

CONTACT

QUARTERLY BULLETIN OF JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION, OFM



JPIC Continental Meeting in Africa

“JPIC Animation in the African Context”

We met to talk about the work of JPIC animators in the various settings of the African continent. Different realities, which in one way or another influence men and women and all of Creation: problems of pollution, access to water, forced migration, trafficking, the people’s poor relationship with the environment, armed conflicts, and mining.

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PEACE

Bolivia

2

CLIMATE CHANGE

Poland

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MINING

Guatemala - South
Africa



The 25th
Meeting of
UCLAF



Franciscan
Participation in
COP24



Meeting of JPIC
Commission,
Ireland



Editorial

Looking for Concrete Ways

Implications of the PCO in JPIC animation

Last June, the Plenary Council of the Order was celebrated with the participation of brothers representing all the Conferences of the Order and special guests, in Nairobi, Kenya. It was the first PCO celebrated in Africa.

The final document published a few weeks ago included the words of the Minister General: “This document is the fruit of the reflection of the Council Members and of the General Definitory who have gone through a synodal process, coming up with a text that allows us to know more about our reality. It can help all of us to move into a listening, prayerful and reflective attitude, to discern and then identify concrete ways to go forth.”

I think that these brief words summarize the entire process carried out so far, leaving one of the most important aspects to be implemented by each fraternity, and each friar of the Order: **to look for concrete ways**.

During the meeting of the JPIC Animation Committee, we read and reflected on the document. We were happy when we discovered that realities such as migration and care for the Common Home, promoted by the International Council of JPIC in 2016, have been collected from various parts of the Order. According to the document, the themes that the brothers took up in their daily lives, in the context where they live, in the work they do, were included in the reflections of the delegates at the PCO.

We believe that, during the coming years, the Order must truly **look for concrete ways**, in the light of the Gospel and of our rich spirituality of fraternity and minority, that allow us to meet men and women at the grassroots and to walk together with them in a rapidly changing world. To live in a world that changes rapidly means that it is also necessary to search “quickly” for specific paths — that is, to start today, not waiting for tomorrow or for the next Provincial Chapter to begin. A world that is moving so fast needs concrete answers *today*. We must contribute to society in an active and creative way, with our way of life and the mission of proclaiming the Kingdom of God; concrete proposals that help to humanize our relationships, among ourselves and with our Common Home.

In particular, JPIC animators are called to a greater commitment to the promotion and experience of the Encyclical *Laudato si'*. We are challenged by the words of Pope Francis to live our charism authentically. Therefore, we must strive to find concrete ways towards an integral ecological conversion. In the midst of the humanitarian crisis caused by the forced displacement of people, we can't hesitate and waste time anymore. Several Entities of the Order have begun to know and be engaged in this reality. However, we still have a lot to do, and the document offers some concrete proposals on this subject, which can be part of the animation plan of the Province.

The final document of the 2018 PCO will be useless if it remains only on the web page of the Order or in the friary library. I invite you to read it, but above all to find concrete ways of putting it into practice, especially the topics that have a direct relationship with our mission as animators of the values of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation. Let's bring this precious document to life. There are particular issues that we must put into practice: "committed to the Encyclical *Laudato si'*", "committed to the migrant and refugee brothers," and "in a world as instruments of peace."

If you have not yet downloaded the document, you can do so [here](#).

A short video presenting the document has also been prepared. [Here](#).

I wish each of you a Merry Christmas. I appreciate the time shared with several of you in various meetings, work meetings, and fraternal visits during this year. Thanks to those who collaborate with JPIC animation, I discovered that many brothers are doing their work with all their heart and that they encourage those who have been entrusted to us to animate. On behalf of myself and Rufino Lim, I wish you happy holidays!

Best wishes for the year ahead and I hope that we can find concrete ways to go forward and move out. May God bless us.



Br. Jaime Campos F., OFM
Director, JPIC General Office – Rome

PROJECT of PUPPETS: "Evangelization for Peace" in Bolivia

The students imagined a conflictive situation and proposed a peaceful solution.



The project “Evangelizing for Peace” was carried out with the support of the JPIC office of the Franciscan General Curia to promote JPIC values in educational institutions with the Franciscan charism of the city of Cochabamba. Eight hundred children between the ages of 9 and 13 participated. They are from the *Nueva Luz* Foundation, the *Hilando Sueños* Foundation, the *Niño de Belén* Educational Unit, the CESFA Educational Unit and the *Santa Clara* Educational Unit. The purpose was to train little peacemakers who, inspired by the evangelical principles of justice, peace, and the integrity of creation, will reflect and apply them to daily situations and practices.

The educational strategy for approaching children was the creation, writing, staging and presentation of a puppet play in which each group of students represented a problematic situation of their concrete reality and proposed solutions based on the culture of peace and peaceful resolution of conflicts. The productions that were created participated in a puppet festival that was held at the “*Adela Zamudio*” theater and attended by around 900 people.

The development of the project went through three phases. The first was the explanation and promotion of the proposal in the participating educational entities; the drawing up of a calendar of activities and the production of materials: a mobile theater, five puppets, the writing of the puppet play “Antonio the fox”; the selection of dynamics that introduced the theme and the selection of three children’s videos in which the culture of peace and the peaceful resolution of conflicts were disseminated.

In the second phase, two workshops were given to students in grades 4, 5 and 6 in each educational entity. In the beginning, the keys to the culture of peace and the peaceful resolution of conflicts were explained. The structure of the workshop was the screening of a children’s video where a situation of conflict was presented and then resolved in a peaceful way. Then, the theme was presented as part of a dialogue, and then concluded with group work where the students imagined a situation of conflict and proposed a peaceful solution. The creative process began with using plasticine to model the characters and situations imagined by the students and concluded with the writing of the story.

In the second workshop, the play “Antonio the Fox” was staged. The fox thought he was very clever and tried to scam others for his own benefit but had such bad luck that he was always hurt. In the end, the series of failures taught him that the best way to reverse the situation would be to treat others with sensitivity and find a way for everyone to benefit from the situation. Finally, the stories written by the different groups in the previous workshop were presented in the plenary, and they began producing their stories with the help of an expert in puppetry.



