

Recommendations for International Advocacy in Fracarita International (workshop in Rome from 8 till 10 February 2016)

From the 8th to the 10th of February, Fracarita International together with the recently commissioned Justice and Peace and Integrity of Creation Commission of our Congregation of the Brothers of Charity with two guest speakers (experts in the field of International Advocacy: Dr. Jan Vandemoortele – designer of the Millennium Development goals and Fr. Markus Heinze (OFM), Franciscan International) held a workshop in the Generalate House of the Brothers of Charity.

The purposes of the workshop were as follows:

1. To get an insight in the new Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations and to see the impact that these goals will have on the services of the Brothers of Charity.
2. To reflect on the possibilities of the Congregation of the Brothers of Charity to be involved at the United Nations level through Fracarita International and decide on the way forward.
3. To discuss and see if International Advocacy of Fracarita International can bridge the gap between the grassroots services and the world at an international level.
4. To interlink the work of the Justice and Peace and Integrity of Creation commission with the International Advocacy through Fracarita International.

These were the recommendations that were approved by the General Assembly of Fracarita International:

1. FI should make a clear separation between Fundraising and Advocacy and FI further considers using the term Project Management as opposed to Fundraising.
2. FI considers substituting the title 'International Representation' with International Advocacy to enlarge the scope of the international activities of FI.
3. FI does not opt for permanent residences at either Geneva or New York due to lack of human resources and budgetary constraints.
4. FI should make clear job description for the staff dealing with International Advocacy (actual advocacy is done by Mr. Prakash Goossens and Brother Jimi A. Huayta Rivera) and that those tasked with International Advocacy be given a two year mandate and be evaluated after two

years. FI should make a clear working budget for the International Advocacy.

5. FI International Advocacy should focus the three thematic areas in which the Brothers of Charity are working, namely: mental health, education and disability and the three thematic areas should be approached from a human rights perspective (human rights based approach). This approach should be in line with the Social Doctrine of the Church.

6. FI should scientifically collect data both qualitative and quantitative which can be used for advocacy purposes but also for fundraising.

7. FI should make more efforts to involve the grassroots and Institution of Brothers of Charity (sense of ownership and participation).

8. FI should come up with a concrete fundraising project for International Advocacy and FI should look for possible agencies that are interested in funding International Advocacy.

9. FI should introduce at local levels advocacy as part of the project by setting aside a certain percentage that shall be paid out to Fracarita International for International Advocacy.

10. That since International Advocacy will concentrate on the same thematic areas as the Commission for Justice and Peace and Integrity of Creation the Congregation of the Brothers of Charity believe that JPIC can give theological reflections on international days, organized by Fracarita International and those organized by the commission itself and technical aspects and international Advocacy can be left to Fracarita International.



▲ Picture of the workshop in Rome (February 2016)



▲ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all