

Holy Wisdom

Peace: Showing that Others Matter!

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EDITOR'S NOTE: It is necessary through the collaboration of NGO'S to raise awareness amongst communities as we promote peace. If you will, the need for community consciousness is a way we can connect parties and others. It is important at this time that all parties begin to realize that they are a part of a larger picture, that they are in it together and they have common concerns. If there is a conflict all parties have contributed to the conflict and they have the power to come together to develop a non-violent intervention to result into a resolution. It is time for us as people to acknowledge that there is something more that exceeds our own individual positions and needs. The United Nations, religious institutions and NGO can be an avenue to promote community consciousness to encourage globally consciousness, clear and realistic decisions as they promote non-violence solutions to conflicts!

Pastor honored for role in protests that felled the Berlin Wall.

Kassel, Germany (ENI) Leipzig Protestant pastor Christian Führer has been honored for his autobiography that recounts how the weekly peace prayers in his parish led to the 1989 protests that contributed to the fall of communism in East Germany. Führer was

awarded a special prize by the Protestant Literature Portal for his book, “Und Wir sind dabei gewesen: Die Revolution, die aus der Kirche kam“ („And we were there. The revolution that came from the Church“). On 9 October, Leipzig in eastern Germany marks the 20th Anniversary of tens of thousands of people taking to the streets after the prayers for what turned out to be a peaceful demonstration for change, despite fears of a Beijing-style Tiananmen Square crackdown.

Orthodox leader to open global Christian unity meeting in Crete

Kolympari/Geneva (ENI). Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomeos I, a spiritual leader who represents Eastern Orthodox Christianity, is to open a meeting of theologians from the world’s main Christian traditions gathering in Crete, to seek ways of promoting church unity. The meeting of the Commission on Faith and Order of the World Council of Churches on the Greek island is to “address the question of Christian unity from new perspectives“, the WCC said in a statement in advance of the 7 – 14 October gathering in Kolympari.

African church head urges Guinea president to halt crackdown

Nairobi (ENI). The largest ecumenical grouping in Africa is calling on the Guinea’s self-appointed leader to allow freedom of association and expression after 157 people died in peaceful protest against his leadership. “This bloodshed, that has put Africa and the whole of humanity to shame, compels the All Africa Conference of Churches...to express to you the shock and indignation caused by these horrors,“ said the Rev. Andre Karamaga, the AACC general secretary, in a letter sent to Moussa Dadis Camara on 29 September.

Bishops in Rome ‘may raise issue’ of clerical celibacy in Africa

Rome (ENI). The 244 senior Roman Catholic Clerics from Africa meeting in Rome will confront the problem of priestly celibacy on the continent at a meeting during October, according to some sources close to the Vatican meeting. High on the agenda are reconciliation, justice and peace at the Special Assembly of the Synod of the Bishops of Africa that Pope Benedict XVI opened in Rome on 4 October, a meeting that will last three weeks.

Polish journalist’s excommunication blasted after confession ruse

Warsaw (ENI). A Roman Catholic bishop in Poland has excommunicated a journalist after he secretly recorded a church confession for an article about sex abuse by priests. The anti-clerical newspaper has in turn lambasted the church. “The sacrament of penance and reconciliation requires proper understanding and the greatest reverence,“ said the Rev. Piotr Libera, the bishop of Plock. “Any profanation of this sacredness deserves severe and unqualified condemnation. To use the sacrament for some dishonest, cynical and deceitful game aimed at striking the confessor is comparable to lifting one’s hand against the Blessed Sacrament.”

No sausages at Palestinian Oktoberfest but plenty of beer

Taybeh, West Bank (ENI). There was barely a knockwurst sausage, Wiener schnitzel, sauerkraut or accordion and tuba in sight. Yet the tantalizing smell of grilled meats wafted

through the air and the music of a traditional dabkeh dance performed on the stage blasted through loudspeakers as the West Bank's Taybeh village celebrated its fifth annual "Oktoberfest" on 3 and 4 October.

Hymn writer who found words for faith and justice is praised

Geneva (ENI). The Rev. Fred Kaan, a prolific 20th century English language hymnologist, once described himself as the "world's most surprised hymn writer". Kaan, who has died aged 80, was unable to read music but wrote the words of more than 200 hymns in English, even though he started to learn the language only at the age of 16. He was born in the Netherlands in 1929 of Dutch parents, and moved in the 1950s to England where he died on 4 October. Kaan was a retired minister of Britain's United Reformed Church.

