

Newsletter

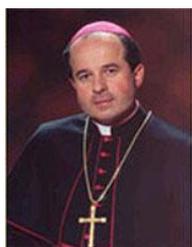
February 2016



Caritas in Veritate Foundation

"Authentic development must foster the development of each man and the whole man."

FOUNDATION ANNOUNCEMENTS



New Permanent Observer for the Holy See Mission: In the December Newsletter, His Excellency Archbishop Silvano M. Tomasi announced his departure as Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations and specialized Organizations in Geneva and to the World Trade Organization. On February 13, 2016 His Holiness Pope Francis appointed as new Permanent Observer His Excellency Archbishop Ivan Jurkovič, former Apostolic Nuncio to the Russian Federation and to Uzbekistan. The Foundation warmly welcomes His Excellency Archbishop Jurkovič as President of the Caritas in Veritate Foundation. The Foundation would also like to thank His Excellency Archbishop Silvano M. Tomasi, who created the Foundation five years ago, for his dedication and excellent guidance over the past years.

- **Personnel:** The Board appointed as Director for the Caritas in Veritate Foundation Mrs. Alice de La Rochefoucauld, who had joined the Foundation in fall 2015 as Communications and Fundraising Director. She will be in charge of all ongoing projects and correspondence should be directed to her: delarochefoucauld@fciv.org.
- **Donors:** The Foundation is very grateful for the financial support provided by individuals and institutional donors, which enables us to continue to witness to Christian values in the international context of Geneva. A special thanks goes to the parishes and to the Bishops of Switzerland for their moral and financial support. Many thanks also to the dioceses of Cologne (Germany) and Rottenburg-Stuttgart (Germany) for financing several projects. The Foundation hopes to be able to count on other dioceses for their future support.
- **Network of Universities and Research Centres:** The Foundation is very grateful for the excellent work provided by its collaborators and looks forward to a good and fruitful cooperation in the future.



ACTIVITIES

Conferences

Throughout the year, the Foundation participates in the organization of several high-level seminars and side-events at the United Nations to discuss specific topics of international relevance. In recent weeks, the President of the Foundation participated in and intervened on the following:

- Tenth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), in Nairobi, in December 2015
- Conference on the Role of Religion and Peacebuilding organized by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), in February 2016

On January 15th, 2016 a special event on Pope Francis's Encyclical Letter "*Laudato Si: Caring for Our Common Home*" took place at the *Centre International de Conférence de Genève*. This conference aimed to facilitate a deeper reflection on the impact of climate change on society. His Eminence Cardinal Peter Turkson, President of the Pontifical Council for *Justice and Peace* participated as the keynote speaker. Follow the [link](#) to download the full summary.

The 31st Session of the Human Rights Council (HRC) of the United Nations will take place from February 29 to March 24, 2016 in Geneva. The Holy See Mission, with the support of expertise provided by the Foundation, will intervene on the following topics:

- Foreign Debt
- Freedom of Religion
- Human Rights and HIV/AIDS epidemic
- Syrian Arab Republic

Furthermore, during the HRC, a closed movie session will be organized "on the Smallest Army in the World: The Swiss Guard", at the Palais des Nations, on March 3, 2016.



High Level Conference Laudato Si: Caring for Our Common Home, Geneva, January 2016



High Level Conference Laudato Si: Caring for Our Common Home, Geneva, January 2016



Cardinal Peter Turkson at the Holy See Mission in Geneva

Publications

Strategical Reports. The introduction of a debate on the right to a “dignified death” at the Human Rights Council prompted the decision to prepare and to publish a report on “Death and Dignity: New Forms of Euthanasia”. It discusses the compatibility of this “right” with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Publication soon).

Blueprints. Our [blueprints](#), short informative papers, highlight the state of the discussion on certain topics being debated at the UN and give a Catholic perspective on them, such as the following:

- [Freedom of religion in the Middle Eastern Context: Islam and its Minorities](#)
- [Religion and the Fight against Human Trafficking](#)
- [The Status of Freedom of Religion in the World](#)

AREAS OF FURTHER STUDY

- **Family Empowerment Policies:** In line with the recent Human Rights Council Resolution on the Family, the Foundation will gather information and propose concrete international policies for the empowerment of the family.
- **Unaccompanied Child Migrants** are disappearing in transit countries in increasing numbers. We will explore the root causes of this phenomenon and emphasize the necessity for transit countries to uphold the human rights of these children.
- **Constitutional Forms of the State in Muslim-Majority Countries:** What kind of state may guarantee true freedom of religion?
- **Migrant Integration in Europe:** What are the requirements and expectations that the European countries should demand regarding migrant integration and how can these expectations be implemented?
- **Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS):** Insisting on the serious and negative ethical impact of LAWS, the Holy See pleads for a policy of prevention. With other like-minded partners, we seek the prohibition of fully autonomous weapons.



OUR MISSION

The **Caritas in Veritate Foundation** is grounded in Christian values and the social teaching of the Catholic Church. It aims to provide Christian Representatives at the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva with expertise and strategic thinking. By closely collaborating with the Holy See Mission and the Mission of the Order of Malta to the UN, as well as with Catholic-inspired non-governmental organizations, the Foundation contributes to the negotiations and the decision-making process involved. Thanks to its research capability and to its commitment to excellence, the aims of the Foundation are to humanize international life by contributing the perspective of Christian faith and the priority given to the human person.

The goal of the Foundation is to articulate in the international arena the positions of the Holy See and the Catholic Church, as a contribution to an international culture that prioritizes peace and integral human development.

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT US?

Our future work depends on your voluntary contributions. You can help us by funding concrete projects or by contributing to the development of the Foundation.

Your donation makes a difference!



Beneficiary: Caritas in Veritate Foundation,
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