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THE NEWSLETTER OF PAX ROMANA CMICA-USA – SPRING 2008 – SHEILA LORENZO - EDITOR

THE PAX ROMANA LAW-STUDENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM AT THE UNITED NATIONS IN COOPERATION WITH ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

PROMOTING CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING AT THE UNITED NATIONS

PROF. MARK J. WOLFF, J.D., LL.M.
Professor of Law, St. Thomas University
& Main Pax Romana Representative to UN

EDITOR’S COMMENT: Professor Wolff serves as Director of the program, as well as Main Pax Romana Representative to the United Nations in New York, as Pax Romana ICMICA’S International Vice-President for North America, and as Vice-President of Pax Romana CMICA-USA. He has done an extraordinary job in building this program, and at great personal sacrifice. Pax Romana Cmica-usa extends to him our deepest gratitude. Thank you Professor Wolff!

Pax Romana / Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs USA (CMICA) cooperates with St. Thomas University School of Law to sponsor at the United Nations in New York an important Pax Romana law-student internship program grounded in Catholic Social Teaching. Special thanks are due both of these organizations for their support.

FORMING GLOBAL LEADERS

The objective of the program is for law students to acquire an international global view of legal responsibility for the social well-being of human family and for the ecological well-being of Earth, as portrayed in the wisdom tradition known as Catholic Social Teaching.

Students in the program are full-time credentialed representatives to the UN and they do legal work in UN offices, national missions to the UN, UN-NGO (non-governmental organizations) offices, or UN-IGOs (inter-governmental organiza-



Then Pax-Romana Law Intern and now Attorney Cashmir Wolnowski greets Pope Benedict XVI at the UN In New York

tions) offices. Between 5 and 10 students serve at the UN for an entire Fall or Spring semester, as well as during academic summer sessions. For their work, students receive from 6 to 12 academic credits.

At the end of the internship, students regularly report that it has changed their lives. Further, our Pax Romana interns are now the best know interns at the UN – because of their great skill and dedication. More and more offices want one.

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

Here are the words of former intern and now attorney Hanna Bible, who during her internship had the honor of addressing the UN General Assembly:

“Regardless of books read and places traveled, I could never have learned as much as I did about the world and most importantly people as I did during my time at the United Nations. It opened my eyes to the existence of so many more problems, hurts, and conflicts that women and men are going through, about which I previously never knew. But

most importantly I learned the vast array of solutions available to the problems. I found a new fervor in life attempting to find the one that best serves God and humanity simultaneously within an international political forum.”

Through this program, Pax Romana is mentoring a fresh international generation of young transformative lay leaders committed to the prophetic vision of Catholic social teaching for the loving care of all creation and for a humanistic global civilization of love, life and solidarity.

“Love is also the loftiest and most noble form of relationship possible between human beings. Love must thus enliven every sector of human life and extend to the international order. Only a humanity in which there reigns the ‘civilization of love’ will be able to enjoy authentic and lasting peace.” COMPENDIUM OF THE SOCIAL DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH (582)



Symbol of the Order of Malta

INTERNING AT THE UN WITH THE ORDER OF MALTA

KEVIN MCGARRY, LAW STUDENT,
St. Thomas University School of Law

Following its historic mission to help the sick, the needy, and the most disadvantaged in society, the Order of Malta operates in more than 120 countries. Its programs include medical and social assistance, disaster relief in the case of armed conflicts and natural catastrophes, emergency services and first-aid corps, help for the elderly, the handicapped and children in need and the provision of first-aid training, and support for refugees and internally displaced persons regardless of race, origin or religion.

WORLDWIDE REACH

A Catholic religious order, the Knights of Malta's full name is "Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta." The Order has been operating with its impartial perspective for over 900 years – caring for people of all beliefs, be they Muslim, Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, or whatever.

The Order relies on the involvement of its 12,500 members worldwide, as well as approximately 80,000 trained volunteers and 20,000 employees, the majority of whom are medical personnel. By actively pursuing non-discriminatory humanitarian aid efforts, the Order effectively reinforces Christian principles without engaging in overly-forward evangelization.

The Order's organizations worldwide (Grand Priorities, National Associations, relief organizations and foundations) are responsible for carrying out its activities, both in its permanent institutions – hospitals, outpatient medical centers and old peoples' homes – and with its socio-medical and humanitarian programs.

