

<h1 style="margin: 0;">International Council Meeting for JPIC</h1> <h2 style="margin: 0;">Tarata, Cochabamba, Bolivia</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">21-27 February 2010</h3>
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**Introduction**

The International Council for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation celebrated its biannual meeting at the Center for Franciscan Spirituality in Tarata, Cochabamba, Bolivia, 21-27 February, 2010. Participants included: JPIC coordinators from 12 of the 13 OFM conferences; the Animation Committee for JPIC; the director of the Rome Office; the General Definitor who is liaison between JPIC and the General Definitorium; the General Secretary for Formation/Studies; and the General Animator for Evangelization. Also participating were the Minister Provincial and the JPIC animator for the Missionary Province of San Antonio in Bolivia.

The principal objectives of the meeting were to evaluate the work of the JPIC Office in Rome and the work of JPIC animators around the world, to study the mandates of General Chapter 2009, to discuss ways to implement these same mandates, and to promote collaboration with the Secretariats for Formation/Studies and Missions/Evangelization.

During the meeting participants also decided to send a letter to Haiti. It expressed their support and solidarity for the friars and the people affected by the massive earthquake that struck their country on January 12 of this year.

The methodology of the meeting involved three elements: a look at reality; a series of presentations, small groups and syntheses of the various topics; and preparation of a final document that will be disseminated throughout the Order to help with implementation of the Chapter Mandates.

- A. Our look at reality included three aspects.
  - 1. A questionnaire was sent to all conference coordinators before the meeting; results were shared with participants and provided an idea of what is going on in regard to JPIC around the world.

2. Presentations were given on the socio-political and ecclesial reality of Bolivia. The former was given by Juan Carlos Velázquez Silvestre, executive secretary for the Episcopal commission for social/pastoral activities and Caritas/Bolivia; the latter was given by Br. Manuel Eguiguren, Bishop Emeritus of Beni, Bolivia, and current JPIC animator for the Bolivian province.
  3. The local friars organized a series of visits that allowed participants to experience firsthand the reality of the people, and to become acquainted with various organizations that promote the well-being of the people, with special emphasis on alternative approaches to investment and human development.
- B. The work of the meeting was conducted through a series of presentations, small group discussions, and preparation of syntheses on these topics.
1. Presentations included:
    - a) Promotion of the values of JPIC in Evangelization (by Br. Arturo Rios, General Animator of the Order for Evangelization);
    - b) Promotion, in Initial and Ongoing Formation, of the values of our Franciscan spirituality highlighted in JPIC, with special attention to the *Ratio Formationis* (by Br. Vidal Rodriguez, General Secretary of the Order for Formation/Studies);
    - c) Examine the impact of our style of life on creation, especially regarding climate change (Chapter Mandate 43.2);
    - d) Promote active non-violence in our lives, with particular emphasis on the resolution of conflicts (Mandate 43.3);
    - e) Consider and promote the ethical use of economic and natural resources in the life of the friars, in their ministry and in society (Mandate 43.5);
    - f) Suggestions for JPIC animation in the Entities and the Conferences;
    - g) Continental Meetings and International Congress.
  2. Each of the presentations was followed by small group discussion (three groups according to language). Participants were invited to find concrete ways to implement each mandate. The group secretary was asked to prepare a summary of the most important points from each session.
  3. The reports of the secretaries of the three groups were combined to create a synthesis on each of the topics. These syntheses were translated into the three languages used during the meeting (Italian, Spanish, English) and they were distributed to the participants; the syntheses were then read in plenary session and suggestions were made for changes and corrections. The resulting material was handed over to the Animation Committee.
  4. Presentations were also given on the following four topics, followed by a plenary session. There were no group reports nor syntheses for these topics.
    - a) Promote environmental justice in order to highlight the relationship between social and ecological themes (Mandate 43.2);
    - b) Pay special attention to the excluded of our society, according to the reality of each Entity, with a particular commitment to the defense and promotion of human rights (Mandate 43.4);
    - c) Consideration of the Amazon project (Mandate 24);
    - d) Consideration of the celebration of the Spirit of Assisi (Mandate 29).
- C. The Animation Committee was given the task of reviewing the syntheses and of preparing this final document of the International Council meeting, which includes the same syntheses. It will be disseminated throughout the Order and has two objectives:
1. To encourage all friars, especially JPIC animators, to become acquainted with and to study the mandates of the General Chapter;
  2. To provide some concrete ideas about how the mandates might be implemented in the life and ministry of the friars. (Every animator and every Entity is invited to use the material provided according to their own needs and reality.)

