

WUCWO Newsletter July 2016



To all member organisations that have sent their news to the Secretariat: thank you very much for this caring act and for having forwarded this Newsletter to all members. We depend on you for being able to share this “network of good practices” that enrich us all.

To all organisations which have yet to send their news, we ask you to send it to the Secretariat (a few short lines with a picture in .jpg) and to kindly forward this Newsletter to all members. Thank you for your help.

WORLD CAMPAIGN FOR WOMEN IN THE MIDDLE EAST



WUCWO started a campaign to help women from the Middle East, who do not have the economic resources to attend our 2nd Conference entitled: *Women, workers of peace towards a culture of meeting and dialogue* (a follow-up to the event that took place in Amman, Jordan in 2013). This conference will have an ecumenical profile and will fit into the spirit of the Jubilee of Mercy. As Western and Eastern religious women united for a culture of peace, we wish to be a powerful symbol of women’s contributions to the fight against extremism and conflicts that we suffer nowadays.

All WUCWO women are invited to Bari from 19 to 23 October 2016! This city, south port of Italy on the Mediterranean Sea, is considered to be the “Gateway to the East” and the meeting point with our Christian brothers and sisters.

Please, complete the form and send it to the Secretariat at wucwoparis@gmail.com to personally attend the Conference or to offer economic support.

HOLY SEE : MEETING AT THE SECRETARY OF STATE



On 12 July, H.E. Abp. Paolo Borgia, the new Assessor for General Affairs of the Holy See's Secretary of State, received the President General, Maria Giovanna Ruggieri, the Ecclesiastical Assistant, Father Gerard Whelan, SJ, and the Secretary General, María Lía Zervino, Servidora, to address the issues that WUCWO is working on, following the guidelines of Pope Francis' pontificate. Abp. Borgia received all relevant information and spoke about issues regarding the family. Moreover, he was pleased with the plans for the Second Conference on Women in the Middle East and promised to communicate it personally to the Holy Father, Pope Francis.

PRESENTATION OF *AMORIS LAETITIA* IN GENEVA



WUCWO, through the Secretary General, on behalf of the Forum of Catholic-Inspired NGOs-Geneva, opened the debate at the presentation of *Amoris Laetitia* organised at the United Nations for H.E. Abp. Jurkovic, Apostolic Nuncio and Permanent Observer of the Holy See's Mission. The introduction took place after the presentations of H.E. Abp. Paglia, President of the Pontifical Council for the Family, H.E. Ambassador Ramadan, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Egypt, H.E. Ambassador Borodavkin, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation and Prof. Belletti, Director of the Centre for International Family Studies. Reference was made to the work done by the Working Group on the Family at the Human Rights Council, related to *Amoris Laetitia*, with a focus on the similarities to the method used by the Holy Father in the experience of the Synod.

FEAST OF SAINT MARY MAGDALENE



The President of WUCWO wrote a message to all member organisations proposing a special way to celebrate Saint Mary Magdalene on 22 July. In the Roman Liturgical Calendar this went from being a “memorial” to a “feast”. Our member organisations wrote to the Secretariat from all continents with thanks and support for the proposal, with a warm welcome and sense of gratitude to the Holy Father who made this decision in the year of the Jubilee of Mercy.

“VOICES OF FAITH” CALLED UPON WUCWO

Chantal Götz, the founder of Voices of Faith, organises the annual event in the Vatican on 8 March - International Women’s Day. She invited WUCWO to discuss how to better network among women and how to use our synergies. Representing the President General, the Secretary General joined them at the Council for Promoting Christian Unity on 17 June. This NGO "advances the role of women in the Catholic Church and supports them in their infinite potential to create meaningful change for the common good, contributing fully to the life of the Catholic Church and to a wider society".



