

[View this email in your browser](#)

4th Edition

IPA Justice Contact Update May 2020

**Bio-diversity is a gift.
It is God's fingerprint.**



Our Unique Children by Mary Southard, CSJ

**Every culture... every being is a face and voice of divinity.
Take off your shoes. This is Holy Ground.**

"I do not want my house to be walled in on all sides and my windows to be stuffed. I want the cultures of all lands to be blown about my house as freely as possible... But I refuse to be blown off my feet by any." ~ Gandhi

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

difference there would be no creation or expansion. Margaret Wheatly says 'It's not our differences that divide us. It's our judgements about each other that do.'

How do I experience God's fingerprint of diversity in our lives as women and men? When do I experience 'diversity' as a blessing and when does it become a stumbling block for me?

Keep your journal . . . seek out couple of others with whom to share.

From the Spirituality & Charism Committee PBVM Srs. Terry Abraham, Maria Lazzaro, & Dorothy Scesny

Update from the Programme Action Leader



Click on the image above to watch a video to the poem
One Pace Beyond by Raphael Consedine, PBVM

"Hard work is important. So are play and nonproductively. My worth is tied not to my productivity, but to my existence. I am worthy of rest." - Glennon Doyle

Thank you, thank you, thank you! Thank you for sending in photos, articles, stories, and documents showing how Presentation People are responding to COVID-19. I am so impressed and proud of how we are responding as Presentation People around the world. This update will highlight some of the responses I have received and next month we will continue to highlight your stories.

We are working on a way to combine the stories so they can be shared with all Presentation People in an easily accessible way. Thank you for all that you are doing

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Please remember to take time for yourself, relax, and restore your energy as we continue to journey through this global pandemic. The IPA Team continues their prayer and support for each one of you.

I took part in a webinar called, "Five Lessons from Restorative Justice: In the time of COVID-19" hosted by the Catholic Mobilizing Network based in the United States. I was inspired to learn how to use these restorative justice practices in my daily life and while in meetings during this pandemic. Here are the five lessons they offered...

1. The beauty of ceremony and shared values
2. The importance of checking in
3. Story sharing without judgement
4. Acknowledging our interconnectedness and disproportionate impacts of harm
5. Creating supportive communities to process trauma and make plans.

These practices remind us of our shared humanity and the importance of recognizing this especially during these troubling times. [Read more about the webinar here.](#)

Please continue to send in the ways you are sharing hope, love, and courage in these times of crisis. Email me at jpaprogactionleader@gmail.com.

Stay healthy, hopeful, and safe,

Mary Therese Krueger, PBVM



The IPA team is grateful to have virtually gathered and listened to our Justice Contacts from South America, North America, and Europe as we discussed the IPA Strategy. We look forward to gathering with the Justice Contacts from Asia, Africa, and Australia in May to continue these engaging conversations.

Update from the UN



We all experience unprecedented and challenging times due to COVID-19 pandemic. Our everyday lives and societies are being pushed to their limits. The pandemic is not only a critical public health danger; it is also a social and economic emergency, a human emergency. This “dangerous enemy” - as many have named it – shines a glaring light on the underlying inequalities of our societies. In an effort to address the impacts of coronavirus pandemic, the IPA and its Justice Contacts need to be alert and “on call” while working on the IPA foci. People hit hardest by this pandemic are those people already vulnerable: the marginalized and poor with limited or no access to food, health services, social protection, unemployment benefits, education etc.

Now more than ever, it is important to reach out to vulnerable people, to respond to their needs, so no one is left behind. Advancing the rights of those in need and addressing injustices lie at the core of the IPA mission. Thus, the IPA members and Presentation People would unquestionably be “on call” to address the injustices and interconnected inequalities, to response to the women’s rights and gender justice, to address climate and environmental justice.

In this context, I as the NGO Representative will keep pursuing my tasks at the UN, even through telecommuting, and towards the IPA members and Presentation People with respect, awareness and understanding of the current situation and challenges that emerge. Everything and everyone are interconnected. The IPA members’ and Peoples’ experiences and missions will keep manifest in my advocacy work at the UN. In return, my advocacy efforts at the UN level need to manifest in the IPA members’ and People’s lives and missions. The coronavirus pandemic is an opportunity for changes, for a new and urgent reality of inclusive solidarity and collaboration.

Together, in oneness, we can create opportunities for deeper cooperation and new possibilities. Online engagement initiatives at the UN level, at this point, will help to tackle social and economic impacts in a productive way that leaves no one behind. Now is a time for unity on shaping an effective and inclusive response to the current global challenges.