HUMANITARIAN SERVICE

As an intern for the Permanent Observer Mission of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta to the United Nations, I attend various meetings and conferences of interest to

the Order at the United Nations in New York City.

Meeting coverage generally involves areas of humanitarian concern that have a more direct impact on specific populations (especially issues affecting women and children, medical treatment for HIV/AIDS), in contrast to international policy concerns like debating over the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. This is because the Order, as an organization of hospitaliers, seeks to provide humanitarian aid to all where needed and promote human dignity without consideration of politics.

PEACE-BUILDING

Additionally, the international and apolitical nature of the Order creates a unique opportunity to assist in mediation and dispute resolution in conflict areas. For this reason, there has been strong emphasis placed on post-conflict country stabilization, as well as on peace-building and reconciliation.

Following massive failures during the 1990s of UN Peacekeeping Operations to prevent humanitarian disasters and genocidal behavior, major reform is underway to prevent repetition of the past (e.g., Rwanda and Darfur). With the recent creation of the UN Peace-building Commission, post-conflict stabilization has jumped to the forefront of the UN Agenda, especially following the pressures that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations has faced from recent failures.

The Order is an active member of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (also known as the C-34 Commission). Currently, the Order has much interest in the Central African Republic (CAR) and Kivu regions, with the CAR being a country on the Peace-building Commission Agenda.



Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations,
with then Pax Romana-Law Intern and
now Attorney Greg Sadowsky

With humanitarian workers on the ground through the field support branch of the Order (known as Malteser International), protection of humanitarian aid workers and local populations is of grave concern.

FOLLOWING THE UN COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

DWON HUGGINS, LAW STUDENT,
St. Thomas University School of Law

How do we achieve equal responsibilities between men and women in care-giving when the antiquated social divisions of labor defiantly continue to persist in the twenty-first century?

CONTINUING INEQUALITY

According to the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, women, on average, invest twice as much time in unpaid care work than do men in countries such as Argentina, Nicaragua, India, South Africa, Republic of Korea, and Tanzania.

Within the context of HIV/AIDS, the unequal distribution of care responsibilities becomes even more alarming. Women and girls are estimated globally to contribute approximately ninety percent of the care needed for treating the disease.

As a result of these inequities, policy areas such as political participation, social welfare, health, family, education, and employment are adversely impacted. For instance, women are often over-represented in care work, but this area of work is often marred by low monetary compensation, low status, and few, if any, social benefits.

ROLE OF THE COMMISSION

Established at the UN in 1946 by the United Nations Economic and Social resolution 11 (II), the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global policy-making body on gender equality and advancement of women. Through CSW, Member States' representatives meet annually to evaluate progress on achieving gender equality, diagnose challenges, create global standards, and formulate concrete measures.

Many past UN documents that have strongly supported women are directly or indirectly related to CSW. These include:

- The Beijing Conference's Declaration and Platform for Action the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women



Prof. Wolff in the center with 2008 law-student Interns at a breakfast briefing before going to the UN. Interns left to right: Karline Altemar, Veronica Flores, Patricia George, Shani Mckenzie, and Rochelle Nuñez

- The 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, and
- The 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS.

THE FIFTY-THIRD SESSION

During 2-13 March 2009, the Commission held its fifty-third session at United Nations Headquarters in New York. Its theme, *The Equal Sharing of Responsibilities between Men and Women, including Caregiving in the Context of HIV/AIDS*, was timely – especially considering the increased burden of labor that women are enduring domestically as well as outside of the home, and also considering the role that gender-inequality plays in exacerbating the prevalence and impact of HIV/AIDS.

CALL TO CLOSE THE GAP

United Nations Deputy Secretary-General ASHA ROSE MIGIRO opened CSW-53 with a call for the international community to reconcile work and family responsibilities through measures designed to close the wage gap, provide better leave provisions, as well as increase the recognition of unpaid work and caregiving at the household and community levels. In addition, SHA ZUKANG, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, urged governments and relevant stakeholders to challenge the idea that caregiving duties were women's exclusive domain, especially as whole families face HIV/AIDS.

Much more concrete action is still needed to address the deprivation and powerlessness of the poor, especially the increasing

feminization of poverty, and protecting the dignity of a human being. As MICHEL SIDIBÉ, UN-AIDS Executive Director, said, "We must respect and protect human rights... and "gender equality must become part of our DNA."

