

Mauro Garofalo

*Head of International Relations,
Sant' Egidio Community*



Mauro Garofalo has served as head of international relations for the Community of Sant'Egidio since 2014, having worked with Sant'Egidio in other capacities since 2006. He is also involved in the secretariat for inter-religious and ecumenical dialogues.

Since 2008, Garofalo has served as a Conflict Resolutions Unit officer and has helped in a number of international rescue operations in Afghanistan and Senegal; he has participated in and contributed to various peace actions across Africa, the Middle East, and Far East Asia.

Garofalo has also helped in several emergency response actions and cooperation development projects. In addition to his international work, he has been quite active with the Community of Sant'Egidio since 1992, involved with various grassroots service initiatives. He holds a Ph.D. and second level master's degree; he is an historian of arts and a trained archeologist.

Josep Buades Fuster, SJ

*Jesuit Service to Migrants,
Spain*



Based in Seville, he Works in the Claver Asociation, of the Jesuit Service to Migrants. Licenced in Law an Theology, the Society of Jesus destinated him to the field of migrations, and he embraced his particular vocation towards inter-religious dialogue, blossomed from his contact with migrant population of Muslim confesion. He belongs to the Dos Orillas Group, which unites Jesuits who care specialy for the contact with Islam.

He was moved by his participation in the creation of the Inter-religious league of Alicante, who's secret is the good combination of spirituality, attention to dialogue disipline and citizen commitment.

In the field of research, he has worked in issues such as religión and social integration of migrants, religious minority maps (Comunitat Valenciana and Illes Balears), public administration of religious diversity... In the área of formation, he has worked on the inter-cultural social, as well as the public management of religious diversity.

Alain Deneef

*Board member,
JRS Belgium*



Alain Deneef is a Belgian entrepreneur, specialist of urban questions and coalition builder. A strategic consultant, he helps medium and large organizations foresee the impact of technological, financial, social, demographic, environmental, urban and political change on their future.

He is intendant of Brussels Metropolitan, an effort by the employers' federations in Belgium to give more substance to the great metropolitan area around Brussels. He is also involved as officer of two private structures aiming at improving two important quarters of Brussels: the European quarter and the North quarter. As businessman, he has held top management positions in Canal+ Belgium, Belgacom and the SNCB - the Belgian railway company, among others, and several positions as director in important companies.

He has served as president of a number of clubs and associations amongst which the Alumni association of the Collège Saint-Michel (Bruxelles). Since August 2013, he is the president of the World Union of Jesuit Alumni (WUJA). Since 2014, he is a board member of JRS Belgium. He was educated at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), where he obtained the degrees of Business Engineer (Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management) and Law and Philosophy (1984).

Chiara Peri

*Advocacy Coordinator,
Jesuit Refugee Service
Italy – Centro Astalli*



Chiara Peri has been working in the field of forced migration and asylum in Italy for 16 years. Her professional experience includes many different aspects: juridical knowledge, service delivery and organization, project design and management, awareness raising, lobby and advocacy.

She has taken part, as an expert and/or researcher for several capacity building projects for national administrations in the field of asylum. Before falling in love with JRS, she used to be a scholar of Ancient Near Eastern Studies and History of Religions. She has taught Semitic Philology at the Faculty of Arts at “La Sapienza” Rome. Today she teaches Human Rights for Loyola University Chicago, Rome Centre.

IlhamAllah Ferrero

*Secretary General,
Italian Islamic Religious Community (COREIS)*



IlhamAllah belongs to one of the principle Islamic organizations in Italy which focuses on religious needs of Muslims in various fields of Italian society. She works with Muslims from Islamic countries, with Italian citizens who follow the Islamic faith, with Italian institutions and with civil society more broadly. She works at interreligious level in order to relate religious principles and democratic issues in the context of a secular society.

Since 2003, she has served as the Secretary General of COREIS and since 2008 she has been a member of the General Assembly of the Italian Islamic Cultural Center which manages the Grand Mosque of Rome where, in 2014, she moderated a press conference with the President of the Chamber of Deputies, Laura Boldrini.

In 2013, due to the growing need of intercultural education, the Italian Ministry of Education introduced a bilateral commission, in which IlhamAllah takes part along with other members of COREIS. In addition, she is part of a coordination of associations, hospitals and nurses that focus on issues of health and faiths. She has published essays on various issues including on the Muslim woman. She lives in Rome with her husband and her son.

Jill Drzewiecki

*Campaign Development Coordinator,
Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)*



Jill began working with JRS in January 2016, but has been working with the refugee community in the Eternal City since 2012. Her work with displaced people began many years ago as a student interning with street children in Bogota, Colombia in 1997. She is a graduate of Harvard University's Global Mental Health: Refugee Trauma and Recovery program. Additionally, she holds degrees in International Relations and Environmental Education. She has served on the staffs of environmental, interfaith, and social justice organizations on three continents. Jill is a mother and enjoys practicing yoga in her free time.

She is from Wisconsin, but lived in the North Carolina for many years where she worked as the Director of NC Interfaith Power and Light, taught ESL at AB-Tech Community College and advised on statewide boards. She is a Specialized Operator in the Reception of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Italy, a GreenFaith Fellow, and the recipient of a Young Alum Award from St. Norbert College.

Interested in balancing action for justice with the contemplative life, she's committed to the care of humanitarian workers. As part of her own self-care, she enjoys trips back to her native Wisconsin each summer.



GLOBAL MIGRATION & REFUGEE CRISIS:
Time to Contemplate & Act
Rome, ITALY – September 14th to 17th

Thomas H. Smolich, SJ

*International Director of JRS,
Jesuit Refugee Service*



Fr Smolich entered the Jesuits in 1974 and was ordained a priest in 1986. After ordination, he was assigned to Dolores Mission Parish in East Los Angeles, where he served seven years as an Associate Pastor and was the Executive Director of Proyecto Pastoral, a community development organization based at Dolores Mission, from 1988-1993.

From 1996-98, he was a project manager for the Mid-Peninsula Housing Coalition, developing affordable housing for families in the San Francisco Bay area. He then joined the staff of California Province Jesuits as Assistant to the Provincial for Planning and Programs in 1998. Fr Smolich served as the Provincial of the Jesuits of the California Province from 1999-2005 and then as President of the Jesuit Conference USA from 2006-2014.

Fr Smolich earned his MBA from Stanford University (1996), a Master's Degree in Religious Education from Loyola Marymount University (1992), and a Master of Divinity from the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley (1986).

Fr Smolich enjoys cooking, gardening and cheering the San Francisco Giants to victory.



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