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# **Lasallian Convocation**







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*We must establish “a culture of action on behalf of the rights of the children and youth,” wrote Brother John Johnston FSC, former Superior General, “a culture that will shape the way we see, the way we think, the way we judge, the way we decide, the way we act as individuals, as educational communities, as Districts, as regions, as international Lasallian association.”*

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*Lasallian Convocation On the Rights of the Child*

*United Nations, City of New York*

*25-27 April 2010*



## FRATELLI DELLE SCUOLE CRISTIANE

*Vicario Generale*

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April 2009

Dear Brothers and Lasallians,

Welcome to the Lasallian Convocation at the United Nations on the Rights of the Child. You have come to this historic place, the United Nations, where sixty-two years ago the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was signed just three years after World War II. Now, you have come, as high school and university students, Brothers, partners, and parents, in support of the treaty, the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Saint John Baptist de La Salle's concern for children was so strong that he willing gave up riches and a career to devote his life to poor children. His life resulted in the development of a network of schools that we call Lasallian and of the De La Salle Christian Brothers. In attending this Convocation, you are engaged in an activity that is by its very nature Lasallian.

It was ten years ago, that our former Superior General, Brother John Johnston FSC, wrote his great and excellent circular to the Brothers *On the Defense of Children, the Reign of God and the Lasallian Mission*. In that circular he named the violations of the rights of children, abortion, destitute poverty, homeless children, whether from homeless family or street children, sexual abuse, lack of medical care, illiteracy, child labor and child soldiers, youth violence, and youth suicides. In these ten years since the writing of that circular we still have these abuses and more of them. For example in Asia and Africa, child soldiers fight in conflicts in the Congo, and we see the outrageous numbers of gang deaths in our major cities like Los Angeles and Chicago. Nothing has changed, in fact things are worse.

Despite the continuing violations of children's rights, your presence here is a testimony to the hope that the lives of children and children not yet born can be better. It is in this hope that you can find the spirit to continue to fight for the rights of children and perhaps even find ways to support children in your own cities, your own school, and in your own neighborhood. It is said that we should "think globally and act locally." These days you will be thinking globally, but do not forget to act locally to do what you can to change the lives of young people around you.

Sincerely in Saint La Salle,

Br. Thomas Johnson FSC

*Vicar General*



USA/Toronto Region  
The Planning Team for the  
Lasallian Convocation at the United Nations



25 April 2010

Dear Convocation Participant:

Greetings and peace of God to you in Easter!

It is with joy that we welcome you to the USA/Toronto Region's Lasallian Convocation at the United Nations on the Rights of the Child. This coming together in New York on the banks of the East River hopefully represents the beginning of the Region's sustained efforts to educate and advocate for children's rights.

*Nearly ten years ago*, in May 2000, the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Chapter of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, listening to the testimony of the Holy Spirit, directed that the defense and promotion of the rights of children be "a major focus of concern" for the Lasallian educational mission.

Making the world fit for children is possible through the dialogical relation between the Lasallian mission to provide a human and Christian education to the young, especially those who are impoverished and marginalized, and the active protection and promotion of the rights of the child. In a "Message to Young Lasallians," Brother Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría FSC, Superior General, asserts: "The Rights of the Child invite us to make our contribution to the creation everywhere of an environment and of conditions conducive to a form of education that is complete and worthy of the sons and daughters of the same Father."

Each of us is summoned to dig deep, to see how much courage and perseverance we can muster to build up the reign of God right here and right now. As a result of individual and group efforts in our educational ministries, we can more and more achieve "a culture that will shape *the way we see, the way we think, the way we judge, the way we decide, the way we act as individuals, as educational communities, as Districts, as Regions, as International Lasallian Association.*" [italics added]

The Lasallian Convocation at the United Nations aims to provide information, education and formation towards achieving a world fit for children. The Convocation is an exciting opportunity to reflect on our evangelical and prophetic witness before the world of the need for justice and peace enveloped by Christ's love; to renew our attention to the Institute's call to have the rights of children as a major concern of the Lasallian mission; to earnestly move towards leading our Lasallian educational ministries to wed charitable service activities and social justice initiatives, with the Rights of the Child as the framework within which we can actualize our Lasallian numerical power on behalf of social transformation.

We hope that you will have a blessed and enjoyable time at the Convocation here in New York.

