"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

- Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.
This is my inheritance!  
I am Divine. I am made of God.  
So are you!

"Human trafficking is an open wound on the body of contemporary society, a scourge upon the Body of Christ. It is a crime against humanity”  
Pope Francis

At this time in our story we hold the trauma of trafficking for centuries that is held in the hearts of many of our sisters and brothers. Their Sacredness is violated again and again.

Stop desecrating the body of Christ.

How is the Body of Christ wounded by trafficking where you are?

How does it disturb you? Have you a story to share?

How do you help to reclaim our original blessing?

Seek out couple of others with whom to share. Keep your journal.

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

Spirituality Resources

Update from the Programme Action Leader
The month of June has brought to light several injustices happening in our world. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect the whole world and has resulted in increased domestic violence, poverty, homelessness, food scarcity, and numerous other issues. In the United States, the systemic issue of racism has been brought to full light, especially in the context of police brutality against the black community shown in the video of the murder of George Floyd. Locally, Chicago has had a large increase in gun violence with 533 people shot and 83 killed which relates back to the impact of structures of racism and the social economic impact of COVID-19 on communities of color.

As I attended protests, marches, and prayer services, I found myself reflecting on the importance of stories and narratives. What is the narrative we tell others of the impact pandemic of COVID-19? Do we talk about racism, colorism, and tokenism
when we talk about cultural diversity and inclusion? Do we look at the root causes of violence and work with those affected by violence to end violence?

Around the world, protests and marches were happening, bringing to focus that black lives matter. However, many protests centered around the life and killing of George Floyd on May 25th. What about Breonna Taylor who was killed by police on March 13th? Women lives matter. Black women lives matter. As one of our IPA foci, I found myself recognizing the continued call to advocate for the lives of women and children who have been victims of racism and police brutality. I felt the need to make sure our voices are not being silent.

One particular protest touched my heart and challenged me to look at IPA in a new light. It was a protest solely decided to Breonna Taylor on her birthday June 5th. She was a 26-year-old woman, an emergency room technician who had been working extra shifts throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The police forcibly entered her home without a warrant, in the middle of the night, and shot her at least 8 times. Two months later, no one was held accountable for her murder.

How many women voices are left silent? How many women’s lives are lost without outcry and outrage throughout the world?

As we share our stories across IPA, I am reminded of the need to focus on giving voice to those who have been silent. The protest organized by Ashabi Owagboriaye, a Nigerian American woman, called forth the voices of black women to lead the chants, to voice their experiences, to lead the march for justice. It was a powerful reminder of who needs to be at the center of our work for justice and how we need to continue to work for justice alongside our sisters and brothers. Our role is to be an ally and an advocate. It is also to allow for people to speak their truth when they are facing injustice. It is our moral responsibility to make sure they have a prime seat at the table and are leading the vision when advocating for change.

Imagine the transformative power of stories such as Breonna Taylor’s or of the many women and children we come across each day in our local context. Let us continue to give voice to these women, share their stories, and amplify their voices to work for justice.

In peace and gratitude,

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

As you are aware, the United Nations high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) annual meeting is the core UN platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. This year’s theme will be "Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development ". The HLPF will take place under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) from 7 to 16 July 2020, with a ministerial segment from 14 to 16 July. The high-level segment of ECOSOC, including the three-day ministerial segment of the HLPF, will be held from 14 to 17 July. The HLPF will adopt a Ministerial Declaration as the outcome of its session. The UN is planning for a fully virtual HLPF, given the limitations imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic on in-person meetings and international travel.

The importance of the HLPF in the situation we are facing with the COVID-19 pandemic is more than obvious. As the President of the ECOSOC noted, "The HLPF is a key platform where we can discuss how to address the impacts of the pandemic and move forward in a better way, so as to get back on track to accelerate progress towards the SDGs during the decade of action and delivery."

As part of its follow-up and review mechanisms, the 2030 Agenda encourages member states to “conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven”. These Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) are expected to serve as a basis for the regular reviews by the HLPF. The VNRs aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The VNRs also seek to strengthen policies and institutions of governments and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.
This year, five countries (Ecuador, India, Peru, Papua New Guinea, Zambia) where the IPA has presence in, will present their Voluntary National Reviews. In this context, the IPA contribution to the HLPF process can be outstanding. The Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGoS) are currently the best way to engage in the HLPF process, given the COVID19 restrictions. The MGoS have distributed a link (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfDwQFuXANEPwheUVbQ8fhjtQFq42J6SpNAACGIfqNGUHeA/viewform) to a form that the civil society actors from each of the VNRs countries can fill out in order to be part of the focal points groups that draft the MGoS response to the VNRs during the HLPF 2020. You can submit the form, regardless of the deadline that is specified on this form. I would strongly advise the IPA Sisters and People to participate in this process. You will be given the chance to share your inputs or info concerning major issues in each country that you are present and has a VNR for this year. You will be able to connect with others that have expressed interest in the same VNR country (this is also a great opportunity for partnerships!!) and you can work all together with the MGoS in compiling collective statements and questions to your VNR country. For your own convenience, you could also take a look at your country’s VNR documents/report and their main message here so as to figure out the gaps or what is missing in these reviews, based on your experience on the ground.

You can find the programme of the HLPF (as of June 28, 2020) here.