Support in stage editing continued until the students were satisfied with their work. The works developed by all the students were presented in each institution and a discussion followed where they reflected on the problems raised and the ways to solve them. The themes most highlighted were: empathy, respect, humility, companionship, dialogue, and solidarity.

The works chosen by each institution to represent them in the festival were perfected with the help of the puppetry expert and presented in the theater before audiences of all ages who appreciated the effort of the children and the message transmitted.

The secretary of culture of the city, Lic. Roxana Neri said “Thanks to the Franciscan JPIC Movement for promoting this opportunity for reflection through the performing arts. These works are a good complement to the work done by you last year at secondary school level, when the citizens of Cochabamba were encouraged to think about femicide and violence against women during the theater festival. The works presented today by elementary school children showed the importance of tolerance, love, and dialogue to resolve our differences as a society.”

Sr. Antonia Barrillero, director of the Nueva Luz Foundation, said “This kind of activity serves to promote more social integration. Children from peripheral areas participated in the festival, feeling very affirmed by being able to come to the most important theater in the city to perform. That is already a culture of peace, of integration. And the messages of these beautiful works were respect, dialogue...patience. All of this serves to improve coexistence.”

The festival was a joyful and educational meeting space for all. The attendees laughed and reflected with the work of mimes (presented by a professional group) and with the works staged by the children. They were simple, short, and wonderful stories (as Hemingway would say) that, with their brevity and forcefulness, stirred the spectators at gut level and raised questions about how everyday difficulties are solved.

The seed is sown; now it is necessary for all the participants in the project to cultivate it to offer abundant fruit: gathering the message, constantly updating and putting into practice the values that the children offered us to live in peace: love, dialogue, empathy, humility...

Manuela Isabel Urbina Ramírez
Executive Secretary of the JPIC Movement – Bolivia



Peaceful Resistance - "La Puya"

San José del Golfo, Guatemala

The municipality of San José del Golfo is about 25 km from the capital of Guatemala, and the place known as La Puya is approximately 1 km from San José. The residents of communities affected by mining have set up an ongoing protest against the mine, "El Tambor" Progreso VII Derivada, owned by the Kappes Kassiday & Associates (KCA) company headquartered in the USA, and represented in the country by EXMINGUA.

For several years, the local people have been engaged in a process of training, information, and awareness about the effects of mining, and so on March 4th, 2012, they began a blockade of the entrance gate to the mine. They settled in 24 hour shifts in groups to guard, block the entrance, and **not allow the mine to be operated**, which to them is illegal and lethal.

They have suffered two eviction attempts, the most violent taking place on May 23rd, 2014. The corrupt links between government authorities and

the mining corporations led to the deployment of a contingent of about 300 policemen, resulting in 26 local people (mostly the elderly and women) being injured. During the years of resistance, in a situation where some are in favor of the mine and some against, there have been multimillion-dollar investments to discredit communities, threats, assassination attempts on community leaders, violent evictions, division of families, and also material damage.

Women's participation, visibility and resistance in the protest have been essential. In one incident a lady blocked the gate of the mine with her vehicle and suffered an attack that almost killed her. The women were to the fore when employees of the mine arrived to create confrontation and a counter demonstration during the eviction attempts. They welcome people and cook after the monthly First Sunday Mass.

It is the women who also suffer the effects of the migration of their husbands, children, and other relatives. The population of the municipality of San José del Golfo migrates mainly to the US, leaving women in the care of property, children, and in some cases the migrants' other family members. It is difficult for people to live and produce good harvests due to the effects of climate change, water shortage,

and the effects that mining brings to the area. Emigration, even with the risks that it implies, is the only hope.

In 2017, the Constitutional Court of Guatemala ordered the suspension of works at the mine and a community consultation, but what had been hoped for was the definitive cancellation of the company's exploration and exploitation license. For this reason, despite the suspension, the mining company has not moved away.

As the JPIC commission of the Franciscan Family, we have known these people, accompanied them at various moments and shared their joys and sorrows. They are simple and inspiring people, but they have had to learn technical language to counteract the mining company's rhetoric. They are also people of faith who know that God accompanies their struggle and is present in their midst. One can learn so much from them, taking turns with them in the human barricade, cooking on their wood stove, listening to their conversations and their music.

During the 3rd Franciscan Mission Congress, we made a visit to La Puya accompanied by some JPIC friars from the Provinces of Mexico and the United States. We celebrated the achievements of the peaceful resistance at La Puya and made common cause, because they are a great example of a victory of the people in defense of their area, and in their search to vindicate the rights to life, water, defense of Mother Earth, and care for Creation.

Brenda Peralta

Coordinator of the JPIC Commission of the Franciscan Family in Guatemala





The international Day of Prayer and Awareness

Together against Human Trafficking



*SAINT
JOSEPHINE
BAKHITA*

Born c. 1869 in Olgossa, Darfur, Sudan. Died 8 February 1947, Italy. Year of beatification 1992 (17 May). Year of canonization 2000 (1 October). Feast Day 8 February.

“Dear brothers and sisters,

Today, 8 February, is the Feast of St Josephine Bakhita, a Sudanese nun, who as a child had the traumatic experience of being a victim of human trafficking. The Unions of Superiors and Superiors General of Religious Institutes have organized the Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking. I encourage those who work helping the men, women and children who are enslaved, exploited, abused as instruments of work or pleasure,

who are often tortured and mutilated. It is my hope that government leaders may work decisively to remove the causes of this disgraceful scourge, it is a scourge unworthy of society. May each one of us feel committed to being a voice for our brothers and sisters, who have been humiliated in their dignity. Let us all pray ...”

(Pope Francis: Angelus Prayer February 8, 2015)

Download the **Prayer Vigil** against the human trafficking [HERE](#).