The JPIC Office in Rome and the Animation Committee will continue to provide timely materials to help fulfill these objectives. But the responsibility to implement the Chapter

mandates belongs to all Entities and to all of us, since JPIC is part of the DNA of our Franciscan lives. We hope that this document will help us in the task of building God's Kingdom of Justice, Peace, Truth and Love.

The International Council meeting was held in a very fraternal atmosphere. Our liturgical and social celebrations added to this spirit. Participants are especially thankful to the Missionary Province of San Antonio of Bolivia. The hospitality of all the friars, particularly that of the Provincial Minister, Br. Martin Sappl, made our time in Bolivia a true joy. The setting at the newly renovated Center for Franciscan Spirituality in Tarata was warm and welcoming, and the staff helped to make our stay very enjoyable and fruitful. May the spirit that we experienced here in Bolivia be an inspiration to us and to all the friars as we go about our life and work in the footsteps of our brother Francis.

## Syntheses of Discussion Topics

### I. JPIC IN EVANGELIZATION

**Introduction.** The General Animator for Evangelization, Brother Arturo Rios, gave a presentation entitled "How to promote the values of JPIC in Evangelization, based on the final document and mandates of the 2009 General Chapter." Small groups were formed to discuss the topic, and a synthesis of their reflections follows:

1. The values of JPIC, which are part of our Franciscan DNA, will become a reality in our life if we live minority and if we seek an integral evangelization (cf. GGCC chapters IV and V).
2. Our mission, which includes work for the values of Justice, Peace and the Care of Creation, presumes an "empathy toward the world and is the consequence and extension of the mystery of the Incarnation" (BGG 13).
3. Both JPIC and Evangelization must promote a passionate experience of Jesus and his Kingdom, and the following of the poor and crucified Christ, who is present in the poor, the excluded and the crucified of our world. A characteristic of Franciscan evangelization, therefore, will be "closeness to the poorest, to those who suffer and to the excluded" (BGG, mandate 13).
4. Both JPIC and Evangelization must promote a spirituality that is attentive to the life of our peoples and to that which affects them. Evangelization, done in the perspective of Minority, takes on a spirituality that is attentive to the values of Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation. It calls us to build bridges of dialogue, of encounter, of reconciliation, and in this way to be more prophetic (cf. BGG 30).
5. Both our work for JPIC as well as our evangelizing task begin with the witness of our life in which the various dimensions of our charism (cf. GGCC 1.2) are present, and among which there is a circular dynamic of feedback (cf. BGG 28).
6. Both JPIC and Evangelization need to promote a sympathy toward the world (cf. BGG 7, 15) and a sensitivity to society (BGG 29). They can collaborate to help the friars do a faith-filled analysis of reality, which is indispensable for a concrete evangelization, because it helps us to hear the voices that are raised by the Spirit and which require our response ["interculturality; claiming and defending human rights; the emergence and growing visibility of minorities of every type; the crisis of the neo-liberal economic model..., ruthless eco-cide, the phenomena of migration" (BGG 14)]. Theological-spiritual resources can be prepared to help with this task.
7. Both JPIC and Evangelization should animate the friars and help them to "cross frontiers," frontiers which are economic, social, cultural and religious (cf. BGG 22-24).
8. Both JPIC and Evangelization should promote a "shared mission" with the laity. We must share our spirituality with them, and discern with them the responses we need to give to the challenges of society, in order to create a better dialogue between the Church and the world (cf. BGG 25).
9. A contribution that JPIC can give to Evangelization is the same that Paul VI recommended when he instituted the Pontifical Commission for JPIC: *help the*