In Saint La Salle, and all our Lasallian Saints,

*The Planning Team*

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Three broad guiding principles forms and informs the Lasallian Convocation and the Region's continuing initiative to promote and realize the vision and standards set by the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC):

### ***Evangelization and Catechesis***

*“Establish, promote, adapt, or create pedagogical, pastoral and catechetical projects that are realistic responses to the situations of poverty today.”* [italics added] This directive comes from the 44<sup>th</sup> General Chapter gathered in Rome in spring 2007.

Interiority: We are called to interiorize “a culture of action [advocacy] on behalf of the rights of the children and youth,” Brother John Johnston FSC, states, “a culture that will shape *the way we see, the way we think, the way we judge, the way we decide, the way we act as individuals, as educational communities, as Districts, as Regions, as International Lasallian Association.*” [italics added]

### ***Actualizing our Lasallian numerical power on the local/regional level for the ratification of the CRC and long-term advocacy for children's issues.***

Probing the inert response to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Chapter offers this candid critique: “Although the Convention was recommended by the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Chapter and again in [Brother Superior's Pastoral Letter on *The Defense of Children, the Reign of God, and the Lasallian Mission* (1999)], its contents are little known and understood by Brothers and Partners [and students].”

Thus, an enduring challenge for Lasallians, especially in our Region, is to actualize our numerical power—over 67,000 students, 9,000 teachers, administrators, and other professional staff in over 100 schools, Pre-Kindergarten to College, and other centers of education, of striking diversity—or put another way, to advocate and commit for the long-haul by affirming children's rights, safeguarding all aspects of children's development, and mobilizing human and material resources so that each and every child has opportunities to reach their full potential.



### *Integrating Catholic Social Thought, Lasallian Insights, and Critical Pedagogy.*

Putting forward a critical pedagogy provides a three-step method that can underscore local and regional social action—a way to change the reality of what can be in God’s time.

- a critical reflection upon our world
- proposing steps (solutions) for curing our world, making it more fit for children
- actualizing, or implementing, the proposed steps or solutions—putting into practice the results of critical reflection

“These three steps together constitute praxis: the integration of critical reflection with practice and the continuing process of critically reflecting upon the present practices always with a view of improving world conditions.”

*Liberation Theology and Critical Pedagogy  
in Today’s Catholic Schools: Social Justice in Action*  
Thomas Oldnesk SM  
University of Dayton

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*The prophetic and liberating power of the gospel is at work in the lives of both teacher and student through their shared struggle to discover the ways of justice. In a world characterized by injustice, service [to those who are] poor invites the discovery of methods of acting that will help free the oppressed and the oppressor from the enslavement of injustice. Search out the causes of poverty with the young or aiding them in an analysis of the systems that institutionalize the poverty many endure is one expression of the zeal characteristic of the Lasallian education. The mutual efforts of teacher with student to challenge the forces that perpetuate injustice join them in the shared mission to establish the Reign of God initiated by Christ, our Savior.*

- Institute Bulletin #249  
“Educating in Justice” ©2004



# *Making the World Fit for Children*

Opening Song:

*Let It Rise*  
(sing as directed by leader)

Chorus/Congregation:

Let the glory of the Lord rise among us (repeat)  
Let the praises of our King rise among us  
Let it rise  
Oh oh ohhhh  
Let it rise

Opening Prayer:

“The Prayer of the Children”

Proclamation:

“Let Us Be Blessed”  
by Val Lamar Jansen and Noni Lamar

Response:

*Thank You Lord*  
Chorus/Congregation

Scripture:

Gospel of Matthew 18.1-5, 10, 12-14

*Silent Meditation on God’s Word*

Presentation:

*The World’s Vision of a Child:  
The Convention on the Rights of the Child*  
Elissa Pensa Cerros, creator

Meditation:

*Holy Spirit / You are Great*  
Chorus

Reflection:

Archbishop Celestino Migliore  
*Apostolic Nuncio,  
Permanent Observer of the Holy See  
to the United Nations*

Presentation of Signatures:

World Appeal to a New Mobilization for Childhood  
to Archbishop Celestino Migliore

The Lasallian Context & Welcome:

Br. Ernest J. Miller FSC  
*Associate Director for Mission & Ministry  
District of Eastern North America*

Br. Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría FSC  
*Superior General, Brothers of the Christian Schools*

*Lasallians in Convocation: Who We Are*  
Marc Phillip, creator

Remarks:

Br. Robert Schieler FSC  
*General Councillor, Brothers of the Christian Schools*



Congregational Prayer:

“We are the World’s Children”

**Leader:** As ministers and servants of the reign of God, we call upon God to give us the grace to welcome with love the children in our midst and to respond to the needs of children everywhere through direct educational service as well as social justice promotion. With God’s mercy, we offer this prayer.

