



Networking Cedara

Volume 28, Number 1 14-19 Feb 17



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Monday, 13 February: First Term begins - Lectures commence

Tuesday, 14 February: NO Institute Liturgy

Friday, 17 February: Theology Department meeting (10:30)

Monday, 20 February: Institute Free Day-NO LECTURES

Tuesday, 21 February: Institute Liturgy (5 pm, Ewen Swartz OMI presiding)

Thursday 23 February: Steve de Gruchy Lecture (UKZN, time to be announced)

Friday, 24 February: Academic Assembly (10:30)

STEVE DE GRUCHY MEMORIAL LECTURE

Speakers: Bishop Geoff and Kate Davies (Founders of the Southern African Faith Communities' Environment Institute—SAFCEI)

- ⇒ **Date:** Thursday, 23 February
- ⇒ **Theme:** Ecological Issues
- ⇒ **Venue:** UKZN
- ⇒ *Time to be announced*

The late Prof Steve de Gruchy was the head of the School of Religion and Theology at UKZN and had a strong interest in environmental issues. A lecture is held each year in his honour.

A WORD OF WELCOME

The editorial team would like to welcome all new students and staff to SJTI. Hope you will have wonderful years ahead at SJTI. We also welcome back all other MOTI and wish all a fruitful year, hoping you had a good break.



CHANGE OF EMAIL ADDRESS

I would like to inform all MOTI that my yahoo email does not open anymore. I kindly ask that for articles for the networking use emmanueln@sjti.ac.za. I apologize to those who had already sent articles to the yahoo email to be published in this issue. So from now onwards use the above email address.

Emmanuel Ndlovu CMM

VATICAN MEETING CALLS ORGAN TRAFFICKING A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY

By Hannah Brockhaus

(Vatican City, Feb 9, 2017 — EWTN News/CNA)

After a conference on organ trafficking at the Vatican Feb. 7-8, participants signed a statement agreeing to unite in fighting the crime of organ trafficking – submitting 11 proposals for implementation by healthcare and law enforcement professionals around the world. The creation of the statement was one of the main objectives of the Summit on Organ Trafficking and Transplant Tourism organized by the Pontifical Academy of Sciences. Participants in the summit included nearly 80 doctors, law enforcement officials and representatives of health and non-government organizations from around the world, who gave reports on the issue and how it is currently being combated in their respective countries. “...we the undersigned pledge our commitment to combat these illicit and immoral practices as a community of stakeholders fulfilling the directive of Pope Francis to combat human trafficking and organ trafficking in all their condemnable forms,” the statement, published Feb. 9, reads.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), only about 10 percent – or 120,000 – of the estimated 1 million organ transplants needed are performed each year. This data was presented to Pope Francis in 2014, and is an example of the demand for organs creating, in large part, the drive for illegal trafficking. In general, migrants, refugees and the poor are among the most vulnerable populations for organ trafficking, because they may be forced to sell organs if they do not have the cash to pay when soliciting help for transportation by people-smugglers to more stable countries. Mons. Robert J. Vitillo, Secretary General of the International Catholic Migration Commission, was a participant in the summit. He told CNA/EWTN News in email comments that he “was impressed by the determination” of those present at the summit “to work together to eliminate this terrible crime.”

“It was noted very clearly during the meeting that, a contributing factor of this situation is the throw-away culture about which Pope Francis speaks so frequently,” he said. When influential societal forces see people or human organs as “dispensable,” and not “economically productive,” he said, then it is easier to fall down “the slippery slope of using other people as with all forms of modern human slavery.” He

was particularly concerned, he explained, by the reports of the large number of migrants and refugees who are coerced into donating kidneys in order to pay for their journeys to freedom or to a more dignified life. Based on reports and discussion from the conference, the signed statement puts forward 11 different recommendations “to national, regional and municipal governments, ministries of health, to the judiciary, to the leaders of the major religions, to professional medical organizations, and to the general public for implementation around the world.” These recommendations deal with governmental approaches to laws surrounding organ and human trafficking and their enforcement, emphasizing that all nations and cultures should recognize these issues as crimes that should be condemned and that religious leaders encourage ethical organ donation. One recommendation calls for the establishment of legal frameworks, where they do not already exist, “that provide an explicit basis for the prevention and prosecution of transplant-related crimes” that also protect victims.

