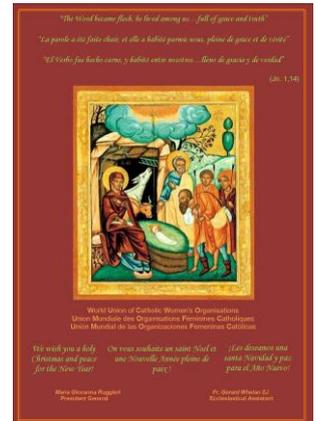


WUCWO December 2015 Newsletter

Christmas Wishes

You will not receive another WUCWO newsletter until next year and so we would like to take this opportunity to send you our best wishes for the coming New Year. May 2016 be full of the grace of the Jubilee Year of Mercy!

Thank you for sharing this email with all of the members of your organisations.



Participation in *Religion for Peace*



The WUCWO President participated in the European Assembly of *Religion for Peace*, in Castel Gandolfo, Italy (28/10-1/11), along with 350 members of the main religions of the world. Under the title: "Welcoming Each Other: from Fear to Trust". It focused on the fears that plague Europe and the responsibility of religions to build trust in a pluralist society. WUCWO continues its work in promoting dialogue for peace and tolerance.



50th Anniversary of *Gaudium et Spes*

To symbolically offer the precious legacy of *Gaudium et Spes* to youth, the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace organised a celebration: "The new generations at the service of humanity". Maria Giovanna Ruggieri, President General and Maria Lia Zervino, WUCWO Secretary General, were asked to be part of this event (5/6 November). Presentations were made on the progress over the last 50 years, up until *Laudato Si*.

Meeting on the Culture of Peace and Reconciliation

The Pan African meeting of Women's Catholic Action Movements on the Culture of Peace and Reconciliation took



place in Nairobi, in Kenya, from the 30th to the 3rd September 2015. Members of the WUCWO Board as well as a number of national presidents of Catholic women's organisations who are members of WUCWO took part in this meeting. Our Board member Mary Yunike Mwale from Zambia had the opportunity to make a presentation on WUCWO with the help of a representative from Madagascar. The meeting was concluded with the WUCWO Prayer for Dialogue for 2015.

Ecumenical meeting against Trafficking: COAT-Net



Since 2014, WUCWO has been part of the Network of Christian Organisations Against Trafficking of Human Beings (COAT-Net). Member organisations and partners of the network from 33 countries met in Paris (9-11 November) to advance the fight against this heinous crime which violates people created in the image of God. The Secretary General participated in this meeting on behalf of WUCWO.

Situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo



From Kinshasa, Marie-Madeleine Mwifi Bodibatu, President of the Branche Féminine Bondeko, informed us that the extreme poverty in Congo causes some mothers in situations of extreme distress to sell their children. Her organisation fights to set up activities to generate income to appease, to a certain extent, this scourge, however, funds are insufficient. They also work to encourage State intervention. They hope that with God's grace they can overcome this tragedy and ask for the prayers of all members of WUCWO.

Assembly of Acción Católica Argentina



7000 members, from 50 dioceses, took part in the Acción Católica Argentina Assembly (10th-12th Oct) with great enthusiasm. It was an encounter of faith and prayer where young people and adults went on missions in different communities and families. An Acción Católica which goes forth... Pope Francis addressed them in a moving video: "Keep going, continue to be passionate about the person of Jesus and to strive for the good of your brothers and sisters".

Condolences to our organisations in France and Mali



Our President, Maria Giovanna Ruggieri, on behalf of WUCWO, wrote messages of condolence to our Organisations in France and Mali following the horrifying terrorist attacks in Paris and Bamako. WUCWO wished to express its profound communion and prayers for all of the victims and their families.

We remain speechless in the face of these painful events but our hearts cry: "Father! Thy Kingdom Come!"