

Report by the Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation Office:

1998-2000

**To The International JPIC
Congress, Vossenack,
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Introduction

This report is divided into four sections followed by a brief conclusion: a review of the proposals of the 1997 JPIC International Council and their implementation, a report on the visits to the Conferences and other visits made by the office during the past three years, a section on additional work and projects and finally a report on the office budgets.

1. Review of the Final Proposals of the 1998 JPIC International Council Meeting and Their Implementation

Ten proposals were made to the General Definitory, including revised statutes for the Council and for the Rome office. Many of the proposals were accepted with significant modifications. They were: Jubilee 2000 – Environmental Justice; Franciscan Peace Mission in Colombia, Geneva FI office, Animation, JPIC Manuel, Formation, Franciscans International, Collaboration among the Conferences, JPIC Rome office and Statutes.

1.1 Environmental Justice/Refugees, migrant workers, IDP's and ethnic Minorities: The Council proposed that this project be worked from the perspective of the Jubilee 2000 call to promote the forgiveness of debt, the liberation of slaves and the restitution of lands within the context of the 1997 General Chapter's Resolution (From Memory to Prophecy: Orientations and Proposals n 8.4).

"Concerned that the situation of so many people who are forced to abandon their lands, particularly the migrant workers, the refugees, the ethnic minorities solicit the General Definitory, through the Office of JPIC, in collaboration with all the Conferences and Provinces, to create a network of personnel and resources to intervene in the plight of the refugees."

The Rome office promoted a survey to establish what the friars are already doing. The results of the survey are available from the JPIC office. The European Conference JPIC animators promoted two meetings in Geneva in 1998 and Sarajevo in 1999, responding to two of the Council's requests (promotion of JPIC in Initial formation and Refugees). Brothers working with refugees in four Conferences met separately to share ideas (encouraged by the JPIC Rome office) and make proposals that were eventually shared at a Continental meeting in Barcelona in June 2000 by one representative from Conference.

The JPIC animators of the four Conferences of the Americas met in Washington in December 1999 to establish criteria and priorities for a new JPIC office for the Americas. One of the priorities was to support migrants. Many Conferences are working this priority: Brazil for the landless, Colombia for the internally displaced, Philippines for ethnic minorities, Mexico for migrants and many of the African fraternities for refugees.

Franciscans International's office in Geneva supported this priority by bringing many issues before the Human Rights Commission meetings from 1998-2000, especially in relation to Brazil, Mexico, Pakistan and Colombia. Several brothers participated in these meetings and were able to network with other NGOs, highlight abuses and make constructive suggestions.

1.2 Franciscan Peace Mission in Colombia: The Minister General sent a letter to the Provincial Ministers of both Colombian Provinces in December 1998, endorsing the Franciscan Peace Mission and encouraging them to work together for peace and reconciliation. No financial commitment was made by the General Government to support projects, as in the case of the Peace Mission to the Balkans. Previously the JPIC office and Conferences focused attention on the Balkans and tried to help brothers be instruments of peace during some very difficult years. Francisco visited Colombia at the beginning of 1999. He met

with the JPIC Commissions of both provinces separately and together. The proposal for the Peace Mission has a triple dimension: ideas and actions for peace and reconciliation within individual Provinces, common initiatives and support from the Order. A final meeting took place with both Minister Provincials present. They agreed to study revised mission proposals at their earliest convenience. The human rights violations continue unabated. Impunity is estimated to be in the region of 98%. The plan to increase US assistance to \$1.3 billion will without doubt move the war into a more dangerous and intense level resulting in increased displacement and violations to human rights.

1.3 Franciscans International and Geneva: On 29 March 1999 the Conference of the Franciscan Family (CFF – the six major superiors of the Franciscan Family, OFM, Capuchin, Conventual, TOR – men and women- and Secular Order) approved the new Charter of Franciscans International and agreed to be the Sponsors of FI. This effectively means a closer association between the Orders, Congregations and FI. The CFF have chosen thirteen (13) members for the new International Board of Directors of FI. This Board appoints and supervises the staff persons who have the task of overseeing FI's work at the United Nations in New York and Geneva.

