

Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation

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Members of the JPIC Transition Committee met in May, as planned, to work out the necessary structure for JPIC. Members of the committee are Ed Zablocki, Mary Zablocki, Barbara Smith, Heleni Pedersoli (excused) and Carolyn Colburn (excused), Fr. Richard Trezza, OFM, and Pat Brandwein-Ball.

Let me recap a comparison of the former Apostolic Commission model with the JPIC model: The Apostolic Commissions focused on individual articles of Rule; each commission was headed by a chairperson and 4-5 commission members, and concentrated upon our doing works of charity and our involvement with issues appropriate to a particular article of the Rule. Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation is based upon the wholeness of the Rule, is headed by a coordinator, has a foundation of Franciscan theology, and works of charity and involvement in issues of our times spring forth from our being, as the worthy fruits of conversion.

This paradigm shift brings to light insights expressed in our General Constitution. Recall that it is the Constitution that defines our identity as Secular Franciscans in our everyday circumstances...our presence in the world. The Rule and Constitution given by the Church are derived from the "outline" concerning the Apostolate of the Laity from the Vatican II Council. I encourage everyone to read and re-read The Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity (*Apostolicam Actuositatem*). The document is not very long and is a bit dry getting into it, but stick with it...it improves greatly and is well worth the effort and time. You will see the SFO Rule throughout.

Beginnings (from the JPIC meeting)

All regional and local fraternities:

- continue apostolic works in which you are currently engaged
- appoint a JPIC coordinator to disseminate information

- collaborate with your respective formation commission in reviewing ways to stimulate theological reflection and discussion of materials from CIOFS: Profession in the SFO, Nature of the Secular Franciscan Order, Vocation, the Vocation, Charism and Mission of Secular Franciscans
- explore local parish and diocesan websites for information on issues pertinent to your area; develop a personal Franciscan response
- sign up for the SFOJPNet - contact Carolyn Colburn at colburn@sonic.net or subscribe to the Catholic Charities Alerts and Catholic Relief Organization for bulletins sent out frequently by the USCCB
- develop a database of contact persons for each fraternity for JPIC purposes
- ensure that all members have read (and re-read) the JPIC articles in the past issues of TAU-USA (winter 2007, spring 2008, summer 2008) and have reflected upon the "Being and Doing" section of the articles

Please contact me with questions and concerns.

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Quotes:

Asking is the beginning of receiving. Through a simple believing prayer, you can change your future. You can change what happens one minute from now.

Dr. Bruce Wilkinson

Let go of the need to control. Trust in the wisdom of a divine plan.

Cheryl Richardson

Whatever people do, feel, think or say, don't take it personally. Others are going to have their own opinion according to their belief system, so whatever they think about you is not about you, but it is about them.

Don Miguel Ruiz

Avoid the enticement to be mean or argue. Allow others to be right. As far as you're concerned, be peaceful with everyone you encounter.

Tavis Smiley

Be confident enough to be able to voice your opinions without fear of recrimination. As such, you will inspire the same action in others.

Deepak Chopra, MD