[side 1]

We are the world’s children.  
We are the victims of exploitation and abuse.  
We are street children.  
We are the children of war.  
We are the victims and orphans of HIV/AIDS.  
We are denied good-quality education and health care.  
We are victims of political, economic, cultural, religious  
and environmental discrimination.

[side 2]

We pray for respect for the rights of the child:  
We pray for governments and adults having a real and  
effective commitment to the principle of children’s rights  
and applying the United Nations Convention  
on the Rights of the Child to all children,  
We pray for safe, secure and healthy environments for  
children in families, communities and nations.

[side 1]

We pray for an end to exploitation, abuse and violence:  
We pray for laws that protect children from exploitation  
and abuse being implemented and respected by all,  
We pray for programs that help to rebuild the lives of  
victimized children.

[side 2]

We pray for an end to war:  
We pray that world leaders resolve conflict through  
peaceful dialogue instead of by using force,  
We pray that child refugees and child victims of war are  
protected in every way and have the same opportunities  
as all other children,  
We pray for disarmament, the elimination of the arms  
trade and an end to the use of child soldiers.



[side 1]

We pray for education:  
 We pray for equal opportunities and access to quality  
 education that is free and compulsory,  
 We pray for school environments in which children feel  
 happy about learning,  
 We pray for education for life that goes beyond the  
 academic and includes lessons in understanding, human  
 rights, peace, acceptance and active citizenship.

[side 2]

We pray that as adults we will defend children's rights  
 with a [spirit of faith and zeal.]  
 We pray that we will treat each other  
 with dignity and respect.  
 We pray that we are open and sensitive to our differences and diversity.

Sending Forth:

*We Are the World*  
 Quincy Jones and Michael Omartian  
 producers

There comes a time  
 When we head a certain call  
 When the world must come together as one  
 There are people dying  
 And it's time to lend a hand to life  
 The greatest gift of all

We can't go on  
 Pretending day by day  
 That someone, somewhere will soon make a change  
 We are all a part of  
 God's great big family  
 And the truth, you know love is all we need

[Chorus]

We are the world  
 We are the children  
 We are the ones who make a brighter day  
 So let's start giving  
 There's a choice we're making  
 We're saving our own lives  
 It's true we'll make a better day  
 Just you and me



Send them your heart  
So they'll know that someone cares  
And their lives will be stronger and free  
As God has shown us by turning stone to bread  
So we all must lend a helping hand

[Chorus]

When you're down and out  
There seems no hope at all  
But if you just believe  
There's no way we can fall  
Well, well, well, well, let us realize  
That a change will only come  
When we stand together as one

[Chorus]

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*"Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"  
Jesus called a child over, placed it in their midst,  
and said, "Amen, I say to you, unless you turn  
and become like children, you will not enter the  
kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like  
this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.  
And whoever receives one child such as this in  
my name receives me. "See that you do not despise  
one of these little ones, for I say to you that their  
angels in heaven always look upon the face of my  
heavenly Father."*

*- Matthew 18.1-5, 10*



*Sunday, 25 April 2010*

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 2.00 - 4.00pm | Arrival & Check-in<br>Grand Hyatt Hotel<br>109 East 42 <sup>nd</sup> Street<br>(adjacent to Grand Central Station) |
| 5.15 - 6.30pm | Registration (all participants)  |
| 5.30 - 6.30pm | Dinner   |
| 6.30 - 7.00pm | Review of Schedule & Expectations for the Convocation  |
| 7.15 - 8.30pm | Opening Assembly & Welcome   |

*All Sunday activities are at the Church of the Holy Family, the United Nations' parish  
315 East 47<sup>th</sup> Street (between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenues, across from the Dag Hammarskjold Plaza).*

