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## JPIC NEWS FROM INDONESIA

### Joint Meeting of the JPIC, Formation and Evangelization Offices of the Province

From January 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> the Friars who are in charge of JPIC Office gathered in Samadi Shalom Retreat House, West Java, for their annual meeting. The format this year was different because the JPIC Office invited the Friars from the Province who are responsible for Formation and Evangelization to take part in the meeting. The goal was to elaborate a common program which would integrate JPIC values into Formation and Evangelization. Delegates of the young Friars in initial formation were also invited, so that they might receive information about JPIC values and its spirit, and to contribute their ideas for integrating JPIC values into initial formation. There was also a guest present, a Franciscan Sister of Charity. She was sent by her Provincial to learn how the JPIC

functions in the Franciscan Office in Jakarta.

The meeting was not only dedicated to our annual program, but also to study the documents of the Order that deal with the integration of JPIC into Formation and Evangelization. The meeting made some recommendations to the Formation and Evangelization Councils, in the hope that collaboration between the offices of the Province will be better than ever.

### Reconstruction in Padang, West Sumatera

The earthquake that hit Padang, West Sumatera, on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009, caused massive destruction in the region. From the beginning, Franciscan brothers and sisters have been present to help those affected. INFO-JPIC Indonesia (*Inter-Franciscan Office for JPIC Indonesia*) organized a collaborative effort to help the victims.

The Bishop of Padang, *Msgr. Martinus D. Situmorang OFM Cap*, asked INFO-JPIC to work with the people in the western part of the region, since there are no NGOs present there. Since October brothers and sisters have distributed food, medicine and tents in West Sumatera. After the emergency period INFO-JPIC has continued there to help to reconstruct houses. INFO-JPIC has received financial aid from the Custody of Singapore and CARITAS Singapore.

Up to now at least 46 houses have been reconstructed. There some volunteers and young Friars involved in the program. INFO requires the people participate in the reconstruction of homes. INFO shares the cost of reconstruction with the owners, in order to enhance their participation. They do not receive the aid free.

## JPIC NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA

In 2010 the JPIC Commission will continue working on the

areas outlined in the Strategic Plan:

1. To contribute to the animation of the Friars and the

broader Franciscan community.

2. To plan and implement an Earth Project in the spirit of the 2007 Provincial Chapter recommendations by organizing environmental assessments of Friaries and Church buildings and by education those involved in the process about the importance of this initiative.

3. To contribute to the care of creation, specifically to the climate change crisis.
4. To be the channel for the Province to continue its support of Franciscans International, particularly in Bangkok.
5. To continue our support of refugees and asylum seekers.
6. To be the channel for the Province to continue and de-

velop its support of the projects in Timor-Leste.

The emphasis is to work with all Friars through a formation program for awareness of ecological issues, particularly for sustainable living. An environmental tool will be implemented throughout the Province for information to assist us in sustainability.

## JPIC GATHERINGS AT MONTERIPIDO (PG) – ITALY

For three years the Seraphic Province of Assisi has promoted formative gatherings on social issues. They have been organized by its JPIC commission in collaboration with the regional SFO.

The first year offered an overview of certain important themes from Catholic Social Teaching, including the Person, the Family, Economics, and political commitment.

The second year dealt with the relationship between economics

and the person, with the help of some professors from the Economics Department at the University of Perugia.

This year will consider the issue of immigration, dealing with it from various perspectives: biblical, legal, social and political. A round table discussion is planned to debate the political questions involved, with participation of representatives from the major political groups of Perugia. The program for the third year is the following:

- February 18: The Bible and the foreigner
- March 18: Rights and duties of immigrants
- April 15: Immigration, presence of the Church
- May: Round table with some politicians from the city of Perugia.

These gatherings will take place at the friary of Monteripido (PERUGIA).

For more information see: [www.ofsumbria.it](http://www.ofsumbria.it)

Br. Marco Axelle, OFM

## FRANCISCAN 7 YEAR PLAN – SUMMARY DOCUMENT

The Franciscan family comprises different orders, all of which follow the teachings of St Francis and St Clare. The Franciscan orders are the Minors, Conventuals, Poor Clares, Capuchins, Third Order Regular and Third Order Secular. Some are enclosed and live a life of prayer; others actively spread the gospel and bring hope to the lives of the poor and marginalised. The Franciscan communities are present all over the world and undertake many and varied ministries depending on location and need. There are about 500 different and juridically independent orders and congregations.

Franciscan spirituality is rich in ecological wisdom and all the orders are aware of the need to care for creation. An inter-Franciscan group for Justice and Peace and the Integrity of Creation disseminates resources and information specifically on this topic. As there is always more to do and an ever-greater need for environmental care this 7 Year Plan is presented on behalf of all the orders, with the blessings of the Ministers General, and will be distributed widely and implementation will be the responsibility of the communities as they see fit for their situation.

