted plants.

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Justice Contact Features
Pat Prunty, PBVM

Location
Sioux Falls, South Dakota, United States of America

Experience
6 years as a Justice Contact

Words that Inspire
"Jesus touched the blind men’s eyes and said, "According to your faith let it be done to you"; and their sight was restored. Jesus warned them sternly, "See that no one knows about this." But they went out and spread the news about him all over that region." Mt 9:29-31

I see that justice is so needed in our world and that Religious Women are positioned to speak and act for change. As part of a group that recognizes that the establishment is too established toward social change, I am encouraged to work with others for social change.

Thank you Sister Pat!
#FeatureFriday
Philippines - Union of Presentations

Analee Garciano, PBVM

Location
Binalbagan, Negros
Occidental, Philippines

Experience
2 years as a Justice Contact

Words that Inspire
"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on." Mt. 6:25

Thank you Sister Analee!
#FeatureFriday

I am passionate with education for all, and in particular education for the underprivileged. Education with the right attitude and values frees us from the chain of poverty and oppression. Many of our people who are poor are the most vulnerable to all forms of injustice and oppression because they don’t have confidence, voices to resist and worst knows nothing of their basic rights to live in a just and humane society. Education gives one the confidence to stand against and defend oneself.
Pakistan - Union of Presentations

Shazia Lal Gill, PBVM

Location
Rawalpindi, Pakistan

Experience
Newly appointed as a Justice Contact

Words that Inspire
"Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless" Mother Teresa

Thank you Sister Shazia! #FeatureFriday

“Nano Nagle’s life often inspires and invites me to deepen my relationship with God, the source of our energy and to listen to the voices of all those around us who are at the periphery and to build a fair and just society, as Jesus and Nano did in their own times.”
Upcoming Dates

4 January - World Braille Day - Learn more

14 January - World Logic Day - Learn more

24 January - International Day of Education - Learn more

24 January - World Day for African and Afrodescendant Culture - Learn more

25-26 January - Climate Adaptation Summit - Learn more

27 January - International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the victims of the Holocaust - Learn more