

# ***The Challenges Of JPIC Animation***

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## **Initial Stage**

When I was first named as general coordinator for JPIC in the Institute, there was no existing office, no team to work with me, no past history to guide me. (Of course, this has its advantages and disadvantages).

I had certain questions about the venue of the JPIC bureau: should it be in Rome or in another, poor continent?

Where to begin? With whom do I reflect? With whom do I plan?

Fortunately, I had the full support, encouragement and confidence of the Superior General with whom I drew up a job description, which was later approved by the whole general council. In keeping with this job description, contacts were made with the provinces (initially through a survey); province JPIC coordinators were named by their respective provinces; contacts were made with other religious congregations and NGOs;

*I was invited to edit a monthly JPIC bulletin, which includes sharing from the provinces, and information on global realities.*

## **Difficulties at this stage:**

One of the major difficulties I had at the beginning was with regard to the various concepts and understanding of justice, especially on the part of those who saw it merely as social action, because for me, justice is all about right relationships.

Difficulties on the part of the provincial JPIC coordinators: (i) lack of conviction and motivation on the part of certain JPIC coordinators; (ii) feeling of being 'alone' and 'isolated' with no support and encouragement; (iii) no clear job description; (iv) lack of coordination and collaboration with other teams and commissions within provinces; (v) no budget.

## **Highlights of the Evolution of my JPIC Journey**

Another FMM was nominated to work with me.

Increasing Cupertino from the provinces (provincials and coordinators).

The JPIC sessions/workshops in the FMM provinces (at their invitation), and the talks/seminars for other congregations and groups energized me and helped me in my ongoing formation.

The increasing involvement with Franciscans International (FI): (i) enriched me in my animation work, and in my Franciscan response focusing on the Poor, creation and peace making; (ii) facilitated contacts with the UNO and the wider Franciscan family.

At the general chapter of 1996 *Living justice as artisans of peace* was unanimously voted in as the 1st Orientation for the whole Institute. Such an option gave a whole new impetus to my work of JPIC animation.

Since the general chapter we have had meetings at continental level (except in the Americas) for provincials and province JPIC coordinators. These meetings have contributed to overcoming some of the difficulties experienced at the initial stages, for example: (i) JPIC coordinators became more motivated; (ii) an increasing number of provinces have begun to name JPIC teams and commissions; (iii) job descriptions are becoming clearer, at least for some; (iv) more co-ordination and collaboration with other teams and commissions within provinces; (v) The JPIC manual has become a resource book and tool in the hands of many sisters.

### **Spiritual Journey**

Being a JPIC coordinator has had its joys and sorrows, its lights and shadows, moments of death and moments of resurrection.

The JPIC workshops, which always included a study on the biblical concept of justice, have contributed to my re-imagining of God and Jesus.

JPIC animation has enriched my spirituality, and in particular my Franciscan vocation, and vice versa.

Being a JPIC animator, I have been constantly challenged to be credible, and to be coherent – to be just and to be a peacemaker.

As a Franciscan, I have given importance to three Franciscan values in my life and in my work: Franciscan minority, reconciliation, and non-violence.