The Rome JPIC office has actively encouraged brothers to work closely

with FI in general and with Geneva in particular and has assisted every year at the Human Right's Commission meeting. The General Definitory did not approve a request for a full time brother to work in coordination with the Rome Office and Geneva. The animation committee of the International Council held it's first meeting, December 1998, to show support for the office and learn first hand about their projects. The Rome JPIC office has included regular updates on the work in Contact. Several of our brothers, members of the European Conferences have given valuable support. Significant orientation on key issues and direct participation by our brothers from Colombia, Brazil, Mexico and Pakistan and orientation given by them has added to the credibility of the work and prestige that FI now enjoys. Following the meeting seven brothers, from different Continents, will go to Geneva for a two-day orientation promoted by the Rome JPIC office and sponsored by FI.

1.4 Animation: "Pax et Bonum," a JPIC office publication, traditionally was one of the principal tools for animation work. A decision by the General Definitory to assume Pax et Bonum as a Curia publication, for more general formation purposes, changed the nature of the publication and the possibilities open to the JPIC office for "ad intra " animation. The JPIC office has submitted an article for publication in all four editions since September 1998.

Contact, the International Council's Rome JPIC bi-monthly publication has been published fifteen times in the last three years. The availability of email on the part of fourteen of the fifteen JPIC Conference animators has enabled Contact to be distributed rapidly and more cost effectively. It is written in English and always translated into Spanish. Since 1999 it also has been translated into Italian. It is presumed Conference animators distribute it to all Provincial animators. Unfortunately, this has not always been the case. Some provincial animators make copies available to every local fraternity. Content depends on the availability of information supplied by Provinces and Conferences. Submissions have increased recently, but the majority of animators never make submissions. Visits made by the Rome office to the Conferences and the Provinces have been a source of information.

Fraternitas is read by many brothers, especially in places where few publications are available. It is principally an information medium. The Rome office encourages brothers to submit small articles keeping JPIC issues to the fore as part of the "ad intra" animation. Even fewer JPIC animators submit information to Fraternitas. Most articles related to JPIC have been submitted by the office.

The International Council called on the Minister General to address brothers in a letter about JPIC, encouraging them to include JPIC in their life and ministries. Brothers working with refugees and asy-

lum seekers of the Central European Conference asked the Minister General to dedicate one of his letters to the Order to highlight the plight of refugees. The General Definitory in their July meeting agreed on the theme of “Solidarity” for their October 2000 message. The JPIC office has constantly encouraged the General Definitory to write publicly on relevant issues pertaining to Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation. The letters sent to the US President and British Prime Minister in February 1998 calling on them “not to resort to violent means in the enforcement of the United Nations resolutions...and... calling for the elimination of arms of mass destruction in Iraq,” as well as a call made by the CFF in June 1998 “to the leaders of the world for the end of nuclear weapon development and the total elimination of all existing nuclear weapons;” and an appeal made in March 2000 for debt relief to be included on the agenda of the G8 in Japan in June 2000, are all positive encouragement to brothers. It also points out the importance of advocacy as a dimension in our Franciscan work for a just and peaceful world. However, such letters are not endorsed with much enthusiasm that leads in turn to many missed opportunities. In general, there is a reluctance to speak out. I believe there is a fear that this prophetic dimension of our vocation will be interpreted as political meddling.

1.5 JPIC Handbook: The General Definitory asked the JPIC office in February

1999 to publish the JPIC Resource Book. The office made the basic text available in English and Spanish to the Conferences for publication. The English Speaking Conference and the Spanish/Portuguese Conference, through the Cantabria Provinces’ editorial, published the book. More than a thousand copies were sent to Latin America. Translation and publication has also been completed in French (COPEF), Italian (COMPI), Croatian (South-Slav), Portuguese (Brazil) and German (MEFRA). Work is underway on translations into Korean, Japanese and Mandarin.

