



## JPIC Communiqué JPIC OFS Canada

**June 2019**

Dear brothers and sisters in Francis and Clare,

The National JPIC Committee invites you to Pray and take Action in your daily lives and to share a solidarity with the marginalized of society and denounce injustice.

For many of us, it is easy to see the need, but how do we denounce injustice? What kinds of action do we take? At the forefront of any JPIC Action Plan is the education of its members.

This month we will begin, forwarding excerpts of the excellent resource book compiled by Michael Cassidy, ofs, of St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity in PEI.

This month, let us consider the following: What should JPIC mean to us? Why should we regard it as an integral part of our Franciscan charism?

Over the next few months we will provide you with other excerpts from this Resource Book and pray and hope that you find it useful in your local and regional efforts.

This effort to educate members will only be as good as it is communicated, discussed and used. We humbly ask that all Regional and Local fraternities, include this Communiqué on their websites, newsletters, share it with their Formation Teams, and discuss it at their JPIC and fraternity meetings.

In June let us remember our brothers and sisters who continue to face injustice and let us show our solidarity with them by joining them in their Awareness and Solidarity days. Find out what is happening in your community and join in.



June 15<sup>th</sup> **WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY 2019**

June 21 **NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY 2019 (CANADA)**

## **Introduction: Why JPIC?**

- 1. Franciscan Spirituality – Prayer & Action:** Spirituality often has the connotation of being solely concerned with the human spirit or soul as opposed to material or physical things. If we remain in a meditative prayerful state without some accompanying actions, it is difficult to achieve personal growth or



## JPIC Communiqué JPIC OFS Canada

transformation in our efforts to become more spiritual. The lives of Jesus and Francis are examples of prayerful figures who shared a solidarity with the marginalized of society and who confronted the civil and religious authorities by denouncing injustice. Francis is often described as the saint who is most like Jesus. To follow in their footsteps is the essence of Franciscan Spirituality. **The duality of Franciscan Spirituality is comprised of Prayer and Action.** To focus exclusively on Prayer is like trying to stand on one leg. You can do it for a little while but then you realize that you need the other leg (Action) to attain a stable Spirituality. **JPIC is the Action part of Franciscan Spirituality.**

**2. The Scriptures – Faith & Action:** There are numerous passages in the Old and New Testaments that exhort us to act justly and declare that faith without actions is insufficient. **JPIC is evidence of our faith.**

- "So it is with faith: if it is alone and includes no actions, then it is dead." (James 2:17)
- "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." (James 1:22)
- "What does the Lord require of us? ... to do justice ... to love tenderly and ... to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8)
- "Little children, let us stop just saying we love people;
- let us really love them, and show it by our actions." (1 John 3:18)

**3. The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order – From Gospel to Life:** We are mindful of the vow we made on the occasion of our profession: "*I promise to live all the days of my life the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Secular Franciscan Order according to its rule of life.*" **Articles 14, 15, 17, 18 and 19 of our Rule specifically prescribe us to act on Justice, Peace and Creation.** # 14: "exercise their responsibilities competently in the Christian spirit of service." # 15: "promote justice by the testimony of their human lives and their courageous initiatives." # 17: "cultivate the Franciscan spirit of peace, fidelity and respect for life." # 18: "respect all creatures ... and move from the temptation of exploiting creation to the Franciscan concept of universal kinship." # 19: "bearers of peace ... messengers of perfect joy."

**Excerpt from *Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation, A Resource Book for JPIC Committees* (September, 2018), Available on the Franciscan Voice Canada website**

**Compiled by: Michael Cassidy, JPIC Committee St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity Cornwall, Prince Edward Island.**

