

JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION

Orientation 2003-2009

A. Importance. General Constitutions

“The friars, as followers of St. Francis, are bound to lead a radically evangelical life, namely: to live in a spirit of prayer and devotion and in fraternal fellowship; they are to offer a witness of penance and minority; and, in charity towards all mankind, they are to announce the Gospel throughout the whole world and *to preach reconciliation, peace and justice by their deeds; and to show respect for creation*” (Art. 1, 2).

“Mindful that they have been created in the image of the beloved Son of God, the friars are to praise the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit along with *all their creatures*; they are to restore all good things to the Lord God Most High and give him thanks for everything” (Art. 20, 1).

“The friars are to live in this world *as promoters of justice and as messengers and agents of peace*, overcoming evil and doing good.

The friars shall *proclaim peace by word* and cherish it so deep in their hearts that no one is stirred to anger or scandal, but rather that everyone is called back to peace, meekness and kindness through them” (Art. 68, 1-2).

“Following closely in the footsteps of Saint Francis, the friars are *to maintain a reverent attitude towards nature*, threatened from all sides today, in such a way that they may restore it completely to its condition of brother and to its role of usefulness to all mankind for the glory of God the Creator” (Art. 71).

“Since a large part of mankind is still in bondage to need, injustice and oppression, *the friars*, along with all people of good will, *are to devote themselves to establishing a society of justice, liberation and peace in the Risen Christ*. They are to investigate carefully the causes of each situation, and take part in undertakings of charity, justice and international solidarity” (Art. 96, 2).

Preference to the poor

“After the example of Saint Francis, whom the Lord led among lepers, *each and every friar is to give preference to the "marginalised", to the poor and oppressed, to the afflicted and infirm*; rejoicing when they live among them, they are to show them mercy.

In fraternal fellowship with all the lowly of the earth and looking on current events *from the viewpoint of the poor*, the friars are to exert every effort so that the poor themselves become more fully conscious of their own human dignity and that they may safeguard and increase it (Art. 97, 1-2).

“The friars are to strive to listen reverently to others with unfeigned charity, learn willingly from the people among whom they live, *especially from the poor, who are our teachers, and be ready to enter into dialogue with everyone*” (Art. 93,1).

“*In protecting the rights of the oppressed*, the friars are to renounce violent action and have recourse to means that are otherwise available even to the powerless.

Conscious also of the terrible dangers that threaten the human race, ***the friars are to denounce in the strongest terms every kind of warlike action and the arms race*** as a very serious calamity for the world and a very great injury to the poor; they are to spare neither work nor sacrifice to build up God's kingdom of peace” (Art. 69, 1-2).

“As a witness to their poverty and charity, the friars are bound to relieve the needs of the Church, offer assistance to those who are in real necessity, ***and share what they have with the poor, out of the goods destined for the use of the fraternity***, in accordance with the particular Statutes” (Art. 53, 2).

“Goods that are given for the use of the friars are ***to be shared for the benefit of the poor*** in accordance with what the particular Statutes legitimately prescribe” (Art. 72, 3).

B. Decisions the General Chapter, 2003

1. **General Definitory.** “*The Chapter requests the General Definitory to provide the JPIC Office with adequate personnel and means to achieve its objectives*” (Lgp, 38).

2. **Entities.** “*The General Chapter requests that, during the six-year period 2003-2009 and with the help of the Office of JPIC, all the Entities of the Order should:*

- a) *examine our style of life and its impact on creation, take on more responsible behaviour with regard to the environment and defend the justice of the environment;*
- b) *promote a non-violent but active style of life and pay particular attention to the resolution of conflicts;*
- c) *pay special attention to refugees, migrants, ethnic minorities, landless people and fugitives*” (Lgp,39)

3. **The Council for Economic Affairs.** “*The General Chapter requests that, during the threeyear period 2003-2006, the Council for Economic Affairs, on the general and provincial levels, should draw up guidelines for the responsible use of its resources*” (Lgp,40).