### **The way forward**

*Intensify the Work of Conscientiousness Raising within the family.*

The life of St Francis and St Clare was based on love and service to God, and their spirituality has a particular understanding of the experience God through the wonder and beauty of creation. The requirement that we care for creation is inherent in Franciscan spirituality and is already disseminated through the JPIC group and this work can be further enhanced and extended. The family can also build on and take inspiration

from work already underway, such as the Franciscan project for environmental education at the Margil Institute in Mexico. Resources such as The Earth Community, Eco-audit for Religious communities and the seminar "Creation at the Heart of Mission" have already been developed. These can be promoted and other material made available to help communities educate their members and provide practical solutions to problems.

*Encourage Franciscans to establish local teams which can serve as auditors for buildings and other assets.*

Ecological management of buildings and other assets is vitally important. The family can learn from and build upon the success of projects already underway

such as the environmental assessment of Franciscan Renewal Centre in Arizona and in the Franciscan centre in Graz in Austria.

*Intensify the work of Franciscan scholars in developing a Franciscan eco-spirituality.*

The rich wisdom that is inherent in Franciscan spirituality has much to offer the family and wider world. This wisdom is greatly needed and we will build upon the work already done.

*Put together a data-base of best practices of the Franciscan family.*

A data-base of good practice will be invaluable for both the family and wider community. For example our eco-pastoral work in Indonesia with local farmers,

tree planting in Kenya, our work in the Amazon and with fish farming in DRC, Africa have all produced good results which will act as an inspiration and guide to others.

*Track in greater detail the effects on the eco-system of the measures put in place.*

*Promote collaboration with other organisations working on these issues.*

Franciscan spirituality and life demands we care for creation. In order to do this in the best way possible we will form partnerships and collaborative relationships with other bodies to help promote this cause and establish best practice as quickly as possible.

## FRIARS USING NEW INTERNET TECHNOLOGY

Since September 2009 I have had the privilege of accompanying our 9 men in simple vows. Prior to this work I had spent several years doing JPIC ministry for our province (Saint Barbara, USA). I traveled much, visiting ministry sites and friaries across the Western part of the USA. In my present formation ministry, 5 student friars live with me at St Elizabeth Friary in Oakland, California; 2 live in a friary in San Francisco, California; and 2 live in a friary in our native American mission in Topowa, Arizona.

When I accepted this assignment I knew that I had either to transfer all of the formation activities to one site, or try something different. We decided to assign local formation directors at each of the three friaries, and to have meetings twice a month using internet communications, commonly referred to as SKYPE. SKYPE technology is free. And when someone is unable to travel to a meeting for financial reasons (too expensive), geographic reasons (too far), or health reasons (cannot travel), SKYPE offers a new way to stay connected. You can read about this service and download the free software by going to [www.SKYPE.com](http://www.SKYPE.com).

Our SKYPE meetings required reliable internet connections and a laptop with webcam capabilities (or its equivalent) at each of the two sites. During meetings we could *see and speak* to each other in real time. Sound and video quality is very good. After several meetings at two sites, I added a third site. The main disadvantage of three locations is that only the audio connection is available (the video is lost). But since there are no call fees or charges and the sound quality is excellent, we can live without the video!

Using this technology, Tom Messner, OFM, who lives hundreds of miles away, met with us on several occasions to share his memories of some of the outstanding missionaries of our province over the past 50 years. Tom is unable to travel, and use of SKYPE made it possible for him to communicate with us from the comfort of his friary office.

As I became more familiar with SKYPE I looked for other friars willing to explore this new way of evangelization and communication. Joe Rozansky OFM, Director of the JPIC Office at the General Curia, was our next invited speaker. We knew that Joe would be too busy to travel, and in any case we did not have the money to pay for his travel to California. So, with the help of other friars in Rome, Joe set up his desktop computer and was able to speak with our formation community about leadership at the level of the international order.

Sr. Ramona Miller OSF later spoke to us on St, Clare as a model of leadership. She too spoke from far away using this new technology. John Vaughn OFM will prepare reflections on the Sunday readings for Lent 2010. Since travel is difficult for him, he will present them to the student friars using SKYPE. In addition, these reflections will be recorded on his laptop computer and will then be sent out via email to all of our formation students.

In a few short months we have been able to communicate with several speakers from around our province and the world, allowing them to share their wit and wisdom with our younger friars. In these difficult economic times, we have been able to take advantage of some of the free services provided by many international companies. How we use our knowledge is a challenge that is always before us as a human society. We can decide to use technology to bring the Good News to those who are isolated, incapable of traveling, or limited in time or monies. The invitation is there for us to see and hear *if we have the eyes, ears, hearts and minds to see and listen!*

Franklin Fong, OFM

**A CASE OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE  
STATEMENT OF THE COSTA RICAN EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE  
ON OPEN-PIT MINING**

*“The Church has a responsibility towards creation and she must assert this responsibility in the public sphere. In so doing, she must defend not only earth, water and air as gifts of creation that belong to everyone. She must above all protect mankind from self-destruction.”*  
Benedict XVI (*Charity in Truth*, nº 51).