US Lutherans will work together despite differences on gay clergy

Washington DC (ENI/RNS). Leaders of two U.S. Lutheran denominations have pledged to continue working together on ministry projects despite deep disagreements over the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's recent decision to permit non-celibate gay clergy. The more conservative Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) and the larger Chicago based ELCA have worked together on a number of social welfare projects and disaster relief despite deep and longstanding theological differences, Religion News Service reports.

S. African activist drops campaign to ban religion in schools

Johannesburg, 8 October (ENI). An attempt to use the courts to ban South African State schools from making Christian practices and beliefs part of their daily instruction has collapsed after its main proponent withdrew. George Claassen, head of Sceptics SA (SSA), an NGO that says it aims to combat false beliefs by promoting scientific methods, cited verbal attacks on him by religious people opposed to the move.

Slovenia Catholics lambaste choice of 'Satanist' church supervisor

Warsaw, 8 October (ENI) The Roman Catholic Church in Slovenia has accused the government of willful provocation after it appointed a "Satanist" to head the country's State Office for Religious Communities. "It seems the government actually has an interest in provoking conflict with us to gain support from anti-clerical voters," said Barbara Balogh, a spokesperson for the 10 member Catholic bishop's conference in the capital, Ljubljana. Balogh's comments followed the appointment of Ales Gubic, a lawmaker from the Liberal Democracy party, to a five-year term as director of the religious communities' office, which monitors Slovenia's 43 registered churches.

Study finds nearly a quarter of world's population is Muslim

New York, 8 October (ENI) A new demographic study has determined that Muslims represent nearly a quarter of the world's current population with nearly two-thirds of them living in Asia, and that Islam is the second largest religion after Christianity. The study, released 7 October, and conducted by the Washington based Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, found that 1.57 billion people are Muslims out of an estimated total world population of 6.8 billion.

South Africa's Zuma meets Tutu as new bishop urges 'delivery'

Cape Town (ENI). South African President Jacob Zuma at the weekend met with a number of church leaders including his one-time fierce critic Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Before South Africa held national elections in April, Tutu said he could not pretend to look forward to Zuma's presidency due to allegations of corruption that had been leveled at the then president in waiting and also a questioning about Zuma's attitude to the dignity of women.

Russian Patriarch takes up allegations about children's shelter

Moscow (ENI) Patriarch Kirill I of the Russian Orthodox Church has taken personal charge of an investigation into a children's shelter at a convent after two young women fled the institution, one of whom has made allegations of abuse there. "His Holiness the Patriarch has approved the working out of a list of recommendations regarding this shelter," Hieromonk Savva Tutunov, an official of the Moscow Patriarchate told reporters. In an open letter to President Dmitry Medvedev, and copied to Patriarch Kirill, Valentina Perova, one of the young women who fled and is now aged 17, wrote of rigid practices at the convent.

Indian Christians unhappy at verdicts on Kandhamal violence

Bangalore, India (ENI). Christians were elated when a court hearing cases of anti-Christian violence in the troubled Kandhamal district of India's eastern Orissa state handed out life imprisonment to the accused in the murder of a pastor. However, joy about the 23 September verdict of the special "fast track" court that sentenced the five people accused in the murder of Pastor Akbar Digal who was stabbed to death at Sulesaru in 2008, was short lived.

UN expert stresses role of states in promoting religious tolerance

New York. Governments have a central role to play in either preventing or contributing to religious friction, an independent United Nations expert said, noting that a state's commitments to non-discrimination as well as its policies and messages, can promote tolerance.

Asma Jahangir, the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, told a news conference in New York that there are preventive measures governments can take to avoid further polarization on the basis of religion before it erupts into violence. She also noted that while governments are talking about issues such as defamation of religion, there is less addressing of the issue of religious incitement to violence, discrimination and hatred. In her presentation to the General Assembly, Ms. Jahangir discussed warning signs and prevention, as well as how religion is being used for political purposes. "It is quite clear that as long as discrimination on religious grounds persists at the national or global levels, tensions will deepen and, indeed, also be exploited by various religious, political as well as militant forces," she had told delegates. Ms. Jahangir added that governments must meet this challenge with political announcements or messages that are, "in the right direction." While policies are one tool in the hands of governments to deal with the issue, she noted that they also have at their disposal political statement, education and inter-faith dialogues, as well as bringing young people together for discussions on each other's religions, among others. A related issue is the indoctrination of children into hating other religions, she said. "The government has an obligation under the Convention of the Rights of the Child to

