



JPIC *Voices*

Being Artisans of Hope in Our Blessed and Broken World

Renewed hope as we welcome the new year

The JPIC International Team ended 2021 with a retreat that enabled us to pray and reflect together, and to share with and listen to one another. The retreat strengthened our bond as an international service team and renewed our commitment to be “artisans of hope in our blessed and broken world.” It is in this spirit that we welcome 2022.....



We have weekly team meetings; and our first meeting of the year “brought us” to Grenoble (France) where we had a virtual meeting with three probanists who were “following in the footsteps of Philippine Duchesne.” We thank them for including us in their itinerary. It was a joy to listen to one another’s hopes and dreams for this new year.

January rolled on with **Rachel** fully engaged in the eco-spirituality center where she lives and works. There, they welcome migrants and provide animation programs for groups, particularly among the poor. **Sheila** kicked off the preparations for the High Level Political Forum with this year’s group from Argentina and Uruguay, Italy, and the Philippines. At the same time, she and the interns of the UN-NGO Office organized a forum on International Day of Education, which gave voice to students and alumni, educators and partners in mission. **Joy** had the grace-filled experience of accompanying the provinces of Peru and Brazil in their retreat journey of walking with Jesus as artisans of hope. The work of coordination continues, and this includes organizing different platforms that connect us as One Body, like the recently concluded student conference of the European Network of Sacred Heart Schools. Thanks to **Rena** who maintains the website of the JPIC Learning Hub, and to **Yolanda** who has successfully completed the migration of the JPIC Database to the Hub, we are able to provide resources in support of our JPIC efforts. All this would not be possible without the help of translators and interpreters, the JPIC Links, and all of you who contribute in different ways to sustain our shared commitment to JPIC.

We resonate with and are inspired by this line from the Special Chapter document:

“Never has the world and the Society of the Sacred Heart been so interconnected as in the last two years. We were bound together by a global pandemic which helped us see more clearly that we belong to one common humanity.” (p.9)

Let us claim and strengthen this deep sense of unity as we forge the way forward in 2022!

TCoP: Learnings from our initial experience

In 2021, we embarked on an initial experience of building Transformative Communities of Practice (TCoP) through the help of the different regions (ASIANZ, Europe-Africa, and Philippine Duchesne). We had both challenging and consoling moments, all of which helped us learn and gain insight into what it means to collaborate among ourselves, and “to be and to act as One Body” (General Chapter 2016). What follows is a brief summary of some of the learnings and feedback that we received.

Some Learnings	
1. Gratitude & intentionality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For being heard and for belonging to a body larger than their local realities What was done intuitively will now be done with greater intentionality 	5. Spirituality & education as necessary foundation and support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animating teams will have to include this into their plan This will be an important contribution of the JPIC Learning Hub
2. Solidarity & self-propelling initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solidarity borne from understanding of common struggles When a need is responded to, creative initiative is invited 	6. Encountering the “divides” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our convictions and our actions Wanting to be “One Body” and yet wanting to be “unique” “Digital divide” Participation of the people we serve (e.g., migrants) “Vaccine divide”
3. Need for the wider society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To listen to the realities of the people we walk with To recognize how we are living <i>Being Artisans of Hope in Our Blessed and Broken World</i> One challenge is to shift from the local and urgent to the systemic 	7. Need for collaboration with groups inside and outside the Society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We need to strengthen collaboration with the different Society networks and international commissions We have much to learn from other groups (e.g., Jesuit Refugee Service, J-Cor, JPIC Roma, UISG, etc.)
4. Complex reality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each TCoP, each region, each local unit has its own complex reality, with different levels of experience, as well as “historical shadows” and “sensitivities” The imperatives touch very complex realities There can be no uniform response or structure, despite our being One Body Responsiveness, relevance, and readiness to adapt and/or let go 	8. The challenge of leadership, language, and interculturality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animating teams for emerging TCoPs will be crucial: local, regional, international Coordination of JPIC in the international level will mean working with and supporting these animating teams Language will always be a challenge: translation/interpretation support are crucial Managing activities across timezones is a necessary challenge Intercultural leadership and communication are an area for our own growth
Engagement in TCoPs is for us a concrete experience of Transforming and Being Transformed. JPIC International Team, 2021	

This year 2022, we will continue to collaborate with existing groups and networks in the Family of the Sacred Heart. We also hope to build and/or support TCoPs based on our JPIC Imperatives.

Updates from the UN-NGO Office

The Sacred Heart Campaign for International Day of the Girl 2021

Nine Sacred Heart schools came together in a joint effort to observe International Day of the Girl on October 11. The theme this year was, “*Our Voice, Our Equal Future.*” The Sacred Heart participants shared their passion for speaking out for gender equality, and demonstrated how the Sacred Heart family can act to support social equity, such as reducing female infanticide, alleviating obstacles to girls’ education, addressing “menstruation poverty”, and raising awareness and funds for the prevention of the practice of child brides. The breadth of the social awareness, diversity and talent of these students is stunning. Gratitude goes to Sacred Heart Alumnae Lisabeth Kelly and Sasha Amelang for organizing this initiative. See all submissions in their original languages on the JPIC Learning Hub: <https://rscj-jpic.org/updates/international-day-of-the-girl-2021>



The Sacred Heart Family Celebrates International Day of Education 2022



On January 24, the UN-NGO Office organized a virtual event to celebrate the gift of Sacred Heart education to global efforts for sustainable development. The event was held twice to accommodate as many time zones as possible. More than 200 people attended, since many of the 175 devices that “zoomed in” represented large communities and classes from around the globe. Participants attended from all regions of the world where the mission of the Society of the Sacred Heart is present and active.