The Meeting of JPIC Committee in Ireland

*Friars must immerse themselves in the teaching contained in and the values underpinning **Laudato Si'**.*

In the Province of Ireland, we got off to a start that was slow but good when we gathered our Local JPIC Animators for a first meeting. It was slow in that it was just over twelve months since JPIC appointments were made at the last Provincial Chapter and we were all new to the job.

It was good in that we decided to invite Br. Rufino Lim to provide input and facilitate our development of a Provincial JPIC Animation Plan. Rufino provided the global perspective and enlightened us on the content of the *Verona Statement*: mining, migration, and lifestyle. Our own Br. Pat Cogan, OFM, founding director of www.respond.ie, a voluntary organisation providing social housing, gave us the national perspective. Pat highlighted some of the social problems confronting us in Ireland at present, such as homelessness, increasing income disparity, access to health care and carbon emissions. In fact, we are the second worst offenders in the EU on carbon emissions after Poland — due mainly to our agribusiness. (Our first day concluded with a very enjoyable fraternal, social gathering.)

On the second day of our meeting, there was general agreement that we as Franciscan Friars must immerse ourselves in the teaching contained in and the values underpinning *Laudato Si'*. We acknowledge it as a truly Franciscan document. Each Fraternity will begin a process of study and formation on this Letter with a view to action and change. It was emphasised that we must, in this process of study and reflection on the Encyclical, engage with the laity. Furthermore, rather than starting new groups, we ought to reach out to and be involved with existing local justice and environment initiatives.

We have come to realize the importance that the values that lie at the heart of *Laudato Si'* be integrated into our Provincial Planning, evangelisation, formation, and mission. This is a role for the Provincial JPIC animator.

We encouraged each local animator to download the study guides available on the Franciscan JPIC website (www.ofmjpgic.org) and encourage Guardians to use these for Chapters of Renewal.

The Provincial JPIC Committee is tasked at their next meeting with formalizing this into a coherent two-year JPIC animation plan.



Br. Gabriel Kinahan, OFM
JPIC animator, Province of Ireland

Labor: Challenges and Changes

– a Key to Franciscan Approach

JPIC Notebooks No. 1 - 2018



The challenges that everyday life presents to us are numerous and complex. With this complexity in mind, the National (Italian) JPIC Commission has decided to offer a training tool to all the COMPI friars, from which we can draw inspiration for evangelization. The Commission inaugurates this first issue of a series of JPIC Notebooks.

Labor certainly plays a central role both in the construction of a dignified life and the ability to plan one's own future, thus contributing to the realization of a more just and humane world. But we all experience how difficult it is today to have access to a decent job, and young people and adults are constantly knocking on the

doors of our friaries asking for help.

In fact, the lack of job opportunities generates great uncertainty, a sense of failure, hopelessness and social inequality. Today's economic model produces many who are considered "losers", dropouts, because they are no longer efficient, no longer adequate and responsive to new challenges, and thus it generates a new category of "discarded" — in the name of progress, innovation and economic profit.

The Notebook is divided into two parts. In the first part, training materials are presented with some keys both to interpret the world of labor today and to understand its biblical and Franciscan dimensions; there is also a detailed information sheet, in which some important themes of *Laudato si'* are taken up, proposing some questions that can motivate personal and community reflection. In the second part (Franciscan storytelling), we have collected stories about initiatives promoted by the friars of the Italian Provinces. They are examples of good practices that can become influential and be yeast for other entities.

Available in Italian: [HERE](#).

Br. Francesco Zecca, OFM
JPIC Coordinator of COMPI

Meeting of General Visitators

Each year, the Minister General asks a number of friars to conduct a Canonical Visitation to the Entities that have requested it, usually before a Provincial Chapter. On November 12th –16th, a group of General Visitators came to the General Curia to participate in a course and have a personal meeting with Br. Michael Perry, OFM.

During the last day of the meeting, the friars who work in the different Secretariats and Offices of the General Curia were invited to give presentations to the gathering. The JPIC Office presentation was divided into two parts. Firstly, the friars were briefly introduced to our main areas of work, and then the aspects of JPIC that can be addressed during their Canonical Visitation were studied and discussed. They were given a sheet with some questions that they can put to the friars during their visitation of the Entity, in order to continue and increase the promotion of JPIC values in collaboration with all the different sectors of the Entity, in service of the friars and their pastoral communities.

Br. Jaime Campos F., OFM
Director, JPIC General Office – Rome



Franciscan Participation in COP24

The faith communities should raise their prophetic voice along with concrete action for climate justice.

The 24th Conference of the Parties (COP) organized by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was held in Katowice, Poland, on December 3 – 14, 2019. More than 30,000 delegates from the governments of the Parties and the civil society have gathered to discuss, negotiate and decide many issues regarding the global climate crisis, and ratify the Paris Rulebook. The venue of COP24 is significant for Just Transition which is one of the crucial issues of climate justice because the city has a long history of coal mining and has been affected by its excessive carbon emission.

The JPIC General Office has organized several events on climate justice during COP24. First was the Franciscan conference on climate change and COP24 that was held on November 22 – 23 at the parish hall of St. Ludwik Król's Church, the Franciscan parish in Panewniki. The theme was "What is happening in our Common Home?" The main speakers were Br. Jacek Orzechowski, OFM, a member of JPIC Animation Committee, and a Polish scientist, Prof. Aleksandra Kadras, Ph.D. A good

number of the friars and parishioners have participated in listening to the scientific facts of climate change and the Christian/Franciscan perspectives on this global crisis. It helped the participants be aware of the gravity of the problem and the urgency of climate action.

On December 2, the Franciscan delegates that consist of four members of the Animation Committee and five JPIC Coordinators of the European Conferences have participated in the "Interfaith *Talonoa* Dialogue." They shared and discussed on various issues of climate justice and the urgent need for lifestyle change together with more than 100 people from different religious/spiritual traditions. This event was followed by the interfaith/ecumenical prayer service for Mother Earth and the poor.

On December 3, the Franciscan climate conference was held on the theme of "Climate Crisis and the Role of the Faith-based Communities for



Climate Justice.” The JPIC General Office has organized the event and invited nine panelists from the religious communities as well as the civil society, e.g., Friends of the Earth International. It became clear from their presentations and discussions that there wasn’t much time left for humanity to avoid climate catastrophe and change the economic/political system that caused this planetary disaster.