INTERNING WITH THE ASIAN-AFRICAN LEGAL CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION

CRAIG DELL, LAW STUDENT,
St. Thomas University School of Law

I currently serve as a legal advisor to the Asian African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO). AALCO is Intergovernmental Organization with more than fifty years of history and forty-eight members, comprising almost all of the major States from Asia and Africa. AALCO has a permanent UN invitation to participate as an observer in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly, and it maintains an office at United Nations Headquarters..

During the first week of my internship I represented AALCO at the Emergency Session on the Palestine-Israel Conflict. AALCO's seat in the General Assembly is one seat over from Palestine, so I was able to speak with the Ambassador of Palestine and his staff. We exchanged our views on potential solutions to the conflict.

As a member of the Jewish community and a close follower of the Israel-Palestine conflicted, I was taken back by many member nation's responses, but I was pleasantly surprised when one of the Palestinian Am-

bassador's staff sided with Israel's solution to the conflict and not that of her country.

At the Emergency Session, many of the member nations accused Israel of war crimes and even went as far as to say that Israel was committing genocide on the Palestinian people. Only a handful of countries recognized that Hamas started the recent conflict by shooting rockets into Israel and killing innocent civilians, and that Israel's retaliation has been self-defense. I was excited to be at the forefront of the peace talks, but saddened by how many member nations thought that the only solution is for to convert Israel into a Palestinian state.

When I am not following the conflict between Israel and Palestine, a significant amount of my time is spent following the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law ("UNCITRAL"). This year the commission held two working sessions at the UN. At the first session, the working group revised and amended the UNCITRAL the Model Law on Procurement of Goods, Construction and Services. During the second session, the working group revised and amended the UNCITRAL that is, Arbitration Rules.

Being a law school student, I found it interesting to watch how member nations discussed their different interpretations and recommendations on many issues. I am honored to have a front row seat at the meeting ground of the world community. My experience at the St. Thomas University School of Law Pax Romana United Nations Internship Program is one that will never be forgotten.

PAX ROMANA AT THE UNITED NATIONS



Dear Members and Friends of Pax Romana CMICA-USA,

This newsletter is dedicated to the important work of the Pax Romana Global Leadership Law Student Internships at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The program is conducted in cooperation with St. Thomas University School of Law of Miami Gardens,

Florida.

Several year ago, in response to a request by the late Patricio Rodé of Uruguay (then International President of Pax Romana ICMICA), Professor Mark Wolff, a founding faculty member of St. Thomas University School of Law and Main Pax Romana Representative to the United Nations, established the internship. Special thanks for program support are due to Msgr. Franklyn Casale, President of St. Thomas University, to the Law School's former Dean Bob Butterworth, to current Dean Alfredo Garcia, and to Associate Dean Cecile Dykas. But the greatest thanks go to Professor Wolff.

In addition to his role at St. Thomas University School of Law and as Main Pax Romana Representative to the United Nations, Professor Wolff serves as International President of Pax Romana ICMICA for North America and Vice-President of our Pax Romana CMICA-USA. As if he were not busy enough, he also serves as Regional Chairperson for the Order of Malta of Southeast Florida, for which he devotes great time to service of migrant workers in Southeast Florida.

Professor Wolff has worked incredibly long hours, and has spent a great deal of his own funds, to build up the Law Student Internship Program at the UN in New York. He closely mentors all the students and regularly jets back and forth between Miami and New York to guide them in their work.

Currently there are close to 10 law students at the UN each semester, plus during the summer session. They serve with national missions, with UN agencies, and with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as well as with intergovernmental organizations (IGOs). Currently one is on the staff of the President of the General Assembly and another with the United States Mission. This year a law intern has also been placed in Geneva, Switzerland.

All the interns tell me that the experience has truly changed their lives. They leave the internship with a global view and with a deep commitment to creating a new global civilization grounded in human dignity, justice and peace, and ecological sustainability – key values in Catholic Social Teaching.

This is the heart of Pax Romana's mission – to create and support new generations of leaders for the new global civilization in the spirit of Catholic Social Teaching. Thank you, Professor Wolff!

JOE HOLLAND, PH.D.
President, Pax Romana CMICA-USA



CATHOLIC MOVEMENT FOR INTELLECTUAL & CULTURAL AFFAIRS USA

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