

PREPARED BY THE OFM OFFICE OF JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION IN ROME

# CONTACT

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## 1. EDITORIAL, NEW LIFESTYLE AND ICJPIC



**“Our contemporary lifestyle, unsustainable as it is, can only precipitate catastrophes.”**  
(LS 161)

Dear brothers and sisters, fraternal greetings of peace! As we prepare for the feast of St. Francis with joy, we greet you from our JPIC Office of the General Curia. We present the third issue of this year’s JPIC newsletter, “*CONTACT*”. As we have already shared in the previous issues, we decided to opt for one of the three themes proposed by the International JPIC Council, held in Verona last year. In this issue, we’d like to bring attention on the changes in the lifestyle.

“In the spirit of *Laudato Si’* we are called to look critically at our own personal and communal *LIFESTYLES*, to assess their impact upon others and the environment. With every passing year we see before us the consequences of fractured relationships with the earth and within our own fraternities. We must assess what we can change and embrace that change.”

(CIJPIC-2016)

In various entities of the Order there has been a systematic work for the care of the common home which includes changing some habits rooted in our lifestyle, mainly against the disposal of waste and making greater discernment to opt for what is necessary at the moment of consumption, avoiding the culture of “use and throw”. However, we still have a long way to go, several projects to write and many more to execute.

We invite you to read this issue that shows the work of JPIC in some entities, and once again we remind you that we look forward to the news of your projects and activities related to the promotion of JPIC values. Likewise, we invite you to commit to share “*CONTACT*” with your brothers and with so many people who seek the common good, social justice and care for our common home.

**Br. Jaime Campos F. OFM**  
JPIC Office – Roma

## 2. ECO-PASTORAL IN INDONESIA



### The beginning of the *Ecopastoral* Center

The *Ecopastoral* of the Franciscans in Indonesia deals with / for farming communities with the aim of improving their welfare and protecting the environment. Several friars have been involved in empowering farmers and rural communities in the province of *Manggarai, Flores*. The local farmers relied on modern chemical products in farming, such as fertilizers, pesticides and seeds. Investors and traders took control of all these. In addition, their farmland status has become increasingly critical and inorganic because the land had been intensively processed with chemicals. Although the majority of people in *Manggarai* (about 80%) are farmers, they received inadequate education in agriculture. It is regrettable that children from farmer backgrounds are excluded from the agricultural world even though that is the source of family income for school fees. Most of the children who graduate from elementary, junior and senior high school return to the village and live among the farmers but they do not know what to do for their life and their future, then choose to become unemployed or become laborers in the city. It is very clear that the education they receive does not help the farming community.

Concerned with these situations, the idea of *Ecopastoral* center gradually gained a positive meaning in the light of Christian faith and the spirituality of the Franciscan. Firstly, the vision in the words of our Lord Jesus Christ – “Go, proclaim the gospel to all beings” (Mk 16:16) is the important basis of our evangelization. His message of salvation is not merely intended for man but for all creation. Therefore the concern for the integrity of creation is the duty and the vocation of our Christian faith. Secondly, according to the spirituality and the lifestyle of St. Francis of Assisi, who saw all creation as brothers and sisters, *Ecopastoral* center, in all its ministries, upholds all creation as brothers and sisters to build a universal brotherhood.



## 2. ECO-PASTORAL IN INDONESIA

### Pastoral strategies

In an effort to spread the *Ecopastoral* movement as a new way of life, we offer several areas in our ministry, i.e. *education, fertilizer, dry lands, wetlands, conservation and creative economy*. Firstly, in the field of education, we introduce the *Ecopastoral* movement to formal educational institutions through workshops in organic farming and environmental animation etc. Secondly, we are increasing the production of organic fertilizer and providing 'organic fertilizer training program' for communities and schools. Thirdly, we assist and train farmers on organic farming technology for wetland and dryland, and provide a curriculum on organic farming to vocational high school students. We also manage 'seed bank' for local paddy. Fourthly, for conservation program, we grow commodity plants, fruit trees and local plants, and take care of forest and water resources. Lastly, for creative economy, we promote and manage 'family medicinal plants' both in the Center and among the assisted groups. We help local farmers to cultivate sorghum, barley and millet for their grain. We work hard to expand the "*Ecopastoral*" land and groups of accompaniment, such as local farmers and governments through which we spread local grain seeds program. We also try to lobby and influence government policies to minimize the distribution of chemical fertilizers to farmers. The lobbying is also related to the implementation of our organic agriculture in the curriculums of various schools and colleges. Our programs and publications have been highly acclaimed by authorities and approved to have many groups of students in our 3-months-course throughout the year. We collaborate with local governments and various NGOs as well especially in the effort to conserve forests and water resources.

