

Newsletter

December 2015



Caritas in Veritate Foundation

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



As 2015 comes to an end, the **Caritas in Veritate Foundation** is grateful to the generosity of many donors and collaborators. This cooperation has allowed the Foundation to give effective support to the Catholic presence in the international context of Geneva. I hope that this positive and productive action will continue in the new year. The change of personnel, which is a normal practice in the diplomatic service, will also affect the Holy See Mission to the United Nations (UN), as I have reached the retiring age. My successor will have a chance to give an additional impulse to the growth of the Foundation. In the meantime, allow me to thank all of you for supporting the Foundation and its initiatives. In particular, I thank Dr. Mathias Nebel who has concluded his valuable service as Director of the Foundation. I also welcome Mrs. Alice de La Rochefoucauld, who is engaged in the activities of the Foundation, especially in the area of fundraising. I look forward to your continued support and I extend to each of you and your families, cordial best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a blessed and happy New Year.

**Archbishop Silvano M. Tomasi
President**

ACTIVITIES

Conferences

We organized several high-level seminars and side-events at the UN to discuss specific topics of international relevance. In recent weeks, the President of the Foundation participated in and intervened on the following:

- Discrimination of Christians in the current conflicts in the Middle East, at the House of Lords in London;
- The issue of the present mass immigration into Europe as a challenge to Catholic social teaching, at the University of Louvain;
- The necessity of promoting and defending International Humanitarian Law, at the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross.

The Foundation organized a selective high-level seminar in Rome on December 9th, 2015 for an in-depth analysis of the **future for the Christians in Iraq and Syria**. Among the participants were Patriarchs Sako of the Chaldean Catholic Church in Iraq and Younan of the Syriac Catholic Church. Also in attendance were Cardinal Philippe Barbarin of Lyon along with other experts from Georgetown University and Notre Dame University from the United States, and Mark von Riedemann of the Aid to the Church in Need. A concluding report will be published shortly and a side-event on these conclusions is being planned for March 2016.

On January 15th, 2016 a special event on Pope Francis's Encyclical Letter "*Laudato Si: Caring for Our Common Home*" will take place at the *Centre International de Conférence de Genève*. This conference aims to facilitate a deeper reflection on the impact of climate change and on society. The Foundation will participate in this event, in which Cardinal Turkson, President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace will be the keynote speaker.





Participants – Conference on the Future of the Christians in the Middle East, Rome, Dec. 2015

Interventions

Through the input of experts connected to the Foundation, the Holy See Mission has intervened on:

- Pleading for a ban on the use of lethal autonomous weapons systems, at a meeting of States Parties of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) on November 12th, 2015;
- Calling for the need to address the root causes of the migration crisis and suggesting concrete steps for a just solution, at the 106th Council of the International Organization for Migration (IOM);
- In support to the initiative to access markets for Least Developed Countries and especially their access to pharmaceutical, at the General Council of the World Trade Organization (WTO), on December 7th, 2015.

The Delegation of the Order of Malta intervened on old and new forms slavery, especially regarding human trafficking at the September Session of the Human Rights Council.

For more information on these and other interventions, please visit the homepage of [the Mission of the Holy See](#) and of the [Order of Malta](#).



*Patriarch Sako & Patriarch Younan,
Rome, Dec. 2015*

Publications

Strategical Reports. To prepare for upcoming negotiations in the UN context, the Foundation elaborates strategic reports. Thus, in October 2015, our sixth working paper on “[Nuclear Deterrence: An Ethical Perspective](#)” was published. The paper seeks to explore the ethics of nuclear weapon possession and examines the Catholic Church’s position on the question of deterrence.

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 entitled: “Death and Dignity: New Legal Forms of Euthanasia”. It discusses the compatibility of this “right” with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Publication is expected in January 2016.

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 expertise 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?



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 at 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.



FOUNDATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Donors:** The Foundation is very grateful for the financial support provided by individuals and institutional donors which enables us to continue to witness Christian values in the international context of Geneva.
- **Personnel:** Dr. Mathias Nebel, Director of the Foundation, leaves at the end of this month. The Board of the Foundation thanks him for his dedication and valuable service over the past four years and wishes him the best of success in future endeavors. Thanks are also extended to current intern Sarah Lippert for her excellent work over the past months and wishes her all the best for her future research position in the USA. The Board warmly welcomes Alice de La Rochefoucauld, who joined the Foundation in fall 2015 for Communications and Fundraising.



*The Foundation wishes
all friends and
supporters a blessed
Advent, a Merry
Christmas and a
Happy New Year.*

If you are able to make a Christmas contribution of any sort, in support of the Christian values promoted by the Foundation, we would be very grateful. You can send the donation to the following account:

Beneficiary: Caritas in Veritate Foundation,
IBAN: CH40 0900 0000 1281 5369 2,
BIC: POFICHBEXXX

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