



By Pat Brandwein-Ball SFO  
Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation  
Transition Chair  
Patball76@yahoo.com

Our recent participation in the rituals of Holy Week is our witness to the Covenant of Reconciliation. And now the human race, freed from the slavery of sin and death, rejoices in the Risen Christ! Alleluia!

In the post resurrection scriptures, the disciples (note: disciples, representing all of us, not the apostles only) encounter Jesus in the ordinary circumstances of everyday: such as, Mary and “the gardener,” walking to a distant village, gathered in the upper room hearing the recount of events on the way, the 11 gathered with Thomas also present, after a fruitless night of fishing, the 11 again gathered. During this last event I mentioned, Jesus gives the command – *the mission* – “Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature.” (Mark 16:15)

Once again, we are reminded of one of the underlying messages from the Exodus story. We are to go out of the “comfort” of our misery to a new and uncertain life. “Go out into the whole world.” Go out, indeed, recognize Jesus in the everyday people, the everyday events - the more deplorable the situation, the more urgently we must find the divine seed, as our Rule tells us, and be Christ in those circumstances.

I’ve received emails stating that while waiting for JPIC to put together “a program,” people are homeless, starving, suffering, etc. JPIC is an invitation to a mature understanding and authentic living of our Rule, with enthusiasm and gusto! The Vatican II and post councilor documents exhort the faithful, especially the lay faithful, to realize that the dignity of the person is paramount. The Church expresses concern for the great needs of the world. As Franciscans, living in the secular world, we must realize (make real) our way of life ... Chapter 2 of our Rule. How God reveals himself as poor (in all its varied definitions) is unique to each of us. This is an essential element of the Franciscan charism.

JPIC has repeatedly asked you to become knowledgeable of the documents and, therefore, of the teaching of the Church. Our “program” is to live these teachings in light of our Rule, to the fullest. If you see people hungry...fed them; if you see people in need of clothes...clothe them...the list goes on and on. As reflected in last JPIC article in TAU-USA, “Praying with Eyes Open,” our response to God’s great love for us is to open our eyes and actually see what appalls us...and not turn our backs. Go out into the world!!

### ***Logistics:***

1. In order to assist our awareness of the needs of others, often those outside our limited area, and to make known the concerns of USCCB, JPIC is seeking someone to accept the responsibility to act as moderator of SFOJPNet. This work was most energetically and lovingly shouldered by Carolyn Colburn. For personal reasons, she is no longer able to continue as moderator. The SFO thanks Carolyn for her many years of selfless service. Please contact me if you are interested.
2. JPIC contact information was requested from each Regional Minister. Twenty of the 30 responded. Some had no one appointed and had questions, but nonetheless, 20 responded. JPIC thanks them. The names and information given will be forwarded to Bob Herbelin to be included in your regional database and also will be added to SFOJPNet, if not already there.
3. From the questions emailed to me, it would seem that not all Regional Ministers were able to send out the Mission Statement and other pertinent documents given out at the October 2008 NAFRA meeting. JPIC will see that the computer committee has this information in order to make it available.
4. A more “official” JPIC team is in progress. Recall we are still transitional.
5. Please continue to email me ideas, insights, and concerns.

### ***Being and Doing:***

\*Discuss with your fraternity the meaning and origin of human dignity. (Hint: read and study, Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, aka: Lumen Gentium; and Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, aka: Gaudium et Spes.)

\*What is the mission of the lay faithful and how is it to be accomplished? (Hint: Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity, aka: Apostolicum Actuositatem; The Lay Members of Christ’s Faithful People, aka: Christi Fideles Laici.)

\*How does the SFO Rule “fit” into this picture given by the Church? (Hint: review the Rites of Baptism, Confirmation, and Profession. Now dig deeper!)

\*Have I been a blessing for someone today?