protect children from this kind of mental abuse. She also discussed how women have become central to the prohibition or the allowing of religious symbols. "There are countries that simply will punish women if they do not wear a head scarf and there are other countries where women, if she wears a head scarf, will be penalized or sanctioned." "It has to be balanced," she said, noting that this is an issue related to freedom of expression, as long as that right is not impinging on the rights of others. In addition she raised the issue of using technology for incitement to violence, and what capacity states have to tackle this in a way that does not impinge on the freedom of expression.

Global church's leader to visit communist ruled North Korea

Geneva (ENI) The head of the World Council of Churches, the Rev. Samuel Kobia, is to lead a delegation to North Korea, in the latest of several recent visits from Christian groups to the communist ruled state. "We will be meeting with the churches, government officials and learning about the life and witness of churches in North Korea," said Mathews George Chunakara, director of the WCC Public Witness program, in a statement announcing the visit. The WCC said Kobia, a Korean Methodist who steps down at the end of 2009 as general secretary of the world's biggest church grouping, would preach at the Bong Soo Church in Pyongyang.

Petition seeking repeal of Pakistan's blasphemy laws handed to UN

Geneva, (ENI). A petition calling for the repeal of Pakistan's blasphemy laws, which impose the death sentence on a person, found desecrating Islam's holy book the Quran has been handed to the office of the United Nation's High Commissioner for Human Rights. The signatories say the law is used to settle scores with non-Muslims and has been exploited to incite hatred and attacks against Pakistan's minority Christian community in recent times. "These laws condemn to death any person who desecrates the Holy Quran," said the petition with more than 9000 signatures.

Ghanaian Lutheran bishop says African land deals can help people

Nairobi (ENI). New deals, under which African governments are leasing agricultural lands to foreign governments and multinational corporations for food production, could eventually benefit the continent's people, a senior Lutheran bishop has said. "As much as I do not agree to these multinationals coming to Africa, we have to investigate, because we do not know in the long term, the Rev. Paul Koffi Fynn from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ghana said in Nairobi, while attending a meeting on climate change.

Church leaders see hope for Dalits in UN official's anti-caste stand

Manila (ENI). A sense of despair caused weeping among delegates during a Bangkok global conference earlier in 2009 about the plight of Dalits and other caste-discriminated people sometimes viewed as "untouchable" in several Asian communities. "When I left Bangkok, I spent quiet times praying and crying. I said to myself, 'how will the dear Dalits stand up and resist?'" said Bishop Owdenburg Mdegelia of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. However, he said, "It was very encouraging to hear that at least something has happened."

Smithsonian to open evolution hall, launch dialogue with faith

Washington, DC (ENI/RNS). The Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in

Washington DC will open a new permanent exhibit on the discovery and understanding of human origins and convene a panel of experts to bridge the gap between religion and science. With input from more than 50 scientific and educational organizations and 70 distinguished scientists and educators. The museum launched a Broader Social Impacts Committee to address the interaction between religion and science.

Church of Scotland calls on British PM to lead anti-poverty fight

Edinburgh (ENI). Prospects for children and the world's poor hinge upon the success of the fight against poverty, a leader of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland has told British Prime Minister Gordon Brown in a letter calling on him to show "real leadership" in the anti-poverty fight. "The potential of too many young people is destroyed simply because of the poverty in which they grow up," said the Rev. Ian Galloway, convener of the church and society council of the Church of Scotland, in his letter to Brown, who is also leader of Britain's Labor Party.

Chile honors former World Council of Church's leader

Geneva (ENI). Former World Council of Church's general secretary the Rev. Emilio Castro, a Methodist pastor from Uruguay, has been decorated by the government of Chile for his defense of human rights in Chile during the rule of dictator Augusto Pinochet. The Orden de Bernardo O'Higgins, Chile's commendation for non-Chilean citizens, was bestowed on Castro by the South American country's representative to the international organizations in Geneva, Ambassador Carlos Portales. Bernardo O'Higgins, a central figure of Chile's fight for independence in the 19th century, is considered the nation's founding father.

