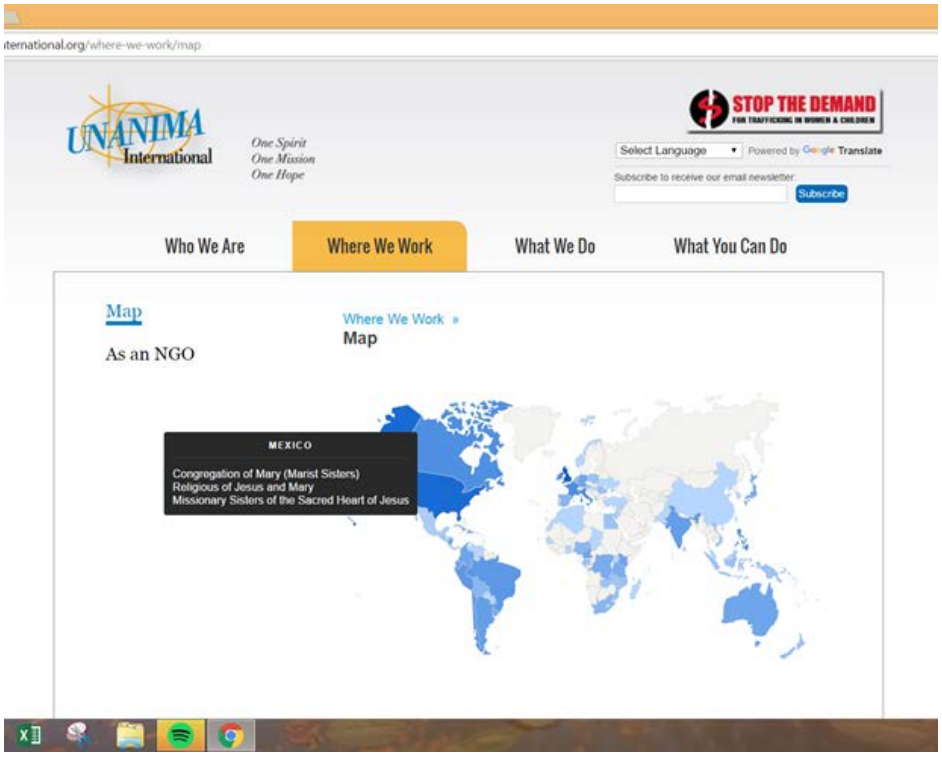
Update

January 2017

WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE WE?



Check out our website (http://www.unanima-international.org) for a **new interactive map** of where our UNANIMA congregations minister in the world. It's pretty cool! Click "*Where We Work*" on the top menu and then, on the sidebar, the button for "*Map.*" Point to the country of interest, for a list of all the UNANIMA congregations who minister there. (e.g. the list for Mexico is shown here).

If you notice any mistakes, notify Teresa at tkblumenstein@gmail.com

POWER POINT PRESENTATIONS FOR STUDENTS

Last year we made some Power Point presentations for "older" and "younger" students about UNANIMA—what it is and what it does. If anyone would be interested in receiving a copy of these presentations, send your request and e-mail address to Jean Quinn DW at jquinn@sophia.ie

UNANIMA INTERNATIONAL'S WOMAN OF COURAGE FOR 2017!

Marietta Latonio is a social worker who lives and works in Cebu, Philippines. She has been the director of many welfare programs; led implementation of community-based programs for more than 20 years; worked for many NGOs focused on the welfare of women and children; has been a lifelong advocate for children's human rights, and more recently involved with the "*I Have a Voice*" research project.

She is now the monitor / evaluator of programs at Good Shepherd Welcome House in Cebu. Not only does she work with and support girls and women on the street; but she educates pimps about trafficking, and networks with bar managers in an effort to identify and help women in need.

Marietta has done many international presentations, and is now getting a degree with research focused on interventions for recovery of trafficking survivors.

ANOTHER KIND OF DISCRIMINATION

The "3rd Committee" of the UN General Assembly deals with social issues and human rights. In following the 3rd Committee last fall, the 2016 interns were especially interested in a panel on discrimination, at which one panelist was a young girl with albinism. She discussed the discrimination and persecution of albino people, especially boys and girls. Albinism is an inherited disease in which the skin produces very little pigment in the skin, hair, and eyes. Many albinos contract skin cancer because they lack protective pigment, but perhaps the hardest burden is the social ostracism that leads to stress, low self-esteem, isolation, fear, and even violence. In some African countries the body parts of individuals with albinism are sought after by witch doctors; there have been numerous cases of children with albinism murdered for profit. In 2013 it was estimated that the body parts of an albino could net $75,000 (National Geographic). The UN office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is trying to raise awareness for protection of the rights of persons with albinism**.** The picture features Tanzanian children.