Even though the *status quo* of climate action is not so promising and even because of that, the role of the religious communities is getting more crucial with a greater sense of responsibility. Especially when the intergovernmental effort to take care of the poor and the creation is getting so sluggish and reluctant, the faith communities should raise their prophetic voice along with concrete action for climate justice.

The final event was the prayer vigil for the creation at our Franciscan parish on the evening of December 5. Br. Jacek has organized the event with the help of many local friars and parishioners. It was a beautiful moment in which the participants realized, confessed and prayed for their ecological responsibility, which is the task for the Franciscans in the world.

Br. Rufino Lim, OFM
Assistant, JPIC General Office - Rome



The 3rd Franciscan Missionary Congress

The proposed themes were "Care for Creation," "Human Mobility" and "the Culture of Peace."

During the third week of October, the third Franciscan Missionary Congress of Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Guatemala City. The proposed themes, in continuity with the Cordoba and Canindé Congresses, were "Care for Creation," "Human Mobility" and "the Culture of Peace." There was a good attendance of friars, with representatives from almost all the entities belonging to UCLAF and some from the United States as well.

During the Congress we met many JPIC animators, some as speakers, others giving testimonies about their work, and others as participants in the Congress. It was an enriching

experience to engage with the themes proposed for Evangelization that deeply touch the values promoted by JPIC. In particular, in reference to the three central themes of the Congress, my presentation was on the theme "Lifestyles".

For those who wish to read the presentations made during the Congress, you can click [here](#) and find all the presentations, experiences, and workshops (in Spanish).

Finally, I share with you an excerpt from address given by Br. Luis Gallardo, OFM, at the end of the Congress:

"Brothers and sisters, thank you for coming to the 3rd Franciscan Missionary Congress that is now concluding. I'm grateful that we have enriched each other, and that all the reflections shared during this precious time have stirred us a little and will arouse us from the deep sleep in which we have sometimes slept peacefully."



Thank you for having evangelized us with your presence. We hope that all the proposals that have emerged in each of the workshops will be studied and put into practice in each of the Entities and, above all, that when it comes to practical action, we will not forget the three thematic axes that must be incorporated in all the pastoral activities in which we are involved:

1. **Care for Creation** (let's not let our planet die, let's do something to make our common home remain a habitable place for all),
2. that each of us commits to be an instrument of Peace, working at all times to build a **culture of peace** in the face of the violent world in which we are living;

3. and that we all join forces so that this **network of human mobility** that has been proposed during this Congress becomes a reality in our Great Latin America.

May Mary, Most Holy Star of Evangelization, always guide us in these new situations that we will experience and, together with her, may we face these new challenges with courage and creativity."

Br. Jaime Campos F., OFM
Director, JPIC General Office - Rome



The 25th Meeting of UCLAF

"To establish a shelter in each Province to support migrants who are in transit and seeking support."

The Provincial Ministers and Custodes from the four Conferences that constitute UCLAF held a meeting from October 28 to November 2 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Our Minister General, Vicar General, the two Definitors for Latin America, the general animator of JPIC, and other UCLAF friars who had been invited were also present at the meeting.



The friars gathered together to celebrate the 25th Assembly of UCLAF. In a spirit of gratitude, the friars who had initiated the meetings of UCLAF after Vatican II in order to encourage the implementation of the reforms of the Council, were remembered in the theme, *"50 years of UCLAF, Memory and Prophecy"*.

The presence of Br. Michael Perry, Minister General, together with the Vicar of the Order, Br. Julio Bunader and the Definitors for Latin America Br. Ignacio Ceja and Br. Valmir Ramos, was appreciated by the brothers present at this meeting. On the part of the JPIC Office, we were happy to accept the invitation made by the president of the UCLAF, Br. Juan Medina, and during one of the working sessions, I made a presentation to the Ministers and Custodes about the emerging Franciscan Network for Migrants. Then I requested the support of all the Provinces, especially the entities present in Central America and Mexico. It is with joy that I share with you the document "Conclusive Proposals" which includes what was decided on the issue of migration. Both UCLAF and the Conference of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean issued this:

UCLAF

"To strengthen ties and support for what is called *The Franciscan Cord* to accompany immigrants throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, especially in the following cities: Honduras, San Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico (Tijuana and La72), Mexico City, New York, Santa Barbara, and San Pablo. This will be linked to the UCLAF and JPIC animators."

N.S. Guadalupe Conference

"To establish a shelter in each Province to support migrants who are in transit and seeking support such as food, clothing, legal advice, etc., throughout the territory of Mexico."

Br. Jaime Campos F., OFM
Director, JPIC General Office - Rome

The JPIC Animators of the African Conference gather in South Africa

We hope to find paths of action and transformation for our Franciscan Entities.

Pretoria was the chosen place for the Continental meeting of the JPIC Animators of Africa. The Province of "Our Lady Queen of Peace", based in Johannesburg, welcomed brothers from Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, Togo, Morocco, South Sudan, Angola, Zimbabwe, the Holy Land and the host country, South Africa. Our meeting started on Monday 12th November, and continued until Saturday, November 17th.

We met to talk about the work of JPIC animators in the various settings of the African continent. Different realities, which in one way or another influence men and women and all of Creation: problems of pollution, access to water, forced migration, trafficking, the people's poor relationship with the environment, armed conflicts, and mining. These topics were addressed in the reports that each friar prepared for this meeting.

To bring us closer to reality and hear the voices of civil society on extraction problems, we joined as participants in the **"Social Issues Forum on Mining and the Extractivist Economy"** which was being held in Johannesburg from 12th to 15th November. This gathering was organized by the "People's Dialogues" movement, which brings together the social movements of Latin America, Africa and Asia.