Lift N. Korea's sanctions, says World Council of Church's head

Hong Kong (ENI). The leaders of the World Council of Churches and the Christian Conference of Asia are urging the international community to lift economic sanctions against North Korea following a visit to the communist ruled country. The WCC general secretary, the Rev. Samuel Kobia, led a delegation to North Korea from 17 to 20 October and was accompanied by the general secretary of the Christian Conference of Asia, Prawate Khid-arn. It was the first time Kobia and Prawate had visited North Korea. In an interview in Hong Kong, Kobia was asked if he wanted sanctions against North Korea to be lifted, and he said, "After my visit to North Korea, from my engagement with the church leadership and my observations, I am now very convinced that time has now come to end the economic sanctions."

New Vatican announcement takes many Anglicans by surprise

London (ENI). Predictions that 50 bishops as well as thousands of clergy and laity might leave the worldwide Anglican Communion for the Roman Catholic Church have followed a Vatican announcement of new procedures for admitting discontented Anglicans. The Vatican announced on 20 October that Pope Benedict XVI is to set up a structure to allow former Anglicans to enter full communion with the Catholic Church, while preserving elements of the distinctive Anglican spiritual and liturgical patrimony". The Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, who is head of the Anglican Communion, said in a letter to Anglican leaders around the world that he has been informed of the Vatican decision only

at, “a very late stage”. After his election as pontiff in 2005, Pope Benedict said that his first priority would be to work “to reconstitute the full and visible unity of all Christ’s followers”. The Vatican statement announcing the setting up of the new structure said the move could be seen as another step toward the realization of the aspiration for full, visible union in the Church of Christ, one of the principal goals of the ecumenical movement.

US’s Hillary Clinton praises interfaith example of Tatarstan

Moscow (ENI). U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton has visited the historic city of Kazan, where she praised the interfaith harmony of Tatarstan, a region in Russia that has a mixed population and is home to Muslim and Orthodox Christian holy places. “You have created an example of how people can live together and pursue a common interest,” she told Tatarstan’s President Mintimir Shaimiyev during a side trip to her visit to Russia earlier in October. Clinton spoke to the Tatarstan president after visiting Kazan’s 16th century Russian Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation and the recently constructed Kul-Sharif Mosque; a re-creation of a historic mosque destroyed by Ivan the Terrible.

Chilean who will head Lutheran body committed to church unity

Geneva (ENI). The Chilean pastor elected as the next general secretary of the Lutheran World Federation, the Rev. Martin Junge, said after his election on 26 October he believes firmly in the maxim that “to be Lutheran is to be ecumenical”. “To be ecumenical is not an option but an expression of who we are as a communion of churches,” said the 48-year-old Junge, who is to take up his post following the next LWF assembly in Stuttgart, Germany, in July 2010. The election for the top official of the church grouping of 68.5 million members was after a series of closed sessions of the LWF’s main governing body, its council, taking place near Geneva.

Catholic Church in India asserts right to evangelize

Mumbai (ENI). The Roman Catholic Church in India at its first ever national mission congress has said that neither threats nor harassment will prevent it from pursuing a path of evangelization that also takes heed of the sensitivities of other faiths. “We will not be afraid to proclaim what Jesus means for us by word... No opposition, no fear of persecution will deter us, stated a message from the Indian Mission Congress attended by 1200 delegates from 160 dioceses from 14 to 18 October in Mumbai. Quoting St. Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians (9:16) in the Bible the message said, “In every way, proclaim we must: ‘Woe to me if I do not proclaim the Gospel’.” Further, the message reiterated that the right to evangelize is a “human right enshrined in the constitution of our nation”.

Lutheran federation says global crisis may lead to cut in its work

Geneva (ENI). Churches have been hit by the global economic crisis as much as other institutions and the president, general secretary and treasurer of the Lutheran World Federation all say its effects have been long and deep and are likely to impact on LWF social programs. LWF treasurer Peter Stoll said in his report presented to the 22-27 October meeting of the main governing body of the LWF, its council, “We still do not know when times will be back to normal nor what ‘normal’ should be like.” Stoll also warned that the LWF secretariat has been living beyond its means and it would have to

cut back its budget.

