

## The JPIC Team Ellen O'Leary

The first meeting of the new JPIC Team took place at Dublin Airport! Sounds exciting! It was actually to facilitate the fact that Thérèse Marie was in Ireland for a Chapter Planning Meeting and Patsy obligingly flew in from Liverpool to join us. Mary Jo also joined us briefly as she passed through the airport and offered us encouraging words.

We made a decision to take responsibility for different areas of the Province in relation to JPIC matters: Patsy UK, Thérèse Marie France and Ellen – Ireland. We will also link with the JPIC Networkers in our respective countries. Patsy is already linked in with TRAC (Traffic Awareness Raising Campaign) as is Dorothy. This group is raising awareness of the risk of human trafficking in London during the Olympics. I am over all co-ordinator of the JPIC as well as the link with the Provincial Council.

Following our meeting there was tremendous response to our invitation to sisters to become “antennae” people. The following sisters agreed to raise awareness: Teresa McCarthy, Moira Lever, Pierre Dullaghan, Eleanor Dalton, Pauline Stott, Dorothy Ward, Kathleen O'Donovan, Carmel O'Neill, Françoise Wyckaert, Marguerite Lyng, Teresina O'Byrne, Judith Penkert, Catherine Dunne, Paula Murray, Dolores Carroll, Kathleen McCartan and Maeve Kelly.

Our Prayer is that in the words of our General Chapter 2001, “we will all act together in effective corporate action for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation”.

We hope to keep you updated and “alerted” through Exchange/Echange and E-mails, and welcome your contribution in relation to your particular areas.

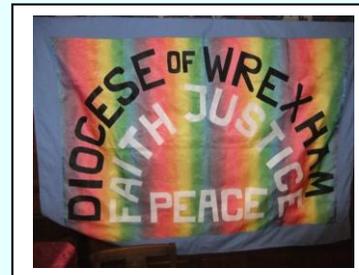
## NEWS FROM NODDFA

*Pauline Stott*

Our Justice and Peace Group from Llandudno Junction/Penmaenmawr/Conwy has been meeting monthly for three years. In 2011 we had a day at Noddfa on “Food for Thought” which involved research on where our food came from and how it was delivered. In 2012 we had another day at Noddfa which has been reported as follows in [www.independentcatholicnews.com](http://www.independentcatholicnews.com) (a good website)

## **Focus On Livesimply In North Wales** By Ellen Teague

*Noddfa, a centre run by the sisters of the Sacred Heart of Mary in Penmaenmawr, on the North Wales coast, was a perfect venue for the Wrexham Diocese LiveSimply Day on 16 February. Noddfa is a Welsh word meaning 'place of welcome and peace' and as people gathered for a day organised by the Llandudno Junction, Conwy and Llanfairfechan Justice and Peace Group, the hospitality of the sisters and the surrounding beauty of the hills and sea were recalled in an opening prayer giving thanks for God's gifts.*



*A welcome was extended by both the sisters and Maria Pizzoni, the Wrexham Justice and Peace worker, as an enthusiastic group of around 30 participants from around the diocese reflected on the imperative to live simply. Maria pointed out that the LiveSimply initiative, involving more than 60 Catholic organisations, grew out of a CAFOD project to mark the 40th anniversary of Populorum Progressio in 2007.*

*"We are called to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor", she said. In these times of economic downturn, she suggested, the focus on always having more and on constant acquisition regardless of the social and environmental impact is being seriously challenged. "We are called to read the signs of our times" she continued, and in a world of greed, selfishness and consumerism "we are called to be good news for the poor, and being engaged in social justice work is an essential part of our faith".*

*In her presentation, Ellen Teague of the Columban JPIC pointed to international problems, particularly climate change and global poverty, which challenge our affluent consumer society. 'The Story of Stuff', an animated documentary about the lifecycle of material goods, had earlier stimulated group discussion about excessive consumerism and the necessity of promoting sustainability and reducing carbon emissions. She pointed to Scripture, particularly the life and teaching of Jesus, and Catholic Social Teaching, particularly the option for the poor and care of creation, as inspirations for living simply, sustainably and in solidarity with our sisters and brothers throughout the world, millions of whom live in crushing poverty.*