At the end of the "Social Issues Forum", the JPIC animators of the African Continent will resume our reflection and discernment. We will try to find specific ways that allow us to collaborate in social transformation towards a more just and fraternal society. We take inspiration from the words and actions of Jesus in announcing the Kingdom. We hope to find paths of action and transformation for our Franciscan Entities, and for our brothers and sisters in the countries where we are present. We would like to find ways as Franciscans to collaborate with the Church and civil society.



Br. Jaime Campos F., OFM
Director, JPIC General Office - Rome



What is happening in our Common Home?

Conference on Climate Change in Katowice, Poland.

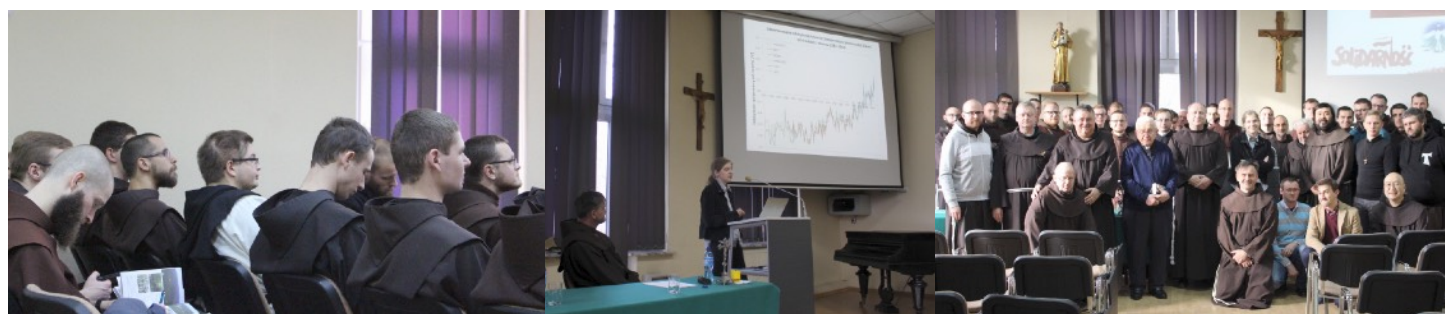
The 24th Conference of the Parties (COP24), organized by the UN on Climate Change (UNFCCC), took place in Poland this December. The JPIC Office organized various activities to incorporate this theme into the reflection of the Franciscan friars living in Poland. We ask ourselves “What is happening in our Common Home?” in relation to climate change in order to contribute something from our spiritual legacy to care of our common home.

A presentation on Climate Change and COP24 was given by Prof. Aleksandra Kadras, Ph.D. (Physics), a specialist in atmospheric radiation transfer and atmospheric processes and phenomena. She is also the editor of the website www.naukaoklimacie.pl on climate change — its causes and

consequences, basic facts, and myths.

After Dr. Aleksandra’s clear and enlightening presentation to the 45 Franciscan friars, Br. Jacek Orzechowski, OFM spoke on the theme “Between the ecological crisis and the civilization of love - the Franciscan path towards ecological conversion and holiness,” thus integrating the dialogue between science and the faith perspective.

At the end of both presentations, there was a dialogue between the speakers and the audience. The truth of climate change, its immediate consequences and the projected future consequences were discussed. We also talked about our current lifestyle and how we can respond to the call of ecological conversion that was proposed by St. John Paul II. This conversion also challenges us to defend life in all its dimensions and to find real paths towards change in our way of life that can help rebuild our Common Home.



Br. Jacek Orzechowski, OFM
JPIC Animation Committee - Washington DC

Meeting of the JPIC Animation Committee

The Animation Committee of the OFM Office for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation met from November 26th to 30th in Panewniki/Katowice, Poland. Present were: Jaime Campos, OFM and Rufino Lim, OFM from the JPIC Office in Rome as well as Fausto Yudego, OFM representing Europe, and Jacek Orzechowski, OFM representing the Americas. Among the first things we did was to choose – pending the approval of the General Definitory – a friar who will represent Asia and Oceania on the Animation committee of the Order.

The committee spent a week evaluating the implementation of the JPIC Animation Plan 2016-2021, reviewing the document of the 2018 Plenary Council in Nairobi, and developing a plan for the 2019 JPIC International Council, which will take place in Jerusalem. Furthermore, we have worked to develop a series of online JPIC courses for 2019. They will focus on the issues of forced migration, climate change, *Laudato Si'*.

Just as a reminder, the 2016-2021 JPIC Animation Plan has six specific objectives: (1) to change the environmental impact of our lifestyle on God's creation, (2) to embrace the preferential option for the lesser ones in our world, (3) to promote an attitude of equality, peace, and active non-violence in our lives, (4) to promote JPIC values in the Initial and Ongoing Formation, (5) to promote collaboration between various secretariats and offices of the Order, (6) to collaborate with the Franciscan Family and with Social Movements.

Our JPIC Animation committee members discussed the progress of the implementation of these objectives and the development of strategies that may help overcome some of the existing challenges. However, we need active involvement and collaboration from the individual Provinces and friars to carry out our Franciscan mission. We will continue to send out more information on how to seize the opportunities to have an impact and respond innovatively to the signs of the times from the perspective of JPIC values.

In addition to the hard work of evaluation, strategizing, and planning, the JPIC Animation Committee didn't neglect to have a wonderful and joyful fraternal time, enjoying the great hospitality of the Polish friars, in particular the Province of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Br. Jacek Orzechowski, OFM
JPIC Animation Committee - Washington DC

A New Member of the JPIC Animation Committee

Recently, the General Definitory approved **Br. Jacek Orzechowski, OFM** from the Holy Name Province (USA) as a new member of the Animation Committee of the JPIC General Office. Born in Poland, Br. Jacek has been ministering for the past 16 years in multicultural parishes with many immigrants predominantly from Latin America and Africa. Currently, brother Jacek manages the Parish Community Organizing and Advocacy efforts of the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington. Over the years, he has been a passionate preacher, teacher, and advocate for justice, peace, and care for our Common Home.

This December, Br. Jacek attended his first meeting of the Animation Committee in Katowice and was actively involved in the several Franciscan events and activities during COP24 to promote JPIC values and initiatives at local as well as international level. The Office is grateful for his acceptance of this task, and his willingness to serve the Order, and we look forward to his further inspiring service in JPIC ministry.

