

From: VIVAT International
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VIVAT International – Cochabamba, Bolivia



Participants of the first VIVAT International workshop Cochabamba, Bolivia

VIVAT International held a workshop for members of the eight Congregations from the six southernmost countries of South America from July 19th to 24th in Cochabamba, Bolivia.

The workshop included a day on the spirituality of Justice and Peace and Integrity of Creation by Carmel Galdoz, a Franciscan, with many years of experience in Justice and Peace issues. He presented the roots of justice and peace commitment based on the social doctrines of the church. The participants also had the opportunity to share their activities and experiences in the area of JPIC.

Participants came from Argentina, Chile, Bolivia, Paraguay and Peru. Miguel Heinz SVD with support from Bolivian members was responsible for organizing the workshop. Zelia Cordeiro SSpS and Daniel LeBlanc OMI from the New York office were present to lend a supporting hand, learn from participants, and present various aspects of our work at the UN.

The Congregations members of VIVAT INTERNATIONAL are the Society of Divine Word (SVD) and the Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit (SSPS) (*founding Congregations*), as well as the Congregation of the Holy Spirit (CSSp) (*full member*), and the *associated member Congregations*: the Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary (MSHR); the Comboni Sisters (CMS); the Comboni Missionaries of the Heart of Jesus (MCCJ); the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI) and the Adorers of the Blood of Christ (ASC).

VIVAT INTERNATIONAL brings together more the twenty thousand religious women and men who work in 126 countries. These numbers, obviously, cannot begin to take into account the thousands of

lay collaborators who make up a large part of the workforce that would need to be considered in order to give a true sense of the immense capacity of outreach.

The workshop was an excellent opportunity for religious and lay personnel of VIVAT INTERNATIONAL to meet, get to know each other, share their work and experiences in the field. It was also an opportunity to come to a better understand of the areas of concentration that those members assigned to the more international aspects of our work at the United Nations try to realize. This was also a chance for all to become evermore aware of the great need for developing networks locally, nationally and internationally in order to enhance the possibility of reaching our goals and objectives.

At the end of the week there was a clear sense that much had been accomplished and there was a great deal of energy directed towards starting the process of networking nationally amongst the member Congregations and with VIVAT International.

VIVAT International – Central Office New York!

Best Regards,

Zelia and Felix