

JPIC – SOUTH AFRICA



MARY WARD WOMEN IN THE FIELD
Cecilia O'Dwyer IBVM

POST 2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

All 193 country member states of the UN have agreed on the outcome document of the Post 2015 Sustainable Development Agenda.

17 Sustainable Development Goals have been proposed. The 17 logos below evoke the 17 SDGs. How familiar are we with the SDGs and can we list them using the logos.



See page 2 for list of SDGs.



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My life as member of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary began in Spain almost 50 years ago. I was born in Ireland but distant horizons always called me to adventure. Those horizons have been part of a God adventure, a spiritual journey and quite an interesting degree of geographical displacement. Many wonderful people who encouraged, challenged and stimulated growth in me have been part of this journey. Specific situations and experiences have been an ongoing source of wonder at what life brings, even when wonder may be mingled with frustration or pain. The invitation to take on the different ministries over the years usually came at a time when I was ready for a new step both in my spiritual journey and as part of an ongoing learning experience.

At the moment I am the representative of the Institute at the United Nations. A few months immersed in this task made me realize that I am witnessing the struggle of the human family moving towards greater understanding of our interdependence. Sometimes we take small steps and on other occasions we fail hopelessly. But, we are beginning to recognize that we are one human family dependent on our decisions about how we manage ourselves and how we protect our planet from destruction. This is the awakening that is taking place with varying degrees of enlightenment and blindness.

Being part of United Nations processes such as the Post 2015 Sustainable Development Agenda, and the Climate Change process calls forth the best of 193 governments to eradicate poverty in our world and give every person the

possibility of a decent livelihood, to end all forms of discrimination, and ensure our continued existence on this planet in as much as it depends on us. The sacred dimension of this is palpable. I cannot but see what St. Ignatius of Loyola meant when he encouraged his companions to “find God in all things” with the addition of “finding all in God”. Somehow the sacred and the profane converge even in extreme forms. Likewise, when Mary Ward speaks of “referring all to God”, the meaning of that “all” has expanded over the years to bring me out of my own personal concerns to embrace other people, human processes and all of creation which science is unfolding for us. As members of the NGO community associated with the United Nations, much of our work is done through NGO Committees and working groups. Our task is above all to keep the reality of people living in poverty and suffer different forms of discrimination before the member states and ensure that it is included in the United Nations documents and resolutions to be adopted by our States. NGOs have the task of monitoring that governments fulfill their promises. United Nations Staff, including the Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, continually remind us of the importance of this role of NGOs.

The Loreto Sisters and our whole IBVM network are integrated into this ongoing thrust forward. We are part of it in our local endeavors and as a global institution inserted in these ongoing processes. One of my contributions is to build networks to ensure information flow, to contribute with our experience and knowledge and to increase the participation of all our IBVM Network in this world-wide ministry. The hard work of many enthusiastic and generous people is an essential part of the steps we are taking. One of the challenges of this task comes from the fact that we do not see any spectacular results. To guard off from cynicism or frustration I have to have a long term approach and remember the

small incremental changes which occur over time without scarcely noting them.

At this time of crisis at many levels, the hope that the work of many generous and noble persons will prevail in the end, maintains a sense of trust. It is encouraging to see how the recent Pope Francis Encyclical and the Post 2015 Development Agenda which is almost complete, both call us to responsibility for the integrity of all creation, present and future.

Cecilia O'Dwyer

Representative of IBVM at UN



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The following is a brief summary of the goals

1. End poverty
2. End hunger
3. Ensure health and wellbeing
4. Ensure quality education
5. Achieve gender equality
6. Ensure water and sanitation for all
7. Ensure affordable and sustainable energy
8. Promote decent work and economic growth
9. Build infrastructure, promote technology and foster innovation
10. Reduce inequality
11. Make cities and communities sustainable.
12. Ensure responsible consumption
13. Combat climate change
14. Protect the oceans
15. Take care of the earth
16. Promote peaceful and just societies
17. Strengthen the mechanisms and partnerships to reach the goals



COUNTER HUMAN TRAFFICKING

We can add our voice and actions to many other groups worldwide, which are working to combat human trafficking.