After two years of service, **Br. Fausto Yudego, OFM** is concluding his membership of the Committee. He is the JPIC animator of the Province of Aránzazu, as well as the JPIC Coordinator of CONFRES and he has served the Order in the Animation Committee. The General Office appreciates his contribution to the JPIC promotion work on the level of the Order and wishes him the best for the future. May the Lord bless these brothers!

Br. Rufino Lim, OFM
Assistant, JPIC General Office – Rome

Meeting of UFME JPIC Delegates

From November 30th to December 2nd, the leaders of the five JPIC conferences in Europe met in Katowice (Poland) together with the heads of the JPIC Office of the General Curia and the JPIC Animation Committee.

Present were: Br. Francesco Zecca (COMPI), Br. Fausto Yudego (CONFRES), Br. Tran Ngoc Tiem (COTAF), Br. Maciej Olszewski (North Slavic) and Br. Tadej Strehovec (South Slavic). Br. Rufino and Br. Jaime of the General Curia JPIC Office also attended.

They were guests in the friars' large friary, and even if the outside temperatures were very bracing, the hospitality in the friary was warm and wonderful, thanks to Br. Sergiusz Baldyga, the Guardian.

During the two-day meeting, the work of each conference was presented, ideas were exchanged and the next continental meeting for European JPIC delegates was organized. The friars wanted to have a fresh start by discussing the theme: "Living Franciscan humanism in the current context of Europe. Go and repair my house". It will be an important opportunity to come up with and establish specific projects for the European continent that is currently experiencing various crises.

The meeting was held in Katowice because on December 3rd the COP24 (UN Conference on Climate Change) opened, bringing 30,000 people from all over the world, both government delegations and civil society to this Polish city. It was a unique opportunity to take important and decisive steps that can safeguard future generations. It was stressed repeatedly that there is no more time — decisions cannot be postponed!

In particular, the JPIC Office of the General Curia organized a meeting for December 3rd, attended by 9 speakers from around the world, with the presence of the Conventual and Capuchin friars responsible for JPIC at the general level. The



discussion was very valuable and the contribution that the various faiths can make regarding the climate crisis that is resulting in new migrants and affecting the most vulnerable parts of the world, was highlighted.

Br. Francesco Zecca, OFM
JPIC Coordinator of COMPI



COTAF — JPIC Animators' Meeting

From October 26th to 28th, a meeting of the COTAF JPIC animators from France, Switzerland, Germany, Hungary, and the Netherlands was held in Paris.

Three ESC entities also attended (from Ireland, Lithuania and Malta), as did Br. Jürgen Neitzert, General Definitor. The meeting was expertly led by Br. Tiem Tran, the JPIC Coordinator of COTAF. Most of the friars already knew each other from the previous annual meeting, but it was good to welcome some new faces too!

The annual reports of the Entities were presented and clarified on Friday evening and Saturday morning. It was inspiring to hear how despite the shrinking number of friars, a rise in the average age of the friars, and the fact that JPIC promotion work is sometimes not given priority, the friars are very active in the field of justice and peace in all of the Entities.

In **Hungary**, the friars are involved in pastoral care for different groups — gypsies, a Pakistani family, and a school for autistic children run by the friars.

In **Lithuania**, besides other things, the friars provide meals for the homeless and they have plans for the housing of Syrian refugees.

In **Malta**, where 30,000 refugees are stranded (because other European countries deny access to refugees), the friars tried to create a climate of tolerance, for example by bringing people into contact with each other, and distributing background information about the refugees. They help refugees not only through education and training in practical skills, providing housing, but also by organizing radio broadcasts for migrants. An old army base has been converted into a 'peace village' for refugees. All the friars are obliged to attend a monthly one-day-formation session on *Laudato si'*. Various programs have been developed for students in primary and secondary schools concerning ecology and care for Creation.

In **France**, friars continue to hold gatherings called "Circle de Silence" in many big cities on a monthly basis as a protest against the arms race. A "White Paper (Livre Blanc)" has been sent to fraternities, where the friars are asked specifically what they are doing regarding the teachings of *Laudato si'*. It concerns topics such as selective sorting of waste, transportation (public transportation, electric bicycle, carpooling, etc.), ecological gardening (without toxic chemicals), solidarity with the poorest of the poor, ecological lifestyle with sustainable consumption and less pollution, etc. Their involvement in the pastoral care of those in prison has alerted them to the fact that crime resulting from ethnic income inequality and/or poverty is a major problem.

In the **Netherlands**, a JPIC friary has recently been established. This new fraternity consists of Franciscans, Capuchins, OFS members, and the Poor Clares. Together they also form the JPIC commission for the Netherlands and

Flanders. Ecology plays a vital role in the renovation of this monastery. The Poor Clares in the Netherlands have a long tradition in sustainability. In addition, the peace watch, street ministry and ecumenical dialogue with other Christian churches also continue to attract attention, especially in the new fraternity.

In **Ireland**, (because of the recent referendum on abortion) workshops and preaching suggestions were given to defend the right to life of the unborn, and to explain the evil of abortion.

The have developed a JPIC calendar with short prayers for international days with causes that may be overlooked, and specific issues about which we can pray. In addition, the Verona declaration of 2016 was worked on. Ireland produces the second largest amount of carbon emissions in the EU after Poland, mainly due to the emission of methane gas by cattle and this is an issue that needs to be addressed. Furthermore, access to health care, housing, and income insecurity are their critical social issues.

In **Austria**, courses on ecology are being organized with a special attention to the heating and energy sustainability of homes.

In **Switzerland**, friars take advantage of courses on ecology. “Francis helps” is an organization that makes it financially possible to support people in developing countries.

“*Everything is related to ecology*”: ecology has green (environmental) as well as human (solidarity and care for people) dimensions, which are interwoven because we are part of Creation.