*Monday, 26 April 2010*

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|-----------------|---|
|                 | Breakfast on one's own  |
| 8.15 - 8.30am   | Arrival at United Nations Visitor's Entrance<br><b>Location:</b> 47 <sup>th</sup> Street & 1 <sup>st</sup> Avenue   |
| 9.00 - 10.15am  | Morning Assembly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Morning Praise</li> <li>• Setting the Context</li> <li>• Keynote Address<br/>Jimmie Briggs, <i>Human Rights Activist, Teacher,<br/>Author, former UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Location:</b> United Nations Conference Room 3</p>  |
| 10.15 - 10.30am | Break   |
| 10.30 - 12.00pm | Living Faithjustice: Advocacy as Social Transformation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Candy Hill, <i>Senior Vice President of Social Policy<br/>&amp; Government Affairs</i></li> <li>• Lucreda Cobbs, Sr., <i>Director of Advocacy &amp; Civic<br/>Engagement Catholic Charities USA</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Location:</b> United Nations Conference Room 3</p> |



- 12.00 - 1.30pm Lunch  
*Location:* United Nations cafeteria
- 1.30 - 3.30pm Living FaithJustice: Advocacy as Social Transformation  
*(continued)*  
*Location:* Church Center at the United Nations  
44<sup>th</sup> Street & 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue (entrance across from UN  
Millennium Plaza on 44<sup>th</sup> Street)
- 4.00 - 5.15pm United Nations tour  
*Location:* United Nations Visitors' Center
- 5.30 - 6.45pm Evening Praise & Dinner  
*Location:* Church of the Holy Family

*Tuesday, 27 April 2010*

- Breakfast on one's own
- 8.15 - 8.30am Arrival at United Nations Visitor's Entrance
- 9.00 - 10.15am Morning Assembly
- Morning Praise
  - Setting the Context
  - Keynote Address  
Ann M. Veneman, *Executive Director, United  
Nation's Children's Fund*
- Location:* United Nations Conference Room 3
- 10.15 - 10.30am Break
- 10.30 - 12.00pm TEACH-INS
- Fair Trade: Towards Achieving World Without  
Poverty & Injustice**  
Peter Buck, *Worker / Owner & Interfaith Program  
Representative Equal Exchange & Co-operative*  
[www.equalexchange.coop](http://www.equalexchange.coop)
- Countering the Trafficking of Persons**  
Mary Jo Toll SND, *Representative of the Sisters of Notre  
Dame to the United Nations*  
[www.sndi.org/NewInitNGO.html](http://www.sndi.org/NewInitNGO.html)  
[www.usccb.org/mrs/trafficking/index.shtml](http://www.usccb.org/mrs/trafficking/index.shtml)



10.30 - 12.00pm

TEACH-INS

*(continued)*

**Child Poverty in America: Prevalence, Causes, Impact & Solutions**

Jann Jackson, *Senior Fellow, Policy Reform & Advocacy, The Annie E. Casey Foundation*

[www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org)

**The United Nations Agenda for the Protection of Children in Situations of Armed Conflict**

Tonderai Chikuhwa, *Senior Programme Officer, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children in Armed Conflict*

[www.un.org/children/english/index.html](http://www.un.org/children/english/index.html)

12.00 - 1.15pm

Lunch

**Location:** United Nations cafeteria

1.30 - 3.45pm

**Incredible Abundance: Mobilizing Lasallians for Social Transformation**

Session 1

- Ratifying the CRC: How & Why

Meg Gardinier, *Chair, Campaign for US Ratification of the CRC*

Masue Suzuki, *Program Director, The World Day of Prayer and Action for Children*

[www.dayofprayerandaction.org/en](http://www.dayofprayerandaction.org/en)

- Child Advocacy: Essential Tools for Making a Difference

Jann Jackson, *Senior Fellow, Policy Reform & Advocacy, The Annie E. Casey Foundation*

Session 2

Reflection, Conversation, and the Journey Ahead

**Location:** Church Center at the United Nations

4.00 - 5.00pm

Visit to the United Nations Missions (embassies)

(small groups will each visit 1 of 9 Missions)

5.00 - 6.30pm

Break

6.45 - 7.55pm

Eucharistic Liturgy

Rev. Anthony Ozele, *Presider & Homilist*

Parochial Vicar, Church of the Good Shepherd  
Queens NY

8.00 - 9.15pm

Closing Dinner

**Location:** Church of the Holy Family



## Chocolate, Fair Trade, Small Farmers and You

Peter Buck, *Worker/Owner & Interfaith Program Representative Equal Exchange Co-operative*

[www.equalexchange.coop](http://www.equalexchange.coop)

This Teach-In will include: a role playing exercise illustrating the obstacles facing small farmer families in the developing world; a power point presentation on the world of cacao (the bean that chocolate comes from) and how small farmer co-operatives have changed the world of cacao farming families; a guided discussion on how students, through their schools and parishes, can, through Fair Trade, act in solidarity with farming communities; ending with a tasting of Fairly Traded chocolate. The Rights of Children are explicitly covered in discussion of slavery on cacao farms on the Côte-d'Ivoire and in discussion of the improvement of schools in farmer communities in the Dominican Republic.