Another suggestion is that registries of all organ procurement and transplants are established and “appropriate data shared with international databanks” and that a legal framework be developed for healthcare professionals “to report information about suspected cases of transplant-related crimes, while respecting their professional obligations to patients.” It is also recommended that healthcare professionals be educated by organizations involved in transplantation in legal and international guidelines on trafficking, and in consistent ethical and medical reviews of both donors and recipients to assess both short and long-term outcomes. “That nations provide the resources to achieve self-sufficiency in organ donation at a national level...by reducing the need for transplants through preventive measures and improving access to national transplant programs in an ethical and regulated manner,” is also suggested.

Prior to the conference, there was some controversy regarding China's participation in the Summit, as the advocacy group Doctors Against Forced Organ Harvesting (DAFOH) said in a statement that there was “no evidence that past practices of forced organ harvesting have ended” in China. During the conference, Dr. Huang Jiefu, Beijing's top official on transplants, said that Beijing was, in fact, working on reforming its use of organs being taken from detained or executed prisoners. “China is mending its ways and constantly improving its national organ donation and transplantation systems,” he said. DAFOH criticized the Vatican for inviting Huang, saying that it would compromise the conference's image and objectives, when there isn't sufficient evidence that reform on this issue is actually happening in China.

However, the Chancellor of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, Mons. Marcelo Sanchez Sorondo, defended China's participation, saying that the country's participation may help encourage reform, according to Reuters. Mons. Vitillo said that during the meeting it was “clearly recognized that we do face a challenge in the waiting lists for transplants of vital organs, especially kidneys, livers, and lungs.” “For this we need to raise more awareness and motivate people to voluntarily serve as living donors so that the lives of seriously ill people needing transplants will have the opportunity for longer, fuller, and higher quality lives,” he said.

SJTI Vision Statement

St Joseph's Theological Institute, centred in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and situated in the African context, seeks to:

- Empower people through philosophical and theological enquiry and learning based in the Catholic tradition yet always in a living dialogue with other Christian communities, religions and cultures.
- Provide men and women with the philosophical and theological education necessary for both ordination and a variety of other ministries in church and society.
- Advance the philosophical and theological endeavour through researching issues of faith and culture, experience and tradition, and other contemporary questions, so that the Word of God may be proclaimed more effectively.
- Foster co-operation within the Pietermaritzburg Cluster of Theological Institutions as well as with other theological institutions both national and international.

EDITORIAL TEAM

Editor: Emmanuel Ndlovu, CMM

Reporter: Sue Rakoczy, IHM

Layout: Isaac Mutelo, OP, Emmanuel Nyerere, SAC,
Justus Oseko, MCCJ & Amorain Wayikpo M.Afr.

Production & Distribution: Emmanuel Randrianirina, SCJ

All articles must be submitted by Wednesday afternoon

Email: emmanueln@sjti.ac.za

SJTI Website: <http://www.sjti.ac.za>

Applications and Student Records: registrar@sjti.ac.za

Academic Dean: dean@sjti.ac.za

Sibanda Gideon Mth, Head of Development Studies: hodsrs@sjti.ac.za

James Calder PHD, Head of Philosophy Department:

calderjg2003b@yahoo.ca

Patrick O'Sullivan STL, Head of Theology Department: hodth@sjti.ac.za

Institute Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Josephs-Theological-Institute-182152505476216/>

Student Forum Office: studentsforumsjti@gmail.com

Student Body Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Josephs-Theological-Institute-Student-Forum/431392193576786>