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3rd Edition



IPA Justice Contact Update April 2020

Earth, Teach Me



Earth teach me quiet ~ as the grasses are still with new light.
 Earth teach me suffering ~ as old stones suffer with memory.
 Earth teach me humility ~ as blossoms are humble with beginning.
 Earth teach me caring ~ as mothers nurture their young.
 Earth teach me courage ~ as the tree that stands alone.
 Earth teach me limitation ~ as the ant that crawls on the ground.
 Earth teach me freedom ~ as the eagle that soars in the sky.
 Earth teach me acceptance ~ as the leaves that die each fall.
 Earth teach me renewal ~ as the seed that rises in the spring.
 Earth teach me to forget myself ~ as melted snow forgets its life.
 Earth teach me to remember kindness ~ as dry fields weep with rain.
American Indian Ute Prayer passed down from White Buffalo Calf Woman

[Sit in stillness under the night sky, sit in a meadow or field, sit under a tree, play with
 the soil. Listen to the heartbeat of Earth...the heartbeat of the suffering
 humanity... heartbeat of the Divine.](#)

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Keep your journal and seek couple of others to share with.

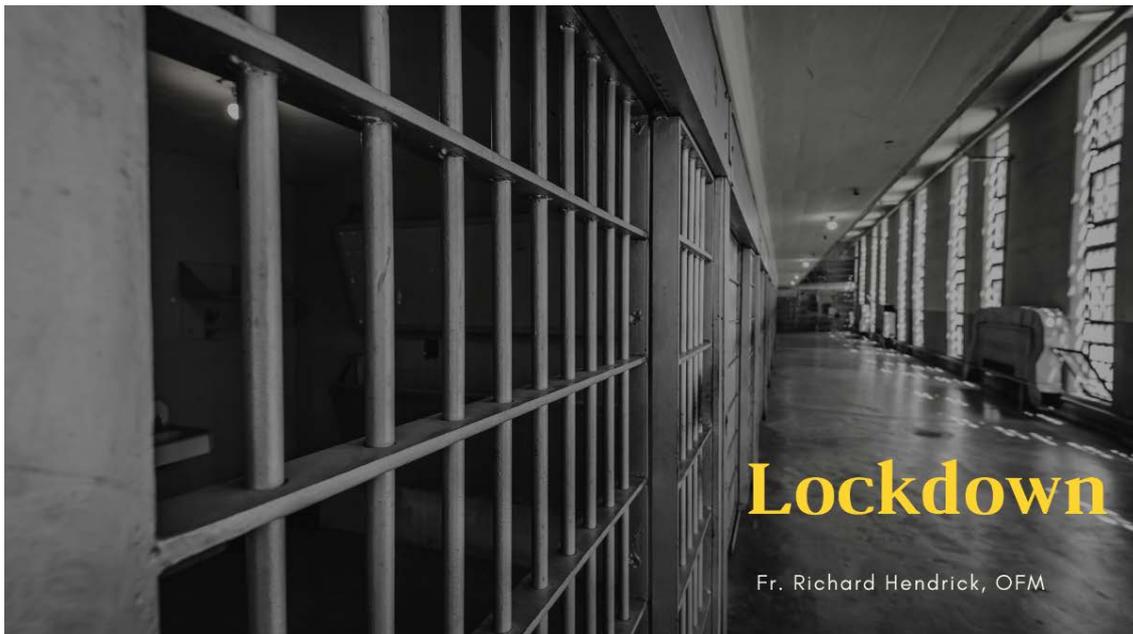
[Click here for IPA's Holy Week Reflections](#)

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

April 5th at noon in your local time zone, IPA invites you to participate in a Global Circle of Light in solidarity and prayer.

[Click here for the invitation and prayer](#)

Update from the Programme Action Leader



Click on the image above to watch a video to the poem
Lockdown by Fr. Richard Hendrick, OFM

"God is calling on us to seize this time of trial as a time of choosing... The Lord asks us and, in the midst of our tempest, invites us to reawaken and put into practice that solidarity and hope capable of giving strength, support and meaning to these hours when everything seems to be floundering." Pope Francis at Urbi et orbi ([Read the full text here](#))

March has felt like a turbulent storm. Here in the United States, the number of cases of COVID-19 are increasing drastically. In Chicago, Illinois where I live, we are under a Shelter-in-Place order which means we are to be staying home and only essential workers and trips are allowed as travel is restricted. We have had to become creative in the ways in

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As we work together as IPA into the future, I think this time of global crisis has a few learnings to offer us. It demonstrates the interconnectedness of the world. For one of the first times in global history, we are all truly in solidarity with one another in our suffering and grief as each country is effected in some way. It is also a time where we can find joy and gratitude in simple moments as described the poem Lockdown by Fr. Richard Hendrick, OFM.

Many of us now have some "extra" time on our hands as our schedules are cleared of trips, meetings, and gatherings. How can we use this time as a vehicle for change? Maybe we can use our time in prayer and reflection. Maybe it's finding creative ways to accompany others through texts, phone calls, cards, or emails. Maybe it's finding ways to support medical personnel through prayer, donations, encouragement. Maybe it's through donations to those struggling to pay rent, buy food, find housing, spaces to quarantine themselves, shopping for elderly, and so on.