Some suggested responses:-

- Becoming better educated about the issues related to human trafficking and by raising awareness with others.
- Educating first responders to victims. e.g. emergency room employees, social workers, police etc.
- Collaborating with organizations who work with victims/survivors of human trafficking by networking, advocating for them, providing human services and giving financial support and housing when possible
- Supporting legislation in one's country regarding human trafficking.
- Engaging in advocacy efforts e.g. writing letters and/or phone calls to legislators, vigils, use of media meeting with political leaders
- Advocating to get human trafficking education into the curriculum in schools, including education on the different aspects of human trafficking, especially in schools
- Examining our purchase practices – use slave free products
- Learning about our financial investments and the stance of the managers and companies as regards human trafficking
- Working towards systemic change, especially in the area of prevention.
- Praying for victims and survivors of human trafficking as well as the perpetrators.

Cecilia O'Dwyer IBVM



Monica Shanley IBVM is a member of the IBVM network across a number of different countries.

Earlier in the year the Justice and Peace Desk of the Archdiocese of Cape Town organized a workshop on CHT for representatives for all the parishes. Monica gave input on just how widespread human trafficking is in Cape Town and what people could do to combat human trafficking.



Do we know the reality of human trafficking in our respective countries? One source of this information is the 'Trafficking in Persons Report', which is an annual report issued by the U.S. State Department's 'Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons' It ranks governments based on their perceived efforts to acknowledge and combat human trafficking. It also provides an annual narrative report for each country. www.state.gov/j/tip



LAUDATO SI'

In June, Pope Francis published his much-anticipated encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si'*. Pope Francis' starting point is Saint Francis of Assisi. Following are some quotes from the beginning of the encyclical highlighting St. Francis' relationship with creation and what this has to say to us today.

In his *Canticle of the Creatures* 'Saint Francis reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. "Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs.' *Paragraph 1*

'Saint Francis is the example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically..... Whenever he would gaze at the sun, the moon or the smallest of animals, he burst into song drawing all other creatures into his praise. He communed with all creation, even preaching to the flowers, inviting them to praise the Lord, just as if they were endowed with reason. His response to the world was so much more than intellectual appreciation or economic calculus, for to him each and every creature was a sister united to him by bonds of affection. That is why he felt called to care for all that exists..... Such a conviction cannot be written off as naïve romanticism, for it affects the choices which determine our behaviour. If we approach nature and the environment without this openness to awe and wonder, if we no longer speak the language of fraternity and beauty in our relationship with the world, our attitude will be that of masters, consumers, ruthless exploiters, unable to set limits on their immediate needs. By contrast, if we feel intimately united with all that exists, then sobriety and care will well up spontaneously... Rather than a problem to be solved, the world is a joyful mystery to be contemplated with gladness and praise.' *Paragraphs 10 – 12.*

Pope Francis will be addressing the UN General Assembly at the Sustainable Development Summit in New York in September, where world leaders will sign up to the new SDGs

IBVM ZAMBIA

load shedding to save on power and fuel. Sadly this load shedding also affects the hospital electricity line and so the hospital has no power, like the rest of the town, between 12 midnight and 5.00 am. Often in emergency situations the ZESCO manager is contacted in the middle of the night to request power. However on the weekend that the babies died he could not be located and people at the generator plant did not have the authority to switch the power on.