*Church to have its eyes open to the reality of the world, a sensitive heart and hands ready to make real God's project for creation.*

10. In order that JPIC values become part of our mission, we need to overcome the distance between pastoral plans and the reality of the people. We cannot allow historical changes to provoke a response of withdrawal and fear.
11. When the Entities prepare Evangelization projects they should be sure not to forget the spirituality of Incarnation and the social dimension (cf. GGCC 93-98), so that the projects will respond to poverty, injustice, exclusion, conflict and violence in their own territory, and to the causes that provoke these problems as well.
12. Evangelization and JPIC come together in dealing pastorally with social issues. It would be opportune for them to work together in the Entities and Conferences to promote a greater knowledge of Catholic Social Teaching (cf. GGCC 96).
13. Both JPIC and Evangelization should invite the friars to evaluate their ministries and help them to discern if the spirit of Minority (chapter IV of the GGCC) is present, which in turn would mean the presence of JPIC values.
14. JPIC should make very concrete suggestions to parishes, schools, sanctuaries and other ministries of the Entities about how to promote in our life and ministry the values of justice, defense of human rights, peace, and care for creation (cf. GGSS 39.1).

## II. FORMING MINORITY – FORMING JPIC VALUES

**Introduction.** The General Secretary for Formation/Studies, Brother Vidal Rodriguez, gave a presentation on Chapter mandate 43.1, which calls for promotion, in Initial and Ongoing Formation, of the values of our Franciscan spirituality highlighted in JPIC. The presentation was entitled “How the *Ratio Formationis Franciscanae* incorporates the values of JPIC in Initial and Ongoing Formation.” Small groups were formed to discuss the question: “From the point of view of JPIC animation, what should Formation do to provide an education about minority?” A synthesis of responses follows:

1. Promote a better encounter with the people, standing among them in a simple and humble way, listening to them and welcoming them. Deepen the experience of encountering Christ in listening to the people, meeting with them and listening to the poor. We should be converted by and “evangelized” by the poor (cf. CC.GG. 66.1, 96.2, 97.1; RFF 25). Formation, says the *Ratio*, “is based in the fraternity and in the real world” (RFF 43).
2. Return to the methodology of the Road to Emmaus. Take from life’s experiences – it is not one application of the Word but instead a place where the Word is revealed – (cf. *The Lord Speaks to Us on the Way*, n. 10 and 11) and share our faith from the experience of the friars.
3. Recover experience as a formation criteria. Formation has to be incarnated, experienced (cf. RFF 47 and 56), practiced (cf. RFF 48) and inculturated (cf. RFF 49). This requires a better presence among the excluded (cf. RFF 133). We should therefore promote inserted fraternities.
4. Do formation in the spirit of the bible, incarnated and liberating, which will help contemplate the presence of Christ in the poor (cf. RFF 68) and the action of God in these events, in history (cf. RFF 32 and 111). Just as we practice of *Lectio Divina*, we should also practice listening to God in the reality of history.
5. Do formation with a balanced critical view of events (cf. RFF 32) and with a critical view of the media. Provide appropriate information about current problems and struggles. Educate with a faith-filled reading of social, economic and political reality, analyzing the causes of problems. Use the method: See, Judge, Act, Evaluate and Celebrate. Educate to discern the signs of the times and, if necessary, use specialists to help in this task. It would be very helpful in this regard to strengthen formation in Catholic Social Teaching.
6. Since formation comes from the fraternity, it is very important to develop communication skills, the ability to listen to one another and to resolve conflicts in nonviolent and constructive ways.

7. Formation ought to help us free up our fraternal, ecclesial, and social relationships from domination and the abuse of power.
8. Promote listening to lay people about how they experience us in our fraternities and in the neighborhoods where we live .
9. Since the handbook “Pilgrims and Strangers in this World” is a resource material for Ongoing Formation concerning Chapter IV of the General Constitutions, we think that the General Secretary for Formation and Studies should support its translation into other languages and promote its study in all the Entities of the Order.
10. We think it is important that in the formation of formators, the dimension of minority and the values JPIC values should have the same relevance as the other dimensions of our form of life. This same importance should be present in the “Masters” program for formators that is offered at the Antonianum in Rome.
11. Franciscan Theological Studies should include the content provided in RFF 227.