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| <p>1. As citizens and as Pastors of the Catholic Church in Costa Rica, we feel it is our duty to speak out on the government’s declaration that the open-pit mining project located at Las Crucitas de Cutris, in the canton of San Carlos, in Alajuela province, is a matter of national interest.</p>  | <p>demand compensation for damages suffered. The State should guarantee, defend and preserve this right. Legislation will determine corresponding responsibilities and sanctions.”</p>   | <p>communities due to the above mentioned contaminants.</p>  |
| <p>2. We base our argument on the principles of <b>prevention</b> and <b>precaution</b> which are found in Catholic Social Teaching (cf. <i>Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church</i>, # 468 and 469), and on the right accorded to the people of Costa Rica in article 50 of the national Constitution, which states: “Every person has the right to a healthy and ecologically balanced environment. To this end, it is legitimate to condemn actions which infringe on this right, and to</p> | <p>3. According to various scientific studies, use of chemicals in open-pit mining has a strong negative impact on the environment, especially in an area like ours that is rich in biodiversity. The impact includes loss of forest cover; effects on soil and landforms; pollution by dust, lead, and mercury, as well as by emission of greenhouse gases; effects on surface and underground water; dangers due to use and storage of toxic substances like cyanide; effects on animal life and landscape; dangers to the health of workers and surrounding</p> | <p>4. We believe that it is appropriate to follow the policies currently in effect which call for development that is in greater harmony with nature. This approach does not promote a utilitarian and purely economic attitude, but rather calls for a technical and ethical evaluation of the true costs and benefits of an activity, as well as its contribution to the common good. We continue to opt for the model of development promoted by the government, sustainable development, and we call for a policy of peace with nature. It is important to pay attention to questions that are being raised, and to analyze the negative social, environmental, economic and legal effects of the project.</p> |

5. It is not right that because of this project, in which private interests are placed above the common good, our rural communities are divided. We must be aware that we are dealing with a dangerous activity, and we are doing so without taking into account our responsibility for future generations. As noted by the Holy Father Benedict XVI: "Future generations cannot be saddled with the cost of our use of common environmental resources." (World Day of Peace Message; January 1, 2010).
6. Based on the preceding arguments and on concern for the good of our beloved Costa Rica, we respectfully ask the President of the

Republic, Dr. Oscar Arias Sánchez, to repeal decree number 34801-MINAET. It declares that the mining Project Crucitas is in the public and national interests. All investments in chemical mining activities in our national territory should be rejected. Furthermore, a definitive moratorium should be declared on exploration and exploitation of open-pit mining in our national territory, according to the precedent established by decree 30477-MINAE, which was issued during the government of Dr. Abel Pacheco de la Espriella. We ask that those who are campaigning now to be part of the new government which will take office this year, commit themselves to

this goal. We also recommend that the much needed revision of the Code of Mining be undertaken; it should address the new demands of today and the interests of the people of Costa Rica, while focusing on the question of sustainable development.

May God bless all people of good will who, in a spirit of gratitude, recognize nature as a gift and a reflection of the Creator. May they strive to care for the goods they have received adequately so as to preserve this marvelous gift.

San José, January 12, year of our Lord 2010.

## FINAL DOCUMENT OF THE JPIC INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

The International Council for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation celebrated its biannual meeting at the Center for Franciscan Spirituality in Tarata, Cochabamba, Bolivia, 21-27 February, 2010. Participants included: JPIC coordinators from 12 of the 13 OFM conferences; the Animation Committee for JPIC; the director of the Rome Office; the General

Definitor who is liaison between JPIC and the General Definitorium; the General Secretary for Formation/Studies; and the General Animator for Evangelization. Also participating were the Minister Provincial and the JPIC animator for the Missionary Province of San Antonio in Bolivia.

The principal objectives of the meeting were to evaluate the

work of the JPIC Office in Rome and the work of JPIC animators around the world, to study the mandates of General Chapter 2009, to discuss ways to implement these same mandates, and to promote collaboration with the Secretariats for Formation/Studies and Missions-Evangelization.

Final document of the JPIC International Council meeting can be found at:  
<http://www.ofm.org/01docum/jpic/JPICconintINFOen.doc>

## BENEDICT XVI: JUSTICE, PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT ARE PART AND PARCEL OF EVANGELIZATION

“The Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, for its part, is very closely linked with development, given that, in Paul VI's words, “evangelization would not be complete if it did not take account of the unceasing interplay of the Gospel and of man's concrete life, both personal and social.”(EN, 29). “Between evangelization and human advancement — development and liberation — there are in fact profound links” (EN, 31): on the basis of this insight, Paul VI clearly presented

the relationship between the proclamation of Christ and the advancement of the individual in society. *Testimony to Christ's charity, through works of justice, peace and development, is part and parcel of evangelization*, because Jesus Christ, who loves us, is concerned with the whole person. These important teachings form the basis for the missionary aspect (cf. *SRS*, 41) of the Church's social doctrine, which is an essential element of evangelization (cf. *CA* 5. 54). The Church's social doctrine proclaims and bears witness to faith. It is an instrument and an indispensable setting for formation in faith.” (BENEDICT XVI, *Caritas in veritate*, 15).

**A Blessed Easter to all !**