All official meetings will be broadcast via the UN Web TV here. It is important to try and watch, as much as possible, of these meetings, so as to be able to follow what your country officially states at the UN level and compare it with what the government actually says or does within the country level. It might be some discrepancies there.

All special events and side events, as well as the VNR Labs, will be virtual. More details about all events and how to register are available here.

The dates for the five IPA countries with Voluntary National Reviews presentations are the following:
-Ecuador, Friday July 10th, 2020 (2:00-4:00 pm NYT)
-India, Monday July 13th, 2020 (9:00 am – 12:00 pm NYT)
-Peru, Monday July 13th, 2020 (2:00 pm-4:00 pm NYT)
-Papua New Guinea, Wednesday July 15th, 2020 (2:00 pm-4:00 pm NYT)
-Zambia, Thursday July 16th, 2020 (9:00 am-1:00 pm NYT)

Click here to find the 2020 Voluntary National Review for each country.
For main messages from the 2020 Voluntary National Reviews presented by each Member-State, please click here.

Last, but definitely not least, Brian O’Toole (our IPA Justice Contact from Ireland and UK) has created a very useful website on the HLPF 2020 with comprehensive information and resources on meetings, schedule, special and side events, future records from the sessions etc. Great idea Brian! You can access it here. Another wonderful example on how the IPA Justice Contacts can engage in the UN work and happenings!
Stay safe everyone!!

Respectfully,

Dr. Despoina Afroditi Milaki
IPA NGO Representative at the UN

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Update from the Grassroots

Here is a video summary of our Bangkok Justice Contact Gathering created by Gemma Thompson and the Justice Contacts from Australia & New Zealand.
Binalbagan Catholic College in Brgy, Philippines prepared its adopted community and introduced to students the concept that clean hands have a direct relationship to being healthy and prevent illness. Faculty and staff distributed hygiene kit containing alcohol, hand soap, hand towel, and other hygienic needs to 324 students.
United Kingdom's Response

While we are no longer on the “front line” – we have realised that we can share our selves and our spirituality and the wealth of experience of reflection and prayer. The response has been amazing with people letting us know that they have enjoyed the “different” ways of praying, reading the reflections and being amazed at what they have read and realising they need to, and indeed want to, read more.
Rosemma and Gennet, two asylum seekers who share the Presentation house in Nechells, deeply appreciate and value the spacious peaceful garden. Rosemma helps to care for the flowers and takes a great interest especially in the birds. She said they remind her of the freedom she doesn’t have but hopefully, will experience some day.
Is it possible that through this crisis God has been creating the conditions for change? Through our slowing of pace and deepening of the contemplative spirit, we are learning a new language and creating a new awareness of the beauty of the wonderful world of nature all around us and hopefully resolving too, to protect it in every way.

Sr. Nisha, PBVM's Poem: COVID-19 Put Us On Call
Lusaka, Zambia

Sister Mary Lucey, PBVM making face masks with Presentation Novices Fostina and Yvonne for those in need. They also had a day of fasting on the 14th May and donated funds to buy food for the front line workers.
Our response to COVID-19
In these challenging days of social distancing, self-isolation, and enormous stress and distress, we want to extend our heart and our prayer support to each of you - our faithful friends.

We have set up aPresentation Prayer Hotline
When you call, text or email, a Sister will respond to you and bring your prayer request to the whole congregation and all Presentation Associates.

Wherever you are, please, don’t hesitate to use the Presentation Sisters Prayer Hotline.
Phone or text # 845-332-6846
Email: PBVMPrayers@sistersofthepresentation.org

May you experience God’s love.
The Australian Presentation Sisters are leaving a legacy to Tasmanians in keeping with the commitment of their foundress, Nano Nagle.

Celebrating Laudato Si

Presentation Sisters joined by motherhouse chef, Ray, gathered at noon on Sunday, May 24, 2020, in the motherhouse garden to pray the closing prayer for the 5th anniversary of Laudato Si in San Francisco, California, USA.

Presentation Statements on Racism

New Windsor Presentation Sisters Statement on Racism
Aberdeen Presentation Sisters Statement on Racial Justice

Dubuque Presentation Statement on the Death of George Floyd

Upcoming Webinars

6 July - "Skills for a Resilient Youth - Implications of the pandemic on youth skills development" - Learn more
7-16 July - UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)
7 July - "Skills for a Resilient Youth - Technical & Vocational Education & Training (TVET) institutions: Good practices in distance learning in no-, low- and high-tech scenarios" - Learn more
9 July - "Skills for a Resilient Youth - Labour market: Implications of the pandemic on jobs and future skills development" - Learn more
10 July - "Skills for a Resilient Youth - Young people: Perspectives on their hopes and fears going forward" - Learn more
13 July - "Skills for a Resilient Youth - TVET Systems: System-wide responses to the impact of the pandemic" - Learn more

Upcoming Dates

7-16 July - UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)
10 July - Voluntary National Review of Ecuador
11 July - World Population Day - Learn more
13 July - Voluntary National Review of India & Peru
15 July - Voluntary National Review of Papua New Guinea
15 July - World Youth Skills Day - Learn more
16 July - Voluntary National Review of Zambia
18 July - Nelson Mandela International Day - Learn more
28 July - World Hepatitis Day - Learn more
30 July - World Day against Trafficking in Persons - Learn more
30 July - International Day of Friendship - Learn more

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