

Archdiocese of Southwark
Commission for
Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation



Newsletter - Autumn 2015

Terry Brown – A Big Thank You from the Justice and Peace Network and Friends.

On behalf of all those who are connected with the justice and peace cause, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Terry for all that he has done, in his role as JPIC Coordinator and his work in the wider Charity Sector. We wish him a Happy "Retired" life. I am glad to inform you that he will continue to drop in at Justice & Peace and other events.

Justice and Peace activists called to build peace in communities and across the planet

Press release - Paul Donovan

(Article about the 37th NJPN conference titled "The Things that make for Peace", attended by 300 J&P activists from the country)

Professor Paul Rogers calls for action to address climate change over the next 15 years or face the consequences.

A leading academic has called for drastic action over the next 15 years to address climate change or face the consequences.

Addressing the annual conference of the National Justice and Peace Network in Swanwick, Derbyshire, Professor of Peace Studies at Bradford University, Paul Rogers claimed that governments often adopt a military solution to try to control problems rather than dealing with underlying causes.

Professor Rogers declared that there was something very wrong with a world economy where the mass of wealth is accruing to a smaller and smaller number of people. "The neo-liberal economic system is not delivering justice," said the peace professor, who highlighted how this division of wealth was being exacerbated by some of the effects of climate change. "There is a neo-liberal economic system that finds it difficult to deal with the climate change," said Professor Rogers, who pointed out that the speed of destruction is getting worse with for example typhoon Hyan, which hit the Philippines last year, running at speeds of 160 mph for 10 minutes. Some 6,300 people died as a result of the typhoon with untold damage done to the country.

The professor believes though that it is big shocks that often cause world governments to act. He quoted the example of how the London smog in 1952, killed 4,000 people in four days. "This effected the power elites and brought the clean air act forward a decade," said Professor Rogers. Similarly the threat posed by chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) in the 1980s brought quick action from governments to halt the danger. He claimed that there are things going on, almost unnoticed to address the problems such as grid Photovoltaic panels being erected across sub sahara and Africa.

Professor Rogers believes the next 15 years will be crucial in moving strongly to address the threats posed by climate change to the peace and living environment. "The period between now and 2030 is crucial – we have to work to get the changes," said Professor Rogers, who remains positive that this will be achieved. "We can have a peaceful, sustainable and just world in the 2070s if we make the right moves now up to 2045," said Professor Rogers.

The professor identified Jeremy Corbyn as the politician whose policies are most in line with what will be needed over the coming decade to counter the disruption likely to be caused by climate change. "The one person in tune with what is going to happen over the next five years is Jeremy Corbyn," said Professor Rogers.

Priest and Goldman environmental prize winner (2012) Father Edu Gariguez told of the threat posed to

the Philippines people and environment by large mining companies.

He recalled how there are 92 large scale mining applications for the island of Mindaro, where he lives.

The Philippines government see mining as a way to develop the country. "The neo liberal system sees natural resources as something to be exploited rather than something for the sustainable life of all," said Father Gariguez, who has been targeted by death squads for his activities campaigning against exploitative mining practices.

"If we are pro-life, we must be pro-environment," said Father Gariguez, who called for "concerted collaborative action, working together in building the common home."

The mother of a 14 year old boy murdered on the streets of north London has revealed how the only way she could move on was to forgive her son's killer.

Lorraine Dinnegan, whose son Martin was stabbed to death in 2007, revealed how she felt if she did not forgive, "I'd just be left with misery and depression. I needed to just remember the nice and good things about Martin."

Ms Dinnegan told how her parish church of St Melitus in Finsbury Park and the local police had helped her through "this terrible time."

She recalled sitting in the Old Bailey a year later watching the trial of Joseph Chin, 16, who murdered her son. He killed him because he looked at him the wrong way.

One positive development has been the rolling out of a citizens safe havens scheme in north London. The Dinnegans learned about this scheme from the Mizens, who also lost their son Jimmy in similarly tragic circumstances in south London. "They'd set up a safe havens scheme, whereby those willing to help, like shops, put up a sticker in their window – they would then provide a safe haven," said Ms Dinnegan.

St Melitus Church working with the police managed to set up havens in 45 shops. "The police were grateful that people in the community were standing up for something good," said Ms Dinnegan, who has spoken in schools about knife crime and done six workshops with the police. Ms Dinnegan won the London Citizens "leader of the year award" in 2013.

Sister of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit Maire Hayes told of how faith groups are working together in Luton to bring harmony in the local community.

Sister Maire is based in Luton, a town of 200,000 people that has been the focus of media attention over recent years. Sister Maire recalled the controversy when members of the Anglian regiment marched through the town and there were protests about the soldiers actions in Basra. The right wing English Defence League resulted from the protests. More recently the right wing group Britain First descended on the town in June, creating fear in the Muslim community.