–Deyanira Garcia **SDS** and Noeli Massoni **CCV**

CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE IN MARRAKECH

The UN Climate Change Conference (COP22) brought together over 22,500 participants, including nearly 15,800 government officials, 5,400 representatives of UN bodies and agencies, intergovernmental organizations and civil society organizations, over 70 heads of state/ government, and 1,200 members of the media. Negotiations in Marrakech focused on matters relating to the agreement's "entry into force" and the implementation of the Paris Agreement. Member States adopted 35 decisions, which provide guidance on the completion of the work program under the Paris Agreement, and address long-term finance, technology development / sharing, gender issues, adaptation, education and public awareness, and how to help countries adapt to climate change.

Fiji offered to preside over the next climate change conference, (COP23) to be held in Bonn in 2017. As a very vulnerable nation, Fiji wants to place climate change at the top of the development agenda. They issued an invitation to Donald Trump saying "You came to save us during World War 2; it is time to save us now." Poland will host COP 24 in 2018.

DEADLINE APPROACHING FOR CSocD 55

If you intended to register for the UN **Commission for Social Development**, the deadline is 20 January. The UNANIMA staff have to do your registration, and can only enroll 10 representatives. Contact jquinn@sophia.ie very soon. There also is a two-day Forum for Civil Society (that's us!) at the end of January, right before the CSocD (1-10 February) for which you can register yourself. Note that this is a separate registration. Information about the Forum can be found at https://www.un.org/development/desa/civil-society/csocd55.html

NEWS ON NGO CSW61 FORUM

If you are coming to the UN **Commission on the Status of Women** and want to participate in the parallel events, regional caucuses, and morning briefings, you should register for the "CSW Forum." Online registration opened on 28 November. This Forum registration is something you have to do for yourself, though you still have to go through UNANIMA to be registered for the UN Commission itself. NGO CSW Forum parallel events applications are now available on the NGO CSW/NY website (https:www.ngocsw.org).

- Go to **NGO CSW 61 Forum** and click on it.
- Next scroll down to **parallel events** and click on it
- That will bring you to **Eventbrite** where there is a blue registration button.

Please be sure to read the instructions because there are many changes this year.

REPORT ON THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN IN THE CONTEXT OF MIGRATION
This report, (http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/71/413) issued by the 71st UN General Assembly last year, examines the status of the implementation on the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, with a particular focus on migrant children.

WATER CONNECTS THE SDGs
In late November a Budapest UN Water Summit (the one that in 2013 called for a stand-alone sustainable development goal on water) convened, with Hungarian President János Áder stating that water is the most significant issue of the 21st century. He noted that responsible water management is a prerequisite for development, and cited examples of water issues worldwide, including the link between water scarcity and conflict, and impacts of climate change on irrigation and hydropower production.

Other officials noted the links between water, peace, and security, the problems involved in transboundary water agreements between nations, and the special plight of small island nations experiencing increased drought and groundwater contamination.

- 90% of human loss of life from natural disasters comes from water-related events
- It is forecast that global water demand will increase by at least 55% from 2000-2050
- 80% of African countries' Nationally Determined Contributions under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) were about water issues
- global water use has tripled since 1950
- 80% of wastewater is discharged back into the environment without any treatment
- 2.5 billion people lack access to basic wastewater treatment

Csaba Balogh of the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade quoted John F. Kennedy: "Anyone who can solve the problems of water will be worthy of two Nobel Prizes: one for peace and one for science."

HELLO AND GOODBYE:
As of 2 January 2017 the new Coalition Coordinator / Director of UNANIMA is **Daughter of Wisdom** Jean Quinn, **DW**. Jean will tell you all about herself when she gets settled in. In the meantime, former Coordinator Michele Morek **OSU** is hoping for fewer executive duties in her new ministry as North American Sister Liaison with the *Global Sisters Report*, a project of National Catholic Reporter (NCR) online (check out https://www.ncronline.oreg/sisters). You can sign up for e-mail alerts! Consider writing for us! (See the sample story in the next item below…)

Michele says this position will combine several of her favorite features of the UNANIMA work—collaborating with people, writing, editing, and staying in contact with a huge network of sisters. "I know that turning the page to the next chapter of my life was my