### Perspectives ahead

We are trying to push all the programs of the center further. We look forward to expansion of the *Ecopastoral* movement to the sub-districts of *Manggarai* District through training and formation of new groups. We'll enlarge local seed banks to ensure the seed supply for farmers in need. We'll continue the forest and water resource conservation program as well. We'll also reinforce all the organic farming courses for



various groups including school teachers and vocational high school students. We are trying to invite more schools to our courses even some primary schools too. The demands are ever growing.

The *Ecopastoral* can be considered as a new style of life. Its significance lies in the belief and the testimony of the communities that have attended our various programs, which had positive impacts on their independent agriculture as well as the new culture in lifestyle.

**Br. Andre Bisa OFM**

The Coordinator of the Ekopastoral Center, Province of Indonesia

### 3. NEW LIFESTYLE IN GERMAN PROVINCE

#### Nothing special, just common sense! Franciscan JPIC lifestyle in Germany

When brother Rufino from the JPIC Office in Rome asked me to write about our Lifestyle as friars in Germany, I had no idea what I should report. We live a simple life, nothing special, not very much different from other people or families in the neighbourhood of our friaries. We are neither innovators, nor promoters of something outstanding that is worth being reported. Well, that is what I thought. Then Rufino pointed me to the fact that Germany has been taking THE leading role in terms of public policies. Therefore, I tried to broaden my view and raised my thoughts to a bigger scale. And yes indeed, there is something to report that might be interesting for friars living in all corners of the world.

Let us look at ecology and our care for Gods good **CREATION**. Two examples: Power plants and cars: Germany has decided that atomic energy is too dangerous. We have shut down all our nuclear power plants, now focusing on sun and wind energy. We still have many coal-based power plants running, but we are working on reducing their number. As a Province, we have a contract that we only get green energy for our houses. Many buildings have solar panels on the roof, especially in the countryside. Concerning your personal lifestyle, it is normal to switch off the light when you don't need it, isn't it? You replace old lightbulbs with new LED technology when you need a new light for your room because they are better for the ecology and use considerably less energy. In our provincialate we just switched off every second light because the rooms were already bright enough. Plug off devices that are not in use, common sense. When buying new technical products do not go for the cheapest, also consider energy efficiency as an important value. (By law in Germany, every such product needs to have a label that shows its efficiency from A+++ to D.) And when we throw something away, waste separation is normal. Technical products go to a special place, also separate batteries and rubble. For daily waste, we separate paper, glass, tin, plastic and bio-waste. Those are separately treated by the public garbage collection. When I was traveling in other countries, I was shocked how the waste just was brainlessly dumped behind the settlements in some areas.

Beyond the year 2030 only new cars with electric engines will be allowed in Germany. That is 13 years from now when no new combustion-engine-cars may be sold. That is a huge step away from fossil fuel and a risk as well as a chance for the economy. Our friars have usually middle-class cars in our friaries, such as VW Golf, increasingly with hybrid-engines. The car often does not belong to one friar but is shared with the whole community. Some friars are member of a public car-sharing club. For our personal lifestyle, we often use public transport. The trains, busses and subway systems are good in Germany. Friars living in a city rarely use the car but in the countryside you still need it, some friaries are very remote. Many friars have a bike and use it for short distance travel.



Waste separation is common in Germany, also for the friars. Paper, glass, tin, plastic, bio-waste, electronics, batteries – all are collected (and recycled)

Another interesting topic might be social **JUSTICE**. Recently I have seen “Where to invade next”, a documentary film from US-filmmaker Michael Moore. In this movie Moore wants to discover some good ideas that might prove worthy to conquer for America. So he starts to look at social and labour standards in Europe. The film is meant for Americans to open their minds, but it also showed myself what we have achieved that sounds crazy in other parts of the worlds and is so common for me in Germany.

For example: an average of 28 days of paid vacation per year! Statutory sick pay! Guarantee for women to get their job back after pregnancy and baby-break for up to three years! No death penalty for criminals! Hardly any corruption in police and administration! Health insurance for everyone! One-year unemployment benefits

### 3. NEW LIFESTYLE IN GERMAN PROVINCE

while you search for a new job! Sounds good? Yes, we are living in a sunny place here. The labour unions and the civil rights campaigners did a good job in the last 150 years fighting for worker-rights and social care. Sadly not always with the church at their side. Those rights apply of course also to our own employees in the provincialate or in our monasteries. Since we are fewer in numbers these days we have to hire people to do the work with us.