### **III. EXAMINE THE IMPACT OF OUR STYLE OF LIFE ON CREATION**

**Introduction.** Brother Vicente Felipe gave a presentation on Chapter mandate 43.2: “examine the impact of our style of life on creation, especially regarding climate change.” Small groups were formed to discuss the topic, and a synthesis of their reflections follows:

#### **A. What can we do in the Entities and Conferences to help implement this Chapter mandate?**

Presupposition: In our fraternities we need to promote an increased awareness of the gravity of the problem and of our own responsibility. Ways to promote this awareness and responsibility:

1. Create or strengthen in the Entities and/or Conferences a team of animators, (friars and laity) who will seek to bring together in their pastoral work concern for the environment and a faith perspective.
2. Make people aware of the teaching of the Magisterium on these themes.
3. Offer ongoing formation opportunities on this theme, and include it in initial formation programs.
4. Discuss this theme in local house chapters. The community can analyze its own “ecological footprint,” and use this information to decide on concrete actions it might take to change certain behaviors.
5. Discuss this theme at meetings of Guardians and Treasurers.
6. Take advantage of the celebration of certain religious or social “days,” both national and international (like Earth Day, or Environment Day, or others, according to the custom of each country). The celebrations should include three dimensions: prayer, cultural awareness and concrete commitments.
7. Raise awareness of the friars who work in parishes and schools in regard to this theme. Encourage them to include this theme in their pastoral and educational activities. JPIC animators can help by sending suggestions and resource materials.
8. Each Conference should promote formation opportunities on these values for friars and laity.
9. Organize retreats on this theme in order to enter more deeply into its theological and spiritual richness.
10. Use available audio visual material to promote this issue.
11. Encourage personal commitment and political action. Both are necessary to work effectively against the causes of pollution and climate change.

#### **B. Observations on the resource material prepared by the JPIC Office in Rome, *Care for Creation in our Daily Life.***

1. This material can be very useful to raise awareness and to review our life, because it links global problems with local action.
2. Each theme is independent and can be treated separately.
3. The themes are short but profound.
4. The themes need to be adapted to different parts of the world.
5. Other useful themes might be included, like reforestation.
6. Treatment of these themes can be strengthened by including concrete experiences.
7. To promote use of this material, JPIC animators can: speak to the local Definitory; visit the local fraternities; suggest to the Guardians that it be used in local house chapters; present the material to directors of ongoing and initial formation; present it to those who work in schools, parishes and other ministries.

#### **IV. PROMOTE ACTIVE NON-VIOLENCE IN OUR LIVES, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE RESOLUTION OF CONFLICTS**

**Introduction.** Brother Gianfrancesco Sisto gave a presentation on Chapter mandate 43.3: "promote active non- violence in our lives, with particular emphasis on the resolution of conflicts." Small groups were formed to discuss the topic, and a synthesis of their reflections follows:

What can we do to help ourselves and our fellow friars face conflict in a non-violent, constructive way, both in our life and in our ministries? What suggestions might we offer?

##### **A. Initial Considerations**

To help our brothers understand the need to develop this theme, we can consider two aspects:

1. Our spirituality and the GGCC 64, 68, 69.2 and 98.2 ask that we be peaceful and agents of peace.
2. Conflict is part of our daily life in community, in ministry and in society. We must not misunderstand it, ignore it, or cover it over. We rather need to learn to work with it constructively, which will help us grow personally and communally.
3. If we look at the roots of violence in ourselves and in our communities (which hinder dialogue and the ability to confront conflict) we find the following:
  - a) Fear; concern that we might hurt others or ourselves
  - b) A desire for harmony at all costs
  - c) Cultural and ideological differences
  - d) Different histories and personal backgrounds
  - e) Particular ideas concerning "hierarchy" and "obedience". The concept of authority and the way to exercise power.
  - f) An attitude that we only need to pray in order to overcome difficulties.

