

**Hello!** With a busy summer for our Fix the Food System campaign now behind us, we hope you are all enjoying the start of autumn and the Season of Creation. If you are preparing for Harvest Family Fast Day in your parish, we hope it goes well.

In this edition of Campaigns Update we look forward to some key events coming up this autumn, including the World Bank Annual Meeting and our next Faith in Action event.

We're also hosting a young adults' event on Saturday 11 November in London, so let us know if you're interested, or if you know anyone aged around 18-30 who might be. We're also excited to let you know about a new Whatsapp group for CAFOD campaigners! See overleaf for details of how to join.



We are particularly inspired this Season of Creation by Pope Francis' words on the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation: "How can we contribute to the mighty river of justice and peace in this Season of Creation? What can we, particularly as Christian communities, do to heal our common home so that it can once again teem with life? We must do this by resolving to transform our *hearts*, our *lifestyles*, and the *public policies* ruling our societies."

Helen and the rest of the Campaigns Team

## We're taking your letters to the World Bank

We have been overwhelmed by the fantastic response from parishes to Salina's letter. At the time of writing, almost 600 parishes have held a signing, that is over a fifth of all parishes in England and Wales!

Many of you have reported that parishioners were horrified to learn that farmers' seeds are effectively being privatised. Seeds are the starting point for our whole food system and were given by God for us all. As CAFOD volunteer Brian from Brentwood Diocese reports, "We were delighted by the response. However, we were surprised by the depth of feeling exhibited at the three Masses. This campaign certainly impacted on the sensitivities of our parishioners."

We will now deliver the hundreds of letters to the World Bank during their Annual Meeting in October. We will do this in two stages. Firstly, a small CAFOD delegation will attend the World Bank meetings in Morocco to speak directly to their senior staff about seed policy, and then **we will hand in the letters to their London headquarters on Wednesday 11 October**, with a bit of a gathering and a display of the letters. **If you would like to join us, we'd love to have you.** Email Helen on [hmosley@cafod.org.uk](mailto:hmosley@cafod.org.uk) for more details.



St Anthony, Oxfordshire

The letter signing has been one part of our work campaigning to stop the World Bank pushing for seed privatisation.

We have also compiled a detailed report (available on our website) and 7,500 CAFOD supporters have emailed key figures in the World Bank and the UK Foreign Office, who then agreed to meet with us to discuss our campaign. This is a long-term struggle, but the progress so far has been encouraging. Thank you for playing a part in it.



Pontefract, South Wales



Christ the King, Liverpool

## Meet Mario and Violeta: Living in harmony with the earth in Bolivia

Mario and Violeta work for CAFOD's partner organisation Caritas Bolivia. The environmental challenges facing communities in Bolivia are huge, including high levels of pollution, a lack of clean water in cities, loss of biodiversity and the effects of climate change. Caritas Bolivia works to raise awareness of the change needed to improve these environmental issues.



This work is inspired by Laudato Si', and the importance of caring for our common home - the Earth. As Violeta (right) says, "Integral ecology is the relationship that exists between humans and every other living being, not just animals or plants, but everything. We're like guardians, like administrators of all of the gifts the Lord has given us. That's how to understand integral ecology. Respect, working as a community, working together with these gifts."



Mario and Violeta work with indigenous communities and rural farmers. Mario (left) describes how the outlook of the indigenous people is different: "They don't possess an individualistic, materialistic concept of things. In their practices and customs, their culture, they have a concept of living as a family, sharing things in common. That's where their sense of place, their spirituality, comes from. They see their rights as being something they have in common, something for everyone. Benefit isn't individual, it's for all."

## A special opportunity to hear Mario and Violeta live from Bolivia!

Mario and Violeta will join us live from Bolivia at our Faith in Action online event on **Saturday 18 November**. This is an annual event for anyone interested in our campaigning and advocacy work. We started this during the pandemic in place of an in-person conference and we've had over 100 people join each year, so we're running it as an online event again, from 10.30am to 2.30pm. You don't have to join for the whole thing.



As well as our Bolivia link up, we will look ahead to the COP28 UN climate talks, hear what happened when we took our Fix the Food System campaign to the World Bank annual meetings in Morocco and look ahead to a General Election. It's a great chance to be inspired by other campaigners, too! Register now on this link and we will send you a reminder and more details nearer the time: [bit.ly/faith-in-action23](https://bit.ly/faith-in-action23)

## We have a new CAFOD campaigners' Whatsapp group!

For those who are interested, we have a new Whatsapp group specially for CAFOD campaigners, so that we can quickly share new actions, key developments or invitations to events with you. It will be a great way to spring into action together when it's needed. (We won't bombard you with messages, and of course you can leave at any time).

If you'd like to join, please scan this QR code with your phone, or you can text our team mobile phone on 07553 040 376 to ask to be added. Any queries, do just email Helen on [hmoseley@cafod.org.uk](mailto:hmoseley@cafod.org.uk) or ask your local CAFOD coordinator.



### CAFOD Campaigns Update – September/October 2023

You are signed up to receive this update as a CAFOD Campaigns Volunteer. For queries or to order resources, contact CAFOD Campaigns hotline: 020 7095 5692 or [campaigns@cafod.org.uk](mailto:campaigns@cafod.org.uk)

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