## Countering the Trafficking of Persons

Mary Jo Toll SND, *Representative of the Sisters of Notre Dame to the United Nations*

[www.sndi.org/NewInitNGO.html](http://www.sndi.org/NewInitNGO.html)

[www.usccb.org/mrs/trafficking/index.shtml](http://www.usccb.org/mrs/trafficking/index.shtml)


The presentation will include examples, causes, and responses to such issues as buying and selling of children, slave labor, organ theft and commercial sex exploitation. During and after the presentation, there will be opportunities for questions as well as dialogue.

## The United Nations Protection Agenda for Children in Situations of Armed Conflict

Tonderai W. Chikuhwa, *Senior Programme Officer, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children in Armed Conflict*

[www.un.org/children/english/index.html](http://www.un.org/children/english/index.html)

The seminal 1996 report of Graca Machel on the Impact of Conflict on Children represented a watershed moment, leading to the initiation of a strategic and purposive agenda for the protection of children. One central objective has been to penetrate this issue into the high-profile and highstakes arena of international peace and security through the engagement of the UN Security Council. Can we mobilize the unique means of the Security Council, including the ultimate possibility of direct sanction measures, to ensure that perpetrators of grave violations against children are held to account? The Security Council has articulated its commitment to children through a series



of targeted resolutions. These resolutions together with the protection infrastructure that they call for have begun to yield more tangible protection for children in many situations of concern. At the same time, greater consideration and resources than ever before are being dedicated to response programmes for victims and their families. The session will outline the key elements of UN protection agenda for children in situations of armed conflict and the challenges for the future.

### Child Poverty in America: Prevalence, Causes, Impact & Solutions

Jann Jackson, *Senior Fellow, Policy, Reform & Advocacy, Annie E. Casey Foundation*  
[www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org)

All children deserve to be healthy, safe, educated and economically secure. Yet in America, the richest nation in human history, 18% of children lived in poverty. The evidence is overwhelming that when children grow up in poverty they are far more likely to miss important learning benchmarks, drop out of school, get pregnant and/or get in trouble with the law. In this workshop participants will see the complex portrait of child poverty using data from the national KIDS COUNT Data Center. We will explore the causes of the growing class divide and long-term effects on our society. Finally we will focus on practical policy solutions and examples of states tackling this issue in innovative and strategic ways.

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*“To humanize and transform the social order entails social action ... the necessity of pursuing social justice for all (and particularly for those unable to do so for themselves unaided) which, in turn, involves effecting changes in the existing social systems.”*

*- Catholic Charities  
 USA Advocacy Manual*

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## *Archbishop Celestino Migliore*



A native of Cuneo, in the Piedmont region of Italy, His Excellency Archbishop Celestino Migliore was born in 1952 and ordained a priest in 1977.

Having obtained his master's degree in theology, Archbishop Migliore pursued his studies at the Pontifical Lateran University, where he was awarded the Doctorate in Canon Law. In 1980, after graduating from Pontifical Academy for Ecclesiastical Diplomacy, he joined the Holy See's diplomatic service.

He served at the Apostolic Nunciatures in Angola (1980-1984), Washington DC (1984-1988), Egypt (1988-1989), and Poland (1989-1992). In April 1992 he was appointed Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France, and from December 1995 to October 2002 served as Under-Secretary of the Section for Relations with States of the Secretariat of State, at the Vatican.

While in Rome, he also taught Ecclesiastical Diplomacy at the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome as a Visiting Professor. On 30 October 2002, he was nominated Apostolic Nuncio and Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations, in New York.



## Jimmie Briggs



Over the last decade and a half, Jimmie Briggs has earned a reputation as one of the most respected human rights advocates in the field of journalism. His work has appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Washington Post*, *LIFE*, *El Pais*, *The Village Voice*, *Fortune*, and scores of other publications. Through extensive travels to countries in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia,

he has produced seminal reporting on the lives of war affected youth and children soldiers, as well as survivors of sexual violence.