Even with high social standards, there are still people who fall through the net. We have several soup kitchen in German cities and try to help those. Talking about food: for our personal lifestyle, we do not eat meat every day. In my community in Munich, we have four days a week where we cook vegetarian food. When shopping food do not go for the cheapest price. Always consider fair-trade, regional, biological and seasonal products.

Let us talk about **PEACE**. Thank God, we have had peace in Germany for over 70 years now. After two devastating wars with millions and millions of death, where we tried to blow ourselves and the whole of Europe into oblivion. We overcame the national egoistic thinking and tried the idea of solidarity and freedom. Better do things together than against each other. In the economic crisis these days, we often forget this. We take peace for granted and forget the framework that grants it. We must not get tired to preach freedom, solidarity, peace and dialogue. For example in our media-work as Franciscans, the latest issues of our print magazines were about the danger of populism and the need of sharing.

Sadly, Germany is a leading producer of arms technologies, delivering tanks and war-tech to Saudi Arabia and other dubious countries. To address that topic we take part in a campaign against arms, especially handguns. Concerning our personal lifestyle, in Germany no one has a weapon. Guns are limited to special people like policemen or hunters. It is strictly prohibited to carry a gun in public or even to own it in your house. We friars do not have any guns and weapons and are generally peaceful - at least I hope so ;-)

In 2015 more than one million refugees knocked on the doors of Germany and we welcomed them. Some people praised our chancellor Merkel as a heroic figure, others called her mad. We friars, along with the huge majority of the church helped the people in need. When the tone in the political discussion got rough, an alliance of catholic orders (including us Franciscans) wrote a public letter, which was highly recognized by newspapers and the primetime news on TV. Several religious houses housed refugees. In some locations, like Vossenack for example, young people who fled all alone are still living there. Some friars still have good contact to the now legal asylee and help them to settle in Germany, going to authorities, help write a correct application, find an apartment for their family, etc.

We do not have the necessity in Germany to fight for the basic needs of justice, peace and the health of our environment on a big scale. Maybe this gives us the opportunity to think about new threats to **HUMAN RIGHTS**. We have opened a new question of lifestyle to all the smartphone users including us friars. On our next meeting, we will address “big data” and the “right for privacy” that people are so easily willing to give up these days.

**Br. Natanael Ganter OFM**  
JPIC team, Province of Saint  
Elizabeth, Germany



Br. Natanael in Munich, St. Anna Monastery. Not pointing to Maid Marry, but to the five lights the architect thought to lighten the hallway. Note that three are permanently switched off to save energy. Inside the two shining ones are no lightbulbs but modern energy saving lights.



#### 4. PEACE ACTIVITIES IN GERMAN PROVINCE



In 1983 Religious from different congregations (Dominicans, Franciscans and Spiritan fathers and sisters congregations like Little sisters of Jesus) began the movement "Religious for Peace" by doing a pilgrimage from Dusseldorf to the great Peace manifestation in Bonn, run by German peace movement. 1984 we organized a pilgrimage from former concentration camp Dachau to Munich, with the theme "weapons export from Germany to the countries of the south of the earth".

From 1985 on we met several times in Hasselbach Bell where American cruise missiles should be stationed. We did there peace vigils for a week and lived in tents. I personally spent more time there in the house of the Protestant pastors and did peace vigil and in 1987 I took part in a blockade of the military area by German peace movement. We got fined later on by a local tribunal, but years later the tribunal withdrew these fines. Later on the movement took action against economic injustice and made several actions against the high interest rates for poor countries of "Deutsche Bank" in Frankfurt. One year during our vigil we climbed up the tower of Frankfurt Cathedral and let hang down there a huge white linen with writing on it: "You cannot serve God and Mammon the same time".