The Australian Province published and distributed copies in English to all Provinces of Asia and Africa. The objective of making a resource available to animators has finally been achieved. The present challenge is to use this resource for animation. Several Conferences have programmed seminars and formation days based on the Manuel for 2001-2002.

1.6 Formation and JPIC: Progress has been slow on the integration of JPIC into initial formation programs. Some Provinces and Conferences have made efforts to elaborate programs. The European Conferences decided to make Initial Formation one of its two special priorities between 1998-2000. Many Provinces have included JPIC in formal programs while others are working on them. This aspect remains one of the weakest and one of the most important challenges for JPIC commissions. Brothers in initial for-

mation need to appreciate JPIC as an integral part of the Franciscan vocation. The JPIC office has encouraged collaboration between JPIC commissions and formation commissions in Provinces. On an official level, apart from a very minor participation by the JPIC office in two courses organized for formators by the Secretariat of formation, little collaboration has been achieved to date. Hopefully, participation in this Congress by the Secretary of Formation will facilitate and motivate greater collaboration in the future.

The idea for this Congress arose during the last International Council meeting and has been one of the most significant achievements of the last three years. We will leave the final evaluation and appraisal of its significance and usefulness to the Congress itself. The animation committee has inverted much time and energy in its organization.

1.7 Collaboration among Conferences:

Several interesting inter-Conference initiatives have been achieved. Each year since 1998, the JPIC presidents of four of the five European conferences have met. In December 1999 the JPIC Conference presidents' of the Americas met in Washington. The principal objective of these meetings was to look for ways of strengthening cooperation at a Continental level as well as coordinating work with the Washington office for Latin America. Some Cooperation was also achieved around the Colombia Peace initiative.

1.8 JPIC Rome Office: The General Definitory accepted the Proposal made at the last International Council meeting to name a Vice-Director of the office, but an additional assistant was not approved. Mr. T.J. Jones continued to collaborate with the office until June 1999. Due to other work commitments he could no longer continue to work at the office. Sr. Celine Monteiro FMM has been collaborating on two afternoons a week since September 1999. Fernando Figueredo, Colombia, while studying in the Antonianum, also helped out in the office in 1998-1999, especially with work on the JPIC Manuel and Spanish language translations. Bro. Tito Fernandez has provided invaluable help organizing this congress during the last two months.

1.9 Statutes: The General Definitory eventually approved the revised Statutes for the International Council and the JPIC office with some modifications (March 26, 1999). Copies of the Council Statutes are included in the JPIC Manuel.

1.10 Full-Time JPIC Workers: This continues to be an ideal. The General Definitory did not consider, the recommendation of the last International Council meeting, "to encourage Provincial Governments to appoint full-time animators." There are currently two full-time animators, both of whom are in the US. Also in the US two Provinces have full-time lay animators or collaborators. Three Provinces have part-time broth-

ers, one in the US, one in Mexico and another in the Philippines. Some Provinces have freed brothers for JPIC work with other organizations: a Pakistani brother works for JPIC in the local Dioceses, Irian Jaya has two brothers working with the Diocesan Human Rights office, three brothers are working for FI in NY and Geneva. Several brothers are working full-time in Brazil with the landless, not to mention several brothers working for refugees and asylum seekers in Europe and elsewhere. It would be too lengthy to mention all the JPIC related areas where brothers are involved. However, the ideal should not be forgotten to have full-time or part-time animators in our Provinces.

