



Update

October 2015

WELCOMING FRANCIS:

There was intense excitement in New York in late September, at the combination of the Pope's visit with the UN high-level summit this year. The city had a "lottery" for hundreds of tickets just to stand in Central Park and watch him go by; parishes in the Archdiocese had a similar "lottery" for parishioners to attend his Mass at a huge sports arena. Though all those tickets were free, some lucky but unethical winners sold their tickets illegally for thousands of dollars. Other city residents groaned about the number of streets that were closed for his visit and for the UN summit, over the course of two weeks. Some UNANIMA board members had a hard time getting around, or even getting into the city, because our Fall board meeting coincided with the Pope's visit! More news on the high level summit in next month's Update...

WELCOMING A NEW MEMBER COMMUNITY!

The Congregation of the Sisters of Notre Dame, with foundation in Coesfeld, Germany and motherhouse in Rome, (not to be confused with our "older" members, the Congregation of Notre Dame of Montreal) have joined UNANIMA International as our 20th member community. They are a community of 2,200 ministering in 19 countries. Sister Shauna Bankemper, their Assistant General for the United States, attended the fall board meeting to make their presentation to the board. We have been working for several years with their Sister Mary Jo Toll (also at the meeting), who has long been our "local expert" on the topic of Migration. Check their website at <http://www.snd1.org> and join us in welcoming them to the UNANIMA family!



WELCOMING INTERNS!

It is always exciting to welcome new interns and enjoy seeing their reactions to walking into the United Nations for the first time! Here they are, at the UN front gate on their first day, ready for adventure. Amila Rodrigo SDS, and Susan Newland (representing the Brigidine Sisters) will introduce themselves in their own words here:

Meet Amila! I am Warnakulasuriya Amila Sudarshani Rodrigo, Religious name Sr. Amila Rodrigo, nationality Sri Lankan. My home town is Chilaw, in the south of Sri Lanka. In my family I have one brother and four sisters. My father is a driver and a farmer. My mother is a housewife and a lovely mother to each one of us. After I finished school I began working in my parish, getting involved with parish activities and working with a Lions Club (they work for the poor, build houses and help with education for children). In the course of my work I met some Salvatorian Sisters who came to my parish to do a mission, then I shared with them that I wanted to join them, so here I am now. I joined the Congregation of the Sisters of the Divine Saviour in 1994, and made my first profession on February 13, 2000. My first apostolate was teaching in Kindergarten for 10 years, and doing social work. In 2006 I made my final profession. Now I am responsible for the mission activities in the province, such as working with programs for the poor, widows, children, and migrant women. Also this year I was sent to a village called Bosco pura, to serve survivors of the tsunami. Their lives are very pathetic. I love my ministry and I am challenged by every day. As a Salvatorian Sister, I take up my mission and am ready to be a shepherd to people who are like a flock without a shepherd. I am now getting touch with UNANIMA. It is a good experience for me and I am learning many things, and how to stand for the truth and do the right things.

Meet Susan! *"In matters of truth and justice, there is no difference between large and small problems, for issues concerning the treatment of people are all the same."* (This comment written by Albert Einstein in an undelivered speech in 1955 is something I believe in.) My name is Susan Newland. I am an Australian citizen from Adelaide in South Australia. Presently I work for Catholic Education South Australia (CESA) and am a member of ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against the Trafficking of Humans). I hold a Doctorate in Education, a Master's degree in International Law & International Relations, a Master's degree in Theological Studies and a number of other qualifications that reveal my love of learning and my need to understand the issues that affect us deeply as human beings in a fragile world. My aim is to work for the "matters of truth and justice" to which Einstein refers. I am privileged to have been sponsored by the Brigidine Sisters in Australia for an internship with UNANIMA. I have already observed some of the concerns that make up the tapestry of



needs calling for debate and advocacy within the United Nations. And it is within this promise of hope that the UN represents, that I wish to stand alongside those whose voices are calling to be heard and bring their story to the UNANIMA community and all who will listen.

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TRANSLATED:

The draft outcome document "Transforming our world: the 2030 agenda for sustainable development" is now available in the six official languages of the UN (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish)

at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

This document is the one containing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which was approved by the UN General Assembly at the high level summit in September. Click on the language you want under "Download" at the top right.

SIGN THE CATHOLIC CLIMATE CHANGE PETITION!