In 1984 twelve Christian peace organizations like Pax Christi and the Catholic and Protestant youth Organizations form of Germany together with our Franciscan "Justice and Peace" commissions of the German Franciscan Provinces founded a "Campaign against German arms trade" and the first step we did was raising conscientiousness within our churches. We were present in the annual meetings of Catholics or Protestants in Germany. In 1987 we made a manifestation against a fabric plant producing arms and planting arms factories in other countries, especially a pistol fabrication plant in Iran. Me I took part in a panel of a podium discussion on the theme of weapons export of this fabric plant. On the podium we were together with a social democratic deputy of Parliament, later minister for economic collaboration and development, Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul, and with the director of the plant. Our campaign had a manifestation at the place of this plant attended by 2500 Christians. Later my special involvement in the Campaign was to lead a subgroup on weapons export to Turkey. Germany exported lots of weapons to Turkey, and lots of them were used against the Kurdish Guerilla and Kurdish population. So in 1992 a Network of the German peace movement on peace in Kurdistan was established, and I represented our Campaign against weapons export in this network. In 1994 I took part in a delegation to Turkey on Kurdish

#### 4. PEACE ACTIVITIES IN GERMAN PROVINCE

new year, called *Newroz*, always used as political feast. There in the Kurdish region of Turkey I took pictures of German tanks which often were used for destroying Kurdish villages. In Germany in a press conference which was shown in German television I spoke about German weapons used against Kurds in Turkey and told that I have pictures of German tanks in the



Kurdish region. Some hours later one official of Foreign ministry of Germany called me by telephone and asked me to give them my pictures. So German peace movement made a press conference on German weapon export to Turkey and on my pictures before we gave the pictures to this Ministry of Foreign affairs. The ministry stopped weapons export only for some weeks, then continued to send weapons. German television picked up the information we gave them. Later on a Kurdish political leader, a good friend, and me we founded a humanitarian organization called "Pro Humanitate" to support the victims of German weapons export, the Kurdish villagers. With financial help from the Ministry of Foreign affairs and Missionszentrale der Franziskaner (MZF) we organized humanitarian projects in Turkey and Iraq during the last twenty two years.

In 2012 together with Christian groups and peace movement organizations we founded a new Campaign against German arms trade. We are one of the founders and organizing organizations of this new Campaign and I take part in their Board. Every year we organize manifestations in front of the German Parliament and the Chancellors office. We collected 100.000 signatures against arms trade and gave them to the German Parliament. This caused a debate on weapons export within the Parliament. Nowadays German weapons export became a political theme in public and Parliament because of our work. The Protestant and Catholic Church of Germany have a sub-commission on development which now produces a publication on German weapons export every year. Friends of our Campaign are in this commission and help to prepare it. The Parliament now has to get a report from the German Government on weapons export every year. One major political



Party wants to make a new law on weapons export now. Some years ago our Campaign denounced three big weapons exporting plants on sending weapons into wars and conflictive situations within Mexico and Colombia. These will be treated by courts this year.

**Br. Jürgen Neitzert OFM**  
JPIC animator – Germany



## 5. VISIT TO SEFRAS, BRAZIL

### SEFRAS: Solidarity Actions and Attitudes

The Franciscan Solidarity Service (Servicio Franciscano de Solidaridad – SEFRAS) is a social organization with the mission of promoting actions and attitudes of solidarity with impoverished and excluded people, contributing to social transformation in light of the Franciscan lifestyle, and of announcing the Gospel. SEFRAS belongs to the Brazilian Immaculate Conception Province, where 6 friars work very closely connected. SEFRAS was officially founded as an organization in 2000, as a way of structuring and networking the various social actions developed in monasteries and parishes of the Province.

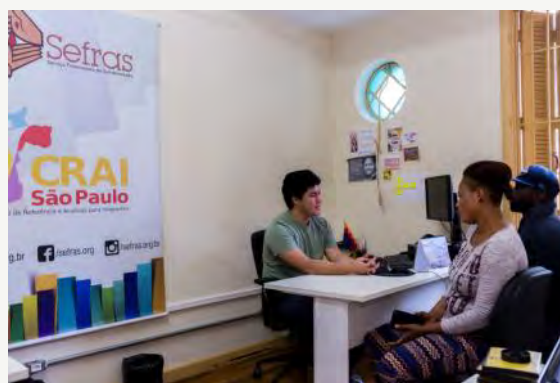


At present it has 11 solidarity service centers in the States of Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, which receive and accompany elderlies, children, people in conflict with the law, recyclers, homeless persons, people with HIV/AIDS and immigrants. For this last group of people, it has two services: Welcome Center for Immigrants, and Reference Center and Care of Immigrants, both of them located in Sao Paulo City since 2014.