2. Fifteen Conferences Visited

Visits made to animate Province and Conference JPIC commissions were a priority for the office. The objectives for visits were: to establish a personal relationship with JPIC coordinators; to listen and understand the diversity of problems, both in the provinces and in the society and the commission's responses; to re-establish/organize commission in some conference; to encourage and help in the elaboration of plans for each Conference; to promote the JPIC International Council and General Chapter's priorities relating to JPIC issues; to explain how the JPIC Rome office and other Conferences work; to encourage Provincials and other friars to support the work; to meet with formators and friars in initial formation, encouraging them to incorporate JPIC

into formation programmers. Between 1998 and 2000 the following Conferences and entities were visited:

2.1 Mexico/Central America/Caribbean: A meeting took place in Coyoucan, Mexico, April 27/28, 1998 and again in San Salvador, February 1999. Four Peace Missions were evaluated and an additional one proposed for 1999/2000.

2.2 COPEF: The French Conference meeting took place in Strasbourg, October 23-24, 1998 and the office participated on that occasion. The contribution of a brother working with refugees in Dole, who subsequently represented the Conference in the European meeting in Barcelona in June 2000, added focus to the meeting. The gathering provided an opportunity for the office to share on JPIC international issues and on the follow up to International Council priorities.

2.3 Central Europe: Following on the heels of the French Conference meeting the JPIC office participated at the Conference meeting in Munich, November 6-8, 1998. All German provinces as well as the Swiss and Dutch representatives were present. They agreed to look for ways to motivate the participation of the Austrian, Hungarian and other Eastern European entities in the following meetings. The Rome Office participated on three occasions at meetings of the Provincials of the German and French speaking Conferences.

2.4 Brazil: Both Peter Schorr and Francisco O'Conaire participated in the Conference meeting in Belo Horizonte, 17-20 of November 1998. All entities were represented as well as the provincial of Rio Grande Du Sul, representing the Conference of Provincials. Among the points discussed was the organization of the 1998 JPIC formation meeting. The office gave a report on the General Definitorial understanding of JPIC, as well as relevant activities at an International level. Previously Francisco visited the province of St. Anthony, João Pessoa, and the Vice Province of the Assumption, Bacabal, met with brothers working in JPIC issues. Following the meeting the Vice Province of St. Francis was visited and meetings took place with brothers working with the landless movement, as well as with the landless themselves. Peter then visited the Province of the Immaculate Conception, San Pablo.

2.5 Bolivarian: Francisco met with all JPIC provincial coordinators from the Conference as well as both Colombian JPIC province commissions. A new Conference Coordinator was elected at the meeting in February 1999 in Bogota and a plan of action drawn upon. Supporting visits were made to friars in Barancabermeja, the scene of a massacre in 1997. Likewise, on a visit to Turbo, the friar coordinating the Colombian inter-religious JPIC commission was assured of the office's support for their work with internally displaced and the promotion of "peace communities".

2.6 South Slav Conference: a meeting was organized with the Bosnia JPIC Commission and the JPIC Coordinator from the Mortar Province, as well as JPIC Conference Coordinator.

2.7 COMPI: Two meetings by the JPIC office with Italian JPIC coordinators took place in Poggiobonsi, June 1999 and Maiori, March 15/16, 2000.

2.8 Southern-Cone: Participation at the Conference in Paraguay in June 1999. Francisco reflected with them on the theme of JPIC in initial formation programs, as well as meeting with the JPIC Conference commission, visited the JPIC Chile commission and met with many young friars in initial formation in Argentina and Chile.

2.9 SAAO Conference: Francisco met with JPIC provincial coordinators of the Conference, Bangalore, India, and October 1999 as well as visited two mission fraternities in Assam.

2.10 CONFRES: the office was present for the Spanish/Portuguese JPIC animators' meeting in Madrid, 25-26 September 1999 on the theme: "The qualities of and praxis for JPIC promoters." Also a meeting took place with the JPIC commission of the Betica Province.

2.11 English Speaking Conference: Two meetings with the English Speaking JPIC coordinators took place: May 13-15, 1998, in Washington and December 1999, in Cincinnati. The idea emerged at

the first of these meetings to ask the Holy Name Province to sponsor the office. This proposal was subsequently accepted.