Here is the link to the Climate Change petition on our website

<http://www.unanima-international.org/what-we-do/programs/climate-change>

FREE PRAYER CARDS ON TRAFFICKING:

The Sisters of Charity of Convent Station NJ are offering, free of charge, trafficking prayer cards with a prayer on one side and information about trafficking and the US hotline number on the other. They are available in English, French, Spanish, and Haitian Creole. If interested please contact: Fr. Terry Moran (tmoran@scnj.org). Terry heads the office of Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity for the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth

UPDATE ON A WOMAN OF COURAGE:

There is now a book about Jessica Ernst, Our Woman of Courage for 2011. An award-winning investigative journalist, Andrew Nikiforuk, launched his book "***Slick Water at Ground Zero***" on September 12. The book tells the shocking story of Jessica's determined stand to hold the Canadian energy company Encana, and regulators in her own provincial government of Alberta, accountable for fracking damage to the environment. After Ernst filed her lawsuit and put forward evidence that Encana had violated laws by fracturing the community's drinking water aquifers, she was falsely accused of being a bomb-making terrorist and harassed by the Harper government's anti-terrorism squad. Frightened but undaunted, she uncovered a startling history of liability, fraud, and intimidation, along with a willful denial of widespread groundwater contamination. Nikiforuk was one of the first journalists in North America to document the devastating effects of hydraulic fracturing on communities.

In response to our congratulations, Jessica said she still has a long way to go, likely another 10 years, with the delays and tricks that the courts allow. She sees what she has vanishing, and justice for citizens whose water was harmed by fracking nearly impossible. But she vows to keep going; the author of the book thinks it will be the only real justice she sees.

REPORT FROM ADDIS ABABA:

NGOs who went to the Financing for Development conference reported that NGOs were very happy about the strong, united voice from civil society (over 600 NGOs were there) and the good side events, particularly one sponsored by Baha'i International. On the other hand, they were disappointed in the negotiations and their outcome. There were too many "deals" made behind the scenes and lack of transparency. There also were some problems with the venue: for example, the G-77 (negotiating group of developing countries) had no space to meet.

11 DAYS OF ACTION / INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL:



The Working Group on Girls is proud to sponsor the 11 Days of Action and the International Day of the Girl Speak Out at the United Nations. The Day of the Girl (IDG) is celebrated on October 11th, and the days leading up to it are used as a social media campaign to raise awareness about the issues girls face around the world. On twitter, facebook, and all social media you can follow the discussion and join in! Use the hashtags #seeus #hearus and #joinus.

UNANIMA is a member of the Working Group on Girls and is sponsoring Day 2 of the 11 Days of Action on October 2nd! We'll be leading the discussion and talking about how the media—especially pop songs—degrades girls and women. We'll rewrite the lyrics to be empowering!

On October 9th the IDG Speak Out will take place at the United Nations. Girls are taking over the UN and writing their own resolutions and agendas for development! You can watch the celebration online at webtv.un.org

For more information on IDG, the 11 Days of Action and the Working Group on Girls, visit dayofthegirlsummit.org

FLASHPOINTS:



- ✓ From 13-17 September, Sister Cova CCV attended an International Symposium at the Vatican in Rome, sponsored by the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People. Attendees helped develop an action plan for the pastoral care of street women and children, trafficking victims, and other people “on the move.”



Here is a summary of the Pope’s address of 17 September to the International Symposium in English, French, and Spanish (sorry, no Portuguese)

En ingles: <http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/pope-s-address-to-symposium-on-pastoral-ministry-for-people-of-the-street>

En francés: <http://www.zenit.org/fr/articles/les-enfants-et-les-femmes-de-la-rue-ne-sont-pas-des-paquets>

En español: <https://www.aciprensa.com/noticias/el-papa-da-verguenza-el-aumento-de-ninos-y-mujeres-forzados-a-ganarse-la-vida-en-la-calle-68205/>

<http://www.zenit.org/es/articulos/es-necesario-criminalizar-la-explotacion-sexual-y-laboral>

- ✓ **WE NEED SOME MORE COMMUNITY NEWS FOR FLASHPOINTS! WHAT’S GOING ON WITH YOUR PROJECTS AND MINISTRIES? SEND YOUR NEWS TO YOUR UNANIMA BOARD MEMBER!** (You don’t know who your board member is? Check the UNANIMA website in the list of member communities. Go to “Who We Are,” then “Coalition Participants.”)

Help! We have **00000** Flashpoints