From the past work experience on this Migration-related issue, Fr. José Francisco de Cassia dos Santos accompanied us as a facilitator at the *V Americas' Continental JPIC Meeting* sharing the migration context in Brazil, and the response given with the creation of these two centers that stand out for giving a specific and comprehensive assistance to migrants who arrive in Brazil.

Fr. Francisco José, SEFRAS' Executive Director, told us that in several opportunities, receiving and taking care of those in need, in this case migrants, is not so difficult; what is a real challenge is upholding those who are in this situation. For this reason, the Reception Center, with a capacity for 110 persons who can live there for as long as they need to, while looking for a permanent dwelling, counts on the Reference and Care Center, which completes the service in a comprehensive way, by offering language courses, legal counseling, cultural advocacy and accompaniment to obtain documents and jobs.

For those who wish to learn more about the operation, organization, and work that SEFRAS carries out, we invite you to visit its website: <http://www.sefras.org.br> Besides, there is a possibility to carry out a volunteering service.



**Br. Jaime Campos F. OFM**  
JPIC Office – Roma

## 6. INFO. CONTINENTAL MEETING, ASIA-OCEANIA



The Continental Meeting of Asia-Oceania 2017 will be held in Seoul, South Korea on October 9 – 14. There are two Conferences in the region, EAC and SAAOC, which consist of 19 entities including three mission foundations. The theme of this year's meeting is "*The Issue of Human Rights in the Asian Context*". There will be not only presentations of entity reports but some discourses on peace in Asia, human trafficking, climate change and mining.

## 7. PREPARATION FOR COP23

The 23rd UN's international climate conference, COP (the Conference of the Parties) will be held from Nov 6 to 17, in Bonn, Germany. The Franciscans International(FI), the Mission Zentrale Franziskaner(MZF), the JPIC animators in Germany and the JPIC Rome office shared the same idea that it's very important for us, Franciscans to attend COPs, and have been discussing on the Franciscan participation in COP23 for the last few months. Several people, including five friars, have had talked online several times and continued to communicate with other religious groups and civil society. The Franciscan delegation will be accommodated at MZF, participate in various ecumenical/inter-religious prayer services, and hold a Franciscan climate conference from Nov 4 to 7.



**Br. Rufino Lim OFM**  
JPIC Office – Rome

## 8. ANIMATION COMMITTEE

The annual meeting of the JPIC Animation Committee took place from 8 to 11 November in Anápolis, Brazil. Br. Jud Weiksnar and Br. Fausto Yudego were present along with the brothers of the Rome office. The Committee reflected on the evaluation and report of the JPIC course held in May in Rome. It also evaluated the 5th Continental Meeting of the Americas 2017. The committee also evaluated the possibility of proposing the Continental Meeting of Africa for the year 2018.

On the other hand, the program and the schedules of the JPIC Course for Animators of the next year in Mexico were discussed. The tentative title of the Course is “*Migration: Causes, Walls and Franciscan Perspectives*” which will be collaborated with the Chair of Justice and Peace of the Pontifical University *Antonianum* to agree on the final content of the Course.

Regarding the JPIC materials, the Animation Committee has decided to review and update the “*Guidelines for the promotion of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation*”(Rome, 2009). It is also intended to request some changes in the JPIC section of the Order’s website or to create a new website, in order to allow easy access to all JPIC materials with a brief introduction for each of them.

**Br. Rufino Lim OFM**  
JPIC Office – Rome





## 9. CONTINENTAL MEETING, AMERICAS, in BRAZIL



### FINAL DOCUMENT 5th ECA – JPIIC CONCLUSIONS & PROPOSALS

At the Regina Minorum Seminary, in the city of Anápolis (Brazil), we met from 1 to 7 September 2017, the delegates of two United States Provinces (Our Lady of Guadalupe and Santa Barbara), the Conference of Our Lady of Guadeloupe, the Bolivarian Conference, the Brazilian Conference and the Southern Cone Conference to celebrate the 5th Continental Meeting of JPIIC.

We reflect on the three themes defined in the CIJPIIC of Verona (Italy, 2016): Mining, Migration and Lifestyle, from which we come to elaborate proposals that will guide our action in the Entities and Conferences, in the next triennium.

#### 1. Mining

- Collect information and socialize, to address the issue in an organic way.
- Articulate with social and ecclesial organizations (REPAM, Church & Mining, SINFRAJUPE, etc.)
- Promote new forms of organization and governance of the territories and that the fraternities perform the service of forest guards.
- Address the issue of mining, based on the problem of contaminated water, water scarcity, biomes and mining.
- Develop teaching materials for the initial and ongoing formation.
- Organize a workshop to train and involve us and train broadcasters.
- Projection and awareness of the Franciscan Family and fraternities.

