

# Presentations at the International JPIC Congress, Vossenack 2000.

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## ***Greetings, We Are Instruments Of Peace, Guided By The Holy Spirit***

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It was the same Spirit that moved the animating committee of our Office of “Justice and Peace” in Rome to come together to select an appropriate motto for this Congress.

It was not from its own strength, or from its own authority, or even from its own power, or from its own desire to carry out from who we are that which we are, but rather is it only through the light of the Spirit that dwells in us, which converts us into instruments of peace and love.

For me there is nothing more desirable than to wish that it would be this light of the Spirit of God that would illuminate us during these days, all of us who have gathered to celebrate this first Congress of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation. I wish to declare this Congress open with the desire that we all may be instruments of peace one with the other, called and sent to offer the Good News of love to all human beings.

I wish to cordially greet all the Sisters and Brothers who come from far and near. At this moment I cannot give the number of nations represented here. But I am so pleased that all the Continents and all the Conferences are here present. This is a sign of confidence and of encouragement to us, the organizers of this Congress. I wish to greet all the participants who are also coordinators in the Provinces; I also salute the members of the animating committee, the collaborators of the different services such as the simultaneous translation, Secretariat, kitchen, refectory, the technical aspects and so many more, and I greet all those who have helped, who are helping and those who will help us to make these days successful. I greet in a special way our invited guests, those who are already present and those who will make themselves present.

I wish to salute the brothers of this house, who right from the beginning did not place any objection or doubt on our possibility to be here in Vossenack and who made us so cordially welcome. The idea of celebrating the Congress here came from myself but it took flight on being received by the brothers of this fraternity and they really have made great efforts to prepare a suitable environment for us. Enthusiasm flows from their eyes definitively on experiencing participation in the worldwide brotherhood.

I greet you all cordially in the name of the Minister General, Giacomo Bini. All our efforts to have him participate here in Vossenack were unfruitful because of his crowded agenda. He wishes us a fraternal meeting and that our work be for the good of the worldwide fraternity. In his place we have here with us the Vicar General of the Order, Stephen Ottenbreit, who honors us with his presence. Next Sunday he will preside at the Eucharist in Cologne where the tomb of Blessed Duns Scotus is found.

I also greet you very cordially on behalf of the Minister Provincial of this

Province, Klaus Joseph Färber. Due to other important commitments on his agenda he is impeded from coming but he expresses his pleasure at the Congress being celebrated in one of the houses of the Franciscan Province of Cologne. He extends a cordial welcome to us.

At the end of my greeting permit me to wish you all some fruitful days, may they run, in all their phases, filled with peace despite the tension of work. I am truly happy that you are here. Let us begin our work then, as Instruments of Peace directed and guided by the light of the Holy Spirit.