

Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation

I cannot do all the good that the world needs, but the world needs all the good I can do

JPIC Statement

To understand justice, peace and integrity of creation (JPIC) it is essential once again to recall that they are, above all, values. They are a spirituality. JPIC arises from a spirituality centred in God's plan for LIFE for all creation, and we are invited to collaborate in this project. It is nourished by discovery of the compassionate and merciful face of God in Jesus. This God is revealed in history and encountered in the reality of people and things around us. It blossoms from a desire to follow Jesus with compassion, in a world that is unjust, broken and violent. It arises from the need to discern the signs of life that the Spirit is birthing today. While this is true for Christians in general, for us as Franciscans, JPIC is an element and dimension of our charism. The values of JPIC have been present in our Order since its beginning because they are values of the spirituality of Francis.

This statement was drawn from 'Guidelines for the Animation of Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC)' from the Order of Friars Minor, Rome, 2009.

These values cannot simply remain on paper. They must be addressed in concrete ways in our daily lives. The task becomes more difficult in a world that is increasingly complex and violent.

So . . . JPIC is not a new concept. Franciscans International is very involved with JPIC issues across the globe. For some time, a few of our New Zealand tertiaries have been keen to find a way to encourage more focus and actions in matters of peace, justice and care of creation among our Franciscan family. Since listening to the speakers at Convocation 2015 the need for a Province wide focus on these matters has become apparent.

In June this year, a small group met to consider the possibility of establishing a JPIC group in our Third Order province. We then took the idea to Chapter and Margaret Bedggood, Blair Matheson, John Hebenton, Marion Fairbrass and Pip Colgan were invited to form an initial JPIC steering group.

The responses to the reflections Blair has sent us during the year suggest that many in our Aotearoa, New Zealand Areas have also made the link to what they heard at Convocation, and are looking for ways to engage in JPIC issues.

We recognise that everyone has their own passion, and that many of our number are involved individually and through other organisations in working towards peace and justice and caring for creation.

During this Advent season of new beginnings, we invite you to reflect on your life and how you might live this out.

Talk in your Areas about what you're doing / what you might do / what we might work on as the Aotearoa, New Zealand Areas of our Province . . .

We would welcome suggestions for focus projects under each of the three headings –

Justice

Peace

Integrity of Creation

We hold the Melanesian Areas of our Province in our prayers – and ask if there are initiatives there we could support / work on together.

We think there are two questions to hold in mind as you reflect -

What do we bring to JPIC as people of faith?

How does our Franciscan charism come into this?

Underpinning everything is prayer

We hope that many of you will share ideas, and let us know what you are doing – to give others inspiration and so people can pray for you and those you serve.

Janet Meads was at the initial JPIC weekend and offered to share what she does on a personal, local level -

JPIC is, indeed, part of our charism as Franciscans. I hope to be able to demonstrate that by linking a JPIC issue which I am involved with to our Franciscan Principles.

The Auckland City Mission's *Mum's Mince* programme concretely addresses the justice issue of poverty.

Once a fortnight I cook a filling savoury meal for 4 – 6 adults. I usually make a meat casserole with lots of different vegetables and grains included in it. That meal goes to the Mission who distribute it to a family in need of it. At present the meals are going to those living in cars who therefore are without cooking facilities. When I take the meal to the mission I frequently take a big bag of freshly made scones or muffins with me. Those I give to one of the rough sleepers on the footpath outside the mission. I am always moved by how selflessly the recipient shares them with the others there.

I suggest that this work reflects the Franciscan Principles in the following ways:

Day 5 & 6: *To make our Lord known and loved everywhere.*

I believe that my actions reflect Lord Jesus' loving, unrestricted table fellowship and his care for society's marginalised.

Days 7, 8 & 9: *To spread the spirit of love and harmony.* This activity seeks to break down the barrier of injustice erected between those who have easy access to nutritious food and those who do not have that access. In addition I am quick to speak out against those who blithely state that the impoverished are responsible for their own plight.

Days 19 & 20: *The Third way of service: Work.* Like the work of Lord Jesus and St Francis, this activity seeks to serve those in my community who have need of it. My gift is wrapped in prayer and given with love.



Peace and Joy,
Janet Meads.

Mystery of God

**Heartbeat of the universe,
centre of spirited change and rebirth;
we glorify your ways:
the ways of dignity and justice,
the ways of love for all creatures,
the ways of caring for the earth.**

**Let us be simple in our needs,
showing compassion for our neighbour,
sharing generously what we have,
letting go our hurts and fears.**

**For in you we find peace,
in you we find hope,
and in you we find courage,
now and forever, Amen.**

(Jenny Blood; used by permission)



We are delighted and very grateful that Br Damian SSF is really keen to be involved in JPIC with us and has offered to help us with administration – including producing this JPIC Newsletter.

Please send any JPIC ideas, actions to share with the Order through this Newsletter to pip.colgan@xtra.co.nz