



Mandate of IPA: Addressing the root causes of poverty by confronting personal and corporate greed which exploit Earth, her peoples and the whole community of life, committing ourselves to:

2) Create space for contemplation and create new ways of expressing evolving consciousness of our interconnectedness with all creation, especially with those made poor.

Prayerful Reflection:

At February's JPIC Committee meeting our prayer was led by Emma Rooney, from Bruce Sanguin's *A Renaissance of Wonder*, the second module of the video **Painting with the Stars**. Michael Fox invited us to see *AWE* as an acronym for "**awakening to wonder everywhere**".

Events and Actions of our JPIC committee:

Housing and Homelessness -

- **Report on Home Builders Association meeting:** Angela and Clo attended the HBA meeting at Holiday Inn on February 13th. The discussion focused on the lack of affordable housing in St. John's – including the idea that for many people, there is truly no 'affordable' housing. Between 2006 and 2012 there was a 91% increase in the cost of housing in our city. Factors included cost of shipping materials, most money in the hands of few people, greed, etc. The good news is that there was a consensus at the meeting that good effective dialogue had begun and is crucial for positive action.
- **Report on 'Faith and Housing' meeting:** Angela, Clo and Emma attended this monthly meeting at St. Mark's Church on Feb. 19. *Affordable housing* is emerging as one of the most pressing issues in the City of St. John's. Bruce Pearce gave a presentation on the History of Housing and noted that in the 1950's and 1960's, our city was the envy of the rest of Canada with our affordable housing – but again, because of many factors - including the lack of government funding - we are now on a par with Calgary in our lack of housing across the spectrum of affordability. It is recommended that through its *Affordable Housing Action Plan*, the City work with the private sector, and all levels of government and community organizations to focus on developing and promoting innovative and collaborative programs and policies that attempt to address the many issues surrounding the most vulnerable of our society.
- **National JPIC Conference, May 2015:** Our committee has been asked to coordinate the various Congregational Atlantic JPIC committees in preparing the opening evening liturgy of this conference.

Articles of Interest

- **Lent - A Reflection Pool for Diving into Water Usage Issues** by **Sharon Abercrombie** from the NCR. <http://ncronline.org/node/71901>

- **Course in Sustainable Development**

The Earth Institute of Columbia University and Jeffrey Sachs are offering a free course on **sustainable development**. An introductory video and course outline can be found at <https://www.coursera.org/course/susdev> . You can tailor the amount of involvement to suit your time and interest.

- **KAIROS executive director Jennifer Henry sent a [letter of solidarity to the South Sudan Council of Churches](#) in January 2014. KAIROS also wrote [Minister Baird regarding the crisis in South Sudan](#).**

For the past few years, KAIROS has supported the Sudan Council of Churches' efforts to reactivate its National Women's Program and enhance the capacity of South Sudanese women to engage in peace-building, human rights promotion and democratic development. In 2013, a new coordinator was hired in the capital of Juba, and focal points for the women's program were established in other major centres. This institution-building work has been undertaken with the support of another

KAIROS partner, FECCLAHA (Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa). For more information, please visit the KAIROS website: www.kairoscanada.org

- Sister Lilly John pbvm, from India is working with Elsa for a few months at the UN. She was a panelist at the NGO Committee for Social Development Civil Society on February 10, 2014. Lilly spoke on the ministry of the Sisters of the Presentation to Indigenous People of India to promote empowerment in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all.

Not-So-Good News

- [What Is Human Trafficking? - United Nations Office On Drugs And Crime](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/what-is-human-trafficking...)
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Trafficking in persons is a serious crime and a grave violation of human rights. Every year, thousands of men, women and children fall into the hands of traffickers, in their own countries and abroad.

Good News

- **International Women's Day:** *Inspiring Change* is the 2014 theme which encourages advocacy for women's advancement everywhere in every way. It calls for challenging the status quo for women's equality and vigilance inspiring positive change. The Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) is hosting an **International Women's Day Luncheon on Friday, March 7th from noon - 2p.m.** at the Royal Canadian Legion in Pleasantville with National President, Robyn Benson, as guest speaker.
- The mayor of St. John's is urging the general public to report slum landlords to the city so they can investigate housing. "Give us the address and tell us what kind of conditions that exist where you live, and we'll take it from there. If you're not comfortable leaving your name, you don't have to leave your name, but we need to know. Otherwise, we can't deal with the problem," O'Keefe said.



Up-Coming Events



Workshop on Human Trafficking

The Newfoundland Coalition Against *Human Trafficking* Conference will be held at the Capital Hotel from April 7-9, to raise awareness and to inform the community on ways to address this modern day form of slavery. Sister Emma sits on the organizing committee which is a multi-disciplinary group. The keynote speaker is Joyce Smith, MP from Manitoba. She has wide experience and is working with a national group to change laws which further re-victimize trafficked persons who are fearful of any law officers, as often they are illegal immigrants and have no passports or other necessary documentation. Human trafficking is a global problem that has local implications for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador. The cost of registration is \$150.

Concluding Challenges/Actions:

Create space for contemplation and create new ways of expressing evolving consciousness of our interconnectedness with all creation, especially with those made poor. (IPA commitment 2012)

Read at least one of the articles listed above, or another on a Justice Issue, and share with another person.