2.12 West-Slav Conference:

Representatives of all five Polish provinces and one from the Czech Republic met with Francisco in Krakow on February 29, 2000. Communication with the Conference had not been easy, due to linguistic problems and no email address, and ways of facilitating a better flow of information were discussed. An invitation to participate in the Vossenack meeting was reiterated, due to the fact that no one from the conference had been registered. Afterwards, a short meeting took place with the student body of both the Province of the Immaculate Conception and of St. Mary of the Angles.

2.13 Sub-Sahara Conference: Three of the entities of the JPIC Conference commission met in Nairobi, 8-12 of May 2000. Statutes were elaborated for approval by Provincials in Feb 2001. Brothers will promote the JPIC handbook in Seminars and participate in the International congress on Racism to take place in South Africa in October 2001. The JPIC office got a better idea of some of the obstacles preventing more frequent meetings and better communication between entities of the Conference as well as with the JPIC Rome office.

2.14 East Asia Conference: All entities except one were present for the first meeting of the Conference JPIC commis-

sion in 10 years. It took place in Manila, June 7-11, 2000. A plan of action was drawn up which included a set of Statutes for the Conference. The cultural and linguistic differences call for a more understanding and patient approach to the organization and facilitation of meetings. All brothers felt strengthened and enthusiastic after the experience of meeting one another and hearing from the Rome office what was happening in the Order in relation to JPIC.

2.15 COMONA: The Custody of the Holy Land and the Vice-Province of Egypt were the entities of the last Conferences to be visited by the Rome JPIC office in July 2000. It was not possible to organize a meeting of the animators. For this reason three animators were visited individually in order to establish contact, encourage participation at the Vossenack meeting and to look for ways of supporting them in their job of animation. It also gave the Rome office a better idea of the conditions under which brothers have to minister as well as the approach to the work.

3. Other Visits by the JPIC Rome Office

3.1 UCLAF: 1998 and 2000. The office participated in both UCLAF meetings: April 20-25 in Guatemala City and May 1-6, 2000 in Caracas, Venezuela. On both occasions Provincials were encouraged to support JPIC initiatives in their provinces and an overview of JPIC in the Order and on the Continent was presented. Provincials were given written texts

of the presentation. The fraternal environment provided a good opportunity for JPIC issues and plans to be discussed at an informal level with many of the Provincials.

3.2 FCAO 1999: A Meeting with the Provincials of Asia in Manila, July 1999. A similar sharing with the Latin American Provincials took place. There was an opportunity for a formal sharing on JPIC in the Order. Informal meetings with individual provincial proved beneficial in promoting a better understanding of JPIC. At a meeting of the EAC provincials a case was made by the Rome office to reconvene the JPIC conference commission. After deliberation the go ahead was given.

3.3 Cuba: Acting on an invitation Francisco visited the brothers in Cuba, April 30-May 6, 1998, to look at ways to help organize a JPIC commission. The office has encouraged a meeting of the JPIC Conference commission to take place there as soon as possible to show solidarity with the brothers and to increase awareness and understanding of the Cuban reality.

3.4 Irish Province: Meeting with local fraternity JPIC coordinators of the Irish Province as well as participating in the JPIC formation course organized by the commission. (March 1998)

3.5 South Africa Province: The JPIC commission agreed to animate the Sub-Sahara Conference and help organize a

meeting for all JPIC coordinators of African entities before the Vossenack meeting.

3.6 Zimbabwe Custody: The Custos committed himself to keep JPIC issues at the forefront of the Custody and to establish a JPIC commission with the possible participation of some of their theology students.

3.7 Singapore Custody: meeting with the JPIC commission and friars in initial formation, July 1999.

3.8 Philippines Province: Meeting with all the local JPIC coordinators and friars in initial formation living in inserted fraternities (July 1999).