A National Magazine Award finalist and recipient of honors from the Open Society Institute, National Association of Black Journalists (for work in Uganda and Rwanda), and The Carter Center (for research on mental health trauma among rape survivors), his book on child soldiers and war-affected children *Innocents Lost: When Child Soldiers Go To War* won him accolades in 2005, and took readers into the personal journeys of youth in Rwanda, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), among other countries. He has also worked for the UN Special Session on Children, Seeds of Peace, Oxfam USA, Amnesty International and the Enough Project in the DRC. Further, Briggs has served as an adjunct professor of investigative journalism at the New School for Social Research, and was a George A. Miller Visiting Professor in the Department of African and African-American Studies at the University of Illinois: Champaign-Urbana.

His upcoming book *The Wars Women Fight: Dispatches from A Father to His Daughter*, normatively examining violence against women and girls in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Afghanistan and Guatemala, will be published in 2011. Most recently, Jimmie Briggs conceived of and founded the Man Up Campaign, a global initiative to activate young people to stop violence against women and girls in their communities through music, sports and technology.

The Man Up Campaign formally launches during a Young Leaders Summit at the University of Johannesburg during 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa, bringing youth together from 50 countries throughout the world, many from Sub-Saharan Africa, as well as the Middle East and North Africa.



## *Ann M. Veneman*



Ann M. Veneman became UNICEF's fifth Executive Director on May 1, 2005. Appointed by the United Nations Secretary General, the Executive Director works on behalf of the United Nations children's agency to help children around the world survive and thrive by advocating for and protecting their rights. UNICEF's mission is accomplished by over 11,000 staff on the ground in more than 150 countries, advancing programs that support child health and nutrition, quality basic education, the protection of children from violence, exploitation and AIDS, and access to clean water and sanitation, among other priorities.

Veneman has first-hand knowledge of how children's lives are being saved and improved as a result of programs and assistance provided by UNICEF and its partners. She has witnessed the devastation caused by natural disasters, conflict, disease and exploitation. These experiences have redoubled her sense of hope, passion, and urgency in advocating for children when administering programs, meeting with government leaders, international agencies and strategic partners, or speaking at conferences such as the World Economic Forum and Clinton Global Initiative. Veneman co-chairs Mothers Day Every Day, a campaign launched by CARE and the White Ribbon Alliance supporting access of basic health care and maternal services for women around the world.

Prior to joining UNICEF, Veneman served as Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Among her responsibilities was the management of the nation's food and nutrition programs, including services for food stamps, school lunch programs and nutrition assistance for women, infants and children.

A lawyer by training, Veneman has practiced law in Washington, DC and California. Earlier in her career she served as a deputy public defender. Veneman earned her bachelor's degree in political science from the University of California, Davis; a master's degree in public policy from the University of California, Berkeley; and a juris doctorate degree from the University of California, Hastings College of Law. She has also been awarded honorary doctorate degrees from several universities and colleges.

Veneman's leadership and vision at UNICEF has been recognized both nationally and internationally. In 2009, she was named to the *Forbes 100 Most Powerful Women* list, ranking #46.



The Lasallian Convocation at the United Nations on the Rights of the Child is facilitated by the USA/Toronto Region of the Brothers of the Christian Schools in partnership with the Friendship Ambassadors Foundation, Inc. (FAF; [www.faf.org](http://www.faf.org)), formally associated with the United Nations Department of Public Information and an NGO in Operational Relations with UNESCO.

The Holy See Mission to the United Nations

Archbishop Celestino Migloiore  
Rev. Philip Bené

Donations

District of Eastern North America  
Midwest District  
New Orleans-Santa Fé District  
San Francisco District  
Martin de Porres School

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Joseph W. Juliano FSC

Convocation Logo

Peter Borges

Technology Coordinator

Elissa Pensa-Cerros

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Bishop Loughlin Memorial School Choir  
and the combined Martin de Porres-Saint Mary Magdalene Parish Choir

The administrators, teachers, staff, parents, and students  
whose commitment of time and energy made possible the participation  
of their Lasallian educational community.







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*"A gospel that does not unsettle,  
a word of God that does  
not get under anyone's skin,  
a word of God that does not touch  
the real sin of society  
in which it its being proclaimed,  
what gospel is that?"*

*- Archbishop Oscar Romero*

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*Go with God...*