In **Germany**, the friars’ actions against the [production and export of the] arms trade continue. Furthermore, a weekend seminar on the dialogue between Muslims and Christians is organized for German-speaking countries. Concern about climate change and the sustainability of friaries continues among the friars along with an awareness of the ecological footprint of the fraternities and what is to be done about it.

Summary, goals and decisions

Sunday was devoted to the implementation of the Verona Statement (2016), where attention is drawn to our responsibility for the causes and effects of Mining, Lifestyle, and Migration. We decided that this topic should stay on the agenda into the future. We also decided to share information and plans —

for example, a paper about the issue of gypsies (Hungary), on immigrants (Malta) and carbon pollution (Ireland). The Friars were all invited to send a paper to Br. Tiem Tran on an issue that needs to be addressed in the context of JPIC.

It was stressed that we as animators must remind our Provincials to always work on *Laudato si’* and allow us to speak about it at Provincial meetings. Furthermore, we should also make presentations to fraternities to talk about possible JPIC activities (for example, a ‘White Paper’) and to report what the friars have done about them, so that the animators know where greater efforts regarding JPIC promotion need to be made.

The participants wanted to continue to work on the issues addressed in the **Verona Declaration** regarding Mining, Lifestyle and Migration. Mining is not a visible social issue in COTAF countries, but the friars have some responsibility for war, killings, and heavy pollution in other countries by importing minerals and mining products from these countries regardless of their violent and polluting ways of exploitation! Migration is a responsibility of all Europe, but friars deprive refugees of their human dignity by refusing them their right to life by sending them away to certain death. The number of refugees is increasing in Malta, and the Pope addressed the European community several times in vain! Changes in lifestyle can make important changes to the pollution of the earth and violence and wars in the (developing) world. Friars have to make people aware of their responsibility and that there are many easy and practicable ways to change their lifestyle so that justice can be done to the earth and to people. Every Province/Custody has its own focus according to their national ‘challenges’ in the area of Migration, Lifestyle and Mining.

The closing Mass was celebrated with joy and gratitude for God’s loving care for the world and our fraternity. The participants were sent in peace back to the places where they live, work, and wholeheartedly spread the message of *Laudato si’*.

Br. Roland Putman, OFM
JPIC Team, Province of the Martyrs of Gorkum –
Netherlands

THE CARE OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE ECUMENICAL AND INTERRELIGIOUS dialogue

18 - 27

FEBRUARY



JPIC Course 2019

The title of the course, “*The Care of the Environment in the Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue*” will be carried out in Italian with the simultaneous translation to Spanish and English. The general theme of the course will be the concept of “beauty” in the aesthetics of St. Bonaventure and the Spirit of Assisi for the Interreligious Dialogue. The course is scheduled from February 18 to 27 at Antonianum, Rome.

The first block of the course will be from February 18 to 23, 2019 as a part of the **High Formation Course on Integral Ecology** organized by the PUA. The first module “**General Introduction to the Encyclical Laudato si**” was held from October 8 to 13, 2018. All the presentations were registered and available for those who register for the annual JPIC course 2019 at www.ofmjpica.org. To register, send your information to the JPIC Office (pax@ofm.org) and you will receive the password to have access to the videos of the first module. The visualization of the videos of the first module and the actual participation in February, you will be given the right to obtain the certificate of the “**High Formation course on Integral Ecology**.”

The second block on February 25-27 is dedicated to the work of JPIC promotion, centered on practical aspects, as well as the theological

dimensions of JPIC work and promotion in terms of collaborations at various levels within the Order. It will offer an opportunity to build together - based on the experience and reflection of each participant - to better accompany the processes of change of our Gospel and Franciscan journey. The program is as below:

18 FEBRUARY

morning

“The Figure of Francis in the Ecumenical and Interreligious Movement”

Silvestro Bejan, OFMConv

“Protecting the Uncultivable (cf. Gen 2,15) or rather: The Biblical Logic Of Living the World”

Mario Cucca, OFMCap

afternoon

“The Beauty of the Creation: the Invitation of the encyclical Laudato si”

Carlos Salto, OFM

“Francis of Assisi, the Creation, the Creatures” (first part)

Marco Guida, OFM

19 FEBRUARY

morning

“Francis, the Emblem of Peace”

Silvestro Bejan, OFMConv

“The Unavailable Nutrition (cf. Gen 1,29). or rather: Non-Total Subjugation of the Creation”

Mario Cucca, OFMCap

afternoon

“The Diverse Name of the Beauty, or rather, the Beauty of Diversity”

Carlos Salto, OFM

“Francis of Assisi, the Creation, the Creatures” (second part)

Marco Guida, OFM

20 FEBRUARY

morning

“The Vocation of Assisi as a Venue for the Prayer for Peace”

Silvestro Bejan, OFMConv

“Profound Sources for Islamic Ecology”

Jason Welle, OFM

afternoon

“Human Being: Ruler, Consumer or Administrator?”

Carlos Salto, OFM

“The Creation as the Free Act of God according to John Duns Scotus”

(first part)

Ernesto Dezza, OFM

21 FEBRUARY

morning

“The ‘Spirit of Assisi’ between History and Prophecy”

Silvestro Bejan, OFMConv

“The Islamic Mysticism Towards Ecology, And Current Movements for the Advancement of The Ecology in the Muslim World”

Jason Welle, OFM

afternoon

“Via Pulchritudinis: Conforming with the Contemplated Beauty”

Carlos Salto, OFM

“The Creation as the Free Act of God according to John Duns Scotus”

(second part)

Ernesto Dezza, OFM

22 FEBRUARY

morning

“From St. Francis to Pope Francis: Two Men Face to Face With God and with the World”

Silvestro Bejan, OFMConv

afternoon

“Bonaventurian Aesthetics and Integral Ecology”

Carlos Salto, OFM

23 FEBRUARY

morning & afternoon

Interdisciplinary Workshop

25 FEBRUARY

morning

“Strategy for Animation Plan”

Rufino Lim, OFM

afternoon

“MZF: Theology of Mission and Ethical Investment”

Matthias Maier, OFM

David Reusch

26 FEBRUARY

morning

“The Relevance of JPIC in the Formation and Studies”

Cesare Vaiani, OFM

“Development and Fundraising: a New Office for the Service of the Order”

Franco Mirri, OFM

afternoon

“Franciscans International: the Franciscan Voice in the UN”

Markus Heinze, OFM

“Walking Together: PCO and the JPIC Projects in the Order”

Jaime Campos, OFM

27 FEBRUARY

morning

“The Challenge of JPIC in the Order of Friars Minor”

Michael Perry, OFM

- You can download the program [HERE](#).