Sister Maire told how despite these type of incursions Luton is a town where the people of different faiths pull together. She told of an annual peace walk and sporting events, when the different faiths come together. Also how the different faiths placed flowers in remembrance of the murdered soldier Lee Rigby. In another action, after a rabbi was harassed, members of the Muslim community walked with him to the synagogue for 18 months.

Sister Maire pointed out that despite the tensions, often stoked by people coming from outside, there was no trouble in Luton at the time of the riots across the country in 2011. "We strive to build community cohesion, working to empower Luton's faith and cultural communities," said Sister Maire.

Fiona Mwashita, a Progressio regional manager in Zimbabwe, told of work to empower women, making sure they know their rights and get the support they need.

(Taken from Independent Catholic News)

Justice and Peace speaks out for communities affected by mining

Vatican City, 17 July 2015 (VIS) – This morning in the Holy See Press Office Cardinal Peter Kodwo Appiah Turkson, president of the Pontifical Council "Justice and Peace", presented the dicastery's initiative "A day of Reflection: united with God, we hear a cry", to be attended by various representatives of communities affected by mining activity in Africa, Asia and America who will gather in the Salesianum Congress Centre in Rome from 17 to 19 July.

Cardinal Turkson explained that the aim of the meeting was to take stock of the situation of these communities, recalling that in 2013 Justice and Peace organised a day of reflection entitled "Mining for the common good", upon request of the directors of various mining companies, in order to evaluate the human, economic and environmental implications of this activity. A report of the event was distributed to the Episcopal Conferences of the countries involved. A second day of reflection will be held in September,

entitled "Creating a new future, Reimagining the future of mining" and so the current initiative, aimed at giving a voice to the communities affected by the mining industry, is intended as preparation for this second meeting.

"There is no lack of reasons and motives for the decision of the Pontifical dicastery", said the Cardinal. "With the Encyclical 'Laudato si' the Holy Father urges us to 'hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor'. We cannot remain indifferent to this cry, as the need to hear it is 'born of the liberating action of grace within each of us, and thus it is not a mission reserved only to a few: the Church, guided by the Gospel of mercy and by love for mankind, hears the cry for justice and intends to respond to it with all her might'".

"Many of us are aware of this harrowing cry from those areas where mineral extraction is carried out", he continued. "To give just a few examples: the 'Africa Progress Report' by the former secretary general of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, the OECD directives on the issue, the numerous reports on the rights of indigenous populations, the 'Publish what you pay' initiative, legislation on the traceability of minerals currently being developed by the European Parliament, in cinema with films such as 'Blood Diamonds' or 'Avatar', and so on".

"The Church, on various occasions and for many years, has closely followed mining activities. At national level, the documents of the Episcopal Conferences which denounce human rights violations, illegality, violence and the exploitation of deposits causing pollution and problems for the safety of local produce. ... At regional level, it is considered by the Continental Episcopal Conferences, the Pan-Amazonian Ecclesial Network, and so on, and at transnational level, by Franciscan networks, the CIDSE and Caritas. All these voices follow the same direction: faced with these situations, we cannot allow indifference, cynicism and impunity to continue to prevail. A radical paradigm change is needed in the interests of the common good, justice, sustainability and human dignity".

In these three days the representatives of the communities affected by mining operations in different ways will act as spokespeople for those who are unable to come to Rome and whose voice frequently goes unheard by experts and commentators. "I must emphasise that some people who are attending the meeting have experienced pressure and intimidation in recent days, for example after having requested a passport. The Pontifical Council has heard testimonies of threats, violence and murder; of retaliation, of compensation never received, and of unkept promises".

"Therefore", he continued, "there are individuals who work without a truly human aim. There are denials of the primacy of the human being, insensitivity to the welfare of the social and natural environment and the full experience of fragility, abandonment and rejection. Those responsible are investors, businesspeople, politicians and governors of the countries where the deposits are found, or rather the countries where the headquarters of the mining multinationals reside".

"On the other hand, exploited and poor countries are above all in need of honest governments, educated people and investors with an acute sense of justice and the common good, as it is morally unacceptable, politically dangerous, environmentally unsustainable and economically unjustifiable for developing countries to 'continue to fuel the development of richer countries at the cost of their own present and future'", he concluded.

(Taken from Vatican Information Service)

Autumn Assembly 2015

Saturday 17 October

10:30am – 4pm (Registration, tea & coffee from 10am)

Venue: "The Pavilion", CAFOD, Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, SE1 7JB

Theme for the Day: Can We Eradicate Poverty?

(17 October is observed by UN as International Day for Eradication of Poverty)

Organised in conjunction with CAFOD

Guest Speaker: Canon Giles Fraser - "The Loose Canon"

For more information or to book a place:

Email: office@southwarkjandp.co.uk or Phone: 020 7928 9742

All Welcome. No charge to attend. Tea & coffee provided. Bring your own lunch.

