

JPIC Report to Chapter 2017

JPIC and its Steering Group (Peter Bargh, Margaret Bedgood, Pip Colgan, Marion Fairbrass, John Hebenton, Blair Matheson, Br Damian Kenneth SSF) were officially established at Chapter 2016, following an initial meeting held earlier that year. The group spent a year operating with not much structure or tight focus, other than the production of three JPIC Newsletters, which, encouragingly, were well received. Early in 2017 we set a meeting date in November to enable us to discuss progress and consolidate our thoughts into a more specific plan.

We (apologies from Peter and Blair) met, having had a bit of time to think about this, with the following agenda / areas of focus to discuss:

- Hopes and expectations for this group
- Area Animators (Reps) - how do we use them
 - what is their role
- Structure of JPIC? - another structure not Area based??
- JPIC focus group - what
 - how do we meet
- Newsletter - how often
 - themes
- Website - what do we put on it
 - how do we expect it to be used
 - who will use it
- Melanesia - how do we include them in our Aotearoa Newsletter
 - how do we support them
- JPIC Issues - focus
 - how do we choose what we do
 - what we put on the website

Many people in our Order are doing 'their own thing'. People's passions and interests are very personal and we feel it is not the role or purpose of JPIC to try and encourage people to become engaged in something they are not interested in.

Our hope for JPIC is that as well as people being involved in what they are already doing, they might become involved in any of a number of issues, large and small, relating to a particular theme, which

would change every three years, or more, depending on what people wanted to do at the end of a three year period. This would be something our Order could be involved in together.

We have become aware of some people being unhappy that JPIC is leading our Order to being less contemplative. We encourage people to think about the Principle for Day 13.

The following notes come from the discussion at our 2-day meeting and centre around the focus areas.

Role of Steering Group

- The Group is the voice to the wider community on JPIC issues for TSSF (through Maggie). We would like to become a louder voice
- The provider of resources on JPIC issues (selected) - through the Area Animators and on the website
- Decide what information / issues should go on the JPIC website
- The Group should be a chanel for other activities / issues which members are individually involved in so people can pray for these – such as stories on the website / in the Newsletter. It would work with local JPIC animators to help collect and write these stories
- Encourage a life balance – contemplative and activity
- Ensure Melanesia part of our Province is linked with our JPIC
- The Steering Group should continue to refine how we operate JPIC in Aotearoa, NZ as well as linking to Melanesia.
- Link with other (international) JPIC groups

- Franciscans International through Br Clark Berge

JPIC groups in other Provinces –Australia, Europe, Americas

- Produce the JPIC Newsletter
- Parihaka – following our National Retreat and attendance at the AGM of Nga Manu Korihi: Parihaka Network, it has been difficult to find how we can usefully support Parihaka (despite several emails). Next step will be to contact Rob Ritchie re where to from here. Any Parihaka information we have should be put on the website
- Hold a National JPIC Meeting every three years in the year between National Retreat and Convocation

Newsletter

- Four editions per year
 - March with articles in by February
 - June with articles in by May
 - September with articles in by August
 - December with articles in by November

These will hopefully come out between editions of Tau

- The Newsletter should go onto the website
- The Steering Group will post a copy of the Newsletter to each non-email connected Tertiary (rather than asking Area Animators to do this as has happened until now)
- The Newsletter is produced by Brother Damien from material sent to him
- A copy should be sent to Jimmy and Sam (at least)

JPIC Meeting

- It was decided we should hold a National JPIC Meeting every 3 years – next meeting 2019 (the year without either Convocation or National Retreat)
- It should be an overnight (Sat / Sun) meeting, preferably with billets or similar
- The purpose of the meeting would be to:
 - decide on a new theme (or continue with the same focus)
 - appoint a steering group for a 3 year cycle
 - discuss JPIC issues
 - listen to JPIC speakers
 - attend JPIC workshops

Theme - Climate Change

- Climate Change is to be the theme / focus until at least 2019 when we hope to have the next JPIC meeting
- This theme fits
 - Justice
 - Peace Climate Wars, Climate Refugees
 - Integrity of Creation
- Resources will be put on the JPIC website and linked to Work, Study and Prayer
 - Recommend A'Rocha study on Climate Change (free)
 - Other sources eg, Richard Rohr, TSSF Europe, Assisi Papers, F.I.
- Resources will also be shared with Area Animators

Area Animators

- Points of contact re website resources
Source stories etc
Encourage people to engage **Animate**
- Engaging includes Prayer
Study / writing
Work

Work Study Prayer

We are not solely a contemplative Order.

Principal for Day 13: Tertiaries desire to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ, whom we serve in the three ways of Prayer, Study and Work. In the life of the Order as a whole these three ways must each find full and balanced expression, but it is not to be expected that all members devote themselves equally to all of them. Each individual's service will vary according to his or her abilities and circumstances, yet each individual member's Personal Rule of Life must include each of the three ways.

Melanesia

- It is important that we have a 2 way relationship with Melanesia re JPIC
- We need to find out how to include Melanesia
 - through their prayer for the issues we are addressing
 - through our prayer for the issues they are addressing

- through other ways we could support them – climate change is an urgent issue for them
- What other issues can we support
- Newsletter - send to Jimmy and Sam Faga

Website

We discussed what JPIC elements we would like to see on the JPIC section of the website:

- Beginning Statement – *To understand justice, peace and integrity of creation (JPIC) it is essential once again to recall that they are, above all, values. . . .* (see the end of this report)
 - Include Jenny Blood’s poem - see below
- Current theme with links to resources
- Newsletter - links - what others are doing
- Melanesia (after conversation)
- Parihaka – approved links
 - Newsletter information
- Links
 - What others are doing in relation to the current JPIC theme
 - JPIC stories about what others are doing unrelated to the theme
 - Faith & Spirituality
 - Other Provinces JPIC
 - Franciscans International
- Steering Group and Area Animators

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. 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.

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

Prayer

**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)