- Notes for registration and lodging:

OFM JPIC Animators should register with the JPIC Office of the General Curia, by writing to Br. Jaime Campos or Br. Rufino Lim. The accommodation at the Antonianum is reserved for them.

- For more information and registration

pax@ofm.org +39 06 68491218



Colegio María Inmaculada
Av. Paseo del Amazonas, Panamá



GENERAL PROGRAM

- 17-21.01.** • YouFra International Gathering.
- 18.01.**
 - Arrival and integration of the Universal Missionary Fraternity.
 - Morning Prayer (7:30 AM).
 - Fraternal Encounter: prayer, sharing ... (7:30 PM).
- 19.01.**
 - Eucharist (7:00 AM), Salón audiovisual.
 - Ecological parade (5:00 PM), from Colegio Internacional María Inmaculada.
 - The praise prayer upon arriving at S. Antonio Parish, Miraflores.
 - Feast of the Nations of Latin America (10:00 PM), Colegio Internacional María Inmaculada.
- 20.01.**
 - Encounter with Creation, a day of reflection and prayer (the Metropolitan Natural Park).
 - Fraternal Encounter: prayer, sharing... (9:00 PM).
- 21.01.**
 - Workshops *Laudato Si'*.
 - Morning Prayer (7:30 AM).
 - Eucharist (6:00 PM).
- 22.01.**
 - Morning Prayer (7:30 AM).
 - Stand attention *Laudato Si'* and photographic exhibition (in the morning).
 - WELCOME Archbishop of Panama (6:00 PM), Cinta Costera.
 - Eucharistic Adoration (9:00 PM).
- 23.01.**
 - Eucharist (7:30 AM).
 - Meeting with the General Ministers (5:00PM)
 - *Laudato Si'* Concert with the group Alfareros (7:00 PM).
- 24.01.**
 - Eucharist (7:30 AM).
 - "Callejeando" *Laudato Si'*.
 - WELCOMING CEREMONY AND COMMENCEMENT OF WYD at Santa Maria la Antigua Field, Cinta Costera (5:30 PM).
 - Fraternal Encounter: prayer, sharing... (10:00 PM).
- 25.01.**
 - Eucharist (7:00 AM).
 - "Callejeando" *Laudato Si'*.
 - Panel: Church of the Poor and Church of the Martyrs (3:00 PM).
 - WAY OF THE CROSS WITH YOUTH at Santa María la Antigua Field, Cinta Costera (5:30 PM).
- 26.01.**
 - Morning Prayer (7:30 AM).
 - "Callejeando" *Laudato Si'*.
 - VIGIL WITH YOUTH at Saint John Paul II Field, Metro Park (6:30 PM).
- 27.01.**
 - HOLY MASS for World Youth Day at Saint John Paul II Field, Metro Park (8:00 AM).

■ Actividades internas. ■ Actividades organizadas por MCMC y JPIC. ■ Agenda oficial de la JMJ.

JPIC Webinar (Online Seminar) 2019

The JPIC General Office is organizing a series of webinars throughout the year 2019. The themes will be migration (January), climate change (April), Laudato si' (September) and mining (November). Three webinars will be held on each theme in each of the three official languages of the Order. The objectives of this program are:

1. **Raise awareness** and deepen understanding in the Church and society of the global issues addressed in the 2016 Verona Statement.
2. **Provide concrete examples** of transformative action on the respective issues.
3. **Assist the JPIC animators** in developing a strategic plan for dealing with these issues in the respective Entities, and help the webinar participants to collaborate with other international networks/organizations.

The theme in January is **MIGRATION**. January 15th is World Day of Immigrants and Refugees and February 8th is the International Day of Prayer and Awareness of Human Trafficking. These are the days to remember, pray, and act. The webinars will help the participants to have a better understanding of the issue and propose concrete action, according to the values of JPIC. Hopefully, many brothers and sisters can join us in this online conference.

Anyone can participate in the webinar through the website of the JPIC General Office (www.ofmjpgic.org). Check your timezone in this link. All are welcome!

- **Jan 7th (Mon): at 4 pm, CST** (Mexico City, GMT - 6) in **English**
Main speaker: Br. Julian Jagudilla, OFM (the Migrant Center at St. Francis church)
Moderator: Br. Jacek Orzechowski, OFM
- **Jan 14th (Mon): at 4 pm, CST** (Mexico City, GMT - 6) in **Spanish**
Main speaker: Ramon Marquez (La72)
Moderator: Br. Jaime Campos, OFM
- **Jan 24th (Thur) at 4 pm, CET** (Rome, GMT +1): in **Italian**
Main speaker: Flaminia Vola (Regional Coordinator of Europe, Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development)
Moderator: Br. Francesco Zecca, OFM

International Days - January / March, 2019

January 1	World Day of Peace
January 15	World Day of Immigrants and Refugees
February 8	International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking
February 20	World Day of Social Justice
March 3	World Wildlife Day
March 8	International Women's Day
March 21	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
March 21	International Day of Forests
March 22	World Water Day

Agenda

7 January

Webinar on Migration (English)



pax@ofm.org

January 14

Webinar on Migration (Spanish)

January 18 – 21

Franciscan Eco-Village (Panama)



<https://www.facebook.com/ofmjpica/>

January 22 – 27

World Youth Day (Panama)

January 24

Webinar on Migration (Italian)



www.ofmjpica.org

January 28

Romans VI meeting (Rome)

February 18 – 27

JPIC annual Course (*Antonianum*)



General Office for Justice,
Peace and Integrity of Creation
General Curia – OFM