Chilean pastor new head of Lutheran World Federation

Geneva (ENI). The Lutheran World Federation has elected a 48-year-old Chilean pastor, the Rev. Martin Junge, as general secretary of the global church grouping that gathers more than 68 million Protestant Christians. The election was announced on 26 October following a closed session of the LWF's main governing body, its council, taking place near Geneva. With this election, Junge becomes the first representative from the Latin America and Caribbean region to hold the highest position at the LWF's secretariat.

Praise for Lutheran World Federation general secretary-elect

Geneva (ENI). Church and Christian leaders from the World Council of Churches, the World Alliance of Reformed Churches and the United Evangelical Lutheran Church of Germany have welcomed the election of the Rev. Martin Junge, a Chilean pastor, as general secretary of the Lutheran World Federation from 2010. Junge became the first representative from the Latin America and Caribbean region to hold that position. He studied theology at the Georg August University in Germany, and was ordained in 1989 in Chile. He will succeed the Rev. Ishmael Noko, who is planning to leave office at the end of October 2010.

The Secretary-General's message on the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict – 6 November 2009

More than thirty years since the massive defoliation campaigns of the Viet Nam War, and nearly twenty since the extensive pollution caused by the destruction of 600 oil wells in Kuwait at the end of the first Gulf War, the environment continues to fall victim to armed conflict worldwide. Decades of protracted conflict in the Gaza Strip, for example, have so severely affected groundwater supplies upon which 1.5 million Palestinians depend for drinking and agriculture that those supplies are in danger of imminent collapse.

Furthermore, in at least 18 conflicts since 1990, natural resources have played a significant role. In Liberia and the Democratic Republic of Congo, armed groups to finance and prolong conflicts have exploited diamonds, timber and gold. The consequences for the environment and development have been devastating.

While the environment and natural resources are crucial for building and consolidating peace, it is urgent that their protection in times of armed conflict be strengthened. There can be no durable peace if the natural resources that sustain livelihoods are damaged or destroyed.

I call on Member States to clarify and expand international law on environmental protection in times of war. Existing legal instruments should be adapted to reflect the predominantly internal nature of today's armed conflicts. We need also to consider mechanisms for monitoring violations and recommending sanctions and actions for enforcement, recovery and compensation. Furthermore, national legislation must fully reflect provisions of international criminal law that allow for the prosecution of environmental violations during armed conflict.

On this International Day, let us renew our commitment to preventing the exploitation of the environment in times of conflict and to protecting the environment as a pillar of our work for global peace and sustainable development.

SECURITY COUNCIL RENEWS ARMS EMBARGO AND SANCTIONS IN DR CONGO

New York. The Security Council extended and expanded the arms embargo and related sanctions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which have been in place since 2003, for another year.

UN RENOVATION ON SCHEDULE AND MOVING BACK FROM THE RED TOWARDS ITS BUDGET LIMIT

New York. The renovation of United Nations Headquarters in New York is now only \$90 million over its \$1.876 billion budget compared with \$219 million two years ago, with a good chance of returning to the black, while being on schedule for completion by late 2013, the official in charge of the overhaul said today.

When completed, the landmark 39 story building towering over the East River and First Avenue in Manhattan will possess the 21st century trappings of eco-friendly energy conservation, and its now dulled glass façade will be replaced with a new glass curtain resplendent with the same bluish-green tint as in its first incarnation in 1952.

UN uses Speeches, Photo Exhibit and Concert to voice Solidarity with Palestinians

New York. The International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People is being observed at United Nations Headquarters in New York with a special commemorative meeting, a new photographic exhibition and a concert by Maqamat, an orchestra of the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music.

Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said that it is vital that a sovereign State of Palestine is achieved, noting that the Palestinian people continue to struggle for their inalienable right to self-determination – a fundamental, universal human right enjoyed by so many others across the world.

General Assembly President Ali Treki said the Day served as a reminder that the Question of Palestine remains the oldest unresolved issue at the United Nations.

As part of the commemoration, (UNRWA) UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East presented a new photo exhibit entitled The United Nations and the Palestine Refugees, 60 Years Later. It featured historical photos of the life of the first Palestinian refugees and UNRWA's working during the early years, as well as more recent photos of the agency's work in the five areas of its operations – Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, The West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

UN PEACEKEEPERS PLANT TREES IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE

New York. United Nations peacekeepers planted nearly 600 trees in a botanical garden in Côte d'Ivoire. A small but symbolic step in a project to combat climate change that has

already surpassed its target of 7 billion trees – one for every person in the world.