#### 2. Migration

- ◊ Support the group “*Together as Brothers*” to analyze the theme.

- ◇ Publish news to socialize and / or seek international support.
- ◇ Support popular protests against government decisions.
- ◇ Support the “La 72” project and encourage mission experiences for the students of initial formation.
- ◇ Coordinate with the Secretariat of Formation so that the issue of migration continues to be informed throughout the course of ongoing formation.
- ◇ Map the organizations working on the issue to learn the origin of migration and the transit in order to know the scope of the problem in each country.
- ◇ Teach the language and help to get the documents.
- ◇ Make a file, as a survey, for the fraternities with several questions to know the commitment of the brothers.

### 3. Lifestyle

- ◆ Continue to contribute in the initial formation and in the Franciscan family, with the documents of the Church and of the Order and to elaborate proper material.
- ◆ Implement ecological principles: re-use, re-cycle and re-use.
- ◆ Let community take the message and values of JPIC as parts of its identity so that they are assumed as essential to the charism and the life of the brothers.
- ◆ Promote responsible consumption in fraternities.
- ◆ To be models for the faithful. Work from the inside out.
- ◆ Use properly what we have. We are not poor, sharing with the poor.
- ◆ Learn to set boundaries, personal and community. Being a fraternity of ecological values.
- ◆ Take the challenge of ongoing conversion, that begins with one’s own life.
- ◆ Go against the current of the world (as fools in the eyes of the world), but be in the world (as prophets).
- ◆ Assume our minority status.
- ◆ We follow a logic of market, without overcoming the relationship of economics and ecology.
- ◆ Join social movements.

### ► Proposals for coordination between Conferences

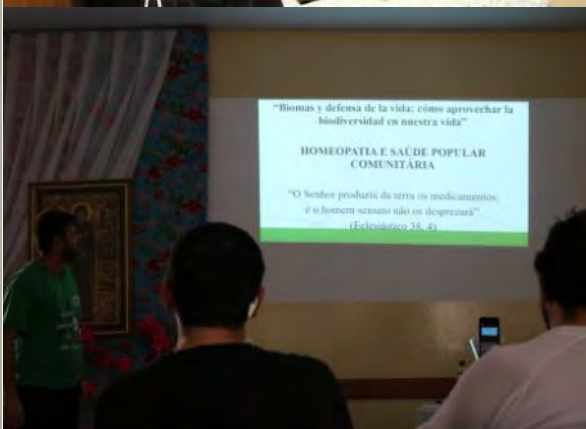
- \* Improve communication among all, using ICTs, for information and lobbying in support of some specific problems.
- \* Coordinate a meeting of Brazil with the Southern Cone to address the issue of water.
- \* Coordinate a meeting of Brazil with the Bolivarian region on the subject of the Amazon.
- \* Coordinate with Mexico and Central America for the migration issue.
- \* Collaborate between the Northern Province of Mexico and the California Province of the United States to promote a safe corridor for migrants. There are already some convents-sanctuary, but security is lost if you leave them. You can also collaborate with other religious institutions.

### ► Other Proposals and Suggestions arised from the shared dialogue

- Analyze the possibility of offering some convents that are uninhabited or almost uninhabited, to serve the migrants. The General Curia welcomed the idea that emerged in Verona and has accepted two migrants.
- Ask the Definitory General that the fraternities of the Order dedicate a year to the study and search for concrete actions in favor of the migrants.
- To denounce xenophobic or racist reactions in some countries; sometimes for the economy or the work and others for ethnic or cultural questions.



## 9. CONTINENTAL MEETING, AMERICAS, in BRAZIL





## 10. LAUDATO SI' PILGRIMAGE, LATIN AMERICA



### El Salvador

The Saint Francis/Saint Clare icons arrived from Guatemala in El Salvador on June 4. The pilgrimage was welcomed at the border of San Cristóbal, Department of Santa Ana. There the journey began throughout the country until they arrived at the border of El Poy (El Salvador-Honduras), Department of Chalatenango. The pilgrimage came to an end on the 18<sup>th</sup> the same month with the official delivery of the icons to the Honduran brothers.