YOUTH AND WUCWO IN ROME



When returning from the World Youth Day (WYD) in Krakow, the youth of our member organisations who plan on passing through Rome were invited by the President General to visit the Rome Secretariat and to have a dialogue on WUCWO’s commitment to youth of all continents. This may be done after communicating with the Office to ascertain the time of arrival. She also offered the service of booking the pilgrimage through the Holy Door of St. Peter’s Basilica. Young people from different organisations in Argentina (from Acción Católica and others) have already visited our See in Rome, before WYD, when heading to Krakow.

Another service: the Secretary General gave a lecture on Human Trafficking to students from the University of Notre Dame (USA) at the Gregorian University in Rome, upon the request of the professor in charge of a class on migration and Catholic Morality.

ARACELI CAVERO, NATIONAL VOLUNTARY AWARD 2016



Araceli Carvero Pérez was awarded the National Voluntary Award 2016, which will be given to her by the King and Queen of Spain during the Congreso Estatal de Voluntariado. She has long been dedicated to serving others. She has always put her talents to work as a diocesan representative of the Catholic centres of popular culture in Huesca (Spain). She was the National President of Acción Católica General de Adultos, delegate for Manos Unidas in Huesca and currently Board member for Spain for WUCWO and Vice-President for the European Region. As a woman of Acción Católica, she has never done anything for herself, always asking the Lord “what do you wish from me?” answering with calm work, taking time to think, in a humble and powerful way. Congratulations Araceli on this important award!

ECOLOGICAL CAMPAIGN OF ACCIÓN CATÓLICA ARGENTINA (ACA)



The ACA will begin a campaign to think about and place the theme “the focus of creation” in the social and public agenda, in light of the encyclical *Laudato Si* by Pope Francis released last year. The motto is “**Let us look after land, let us look after life**”, chosen to highlight the importance of creation and the problems that arise in the environment and affect the entire human family, above all the poorest. These problems can be caused by the action or lack of action of people.

SWITZERLAND, VIE AND FOI AT THE PRESENT



Vie et Foi is a general movement of Action catholique générale of the Canton of French Switzerland. In the past two years, they have worked on the theme “My father was a wandering Aramean. As him, we begin to walk!” which has been developed in 4 steps:

1. Open ourselves beyond borders.
2. Set aside our concerns.
3. Share our experiences.
4. Advance towards the Promised Land.

In the following two years, the work will focus on ethics.

MORE INFORMATION ON WUCWO DAY



MALTA: in Naxxar, one of the northern villages of the Island, WUCWO Day was celebrated where a chapel dedicated to the Divine Mercy was recently built. A good number of members of the Catholic Action for Women Organisation attended on 19 May 2016. A brief summary of the objectives of WUCWO was presented, along with its works and prayer. The President of the branch for Women, Ivy Fleri, called upon the representatives to provide help for women in the Middle East. The celebration ended with Holy Mass.

MADAGASCAR: the day of celebration began with the Holy Mass. This was chaired by the Vicar General, P. R. Jean Pierre in the cathedral of Miarinarivo. A procession through the city took place, all the way to the meeting room to end the celebration, followed by a luncheon with all members, local authorities and guests from far away.

VENEZUELA: Acción Católica and FUNDEMUL celebrated a Eucharist during the World Day for Women Victims of Sexual Abuse. Holy Mass was offered by Abp. Ovidio Pérez Morales, assessor and guide. They prayed for peace and dialogue among women of all religions and for the work of WUCWO throughout the world. At the same time, a presentation of the “Kerigma” magazine for the month of May was offered. This was edited by the ladies of Acción Católica of Venezuela.

PRAYER REQUESTS

We have committed ourselves to pray at the request of:

- a) The President of the Association des Femmes Catholiques de Gabon, Jacqueline Obone, for the peaceful conduct of the next election in her country, and
- b) The WUCWO Board Member from Venezuela and editor of *Women's Voice*, Virginia Rivero, of FUNDEMUL, for overcoming the crisis of security, food and health in Venezuela.

We promise our solidarity in prayer and our support for our sisters in faith.