##### **B. Tools**

1. Encourage the attitude that conflict is not simply an evil but that it is part of life, and that it can help us grow personally and communally if we know how to deal with it adequately.
2. Present JPIC as a spirituality of the Beatitudes and of non-violence, which can help us to face personal, communal and societal conflict in a positive way.
3. Promote training in conflict resolution to help deal with conflictive relationships in our local and provincial fraternities:
  - a) Speak to the provincial administration and the moderator for Ongoing Formation to propose the organization of workshops on the constructive

- management of conflict. These workshops would be open to all friars but especially to those involved in animation of the life of the Entities.
- b) Fraternities should take advantage of their local meetings to evaluate fraternal dynamics (listening to one another, level of communication, power relationships, possible conflicts...) in order to enhance the quality of life and encourage authentic relationships.
  - c) Speak to those responsible for initial formation to find ways to include this theme in the formation program.
4. Employ mediators or facilitators (including those from outside) to help fraternities with the resolution of conflicts.
  5. On the societal level
    - a) Raise awareness of different types of conflict: socio-economic, cultural, political and ecclesial, and learn how to analyze them.
    - b) Train ourselves so as to help with conflict resolution. Collaborate in the training of community mediators.
    - c) Look for opportunities to intervene in the defense of human rights working together with lay people and Human Rights Organizations, especially Franciscans International.

## V. ETHICAL USE OF RESOURCES

**Introduction.** Brother Ignacio Harding gave a presentation on chapter mandate 43.5: "consider and promote the ethical use of economic and natural resources in the life of the friars, in their ministry and in society." Small groups were formed to discuss the topic, and a synthesis of their reflections follows:

[This mandate is related to Mandate 51 (concerning the transparency of our finances) and with Mandate 54 (about formation in the area of finances "with particular attention to transparency, solidarity and ethics, and in light of our Franciscan spirituality").]

### A. Empty buildings and unutilized space

Some unused friaries have been rented out, others have been handed over for money-making purposes, others are not being used for their original purpose, and others are empty. In this regard, when we leave a building, we should keep in mind (as well as the financial necessities of the entity) the idea of gift and restitution, thinking of the possibility of using the building for a purpose that benefits the community. Some Entities are already renovating empty spaces for social purposes.

### B. Use and ethical investment of money

There are notable differences between Conferences in regard to this issue:

1. In some Entities, little or no information is given to the friars about the financial situation, while in other Entities there is greater transparency.
2. Some Entities already practice ethical investment and/or investment with a social purpose. That is to say, they consider not only the financial return and the risk of their investments, but also consider the social purpose of their money. However, many Entities are not yet aware of these practices.
3. One task of the JPIC commissions of the conferences is to present information to all the Entities on authentically ethical investment opportunities. This

information should help clarify the difference between ethical investment<sup>1</sup> and community investment.<sup>2</sup>

4. All of the Order should prioritize socially responsible investment<sup>3</sup> (of course, after getting adequate information). JPIC should assist in this process.

### **C. Tools for ethical investment:**

1. Basic materials prepared with the help of experts:
  - a) A general reflection about money and spirituality
  - b) Fundamental principles of Catholic Social Teaching applied to finances
  - c) Basic information about socially responsible investment.
2. This material can be used in initial and ongoing formation (cf. Mandate 54)
3. In meetings with friars:
  - a) Use the related texts from the General Constitutions and the mandates of the General Chapter
  - b) Show the spiritual and Franciscan dimension of finances
4. Talk with the administration and the treasurer of each entity
5. Promote a meeting of the treasurers of each conference on this theme (some have already done this)

### **D. Promote Transparency**

1. Promote the distribution of frequent information to the fraternities. This process should also be practiced in provincial and custodial chapters.
2. Promote external audits, or another appropriate means of evaluation, in all the Entities. (Some Entities already use similar practices.)
3. Promote the just treatment of our employees (cf. CCGG 80.2). Provide this information to the friars of the entity.