3.9 Indonesia Province: Francisco met with the friar responsible for the human rights' office of Irian Jaya. Visited several priests, religious and laity in Jakarta looking for an overview of the reality in Indonesia and in East Timor. (July 1999)

3.10 Washington Office: Meeting of the JPIC Conference coordinators of the four Latin American Conferences with the ESC executive committee, December 1999, to establish the office. Agreement was reached on criteria, themes, objectives and mechanisms of communication for two years.

3.11 Hague Appeal for Peace: Participation in "The Hague Appeal for Peace" in May along with the JPIC animators of the Franciscan Family. Over 8000 people

participated in a three-day Conference representing all major NGOs working for peace.

3.12 Balkan Crisis: Two visits (May/September) made by the JPIC office to Albania, Montenegro and Kosovo to assess the situation, support the friars and oversee the distribution of the generous contributions made to the Curia for refugees and rebuilding projects.

3.13 Brussels Formation Meeting: A meeting of young simply professed friars from Ireland, Belgium, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Slovakia and Germany met in Brussels to reflect on the new role of Friars Minor in a United Europe. The JPIC commission of the Dutch province organized it and Peter Schorr OFM spoke to the gathering.

3.14 Guardians' Meeting: A meeting with Guardians of the Tyrolian Province at Hall/Innsbruck on the theme of how to engage friars in justice, peace and integrity of creation work.

3.15 A Conference with young friars of the Tyrolian Province (Innsbruck) at Schwaz on JPIC work. Contact with new Provincials and Visitators during their annual meeting at the General Curia. A series of useful questions may help ascertain the quality of the Franciscan JPIC dimension of Provincial life and ministries.

4. Additional work and Projects

4.1 Animation Committee: The animation committee has four friars plus the Direc-

tor and Assistant-Director of the office. They met on seven occasions between 1997 –2000. The office organizes these meetings and the subsequent follow up. Meetings took place in: Rome, May 24-28, 1998; Geneva, December 6-9, 1998; Dublin, May 17-20, 1999; Geneva, August 10, 1999; Vossenack, November 22-25, 1999; Rome, February 12-17, 2000; Vossenack, June 24-30, 2000. At the meeting in Dublin the committee make some pertinent observations.

Strengths:

1. Openness (spiritual energy) to one another, honesty and support for each member.
2. Improvement in participation/ understanding of the role as an animation committee.
3. An important space in terms of fraternity and a formative experience.
4. Stabilizing force for JPIC.
5. Expertise coming together.
6. Mutual support both through ideas and at a personal level in a trusting environment.
7. Sharing of experiences.
8. Growth in JPIC dimension of our lives.
9. Good ideas and engagement.
10. Creative conversations.

Limitations:

1. Members are busy and communication after meetings is difficult.
2. Preparation for meetings could be better.
3. People arrive tired, exhausted and need a day to relax.

4. Not always easy to promote JPIC though it is a priority for the General Government.
5. Members are very busy and thus less creative. There is not sufficient time to do both the jobs of General Definitor and Director of the office at the same time.
6. Difficulties for members to remaining connected with one another between meetings.

Suggestions:

1. Connect with other key friars who could be supportive of the work.
2. The role of the Animation Committee could be bigger than just two meetings a year.
3. Need for leisure time at the meetings.
4. Divide work into sub-committees.
5. Expand the competence of the Animation Committee with the presence of new people at a broader base.
6. Communication is vital – need to keep in touch with short personal notes.
7. Need to go back for more reflection, deepen our themes in the field.

4.2 Inter-Congregational JPIC Commission:

The JPIC office participates (when possible) in the monthly meetings of the JPIC promoters of other religious congregations based in Rome. Efforts are made to coordinate work and keep informed of church and the world events related to JPIC. It is not easy to promote common projects so meetings serve more for shar-

ing ideas. The Rome office encourages JPIC commissions to liaise with other religious as well as other organizations with similar goals.