The panel highlighted how Sacred Heart education continues in the tradition of St. Madeleine Sophie who believed in her way that to educate is an act of justice. Speakers and topics included:

- Sacred Heart students Alma and Rubén from St. Madeleine Sophie School in Valencia, Spain who spoke on why gender equality is important,
- Sacred Heart educator Noemi Escobar from Sacred Heart School in Mexico City, presented on education as a human right for all, especially children, as well as the challenges to providing quality education in the midst of current global realities like poverty, forced migration and unequal Covid-19 vaccine distribution
- Alumna Sasha Amelang presented her research on the important role of boys and men as part of solutions to issues of gender inequality in every context, and stressed that gender equality attitudes must be part of school curriculums at all levels
- Alumna Lisabeth Kelly reminded participants that the UN Sustainable Development Goals are a contemporary expression of St. Madeleine Sophie’s vision and that the Sacred Heart Family promotes at least two SDGs wherever we are. They are SDG 4, Quality Education and SDG 5, Gender Equality.

A highlight of the hour-long event was the video presentation on “period (menstruation) poverty” that was created by Kiara, Rajasi, Maria, and Uttara from Sophia Junior College in Mumbai for International Day of the Girl 2021. The video can be viewed at <https://rscj-jpic.org/resources/idg-2021-sofia-junior-college-mumbai>. As one participant put it, we all left delighted to be included and proud again to be a Sacred Heart educator on many levels.

Soon recordings of the International Day of Education event will be posted in English, French and Spanish on the JPIC Learning Hub.

Upcoming Events

66th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) – March 2022

The Society of the Sacred Heart will offer a parallel event as part of civil society at the NGO CSW Forum: *My Voice, Our Equal Future: Girls speak to climate change*. The event will be co-sponsored by other NGOs with whom we collaborate at the UN. It will be held on March 17 at 4 p.m. ET. Presentations by a panel of girls will be in English, with French and Spanish interpretation. Presenting the topic of climate change and education, on behalf of the Sacred Heart family is Megal D’Souza from Malvan, India. Registration is now open at <https://bit.ly/32Cwj2>.



The Malvan Youth Group, a parent and Rita Pinto, rscj (far right) who participated in the Malvan Beach Clean-up for the Global Climate Strike on September 24, 2021.

High Level Political Forum on Social Development — July 2022

In December 2021, applications for the 2022 Sacred Heart delegation to the High Level Political Forum on Social Development (HLPF) were submitted, reviewed and delegates were selected. Invitations to apply were sent through the Provincials and JPIC Links who live in countries whose governments will present their progress on the SDGs at the 2022 HLPF in July. The members of our Sacred Heart delegation to the virtual HLPF in July 2022 are:

- ARU: Silvana Ferez rscj. Both Argentina and Uruguay will present their progress on the SDGs in July
- ITA: Antonella Aloisi rscj, Yolanda Jiménez Delgado (JPIC International Assistant)
- PHI: Beth Sulleza rscj, Candice de Ausen Jungao (partner in mission), and Rena Bersola (JPIC Learning Hub Assistant)
- Sheila Smith rscj, UN-NGO Representative, will accompany the group.

Preparation has begun. The delegation met for the first time on January 7, 2022. Monthly meetings will take place to prepare our contribution and participation in the Forum. Our group is also part of the larger [JCoR \(Justice Coalition of Religious\)](#) delegation, which consists of representatives from religious congregations of women and men.

“We hope to synergize our efforts and put our collective power at the service of JPIC in order to give a stronger voice to our message of hope.”

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JPIC Database

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Select any filter and click on Search to see results.

The JPIC Database is now available on the JPIC Learning Hub!

There are three ways to access the JPIC Database:

1. Direct Access: <https://rscj-jpic.org/database>
2. Through JPIC International: On the front page of the [RSCJ JPIC website](#), click on the hexagon of JPIC International. On the landing page of JPIC International, click “JPIC Database” — the 2nd on the blue header.
3. Through the front page: Scroll down to the bottom. Under the search box, click on the image that says: Our Commitments
JPIC Database — Click here.

We are grateful to Yolanda Jiménez (JPIC Database Administrator), Laryn Bakker of Stuart Center, and Joy Luz rscj (JPIC International Coordinator), for completing the migration of the JPIC Database to the JPIC Learning Hub.

This is a work in progress! Please send your database contributions to: jpicasist@rscjroma.org

Visit the JPIC website of the Family of the Sacred Heart:

<https://rscj-jpic.org>



Share about your JPIC engagements and activities.

Send your contributions to:
rscj.jpic@gmail.com