Franciscan entities stood out as hosts starting in Santa Ana on Pentecost Sunday, with an Eucharistic ceremony presided by the local Bishop, Monsignor Miguel Ángel Morán, and concelebrated with the representatives of the three Orders: Fr. Isidoro Mejía, Custos of the Friars Minor Conventual, Fr. Henry Osmarvin González, OFM, Definitor of the Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe Province, Fr. Francisco Javier Mejía, OFM Cap, Parish pastor of the Nuestra Señora de la Natividad parish. Among the people who attended this celebration were: Sister Morena de Deleón, National Minister of the OFS; Sister Maura Salinas, Provincial Superior HFIC of the El Divino Salvador Province; representatives of YUFRA from El Salvador; Cloister Sisters of the Franciscan La Inmaculada Concepción monastery; and many believers from different parishes. After the Eucharist, we enjoyed snacks prepared by the OFS.

Later, the program with the icons developed so that more parishes, fraternities, schools and monasteries could be sites of the pilgrimage, touring throughout most



## 10. LAUDATO SI' PILGRIMAGE, LATIN AMERICA

of the regions in the country. Likewise, the icons were the main elements at the XVII Ecological Walk for the World Day of Environment", Thursday, June 8. Next to the giant statue of Monsignor Romero, the icons guided more than 2000 persons to the Legislative Assembly with the purpose to demand a comprehensive and sustainable legislation for water.

### Costa Rica

On July 02- 09 we made the pilgrimage in Costa Rica. The San Egidio Community OFS, FFU and JPIC attended and cooperated.

On Sunday 02 of July, we received the icons from the hands of Nicaragua Region brothers at the border of Peñas Blancas where we went together with the brothers and sisters of the San Egidio community. Along the journey, we have visited the Shelter for extra-continental migrants residing in La Cruz, Guanacaste. Afterwards, the icons were received in the San Francisco de Asís parish at Los Chiles, Northern border in Alajuela, until Tuesday 04. In the afternoon, they were welcomed in "San Rafael, Arcángel parish" in Pavón de Los chiles at the Northern border in Alajuela. On Friday 06, they were received in the "San Antonio de Padua" church, Guadalupe, in San José, with the involvement of the San Egidio community.

The morning of Saturday 08 there was a visit to the Monastery of the Poor Clares in Cartago, and then to the Home for elderlies run by Franciscan Sisters of the Most Pure. On Sunday 09 we visited the Capuchin Poor Clares in San Isidro, El General, in Pérez Celedón, and finally we headed towards the border of Paso Canoas to deliver the icons to the Panamanian brothers.





## 10. LAUDATO SI' PILGRIMAGE, LATIN AMERICA



Panama

### Bolivia

The Franciscan Family in Bolivia was very active for this well in advance planned activity. The icon visited 7 out of the 9 departments of Bolivia (Santa Cruz, Tarija, Cochabamba, Oruro, Chuquisaca, Potosí, and finally La Paz) where we have presence.

The National JPIC Commission developed a file with different celebrations, and a DVD with video/radio materials and documents that can continue to be used in the future.

During the icon's journey, several activities were carried out, such as celebrations, environmental campaigns, talks on the encyclical, presence at the emblematic places of various cities, and allegations on the impact of the cruel treatment that we the people are giving to God's Creation.

This was an enriching experience because we were able to reconnect as Franciscan Family to restore our charisma, re-know one another as sisters/brothers, and strengthen unity bonds with the Franciscan Family in our country and with Franciscans everywhere.

After one-month journey in our country, and with our hearts full of gratifying experiences and accepted challenges due to this passage, we handed the icon to our Peruvian brothers with the pledge to make changes in our lifestyles and carry out the ecological conversion promoting a culture of inclusion, and faithfully following the announcement of Jesus and the testimony of Saint Francis.





## 11. FRANCISCAN JPIC CAMP IN ITALY



### **“Taking Care of the Poor and the Earth”**

The first national JPIC camp for friars and youths

*On August 22-26, 2017, a group of young people and friars from all over Italy participated at the first national JPIC Camp in Palermo, Italy. Br. Francesco Zecca, OFM, JPIC Animator from Salento, recounts the event below:*

As Friars Minor of Italy, we have been looking for better communication with the youth on the values of JPIC. So we were thinking to propose to youths aged 18 to 35 a chance of formation on the JPIC values, encounter with witnesses and service of the poorest.

All this happened in Palermo, August 22-26. 20 young people and 9 friars from different parts of Italy have participated. The title we chose was “To Take Care”, a journey that starts with God who takes care of His children, arrives to human beings who are called to the image of the Father to take care of the brothers, the creation, and the society where they live.