4.3 International Recognition for JPIC work in the Order:

the International JPIC Council and JPIC Rome office were given International recognition for commitment to the poor and work in promoting JPIC issues around the world. The Italian foundation “Antonio Labasi” makes the award in Catania, Sicily, in June 2000.

4.4 Inter Franciscan JPIC commission:

this is a group composed of JPIC coordinators of the CFF. They meet officially twice a year and look for ways to encourage a more coordinated Franciscan response to JPIC issues around the world. The structures of each group are very different which makes a more coordinated response complicated. However, the group is committed to encouraging grass root cooperation between members of the Franciscan family. There have been some small projects: CFF Nuclear Arms letter 1998, Urgent Action Appeal Network, Participation in the Hague Peace Congress 1999. All members of the family are represented and all meetings have had an excellent attendance.

4.5 Urgent Action Appeals:

the office has promoted a series of Urgent Action Appeals over the years, especially when our own brothers have been in danger. Several campaigns for Rodrigo Peret, Brazil, and brothers in Colombia were

launched when their lives were in danger. These campaigns were extremely successful in galvanising support. Several thousand letters were sent to relevant authorities. On appeal from the Franciscan Family many letters were sent to Colombian civil authorities by the JPIC office and they encouraged others to do likewise, in relation to human rights abuses and in support of the Tribunal of opinion in Barancabermeja. In order to respond in a more coordinated way the inter-Franciscan JPIC commission, based in Rome, has set up an Urgent Action Network that invites members of the Franciscan family to participate.

4.6 1999 JPIC office Report: the JPIC office made a report to the Minister General, the General Definitory and to all Provincials of the Order on JPIC activities and projects in 1999. Copies of the report were sent to all JPIC Provincial coordinators. The objective was to keep the Minister General and the Minister Provincials informed.

4.7 JPIC Budget 1998-2000. (cf. Annex) The JPIC budget has progressively decreased in size over three years. Unfortunately, uncontested comments at the last General Chapter on the size of the JPIC budget and the lack of clarification due to the absence of the Director of the office have negatively affected the JPIC budget. The General Government is not in favor of the office financing projects in the Order, at least JPIC projects. They want the Provinces and Conferences to

do this. In the past possibilities existed to finance JPIC projects through the office budget. This is no longer the case. For this reason the budget is geared to helping the JPIC office staff keep the office running and enable them to visit Conferences.

We present three charts (cf. Annex), one for each year divided into four categories: visits, office expenses, collaborators and Animation Committee.

Conclusion

The JPIC office has tried to directly support JPIC Provincial animators of the Order, especially through direct contact with Conference animators and visits to Conferences. Whatever is worth achieving is done at the grass-roots level. The JPIC Rome office has tried to keep JPIC on the Curia agenda, create space for JPIC animators at Provincial levels and facilitate networking between Conferences and between the Order and other entities involved in JPIC work. We have encouraged the implementation of the projects of the JPIC International Council. For the first year and a half of the new General Government the office had the sense of being under scrutiny. Thankfully, that phase has passed. The fact that the Director of the office is a member of the General Definitory has enabled the JPIC office to achieve more than would have ordinarily been expected after the negativity of the last General Chapter towards JPIC. Thanks to good structures and very committed brothers around the world, JPIC is still on the Order's agenda. We

perceive a movement to incorporate JPIC into the broader evangelization projects of the Order. This in itself is not a problem, if and when the essence of JPIC is respected and those responsible for promoting evangelization are committed to the JPIC dimension of evangelization. In fact we encourage JPIC commissions to work closely with other commissions of the Province and work towards incorporating JPIC into all dimensions of the life of the Province.

However, the danger exists that an incorporation of JPIC into other structures may be a subtle way of removing it altogether. In one Conference JPIC has been incorporated into a commission called "Dialogue and Solidarity." JPIC animators will have to be vigilant in analyzing undercurrents guiding policy changes and vocal in presenting constructive criticism of plans which may undermine the JPIC dimension of our Franciscan life and ministry.