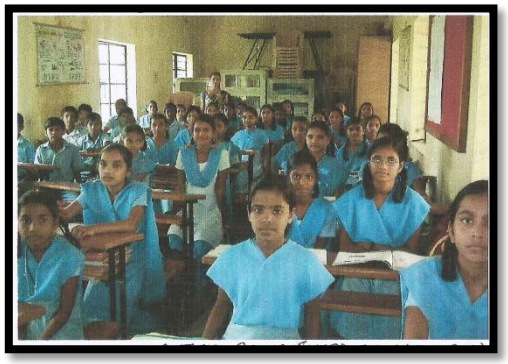
idea, but it is very hard to say goodbye to all of the wonderful UNANIMA sisters I have met in person or 'electronically' in the past five years. I carry you with me in my heart, and hope that my new ministry may bring me in contact with many of you again! UNANIMA is a blessing for all of us, and surely has changed my life. Love to all of you, and blessings on your ministries…. Thank you for all you have done and been for me." The picture shows Stacy Hanrahan **CND**, Michele Morek **OSU**, and Jean Quinn **DW** at a UN meeting.

SAMPLE STORY FROM GLOBAL SISTERS REPORT

Here is a compelling news story out of India about Sr. Valsa John, a Catholic sister who fought to protect the land and rights of tribal people in Jharkhand state from heavy coal-mining interests. She was murdered in 2010 at age 53. Her death set off an international interest in her story and the plight of illiterate tribal people in India who join the "mining mafia" as a means of income and are often exploited by these companies. This story is from the *Global Sisters Report*, and is an example of the kind of reporting they do on sisters throughout the world. Would you like to share a story? Contact Michele at morek.michele@gmail.com to see about sharing a story.

FLASHPOINTS

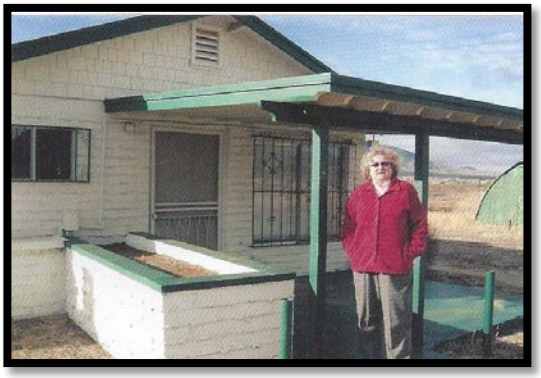
- ✓ UNANIMA Board member for the **Religious of Jesus and Mary** Josee Therrien **RJM** reports that they have joined the *Water With Blessings* family! Their sisters in Aleppo, Syria are delivering filtration systems to families, in collaboration with Franciscans, Larraine Lauter **OSU,** and others.



We also heard from the **RJM** Province of Baroda, India, where the sisters work among tribal groups in about 70 villages of Panchmahal District, Gujarat State. The people are mostly illiterate migrant laborers with no means of livelihood, and the sisters have about 600 children in their school, of whom 160 are boarders. Some are orphaned street children, and the sisters presently are trying to raise money to build another school building so they can take more tribal children. The picture shows students in a computer classroom.

- ✓ The **Ursuline Sisters of Mount St. Joseph** are very active in Region 6 of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, and recently signed onto two letters to oppose human trafficking and forced labor. One letter joined with the Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking (ATEST) to request federal funding to fight trafficking and forced labor according to Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2013. The second letter addresses information technology companies about the use of forced labor and slavery by their suppliers.

- ✓ Several **Sisters of Saint Agnes** who live on the USA/ Mexico border are taking action on behalf of migrants and refugees. Susan Kolb **CSA** (picture) is Managing Attorney of a southern Arizona legal aid office which provides civil legal services to the poor in three counties. Other Sisters work in a Migrant Resource Center (in Mexico) with migrants who have been "repatriated" – i.e., deported from the USA. This effort is a bi-national humanitarian project.



  Another program launched by the **CSA** Sisters is in inner city Milwaukee Wisconsin. CORE-El Centro http://www.core-elcentro.org/ serves a population about 70% Latino. Many recent immigrants feel isolated. The organization aims to create access, build community, and inspire wholeness. In addition to providing the best medical care at the Free Clinic in the facility, they also offer acupuncture, exercise programs and massage. Through their roof-top garden they are able to teach classes in gardening, and help with improved nutrition.

A NEW YEAR'S GIFT FOR YOU!

Anyone who has been studying the encyclical *Laudato Si'* might enjoy meditating on this "*Wordle*" of the document. The font size of each word shows how many times it was used in the document. "Food for Thought"--enjoy! And Happy New Year from all of us at UNANIMA!