Based on the sadness of the particular weekend in an area characterized by relatively high rates of maternal and infant mortality, and the reality of the hospital not having a power supply each night between 12.00 and 5.00 am, it seemed a worthy situation to invest in an emergency solar supply. This has been very well received by the Doctor who is constantly struggling to do critical surgery under very adverse conditions and the midwives in the maternity department who have been using torches with which to deliver babies in the middle of the night. Good lighting has been supplied in the labour room and the operating theatre, as well as the capacity to run an oxygen machine, monitor and resuscitator for short periods in each place. The hospital staff are highly appreciative of what has been provided and hopefully it will help to prevent or further reduce the incidence of infant deaths and maternal mortality.

**Since the installation of the solar power the hospital has relocated, somewhat prematurely, to a newly constructed hospital complex still far from completion, and the solar is in the process of being transferred, as the new building is still subject to nightly load-shedding.*

Pat Hanvey IBVM, Lukulu, Zambia



In April this year we installed emergency solar electricity in the operating theatre, labour ward and in the laboratory at the local hospital. This was done in response to a critical situation which occurred over one weekend in which a number of babies died due to lack of power which prevented emergency surgery needed for the babies to survive. In Lukulu electricity is supplied to the whole town from one generator plant operated by ZESCO, the national electricity supplier. Each night there is

EDUCATION PROJECT



When a parent is sentenced to prison, the turmoil is very difficult for the children who are indirect victims of crime. They go to school; cannot focus and their grades begin to drop. They are left to fend for themselves and often the stress of child-rearing falls on a grandmother. The vast majority of our clients' children have never had an opportunity to receive a new school uniform, but always had to rely on neighbours and family's generosity by being satisfied with second hand uniforms and stationery..... We were able to assist just over 50 children of incarcerated offenders and unemployed released offenders ranging from Grade R to Grade 12 with more specific needs by providing school uniforms, stationery and books. The children that we assisted reside in various townships in the Western Cape, Easter Cape and as far as Durban. This programme offered hope, dignity, improved self-image and self-confidence, enhanced relationships between parent and child, motivated the children to continue with their education, encouraged them to focus on their schooling and discouraged them to join gangs which is rampant in our townships. The smile on the child's face when receiving a new uniform, stationery and school bag is absolutely priceless. We are grateful to Mary Ward Mission Fund who made this funding available for the 'Prison Care and Support Network'.

PCSN Annual report.

Marie Brady IBVM is a volunteer leader with PCSN in Western Cape, South Africa





FIRST OF MANY VISITS



Each year the 14 Catholic Schools in Pretoria celebrate their rich heritage in the form of Catholic Schools' Week.... Loreto School Queenswood decided to help children to take a stand on social issues so each morning of this week a class lines the pavement outside the school, for 15 minutes, holding posters that they have made, protesting against Xenophobia.

Captions range from:
 We All Bleed Red;
 Say No to Xenophobia;
 XeNOphobia;

Hoot If You Are Against Xenophobia
 (The reaction to this one evokes loud cheers from the children!)

Everyone Is A Foreigner – SOMEWHERE!
 Xenophobia is a Crime Against Humanity
 Speak Out Against Xenophobia



Loreto Primary School Strand Grade RB class with the assistance of their teacher, Stacey Galloway, spent a wonderful morning..... with 12 little visitors. The little visitors, aged between 3 and 5, are from the Feeding Outreach Programme 'Under His Wings" run by Pearl Stryders.

Loreto's school bus fetched the children from Sir Lowry's Pass Village and they were warmly greeted by Ms Galloway, Mrs Oertle and the very excited Gr RB class. Each Gr RB child was paired with their new friend and names were exchanged. Pearl's children are Afrikaans speaking and Loreto's English speaking – this however made no difference and soon, after the initial shyness, there was great interaction between the two groups.

A fun morning of song and dance in the Mary Ward Centre; and games on the field followed. Ms Galloway had taught some Afrikaans songs such as 'Vader Jakob' and 'My Ou Hondjie' to her Gr RB class in preparation for the visit and the new friends soon happily sang along...

The Grade RB class will be interacting regularly with Pearl's children;... It was with joy that I observed the pure delight experienced not only by Pearl's children but also by our own Loreto children.