*Extreme weather events like the devastating floods in Australia and Brazil in 2011 and Pakistan in 2010 are becoming more frequent and intense due to climate change. In other areas, persistent droughts are becoming the norm, and it is predicted that by 2025 3.4 billion people will live in water-scarce countries. "Yet" she said, "there is much we can do in terms of reducing our own carbon footprints, advocacy work with political and economic powers, and raising awareness with the wider community".*

*"Wales was the first fairtrade country in the world", pointed out Katya Jewell of CAFOD North Wales, "and Wrexham is a fair-trade diocese". As well as promoting fairtrade and CAFOD's new 'Thirst for Justice' campaign on Water, she runs an annual 'Potato Day', after learning to appreciate potatoes during a trip to Bolivia, and has recently completed a course in bee-keeping. Katja explained the LiveSimply award scheme, which is being promoted by CAFOD. It is a national prize for Catholic parishes putting their faith into action, recognising ways in which churches make a difference in their communities and in the world. Parishes are encouraged to make a plan incorporating three significant actions and at least six supporting ones they will take over a given time to move the parish in the direction of living simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor. Actions already taken by a parish can be included. The Franciscan Friary at Pantasaph was one of those parishes where a lay group is currently preparing to make a start on the award programme.*

*It was clear that a great deal is already underway in North Wales regarding living simply and this was affirmed and celebrated. Participants in the day visited the Victorian walled garden at Noddfa which the sisters have given to the local community for allotments. Twelve plots are farmed organically and tools in a common shed are shared. The sisters themselves promote home grown produce and use eggs from their own chickens. Initiatives in the region which are supported by the Welsh government include community allotments, garden and car share schemes, and programmes for energy-saving in homes. A project at Bangor University is prompting students to live more sustainably. Children attending the day – which was timed during Half Term week – explored the theme of Livesimply through crafts and activities which were clearly enjoyable as well as educational. Families took away a flier on simple daily suggestions for Lent, produced by Shrewsbury Diocese Justice and Peace.*

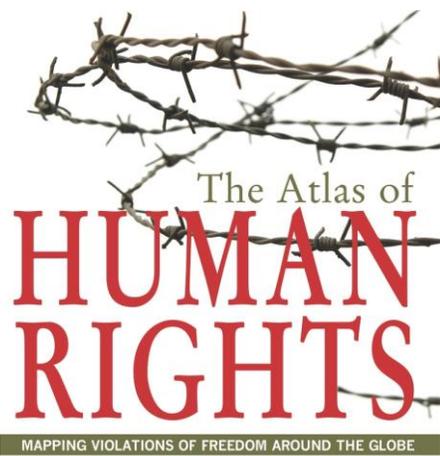
*Awareness of God's love for the poor and for Creation ran through the day. After a delicious home-made lunch of local produce, some explored the Cosmic Walk in the grounds which raises awareness of the Universe Story, going billions of years further back than human history and helping to nurture a sensitivity to our interdependence and communion with Planet Earth and with all living things. The day concluded late afternoon with a simple Circle Dance based on Mary's Magnificat.*

*Note: "The Story of Stuff"*

*is available on the Web – a 20 minute You-Tube Film well worth looking at.*

**RECOMMENDED BOOK: The Atlas of Human Rights**

Andrew Fagan, ISBN: 978-1-84971-146-3 published by Earthscan 2010. (£12.99 Waterstones)



Andrew Fagan  
Foreword by Clive Stafford Smith

Quotes from the back cover - "In the post 9/11 era, governments are using the threat of terrorism to justify tightening national security and restricting basic human rights. This timely atlas compares the level of human rights abuse in countries around the world, and reveals the consequences of these violations. Inspired by the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Andrew Fagan considers fundamental issues including: state, identity and citizenship, judicial violations and legal restrictions, freedom of expression and censorship, conflict and migration, women's rights and children's rights."

"Vividly illustrated with full colour maps and graphics, and complete with data charts and profiles of over 150 countries, the atlas charts enshrined rights as well as documented cases of abuse. It explores both the progress and limitation of free expression and media censorship; the geographic status of sexual freedom, racism, religious freedom, and the rights of the disabled, and instances of genocide, torture, sex slavery, and police brutality. It also depicts areas ravaged by armed conflict, repression, and discrimination, and shows how entire communities are mired in poverty and social exclusion."

"As intolerance threatens diversity on a global scale, The Atlas of Human Rights serves as an essential reference and crucial intervention for preserving and extending freedom."

While informative, it is very readable, fascinating, and of course extremely shocking.

*[Anne Wells]*