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Meeting of the Animation Committee

JPIC in a world in Conflict

60 years since the foundation of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund

JPIC Agenda

20- 22 of April, Meeting of COMPI JPIC (Italy)

05- 08 of May, Meeting of the ESC JPIC (USA)

14- 18 of June, Meeting of the EAC JPIC (Japan)

21-27 of June, Conference on Formation and JPIC SAAO (Malaysia)

28- 30 of June, Meeting of Inserted Fraternities of Europe (Germany)

12-16 of October, Animation Committee (Spain)

17-23 of October, European Congress of JPIC (Spain)

2-7 of December, African Congress (South Africa)

7- 15 of December, International Council of the OFM JPIC (South Africa)

Animation Committee Meeting

The meeting of the Animation Committee was held in Montecorvino, Rovella, Italy, from the 21st to 27th March. In a fraternal and cordial climate we carried out our work agenda. All related to the leaflet on the five JPIC proposals to the General Chapter 2003 was dealt with (Document: "May the Lord give you peace"); this material will be distributed to all the Friars of the Order. The different texts contain the proposals and the purpose is to facilitate dialogue among the Friars of each fraternity so that the common aspects of our life can be discussed and we can arrive at concrete action, given that the General Chapter invites us to assume JPIC as a form of life and not only as an extra work of fraternity. The material will be available shortly.

Collaboration of the JPIC Office with different institutions and organisations

of the Franciscan Family, the Church and civil society was gone into. It was pointed out that the JPIC Office in Rome must animate participation and collaboration of the Friars in different organisations such as MZF, FI and others, especially in strengthening actions in favour of JPIC. We also touched on the way to advance in our collaboration with organised civil society so that JPIC could be a prophetic expression in agreement with the context we live. In this sense, the Office in Washington for Latin America, although it is in a process of redefinition at the moment, could be a place for dialogue with other institutions beyond the UN system, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, etc.

The need to make a more significant presence in the World Social Forum (WSF) was discussed. The WSF has been gaining in recognition as a broader

and more plural place for sharing different experiences of the world social movement. The Franciscan Movement for JPIC must be present in this pluralist space, where an alternative to the neo-liberal globalisation we live is being constructed. The JPIC Office will seek active participation of the OFM together with the Franciscan family during the realisation of the WSF 2005.

Finally, The Animation Committee discussed the methodology and general aspects of the next 8th Meeting of the International Council of the OFM JPIC, to be held in South Africa from the 29th November to the 14th December 2004. The topic of our Meeting will be "JPIC in a world in conflict". During the first days there will be the 1st African Continental Meeting of JPIC, which will serve as an introduction to holding the International Council of JPIC.

"JPIC in a world in conflict"

The debacle of the capitalist system, reflected in the growing wave of chaos and disorder, presents the urgency of a prophetic attitude. In this context of confusion, some fundamentalism – political or religious- is also growing. This calls on us to make our prophecy more radically gospel and creative in order to

overcome the obstacles that some political or religious sectors are setting up with the purpose of paralysing all alternative action in the face of the different conflicts.

There are about 36 armed conflicts in the world, to many of which there does not seem to be a pacific outcome. Together with

the armed conflicts there are: hunger, malnutrition, the misery in which millions of people live, the forced displacement of peoples –whether for political, religious or economic reasons-, terrorism, AIDS and many other great problems that in our days are conflicts that characterise this change of era.

Therefore, with the topic of "JPIC in a world in conflict", during the

8th Meeting of the ICJPIC, the way to implement the proposals

of the General Chapter will be reflected on.

60 years since the foundation of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund

The 21st April, the day of the "unhappy anniversary" of the World Bank and IMF, there will be a series of manifestations against its policies throughout the world. During six decades the World Bank and IMF have forced policies, programmes and projects that:

- Weaken the rights of women and destroy their life, families and communities;
- Make democracy and social authorities subject to business profits and investment portfolios;
- Trap countries in cycles of debt and economic domination;
- Oblige governments to privatise essential services;
- Put profits above the rights and needs of people;
- Justify the devastation of the environment in the name of development and profit;
- Institutionalise the domination of the poor by the rich—the new face of colonialism;
- Facilitate the business objectives through the economic re-structuring of countries that suffer conflict and occu-

pation, such as East Timor, Afghanistan and Iraq.

Organisations such as "*Jubilee USA Network*", "*50 Years is Enough*", "*Vía Campesina*" and others, will carry out the campaign: "Days of International Action against the IMF and World Bank from 16th to 25th April, 2004", demanding the following measures on the part of institutions and governments that control them:

- That they open meetings of the World Bank and IMF to the press and public;
- That they cancel all the debts to the World Bank and IMF of the impoverished countries, using the resources of the institutions;
- That they stop the policies of the World Bank and IMF that impede the access of people to food, clean water, homes, health, education and the right to organise. (These policies of "structural adjustment" should include payment for use and privatisation, as well as programmes of economic austerity);

- That they stop the support of the World Bank for any project that would result in social and environmental destruction such as the extraction of petroleum, gas and minerals, or like the dam projects that involve the forced evacuation of whole communities.

The call of the organisations recognises the urgency of the very catastrophic world health crisis: the pandemic VIH/AIDS. We blame the financial institutes for destroying the health systems of the Southern countries and we reject the policy of the struggle against pandemic diseases through more loans and conditions imposed by these institutions. We demand that the governments of the world use their resources by supporting the Global Fund against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. We demand the elimination of commercial rules that weaken access to low-cost medicines in order to save lives.

¡Educate, Organise, Mobilise!
¡Be the way we wish to see in our world!

Easter Message

"The Church cannot remain deaf or dumb before the cry of millions of people that cry liberty, oppressed by thousands of ways of slavery. It must tell them about the real freedom they must seek: that which Christ already inaugurated on this earth on resurrecting and breaking the chains of sin, death and hell. Being like Christ, free from sin, is to be really free through true liberation. He who, with faith placed in the resurrected, works for a more just world and cries out against the injustices of the present-day system, against the outrages of an abusive authority, against the disorder of men exploiting men, all that struggles against the resurrection of the great liberator, only he is an authentic Christian" (Mons. Romero, Homily of 26th March, 1978)

Happy Easter!

Week of Mobilisation against the IMF and World Bank: from 16th to 25th April 2004, Contact: info@50years.org

International Day of Peasants' Struggle: 17th April 2004.

Earth Day: 22nd April 2004.

International Workers' Day: 1st May 2004

International Day of Conscientious Objectors: 15th May 2004

African Liberation Day and Week of Solidarity with all peoples of colonised territories: 25th May 2004

For further information visit the sites: 60 years of World Bank and IMF: <http://www.50years.org>

<http://www.jubileeusa.org>