

Jerusalem Statement



The International Council for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation of the Order met in Jerusalem, from June 3 to 9, 2019. Its members evaluated the past three years' work and mapped out the path for the general direction of our JPIC promotion effort for the next triennium. The JPIC Coordinators of the Conferences has provided decisive leadership in that effort that paves the way for effective implementation of the decisions of this year's meeting.

Challenged by the 2018 Plenary Council of the Order, "We desire to dream and, at the same time, be prophets of hope, capable of proclaiming the Gospel for the building of the Kingdom, denouncing and fighting concrete situations of injustice and violence in our present world. This attitude will make us bear much fruit as consecrated persons." (Cf. *PCO/18*, 177)

Laudato Si': Integral Ecological Conversion

Inspired by the papal Encyclical *Laudato Si'*, we strongly feel that "a sober lifestyle and sensitivity in regard to ecological and social solidarity are expressions of the Franciscan charism, and that our commitment to ecology in an integral part of our (vocation). Each fraternity, in its project of life and mission, is to draw up an ecological program that promotes concrete styles and choices of life which demonstrate respect and care for creation." (Cf. *PCO/18*, 114 – 116)

With the challenge raised by the PCO 2018 document and *Laudato Si'*, we propose the following:

- Renew our prophetic presence in today's world through a radical process of an individual and communal ecological conversion.
- Adopt the methodology of active non-violence and just peace.
- Collaborate in a more comprehensive way inside and outside the Church.
- Engage with the *Pax Christi International* on its "Catholic Non-Violence" initiative.
- Integrate *Laudato Si'* in liturgy and put it into practice.
- Promote the knowledge of the encyclical through retreats and *study* circles.
- Commemorate the environmental martyrs.
- Collect, create and share the relevant resources (homiletic, catechetical, practical).
- Use creatively multimedia and social networks to promote *Laudato Si'*.

Climate Crisis

We, the members of the ICJPIC are deeply troubled by the ecological disasters we witness all over the world and by their devastating effects on the poor and vulnerable. We recognize that our misguided human actions are destroying the vital climate system of our common home. There is little time left for humanity to change its course, if we are to avoid catastrophic consequences for Earth's community of life. In this existential crisis, we must hear the voices of young people clamoring for climate justice. Therefore, we resolve to:

- Promote and celebrate the *Season of Creation* in liturgy and through actions of solidarity.
- Collaborate with the *Global Catholic Climate Movement*.
- Engage in the Divestment Movement from the dirty fossil fuel industry and reinvest in clean, renewable energy.
- Participate in global and local mobilization efforts for climate justice.
- Raise the awareness and deepen our understanding of the issues discussed in *Laudato Si'*.
- Collect and share the stories of the best practices around ecological conversion.
- Promote holistic alternatives to the culture of hyper-consumption.
- Partner with civil society, government authorities and social entrepreneurs to advocate for climate justice.
- Plant trees.

Socio-Environmental Crisis

We are also aware of many incidents of devastation brought upon the environment and the poor people by various extractivist activities such as mining and fracking as well as monoculture farming. "Too often the techniques of mining, the displacement and disempowerment of people, the poisoning of soil and water, corruption and arrogance of many mining groups and the unjust sharing of the wealth of mining prompt us to question their true worth." (*Verona Statement*) We believe that as Franciscans, we are being called to solidarity with the affected communities in Amazonia and in other places around the world impacted by extractive industries. We seek to promote "a different kind of economy: one that is inclusive and not exclusive, humane and not dehumanizing, one that cares for the environment and does not despoil it." (Pope Francis' invitation to the event, "*Economy of Francis*," 2019). We will strive to oppose, reduce and repair the social, environmental and economic damage done to our common home. Therefore we commit to:

- Oppose the throwaway culture of irresponsible consumption.
- Show solidarity and advocate in support of the victims of extractivism.
- Join the "*Right to Say No*" campaign.
- Adopt strategies for product boycotts.
- Divest from the corporations involved in the environmental/human rights abuses and reinvest in sustainable projects.
- Collaborate with *Franciscans International & Thematic Social Forum on Extractivism*.
- Encourage Entities of the Order to work with NGOs on the issue.
- Engage with schools of business, proposing alternate economic models that support corporate social responsibility, ecological conversion and climate justice.

Migration Crisis

We see migration as a global phenomenon caused by multiple factors, among them: violence, social inequity, political, economic and climate crises. Its sheer, growing scale all over the world challenges us, the sons of Saint Francis to respond. “Franciscan vision of life, rooted in biblical revelation, shows us that we have only one Father and that we are all brothers and sisters; that all of us are linked by unseen bonds, together forming a kind of universal family with all beings in the universe. Therefore, we cannot remain indifferent to the serious crisis of human movement and we cannot be indifferent to the situation of our migrant brothers and sisters.” (Cf. *PCO/18*, 122 – 123) Hence, we pledge to:

- Help create a culture of hospitality and common humanity by accepting, welcoming, and caring for migrants as our brothers and sisters.
- Open our homes to welcome, listen to and dialogue with migrants.
- Celebrate *World Days of Refugees and Migrants*, and *Prayer against Human Trafficking*.
- Volunteer at existing migrant centers.
- Promote field experience at migration centers for friars in the Initial and Ongoing Formation.
- Organize immersion camps for the youth and friars.
- Promote campaigns to overcome prejudice against migrants.
- Engage in Franciscan Network on Migration in America.
- Disseminate legal tools for migrants.

We have witnessed and affirmed the great contribution that our brothers of the Holy Land Custody are making. They sow peace and protect human rights, despite the continuing violence and conflict in their region. We also realized that, as Franciscans, we have “to work to be instruments of peace and reconciliation, continuing to be present in places of war and violence and not abandoning those who are suffering.” (Cf. *PCO/18*, 168) With a deep concern for the political crisis and incredible violations of human rights that occur in some countries, we express our solidarity with the oppressed, the least, the lost and the last.

The International Council for JPIC has read and discerned the signs of the time. As Franciscans, we ought to respond to cry of the poor and cry of the earth with an *integral ecological conversion in a radical manner*. It includes the spiritual, social, economic and political dimensions. As a contemplative fraternity in mission, we seek to dedicate ourselves to action through contemplation and prayer, solidarity with the poor and the Earth. We implore all the friars in the Franciscan Order to deepen our vocation and respond to this call to conversion in the 21st century.

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