This time can also be spent reading and learning about global politics and oppressive structures that continue to marginalize people, instead of drawing on the beauty of collaboration and solidarity.

Many of us now have the time and space to truly reflect on what it means to be part of IPA. What does being part of this international community mean during this time of a global crisis? How can we support one another? For where one of us is, we all are. I invite you to participate on April 5th, the IPA Global Circle of Light and Solidarity and Prayer as well as encourage all Presentation People to do the same.

I would love to hear from you and be able to share the creative ways you are sharing hope, love, and courage in these times of crisis. Please send photos or stories about how Presentation People are coping during this time. Email me at ipaprogactionleader@gmail.com.

Please follow us on Facebook @InternationalPresenationAssociation and on Twitter @IPA_UN.

Stay healthy, hopeful, and safe,

Mary Therese Krueger, PBVM

Update from the UN

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United Nations Permanent Forum
on Indigenous Issues

We have all evidenced with great concern the rapid increase in the numbers of people all over the world affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19) disease. The COVID-19 pandemic is not just a health issue. It is a profound shock to our societies and economies. The World Health Organization (WHO) has characterized the outbreak of this disease as a pandemic and has called for a comprehensive strategy to prevent infections, save lives and minimize impact.

Following [the announcement by the UN Secretary-General](#) on the coronavirus threat sent on February 28th, 2020, the Bureau of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW64) decided not to hold its session as scheduled at the UN Headquarters from 9-20 March, 2020. Rather, the decision was made to hold a procedural meeting, with delegations and civil society representatives based in New York, on March 9th, to officially adopt a [Political Declaration](#). No general debate took place and all side and parallel events planned by Member States, UN agencies and the NGOs in conjunction with the CSW64 were cancelled.

In light of the current global spread of the coronavirus situation, the 19th session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), originally scheduled to be held from 13-24 April 2020, has also been postponed, until a later date to be determined, according to a recent UN update. The UNPFII is a high-level advisory body to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), with the mandate to deal with indigenous issues related to economic and social development, education, environment, culture, health and human rights. The theme for the 2020 session is "Peace, justice and strong institutions: the role of indigenous peoples in implementing Sustainable Development Goal 16."

It is with a heavy heart that we have to share this regretful news with you. Due to the current outbreak of the coronavirus disease, the UN has stepped up measures to safeguard all those using its offices, while at the same time ensuring that the critical work of the global organization continues to deliver on supporting those in need. The UN Secretary-General outlined the need to "reduce our physical presence" at UN Headquarters, through implementing fulltime telecommuting. The health and well-being of individuals is UN's, as well as our paramount concern and we continue to follow the recommendations of national and international public health authorities concerning the coronavirus situation. Stay healthy and safe! [Read more here.](#)

Dr. Despoina Afroditi Milaki



Rosemary Grundy, PBVM; Lynne Crilley, PBVM; Noreen McGrath, PBVM; Joan Kennedy, PBVM

Update from the Grassroots

ACRATH Members Meet to End Slavery and Slavery-Like Practices

Four Presentation Sisters: Rosemary Grundy (Queensland), Lynne Crilley (Wagga Wagga), Joan Kennedy (Victoria) and Noreen McGrath (New Zealand) joined a dynamic group of women and men from across Australia and New Zealand for the ACRATH 2020 National Conference, 18-20 February. 50 members of Australian Catholic Religious against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH) met at St Joseph's Centre, Baulkham Hills, north-west of Sydney.

Joan Kennedy provided the following report to Presentation Society of Australia and PNG: *"ACRATH works with others to end slavery and slavery-like practices in Australia. These include forced labour, domestic servitude, sexual servitude, forced marriage, deceptive recruiting, debt bondage, organ trafficking and harbouring a victim."*

During the Conference the Annual Report was delivered, and reports were presented from each State Group and New Zealand. Presentations were made by ACRATH members and invited speakers. The agenda items included:

- A panel on forced labour
- A panel on forced marriage
- A comprehensive address by Senior Sergeant Marilyn Rose, Australian Federal Police
- A Scoping Study of Slavery in South Australia by Dr. Marinella Marmo
- Maree Marsh, CSB updated the Conference participants on Safeguarding
- Clare Condon, CSG lead a reflection time on nurturing the Spirit.

"We listened to a presentation on the international work of *Talitha Kum*. The members come from Religious Congregations in 92 countries. They are supported by the UISG and

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arise”.

A more detailed report can be found on the [ACRATH website](#) and on the [PBVM Society's website](#).



Presentation Sister Sneha Gill has been reaching out to the victims of riots in Delhi, India. She has been helping to provide medical care in places where government services have failed to help victims.



International Women's Day was celebrated by Presentation Sisters and the local community at the [Garden of Oneness](#) in Zambia.

Upcoming Dates

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- 5 April** - IPA Global Circle of Light and Solidarity and Prayer
 - 5 April** - International Day of Conscience
 - 7 April** - International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda
 - 7 April** - World Health Day
 - 21 April** - World Creativity and Innovation Day
 - 22 April** - International Mother Earth Day
 - 24 April** - International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace
 - 26 April** - Celebration of Nano Nagle's Death
 - 28 April** - World Day for Safety and Health at Work



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