

SPIRITUALITY IN ACTION

What's going on throughout the Areas of the American Association of the Order of Malta

March 2017

INSPIRATION FROM THE AREAS AND THE ORDER OF MALTA WORLDWIDE:

NEWS FROM THE HOLY SEE: On February 21, the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the UN gave an intervention during the Security Council Open Debate dedicated to the theme of the “Maintenance of international peace and security: Conflicts in Europe.” In its statement, the Holy See expressed its solidarity with all peoples affected by conflicts and aggression, reiterated the need to prioritize the preservation of human life, and called States to refrain from actions that destabilize neighboring countries.



On February 23, Archbishop Bernardito Auza delivered a lecture entitled, “The Holy See and the Fight Against Human Trafficking,” upon his inauguration as the Casamarca Foundation Chair in Migration and Globalization Studies at Fordham University. Archbishop Auza, who said an estimated 21 million people are affected by some form of trafficking, including a growing number of men, noted the various ways trafficking manifests in countries around the world, including using human beings as sex slaves in prostitution and pornography, forced labor, compelled participation in illegal activities, child soldiering, forced marriages and child brides, illegal adoptions, the stealing of children from pregnant women, organ harvesting, and human sacrifice.

“The Holy See’s involvement in the fight against human trafficking is not new,” he said, citing Church documents dating back to 1965. “The Catholic Church has sought to fight to address its various causes, care for those it victimizes, wake people up to the disgrace, and work with anyone and everyone to try to eliminate it.”

The issue of human trafficking has grown in significance among the international community in the past decade, he said, noting the increase in the criminalization of human trafficking from 33 countries in 2002, to 158 countries in 2016. He said that while international attention and policies outlawing trafficking are important, more work is necessary to cut out the scourge at its root, especially for women and girls.



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