UN ISSUES NEW GUIDELINES FOR EARLIER START TO TREATMENT OF HIV/AIDS

New York. On the eve of WORLD AIDS DAY, the United Nations issued new recommendations for fighting the pandemic, calling for an earlier start to treatment for adults and adolescents, as well as urging HIV-positive mothers and their infants to take antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) while breastfeeding to prevent transmission.

LAOS: UN EXPERT WARNS AGAINST MARGINALIZING RELIGIOUS MINORITIES

New York. Religious minorities in Laos remain isolated with little access to higher education, few opportunities for job promotions in the public sector and effective exclusion from decision-making processes, an independent United Nations human rights expert said today.

Asma Jahangir, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, wrapped up a week long visit to Laos by calling on authorities in the South East Asian country to sustain and foster respect for religious diversity.

“The test of freedom of religion or belief lies with the level of tolerance extended to religious minorities,” she said in a statement issued in Vientiane, the capital.

She voiced concern that religious minorities appear to have little or no access to higher education and other opportunities.

A “glass ceiling in terms of their promotion in public service and their participation in decision making” exists, Ms. Jahangir added, warning that religious minorities must not be marginalized.

The Special Rapporteur met with both Government officials and private citizens during her visit but she said some people told her they engaged in self-censorship and were hesitant about approaching authorities on religious matters.

She stated that her office has received serious allegations in the past decade about the treatment of religious followers, including reports of official campaigns aimed at forcing Christians to renounce their faith and arrests made on the basis of religion.

Lao authorities acknowledged to Ms. Jahangir that some incidents had occurred, but assured her that they would not be tolerated in the future and that fresh instructions have been passed down to lower level officials.

In her statement the Special Rapporteur welcomed Laos’ recent ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which bans religious discrimination and unreasonable restrictions on the movements of individuals, including in their exercise of religious freedom.

Ms. Jahangir serves in an unpaid and independent capacity as a Special Rapporteur and

reports to the UN Human Rights Council, which is based in Geneva.

Swiss minaret ban discriminates against Muslims, says UN expert.

New York. An independent United Nations expert on religious freedom, Ms Asma Jahangir, voiced regret at the Swiss vote to ban the construction of new minarets, stating that such a prohibition clearly discriminates against Muslims. Indeed, a ban on minarets amounts to an undue restriction of the freedom to manifest one's religion and constitutes a clear discrimination against members of the Muslim community in Switzerland. The vote reminds us that no societies are immune to religious intolerance, it is therefore more than ever necessary to continue raising awareness and educating people about religious diversity, enabling all societies to adopt an enlightened and progressive attitude towards the beliefs of other communities. Doing so will help to eliminate the grounds for "irrational fears" towards Muslims, which have been exploited in Switzerland for political purposes. On December 4, 2009, Dr. DeLuca attended a meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference where the matter was discussed with the Ambassador of Switzerland.

Syrian Orthodox Church in America anticipates celebration of its 20th year at the United Nations.

New York. At a recent Luncheon attended by H.E. Rev. Ambassador Anthony J. DeLuca, Advisor, Antoinette A. DeLuca, Psy.D., President, Anne Riccitelli, Litt.D., United Nations Representative and Rev. Fr. George McBride, D.D., Holy Wisdom Editor, celebrated their accomplishments in the past and discussed what new ventures they will try to undertake as they approach their 20th year.

Anne M. Riccitelli completes Third Year as Co-Chair of NGO media Sub-Committee for United Nations Annual Department of Public Information NGO Conference
As Co-chair of the Media Sub-Committee of United Nations 62nd Annual Department of Public Information Non Governmental Organizations Conference: "Disarm Now! For Peace and Development," Anne M. Riccitelli, Litt. D., worked closely with United Nations information officers in New York to create materials to promote the conference.

Working as a team with our counterparts in Mexico with direction from DPI in New York, we developed materials that could be used in NGO newsletters to describe the conference and encourage attendance at the event in Mexico.

We identified local media outlets which published interviews with the 62nd Conference Chair and which reached a larger public audience of several hundred thousand print readers.

Working cooperatively together, we coordinated our message and talking points for NGOs. We centered our message on the 62nd Conference theme. All in their outreach efforts used this focused approach.

For further information on the various programs contact:

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