Respectfully,

Dr. Despoina Afroditi Milaki



Webinar hosted by Women's Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN):
Indigenous Women of Brazil and Ecuador on the Frontlines: COVID-19 & Defending
Communities & the Amazon

Update from the Grassroots



The Waorani Women of the Amazon, Ecuador

Oil Spills Along the Coca and Napo Rivers Affect Ecuadorian Indigenous Communities - Context of COVID-19 Pandemic

Catherine Codd, PBVM

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

the pollution of water sources of over than 90,000 people including 2,000 indigenous families in the región.

We are all aware of how oil spills effect our environments and hábitats. We know that effects can be catastrophic- killing plants and animals, disturbing salt and acid/alkaline levels, polluting air/water and more. The layer across formed across the surface blocks sunlight, which in turn upsets the entire food chain of an ecosystem. This scientific fact becomes a lived experience for hundreds of indigenous and farmer families at this time where entire communities depend directly on the rivers of the Amazon for food, livelihood and subsistence.

I cannot but call to mind Samuel Taylor Coleridge's poem "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" which many of us learned in our school days "Water, water everywhere / Not a drop to drink." For many of our Amazon people these famous lines hold a grim truth. Rather than the undrinkable sea water of Coleridge's poem, however, Amazon people drink, bathe and cook with contaminated water. Their water isn't safe to drink because of the pollution.

Ongoing invasions of indigenous territories and the targeting of indigenous leaders with violence and intimidation is an everyday reality. Industrial activities and organized criminal operations on or near indigenous territories remains a critical threat to indigenous peoples' security and human rights, as well as the ecological integrity of indigenous lands. Yet several of the world's largest financial institutions continue to contribute billions to the continuation and expansion of these activities in the Amazon Basin.

In this context COVID-19 poses a mortal threat to Amazonian indigenous peoples. They are sounding the alarm that "Coronavirus could wipe us out" as recently headlined in The Guardian (30th March).

According to the Pan-Amazon Religious Network (REPAM) where as a member of the Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation Commission (JPIC) of Conference of Religious, Ecuador, we are represented, we get the message of the urgency of need to take action now to prevent more deaths and the wipe out of our indigenous peoples, with their "distinctive cultural riches".

[Read more here](#)

Presentation People Responding to COVID-19

Click the blue buttons to read more!

Western Australia's Response

[Subscribe](#)
[Past Issues](#)
[Translate ▼](#)


A family from Iona Presentation College in Mosman Park, Western Australia, picked a feel good word each and used art work to cut the letters out to display on their front fence to spread hope.

Thailand's Response



On World Health Day, the HEALTH TEAM of Chiang Mai Diocese gave awareness on COVID- 19 and treated people for other illnesses. Sr. Jancy Selvaraj, PBVM is one of the team members in the Health Commission and providing care.

San Francisco's Response



Above (left to right): Sisters Judith Cunningham, PBVM, Denise Bourdet, PVBM, Ellen Cafferty, PBVM, Toni Martinez, PBVM, Joanne O'Shea, PBVM and Bernie Gotelli, PBVM, hard at work in the motherhouse sewing room making masks for the Care Center.

Ireland's Response



Enhancing local biodiversity, Sr. Maureen O'Connell, PVBM has planted wildflowers in their garden to assist pollination in attracting bees. Leaving a section of their lawn uncut, she enjoys watching out for and photographing bumble bees and honey bees visiting the dandelions and daisies and later on the clovers when they appear.

Fargo, North Dakota's Response

Presentation Sisters Learning Center's Response



A coalition of volunteers and students has joined in making protective masks for themselves, local hospitals and vulnerable citizens in our Los Angeles, California community. Over 1,000 masks have been delivered to local hospitals. More to come!

Upcoming Dates

8-9 May - Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives During the Second World War

15 May - International Day of Families

16 May - International Day of Living Together in Peace

16 May - International Day of Light

20 May - World Bee Day

21 May - World Tea Day

21 May - World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development

22 May - International Day for Biological Diversity

25-28 May - Online Gathering of IPA Justice Contacts from Asia, Australia, and Africa

29 May - International Day of UN Peacekeepers

[Click here to subscribe to the monthly IPA Justice Contact Update](https://mailchi.mp/5abf57c96e8e/march-ipa-update-9267598?e=eefebd3dde)

[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate](#) ▼



This email was sent to execdirectoripa@pbvm.org
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
International Presentation Association · 1011 1st Ave # 1313 · New York, NY 10022-4112 · USA