4. **PUA and Franciscan Institutes.** “*The General Chapter requests that courses dedicated to JPIC, in which special attention is paid to the topics of creation and non-violence be established at the PUA of Rome and recommends that similar courses be given in all the Franciscan Institutes of Higher Education*” (Lgp,41).

C. Recommendations the General Government

1. Priorities 2003-2009

“The love of Christ leads us to the "lepers" of our times, to the poor, and calls us to be poor among them, servants of all and submissive to all, peaceful and humble of heart. The love of Christ persuades us to be real minors and to live "with nothing of our own" (Fcfw, 25-26).

“Faithful to the condition of minors, the Friars should be bearers of peace, through their life rather than by word, in whatever place they may find themselves. They should encourage reconciliation between people and respect for creation, denouncing every kind of violence, injustice and deceit (cfr. LgP 12-13). The Friars should not spare any effort in being, through their lives, a sign of a new humanity that walks towards freedom and peace -cfr. LgP 35-” (*Fcfw*,27)

2. VIII Centenary of the foundation of OFM

The celebration could become a “providential time to nourish, by means of the liberating offer of the Gospel, “our divided, unequal and hungry-for-meaning world, as Francis and Clare of Assisi did in their time” (*LgP 2*) **by promoting reconciliation, justice and peace**” (*Tgo*, p. 10).

Our Journey of Celebration 2006-2009

2006

Where are we going? “Towards a re-reading of our being a Fraternity-in-mission, according to the specifics of the Friars Minor, accepting the call to “go throughout the whole earth” (*LtO* 9), to announce “peace and penance to men” (*ICel* 29) and to re-discover the face of the leper and of Jesus Christ, the poor and crucified Lord” (*Tgo*, p. 16).

Existential gesture: “Concrete signs of sharing, minority, solidarity and of making restitution to “the lepers” of our time through a more sober and essential life” (*Tgo*, p. 17).

An International Congress on Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation: “**Embracing the excluded of today**”.

2007

Existential gesture: “A new community and public commitment oriented towards solidarity, new forms of evangelisation, a new availability for the *missio ad gentes*; concrete choices **for justice, peace and the integrity of creation**; initiatives in favour of ecumenical, inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue” (*Tgo*, p. 19).

2008-2009

Means

- “Taking care, in every Entity, of concrete forms of expropriation and the restitution of our goods to the poor, who are our masters and patrons.
- Assessing, in every local Fraternity, the use of our space in view also of choices for solidarity and sharing” (*Tgo*, p. 21).
- Solidarity fund for the poor.

JPIC Office
Rome

Lgp: May the Lord give you peace.

Fcfw,: Followers of Christ for a fraternal world

Tgo: The grace of our origins

THE DECALOGUE OF JPIC ANIMATORS

- **Closeness to the Fraternity.** He should show himself to be very close to the Friars of the local and provincial Fraternity in the everyday life of his Fraternity and Province. His mission is to be a leaven which ferments the mass, the grain of salt which gives taste. To do this, the JPIC Animator should not feel he is, or be seen to be, a “foreign body” in the everyday life of the Friars as this would gravely damage his work in favour of the noble cause in which he believes and for which he works.
- **Centred on Christ.** He should be well “centred” (focused) on Him, with his heart turned to the Lord, and “concentrated” on all the essential elements of the Franciscan charism. The JPIC Animator must be a man “impassioned” with God so as to be “impassioned” with mankind, like the prophets, transmitting at all times the beauty of following Christ according to the “forma vitae” which Francis left us.
- **Knowledge of reality.** He must profoundly know (a superficial knowledge is not enough to be able to make judgements) the reality which is lived in the different places of the world where there is any kind of violence in order to be capable of informing the Friars properly, give a judgement and create, in this way, a culture of peace, justice and integrity of creation.
- **Reflection with the Friars.** He should create an atmosphere of reflection on situations of violence and injustice in the Friars and offer them some material for formation and reflection, especially on the basis of the social doctrine of the Church so that Christian responses can be given to such situations (cf. *GGCC* 96,1).
- **Collaboration with the Secretariats.** He should collaborate intensely with the Secretariats for Formation and Study and for Evangelisation in order to be able to reach all the Friars. Only in this way will JPIC enter into the heart, life and mission of all the Friars.
- **Information to the fraternity.** He should inform the Ministers, their Definitories and all the Friars of the activities planned and of those activities which he, as a Delegate, has the intention of carrying out, making the Friars with responsibility for government participants in his own anxieties and hopes.
- **Elaboration of projects.** He should draw up a JPIC project, with its objectives and means, in “communion” with the Fraternal Life Project of the Province and evaluate it periodically. At the same time, the JPIC Animator must coordinate the activities in the area of JPIC which are being carried out in the Province.
- **Animation of the Friars.** He should animate the Friars to participate in the activities of JPIC programmed by the Province, the Conference and the local Church.
- **Collaboration with other institutions.** He should collaborate actively with the other JPIC Animators of the Diocese, Conference, Franciscan Family and of other religious.
- **Constant conversion.** He should feel that he himself is in an on-going process of formation and conversion¹.

