

JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION UPDATE**by KENT FERRIS, SFO****JPIC CHAIR**

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Hi! My name is Kent Ferris.

I am a Secular Franciscan from Blessed John XXIII fraternity of Rock Island, Illinois in the Franciscans of the Prairie Region and I am the newly appointed Chair for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation. My wife, Lori, and I have been Secular Franciscans for almost 20 years having previously been part of the St. Augustine's Fraternity in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and St. Crispin of Viterbo in St. Paul, Minnesota. We now live in Muscatine, Iowa, with our three children, Clare-11, Miles-7, and Lucille-6. I am employed as the Director of Social Action and Catholic Charities for the Diocese of Davenport.

All of 15 days have elapsed since I was informed of my JPIC chairperson appointment. In that time, I've looked back at notes from my initial formation instructors, Miss June Weber and Mr. Frank Conflenti back in Pittsburgh. (*"Yes, Miss June, I have a strong feeling for the Franciscan Spirit as revealed in the Secular Franciscan Rule and have a sense of being called by God to this way of life."*)

I've followed the recommendation of Pat Brandwein-Ball and have begun re-reading the Peace and Justice and JPIC Tau columns written first by Dan and Sarah Mulholland, then Carolyn Colburn and most recently Pat.

(Pat, I appreciate the work you completed particularly your writing describing the differences by the former Apostolic Commission model and the JPIC model, and your Being and Doing instruction.)

And this past weekend, I had the opportunity to visit with and learn from the NAFRA National Executive Council as they met in Washington DC.

("Tom, I will strive to cast the net deep as I draw from my own lived Franciscan experience as I help guide JPIC efforts.")

Between now and the Annual National Fraternity Gathering in October, I will introduce myself to JPIC members remaining from the Transition Committee and Regional Ministers. I will also balance JPIC responsibilities with work-related travel to Ethiopia and Tanzania with Catholic Relief Services and prepare to host Father John Dear, SJ, as he receives the *Pacem In Terris* Award in Davenport, Iowa on October 31st.

I am so blessed to be afforded all of these opportunities! I promise the members of our local, regional and national fraternity that I will be humbly and joyfully faithful to our calling to address the work that is contained within Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation!

Pax et Bonum!
Kent