

WUCWO Newsletter November 2016



World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations

This Newsletter is for

ALL WOMEN WHO ARE MEMBERS of WUCWO organisations.

We kindly ask you to share it as soon as possible.

Current agenda of the Pope and WUCWO events in Bari

We will now present some of the current activities of the Holy Father. The experience organized by WUCWO in Bari during the recent Board Meeting and the Second Conference with Women from the Middle East reflected some of the themes which are very close to Pope Francis, among which there is ecumenism, work for peace, refugees, and integral ecology.



**The Pope in Malmö:
United Christians lets
be protagonists of the
revolution of
tenderness
(October 2016)**

Basilica of Saint Nicholas in Bari in which WUCWO carried out a prayer for peace as an ecumenical act in the historical temple where orthodoxes and other brothers of Christian religion are accustomed to praying.



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THIRST FOR PEACE



Here, united and in peace, we believe in and hope for a brotherly world. We want that when all men and women of different religions meet, they gather and raise harmony, especially where there are conflicts (Pope Francis at the World Day of Prayer for Peace, *Thirsts for Peace: Faiths and Cultures in Dialogue*, September 2016).



Participants in the 2nd Conference with Women from the Middle East. The theme of the conference was: *Women workers of peace towards a culture of meeting and dialogue.*

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“«...we met in the refugee camps (...) the ‘bankruptcy’ of humanity» What is going on in the world today that, when a bank fails, scandalous sums of money suddenly appear to save it, but before this bankruptcy of humanity not even a thousandth part is allotted to save those brothers and sisters who suffer so greatly?” (Pope Francis, in the 3rd World Meeting of Popular Movements, November 2016).

Board Meeting, Bari, October 23-26, 2016

The Board of WUCWO selected the title of the next WUCWO General Assembly, which will take place in Dakar, Senegal, from October 15 to 22, 2018. The title is: ***WUCWO Women, Carriers of "living water" to a world which thirsts for Peace.***

All of you are invited!



The Supreme Pontiff reminded those in St. Peter's Square of the celebration of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation together with our orthodox brothers and those of other churches as a chance to strengthen the common commitment of safeguarding life and respecting the environment and nature (Pope Francis, *Angelus* of 28 August 2016).



Regional Conference of North America

Women of Mercy – United with One Heart, One Voice, One Mission was the theme of the North American Regional Conference, held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, on August 14th and 15th, 2016, which preceded the national convention of the Catholic Women's League of Canada. Over 750 delegates participated in the events.



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Jubilee of Latin America

Our Vice-President General, Maribeth Stewart, represented our organisation in Bogotá, Colombia, where the President of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America invited WUCWO to celebrate the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, 27-30 August. The representatives of the Latin American Episcopal Conference participated as well.



Africa Regional Conference

The Regional Conference took place in Lilongwe, Malawi, under the presidency of the WUCWO Vice-President for Africa, Rosaline Menga, and the direction of the President of the Catholic Women's Organisation (CWO) for Malawi. About 500 member of associated organisations participated, as well as bishops and the presence of national authorities, led by the President of Malawi. (31 August – 4 September)

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Against Human Trafficking

In Africa: the “One Human Family, One Voice, No Human Trafficking” conference took place 5-7 September. It was organised by Caritas Internationalis and the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People and hosted by Caritas Nigeria. WUCWO was represented in two panels by the Secretary General, María Lía Zervino, Servidora. Different members of WUCWO organisations from Africa and Europe participated. (5 – 8 September)



In Rome: WUCWO collaborated in the launch of the Campaign for the celebration of the International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking which will take place the next 8 February. Our organisation is a member of this Committee and through its organisation it will promote a united prayer for the eradication of this new modern slavery and to raise awareness for the need to committing ourselves to this cause in all continents.

WUCWO invited at a Seminar for NGOs



The WUCWO President, Maria Giovanna Ruggieri, was represented by the Secretary General in the delivery of the San Bernardino Prize for the socially responsible advertising and the consequent Seminar called: “Unconventional communication: a resource for non-profit organisations?” which took place on 11 November 2016 in Rome.

Youth and the Ligue des Femmes Catholiques of Cameroon

The Ligue des Femmes Catholiques, faithful to its commitment towards the youth, organised in the parish Holy Family in the Archdiocese of Doula the traditional summer camp which saw the participation of 100 young people. Different activities were organised, among which masses, prayers, games, attractions, manufacturing of rosaries and necklaces and, lastly, a manufacturing industry of Cameroonian biscuit and brewery.

Mission of Mercy in Cuba

BIENVENIDO A CUBA
Misionero de la Misericordia



A group of Cuban missionaries, made up of WUCWO women among whom Edelma Acosta, member of the Catholic Women's Diocesan Movement and representative of Cuba in the Board, went door-to-door bringing the hope of Christ to the brothers most in need, following the footprints of Pope Francis, Missionary of Mercy in this country, in September 2016.

Visit at our office in Rome

Ms. Eugenie Amon Affiba, Diocesan President of the *des Femmes de l'Église Catholique* of the Archdioceses of Gagno, Ivory Coast, came to visit our office in Via della Conciliazione in Rome. We want to thank God for sharing with her the joys and pains of our sisters in Ivory Coast who are WUCWO members and for having granted us the grace of unity.



Message of our President, Maria Giovanna Ruggieri, for the Advent



We are entering the Advent time. After the Jubilee of the Extraordinary year of Mercy we continue to experience God's mercy in our daily life. Advent is the time of memory, invocation and expectance of the coming of the Lord. Advent brings us to the heart of the Christian mystery. We need to be vigilant and ready to enter Christ's mystery of His incarnation, his dwelling among us.

Marana thà!