



OFS Commissions Newsletter October 2014 Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation-JPIC

by Andrew Conradi, ofs, National JPIC Animator

JPIC News

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OFM JPIC Animators Course 2014, Pontifical University Antonianum, Rome

1. I attended the course as the OFM JPIC Animator for Christ the King Province (Franciscans of Western Canada). This year the theme was *“The excluded and human rights: toward a church for the poor.”* There were some excellent presentations. To mention only two, the Minister General of the OFM, Michael Perry, and Donal Dorr, SPS were especially inspiring. Many friars spoke about the deleterious effects of mining in their countries.

Mining

2. Here are some resources on mining:

* *Franciscans and Environmental Justice: Confronting Environmental Crisis and Social Injustice* (OFM JPIC Office, 2011, pp 8 & 9)

www.hnp.org/userfiles/EnvironmentalJustice.pdf

* Franciscans International’s *Dialogue on Life and Mining* (2013)

[franciscansinternational.org/.../Dialogue on Life and Mining.pdf](http://franciscansinternational.org/.../Dialogue_on_Life_and_Mining.pdf)

*Do you remember the Development and Peace 2013 campaign on mining? www.devp.org/en/education/fall2013/materials Did you and your local fraternity participate in signing cards to your MP? Our Rule 15 calls for us to be in the

forefront in such courageous initiatives! D&P campaigns are such an easy, ready-made way for us to do this.

Sow much love - D&P 2014 Fall education and action campaign

3. One billion people are still suffering from hunger – that’s 1 in 8 people of the entire human family! This year D&P continues to answer the call of Pope Francis to fight the global scandal of hunger, by launching an education campaign. *Sow much love* is about the role of family farmers in producing food and their role as stewards of the world’s seeds. *Sow much love* will call on Canadians to take action to support the rights of farmers in the face of the growing threat of corporate control of seeds. Caritas Internationalis is organizing a Global Week of Action, from 12-18 October 2014. D&P is Caritas Canada.

4. Will we Franciscans join in? You could ask your pastor and parish D&P rep about ordering some extra materials so you could also publicize it in your fraternity. For more info see <http://www.devp.org/en/blog/category/education-and-action-campaign>

Franciscan Voice Canada

<http://www.franciscanvoicecanada.com>

5. Have you checked out this new website? Hopefully you will find it useful. Its our National JPIC site.

Understanding JPIC

6. *Understanding JPIC (Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation) A Canadian Primer for Formation and Animation* has a twofold purpose. First, it is a primer for individual study and a JPIC reference manual to provide the Catholic and Franciscan basis for the JPIC apostolate and as such it is useful for JPIC Animators at all levels. Second, it is a resource for initial and continuing formation. It is continually being updated and the latest edition will be on the **Franciscan Voice Canada** website under Formation and also on <http://www.sfovancouver.ca/jpic/understanding-jpic-franciscan-spirituality-jpic/>

7. In Our Lady of the Angels Region (Western Canada) some formators are working with the National JPIC Animator to integrate more JPIC content from *Understanding JPIC* into initial formation using *Fully Mature* by Benet Fonck OFM (1995) and will soon be also doing the same for *Franciscan Journey* by Lester Bach, OFM Cap (2010). Our approach is the chapter by chapter, month by month model. The Formators tell the Animator what chapter they will be covering next month. The Animator then reads the Chapter and decides what relevant info from *Understanding JPIC* could be included. This is, of course, still an experiment, but we are not afraid to try and we will continually iron out the kinks based on the Formators' experience with their enquirers & candidates. The whole Franciscan Family seems to be catching on to the importance of integrating JPIC into formation right from the start.

A JPIC Course

8. The National JPIC Animator was asked to give a two-day JPIC

presentation/workshop to OFM postulants in Western Canada. If there is interest in a similar course for the OFS you must tell your Regions to tell the National Council and we will see what could be done.

Fair Trade

9. Plummeting prices for raw materials like cotton have created a no-win situation for hard-working farmers in many parts of the world. Have you heard of Fair Trade cotton & clothing? Check out <http://www.wearfair.ca> Does your fraternity use only Fair Trade coffee, tea and sugar at its meetings? To do otherwise is to be part of the globalisation of indifference rather than the globalisation of solidarity, as Pope Francis would say!

Is JPIC too daunting?

10. As Michael Cassidy (JPIC chair, St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity, Cornwall, PEI) so clearly reminds us: "At the fraternity level, I think a lot of secular Franciscans find it daunting to embrace and act upon JPIC initiatives. They feel that they are inadequate unless they lead a march or a letter-writing campaign or revise their formation programs. They don't realize that true JPIC living the Gospel consists of small acts in our daily routines: buying locally, buying fair trade, driving a person to a medical appointment, participating in local meetings on poverty eradication, reusing shopping bags, etc. As Dorothy Day said: "Little by little." "

11. Here is a heart-warming example of the charitable approach (even though it is actually an advertisement by The Thai Life Insurance Co!)

Unsung hero

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/uaWA2GbcnJU>



Charity & Justice

12. Charity and justice are inseparable. We must never forget justice, as Pope Pius XI (1937, *Divini Redemptoris*, n. 49) wrote: “Let no one attempt with small gifts of charity to exempt themselves from the great duties imposed by justice.” And Pope Benedict XVI: “Charity goes beyond justice ... Justice is inseparable from charity and intrinsic to it ... Justice is the primary way of charity ... Charity demands justice ... Charity transcends justice.” (2009, *Caritas in veritate*, n. 6, emphasis added)

13. Lester Bach, OFM Cap tells us: “Our call as Franciscans is demanding. We are not called to passive devotions nor fuzzy-friendly fraternity meetings with no content.” JPIC definitely provides serious and important content!



"We are all asked to accept this call: to come out of our comfort zone and have the courage to reach all the peripheries that need the light of the Gospel"

*Pope Francis
Evangelii Gaudium, n.20*

So do not be afraid to fail.

Be afraid not to try!
Andrew Conradi, ofs

CHARITY & JUSTICE

the differences

Charity Social Service	Justice Social Change
Scriptural reference example: Good Samaritan This Gospel parable does not attempt to analyse the causes of highway robbery. The Samaritan provides immediate and temporary relief.	Scriptural reference example: Exodus Moses fundamentally challenges the institutional system of slavery by demanding: “Let my people go.” He does not ask for immediate and temporary relief in the form of food and medicine for the Jewish slaves.
Private, individual acts	Public, collective acts
Responds to immediate need	Responds to long term need
Provides direct service e.g. food, shelter, clothing, medicine	Promotes institutional social change e.g. universal suffrage and education leading to action to empower the poor and marginalised
Requires repeated actions	Resolves structural injustice
Directed at the effects and symptoms of social injustice	Directed at the underlying causes of social injustice

Examples:

Homeless shelters, food banks, clothing drives, emergency relief services	Education about injustice and action to promote minority, (especially women’s) economic and human rights. Legislative advocacy, changing government, corporate or cultural policies or practices, community-based organizing and development
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