The first experience was itineracy in the city. Every day we have set out to find stories of those who have tried to take the Gospel seriously in their daily life, from the story of Don Pino Puglisi, a “Father” for all those who tried to get out of the streets of crime, was killed by the mafia in 1993 to Br. Biagio Conte, a young man from a wealthy family who, after a human and spiritual crisis, left his “world” and began to take care of the brothers “who are left behind (by the society)”, setting up in Palermo the mission “*Hope and Charity*”, that welcomes about a thousand brothers and sisters every day.

Among other brothers have also been involved in this movement are the friars of the “Holy Land” friary who carry on various social activities, including the soup kitchen on the road and the ceramic workshop; to the social tailoring “*Al Revés*”, which promotes employment and creative commitment of those who need “an opportunity to improve themselves” for life.

In the days of the camp, both the young and the brothers, were engaged in dedicating each day to the service at the mission “*Hope and Charity*”, as a concrete sign of taking care for and

## 11. FRANCISCAN JPIC CAMP IN ITALY



serving the brothers and sisters, who also took care of us by giving us a kind word, a smile or sharing their stories.

At the end of the camp, we were all happy with the beautiful experience we had, which aimed to make the Gospel closer and more intimate to our daily life, not by doing superheroes but, as Pope Francis said in *Laudato Si'*, because “the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them”(No. 217).

These lines doesn't fully express the experience of grace that the Lord has made us live, because some people would never find words to express the richness of it, but they certainly want to be a hymn of praise to the Lord for what He has accomplished in our lives these days. So what better words are to be used to conclude this little sharing other than those of our Father St. Francis: “Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks, and serve Him with great humility.”



**Br. Francesco Zecca OFM**  
JPIC Animator – Salento, ITALY



## 12. CONCERN FOR WEST PAPUA



13 religious men and women, representing 7 religious congregations gathered on 10 July at the Generalate of the Augustinians in Rome to discuss collaboration for the promotion of human rights in West Papua. Most of the congregations are present in West Papua, working on various ministries.

In West Papua, on the eastern end of Indonesia, the indigenous population has been suffering human rights violations in the areas of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly. The indigenous have low standards of health and education, for Indonesia, and experience economic marginalization and land grabbing. There is military oppression in the form of torture and killings,

The participants heard from a West Papuan religious, and an expert in the defense of human rights of West Papuan people in international level. The Executive co-secretary of the JPIC Commission of USG/UISG joined us and expressed the importance of networking. After hearing from them the participants shared their thoughts about the need to be proactive as religious congregations. The meeting acknowledged that the history of West Papua and its current situation is quite complicated and sensitive, but the desire of the congregations is very simple - to accompany the indigenous West Papuan people in the promotion of human rights. The congregations have decided to form a network in Rome to share information, to improve networks and relationships in West Papua, particularly in health and education ministries, to raise awareness and train their members, and to network with religious NGOs.



**JPIC animators' commission for  
West Papua  
Rome, ITALY**



### 13. SEASON OF CREATION

#### We pray and act together for Creation

From September 1 to October 4, Christians around the world are praying and caring for creation. It's the "*Season of Creation*" celebrated by Christian churches around the globe.



Website created especially for this time.

You can enter:

<https://samipooh.wixsite.com/tiempoparalacreacion>



### 13. SEASON OF CREATION



Guatemala





### 13. SEASON OF CREATION



Honduras



## 14. INTERNATIONAL DAYS

### October

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 2  | International Day of Non-Violence / World Habitat Day |
| 16 | World Food Day  |
| 17 | International Day of the Eradication of Poverty       |
| 27 | Day of the Spirit of Assisi                           |

### November

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 19 | World Day for the Poor  |
| 25 | International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women |

### December

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 2 | International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women |
| 5 | World Soil Day  |

## 15. AGENDA OF ROME OFFICE

### October

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 9 ~ 14  | Continental Meeting, South Korea (Rufino & Jaime Campos)                                     |
| 24 ~ 31 | Franciscan Ecological Week & Finale of <i>Laudato Si'</i> Pilgrimage, Ecuador (Jaime Campos) |

### November

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 4 ~ 10  | Participation in COP23, Bonn (Rufino Lim)                              |
| 13 ~ 17 | The Course of the General Visitators, Rome (Rufino Lim & Jaime Campos) |