JPIC Office- Rome

¹ Rodríguez C. José, *The commitment of the Friars Minor to Justice and Peace* (II European Congress for Delegates of Justice and Peace of the Franciscan Order, Santiago de Compostela, 2004).

OFM STRUCTURES FOR JPIC ANIMATION

SUPPORT FOR GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Secretariat:
Formation
and Studies

Secretariat:
Evangeliza-
tion

JPIC
Office

OFM

FRANCIS-
CAN
FAMILY

CHURCH

SOCIETY

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General:

JPIC Office:

- Animator
- Assistant

Council
Commitee

Intermediate:

Conference:

- . Commissions
- . Presidents

Local:

Entities:

- . Commissions
- . Animators
- . Activists

JPIC OFFICE, ROME
Principal Areas of Animation

FORMATION:

- Prepare resources
- Publish the bulletin "Contact"
- Other initiatives;

COORDINATION

- International Congresses
- Meetings of the International Council and the Animation Committee;

COMUNICACION WITH:

- The general Government;
- The Presidents of the JPIC conferences;
- The JPIC Animators of the Entities

COLLABORATION with:

- The general Secretariats for Formation and Studies and for Evangelization;
- The Antonianum;
- The Conferences and Entities;
- The Commission for Dialogue;
- The other organisms of the Franciscan family, of the Church and of Society.

JPIC OFFICE, ROME

Presentation

1. General organization JPIC

- a) At the General level
 - The General Office for JPIC is composed of an Animator, an Assistant and, “if it is opportune, a general Definitor to serve as liaison with the general Government” (Cfr. ppSS Art. 3, 1);
 - The International Council for JPIC (Cfr. GGSS, Art. 40, 1);
 - The Animation Committee (Cfr. ppSS Art 3, 3).

- b) At the Conference level
 - A Commission for JPIC, composed of members from each Entity (Cfr. GGSS Art. 41, 1).
 - A President (coordinator, delegated).

- c) At the Entity level
 - A Commission or Council, wherever possible (Cfr. GGSS Art. 42, 1);
 - Un Animador;

Each Conference and Entity is to draw up its particular Statutes for the service of JPIC (cfr. GGSS Art. 40, 2; 41, 1; 42, 3).

2. Goal of the general Office for JPIC

“The General Office for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC) at the Curia of the Friars Minor assists the Minister General and his Definitorium by animating and coordinating all that which has to do with Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation, in conformity with the General Constitutions, the General Statutes, and the decisions of General Chapters and Plenary Councils of the Order” (ppSS, Art. 1).

3. The main tasks of the general Office for JPIC:

- a) “To ensure that JPIC becomes part of the life and service of the Order by collaborating with the Secretariat for Formation and Studies as well as with the Secretariat for Evangelization, in cooperation with the JPIC Animators and Commissions of all levels” (GGSS Art. 39, 1).

