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Americas Social Forum

Agenda JPIC

21–26 March
Animation Committee
(Rome)

05–08 May
JPIC ESC Council
Meeting (USA)

14–18 June
JPIC EAC Council
Meeting (Japan)

21–27 June
Conference on Formation and JPIC SAAO
(Malaysia)

28–30 June
European Meeting of
the inserted Friaries
(Germany)

12–16 October
Animation Committee
(Spain)

17–23 October
European JPIC Congress
(Spain)

2–7 December
African JPIC Congress
(South Africa)

7–15 December
International OFM
JPIC meeting (South
Africa)

Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean

The assembly of the Conference was held in the Retreat House of Monte San Francisco, Guatemala, from the 23rd to 27th of February 2004. Br. José Carballo (Minister General), Br. Luis Cabrera and Br. Ignacio Muro (Definitors General for Latin America), Br. Massimo Fusarelli (Secretary for Formation), Br. Nestor Schwertz and Br. Vincenzo Brocanelli (Secretary for Evangelisation and Moderator for Missions) and Br. Rodrigo Péret (Director JPIC) were present on behalf of the General Curia. During the assembly the JPIC Council held its ordinary meeting as did the rest of the Secretariats. The most significant agreements of JPIC are the following:

New structuring of the commission:

President: Br. Gabriel Romero (Vice-Province of St. Philip of Jesus). *Vice-President:* Br. Carlos A. Torres (Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe of Central America and Haiti). *Secretary:* Br. Everardo Sánchez Olmedo (Province of the Holy Gospel). *Treasurer:* Br. Miguel Díaz (Province of Blessed

Br. Juniper Serra). *Members:* Br. Roberto Campos (Province of Sts. Peter and Paul) and Br. Noé López (Province of Sts. Francis and James).

Some challenges:

- a.- Join JPIC to the programmes for Formation and Projects of Evangelisation and Mission.
- b.- Form the JPIC animators of the Conference.
- c.- Support the Washington Office.

Proposals for the conference:

- a.- Organise a formation meeting for the animators of JPIC in the Conference and sympathisers in order to share and have a broad vision of the work.
- b.- Elaborate a JPIC project that would join with Formation and Evangelisation-Mission through coordinated work with these secretariats.

Plan JPIC 2003-2006

General Objective: To animate, accompany and be in solidarity with the processes that each entity of the Conference of Our Lady of Guadalupe is carrying out in favour of Justice, Peace and Integrity of

Creation in order to respond, as Friars Minor, to the challenges of our reality, of the Church and of the Order.

Specific Objectives

- 1:** Make the Friars more sensitive to the main challenges of Justice, Peace and Ecology through the support of aids of JPIC and other materials.
- 2:** Work in conjunction with the other secretariats of the Conference and of each entity on the tasks of JPIC.
- 3:** Favour connection and participation with movements and organisations that work on behalf of JPIC (NGOs, popular and indigenous organisations, human rights networks).
- 4:** Animate, articulate and strengthen the work of JPIC with the Franciscan Family.
- 5:** Establish a network of solidarity on the level of the Conference and of America about the advances, difficulties and challenges of JPIC work.
- 6:** Attentive to the signs of the times, to act in accordance with our charism in the events of the historical moment we live.

Bolivariana Conference

The Ordinary Meeting of JPIC of the Bolivarian Conference was held from the 1st to 4th March. Pre-

sent were: Br. Carmelo Galdós – Province of St. Anthony, Bolivia-, Br. Luis Fernando Barahona – Pro-

vince of St. Francis, Ecuador-, Br. Héctor Medina Rojas – Province XII Apostles, Peru-, Br. Nelson

Chanta – Province of St. Francis Solanus, Peru-, Br. José Rafael Arias – Province of the Immaculate Conception, Venezuela-, Br. Akjmed Echeverri – Province of Holy Faith, Colombia-, Br. Fernando Figueredo – Province of St. Paul, Colombia, and Br. Rodrigo de Castro Amédeé Péret – JPIC Office of Rome.

The main topics of the meeting were:

FRESH WATER AND ALCA; some experts participated in the analysis of these topics and, for this reason, the Friars of the Secretariats for Formation and Studies and Evangelisation, who were also holding their ordinary meetings, were invited.

Restructuring of the co-ordination

of JPIC on the Conference level. The Friars ratified Fernando Figueredo as Secretary for JPIC of the Bolivarian Conference.

PROPOSALS.

1. Three dates were agreed on, when, as a Conference and trying to have the greatest possible impact, they could simultaneously celebrate one of the three aspects of JPIC:

a). 5th June: World day of the environment – (INTEGRITY OF CREATION). The emphasis being on the topic of FRESH WATER this year.

b). 21st September: World Day of Peace – (PEACE). This year the emphasis will be on the topic of ACTIVE NON-VIOLENCE. .

c). 10th December: World Day of Human Rights – (JUSTICE). This year the emphasis will be on the topic of Hunger, keeping in mind that 2004 is the World Rice Year.

2 It was agreed that each Provincial Secretary for JPIC would organise and send the booklet on Fresh Water to every fraternity.

3 It was agreed to push an event in which the Friars of BOLIVIA – PERÚ –CHILE are participating, seeking ways for reconciliation in the face of the problem that afflicts these countries at the moment. A tentative date would be Easter, in the month of April, 2004.

Solidarity–Haiti

The Franciscan Community of Port-au-Prince
Dear Brothers,

Peace and Good!

We have been following with attention and some anxiety the situation in Haiti. Unfortunately, the conditions of life in your country are exceptionally dramatic. Tension has decreased with the exit of the ex-President, Jean Bertrand Aristide, although this does not mean that calm has returned to the streets and life of the people, who for years have not know

anything else but misery and abandonment.

There is no doubt that the future has to be built, especially the future of real hope that the people of Haiti deserve. The situation is an opportunity for the Franciscan presence among the people to be a bridge that would make such hope possible.

We wish to say openly that you can rely on our support and solidarity in order to strengthen the Franciscan presence as a sign of hope for the people that has suf-

fered so much.

In the spirit of the Poor Brother among the poor, the Poverello Francis of Assisi, we send you fraternal greetings and await news from you.

Br. Rodrigo Peret, ofm
Coordinator of JPIC
General Curia OFM

Br. Alejandro Castillo, ofm
Vice-Coordinator of JPIC
General Curia OFM

The 1st Americas Social Forum will take place in Quito, Ecuador, from July 25 to 30, 2004. This first hemispheric Forum reflects the modality of regional events adopted by the World Social Forum -WSF-, in order to tackle in greater depth the regional impacts and specificities of neoliberal globalization, and, likewise, to have a broader space for expression of critical thinking, the diversity of experiences of resistance and of construction of alternatives rooted in the history of the different regions of the world.

Water Day: March 22, 2004

Palestine Land Day: March 30, 2004

International Peasant Struggle Day: April 17, 2004

Earth Day: April 22, 2004

Week Mobilization Against IFM and World Bank: from April 22 to 26, 2004 Washington – D.C., EUA info@50years.org

World Campaign Against Multilateral Financial Institutions and Foreign Debt: April 24, 2004

For further information visit the web sites: Haiti : <http://www.adital.org.br/asp2/busca.asp?idioma=ES&nome=haiti&x=24&y=17>
Foro Social de las Americas: www.forosocialamericas.org/