- b) “To instruct the Friars on matters regarding JPIC” (GGSS Art. 39, 2)

4. Areas of animation for JPIC Office:

The friars who work in the JPIC Office develop activities in four principal areas: formation, coordination, communication and collaboration.

- a) Formation:
 - Prepare resources organized the General Definitory;
 - Publish the bulletin “Contact.”;

- b) Coordination:
 - Of International Congresses;
 - Of the meetings of the International Council and the Animation Committee;

c) Communication with:

- The General Government;
- The presidents of the JPIC conferences;
- The JPIC Animators of the Entities;

d) Collaboration with:

- The general Secretariats OFM for Formation and Studies and for Evangelization (congresses, resource material, courses, workshops, etc);
- The Pontifical University Antonianum (Chair for JPIC).
- The Conferences and Entities in the planning and execution of courses and workshops;
- The Commission for Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue;
- The other organisms of the Franciscan Family, the Church and society.

***JPIC Office
Rome***

GGSS: General Statutes;

ppSS: Particular Statutes for the JPIC Office.

**THE SPECIAL STATUTES
for the Office of “JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION”**

Nature and purpose

Art. 1

The General Office for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC), at the General Curia of the Friars Minor, offers help and assistance to the Minister General and his Definitory for animating and coordinating all that regards justice, peace and integrity of creation, in conformity with the General Constitutions, the General Statutes and the decisions of the General Chapters and Plenary Councils of the Order.

Art. 2

The main duty of the General Office for “Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation”, in dependence on the Minister General, is:

1. to assure that JPIC becomes a part of the life and service of the Order by collaborating with the Secretariat for Formation and Studies, as well as with the Secretariat for Evangelisation, in cooperation with the JPIC Animators and Commissions of whatever level;
2. to instruct the Friars about questions regarding JPIC” (GGSS Art. 39, 1-2).

Organisation

Art. 3

1. The General Office of JPIC is composed of an Animator and an Assistant; and, if it seems opportune, by a General Definitory as a link with the General Government. The Members of the Office are appointed “ad nutum Ministri Generalis”.
2. “The General Office of JPIC is to be helped by the International Council for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation, constituted in accordance with the norms of the Special Statutes approved by the Definitory General” (GGSS art. 40,1).
3. The General Office for JPIC should have an Animation Committee, appointed by the General Definitory.

Art. 4

The task of the JPIC Animator is to put the decisions of the Minister General and his Definitory on justice, peace and the integrity of creation into practice.

He should, in particular:

1. inform the Minister General and his Definitory about all the commitments and activities of the Office and present, at the end of each year, a detailed programme for the coming year. This programme must be approved by the General Definitory;
2. coordinate the activities of the Office in collaboration with the Assistant;
3. organise the annual sessions of the Animation Committee and the meetings of the International Council (ICJPIC);
4. prepare, with the Animation Committee, an annual report on the activities of JPIC in the entire Order, to be sent to the General Definitory and all the Entities;
5. propose people competent in animation regarding specific projects in the field of JPIC to the Minister General;
6. collaborate with the Franciscan Family, with the universal Church and with public institutions that operate with the same objectives as the Office of JPIC.

Art. 5

The Assistant collaborates closely with the Animator General; and substitutes for him in the Office during his absence.

In addition, the Assistant has the duty of:

1. redacting and preserving the acts and documents of JPIC;
2. encouraging communications between the Government of the Order, the Conferences, the Entities and the local Animators on the topics and projects of JPIC;
3. working in the area of the administration of the Office;
4. keeping and updating the data bank for the different mailing lists of the Office.

Art. 6

Before the beginning of the financial year, the Animator of the Office, in close collaboration with the Bursar General, prepares a budget, which, after an examination by the Definitorial Economic Commission (DEC), is submitted to the Definitory General for approval. At the end of the year he presents the final balance.

The said STATUTES were up-dated by the General Definitory during its session of the 16th March 2005.

Br. José Rodríguez Carballo, OFM
Minister General

Br. Sandro Overend Rigillo, OFM
Secretary General

Prot. n. 095419