## **VI. ANIMATION OF THE CONFERENCES**

**Introduction.** Brother Vicente Felipe gave a presentation on animation of JPIC in the Conferences. Small groups were formed to discuss the topic, and a synthesis of their reflections follows:

1. **The most positive aspects of the experience of the Coordinators of JPIC in the Conferences:**
  - a) Participation in the yearly JPIC meetings prepared by the Conference, one of which is with the Franciscan Family or other religious.

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<sup>1</sup> **CF Guidelines 56.15: Ethical Investment Funds:** are socially responsible mutual funds that hold securities in companies that adhere to social, moral, religious or environmental beliefs. To ensure that the stocks chosen coincide with the fund's beliefs, companies undergo a careful screening process. A socially responsible mutual fund will only hold securities in companies that adhere to high standards of good corporate citizenship. Their goal is to promote better conditions of life in society and the sustainable development of the planet.

<sup>2</sup> **CF Guidelines 56.8: Community Investments:** a subset of socially responsible investments that allow investors to help a community in need while making a return on their investment. (A common misconception is that these investments are donations, but this is not the case.) Many community investments are put toward community development banks in developing countries or in lower-income areas of developed countries for affordable housing and for venture capital.

<sup>3</sup> **CF Guidelines 58.32: Socially Responsible Investment:** investments that combine traditional criteria with social and ecological criteria in the choice of investment opportunities. The criteria are tied to issues of social justice, economic development, peace and the environment. It is also an instrument used to channel savings into productive activities in sectors that have marginal access to credit (the struggle against poverty, fostering micro-enterprise and small businesses, environmental protection, etc.).

- b) Participation in continental and international meetings of JPIC, even though all the Animators are not always present.
- c) The annual workshops on JPIC themes for the Franciscan Family of the Conference.
- d) The annual experience of welcoming and forming new Animators.
- e) Attendance at Conference meetings of Provincials and Custodes.
- g) Attendance at joint meetings of Provincials/Custodes and JPIC Animators.
- g) Relationship with the Franciscan Family and the laity.
- h) The interest of many lay people in our JPIC work.
- i) Visits of the JPIC coordinator to the Entities (to Animators, Provincials/Custodes, friars).
- j) Contact with the friars to ask what the JPIC Animator can do to help them.
- k) The elaboration of JPIC materials to animate the different ministries.
- l) Participation in the JPIC course in Rome.
- m) Having an animation plan in the Conference.
- n) Integration between JPIC, Formation and Evangelization; participating in each other's meetings.
- o) The existence of JPIC Statutes in the Conference.
- p) *Center for the Culture of Peace*, in Split, (Croatia).
- q) JPIC Office in Nairobi for Africa.

**2. Aspects to be given more attention as Conference Coordinators.**

- a) Improve and to strengthen communication with the Animators.
- b) Promote the creation of an animation plan in the Conferences and each Entity; evaluate them.
- c) Ask Provincials and Custodes to name suitable, stable Animators, with time to do their work.
- d) Strengthen formation opportunities for Animators in all the Entities. Encourage them to participate in the JPIC course at the Antonianum.
- e) Involve the Provincials and Custodes: do not simply inform them about what is going on, but ask for suggestions about the JPIC animation program.
- f) Improve collaboration with the Secretariat for Formation/Studies and with the Secretariat for Missions/Evangelization.

**3. Suggestions to improve the proposal of the Office of JPIC on how to create a program of animation for the Conference.**

- a) Present the animation plan to Provincials and Custodes; it should include a budget and an annual process of evaluation.
- b) When doing an animation plan for an Entity, the socioeconomic context should be taken into account.
- c) Each Conference should propose some significant dates for JPIC which can be celebrated in the local fraternities.
- d) Recognize in each Entity the diverse experiences of the friars in order to give visibility to the commitment of those who are living the spirit of JPIC values.
- e) Visits of the coordinator of the Conference to the Provinces and Custodies.

**4. How to assure that JPIC values are part of the life and mission of the friars?**

- a) Begin by showing that JPIC values come from Biblical sources, Catholic Social Teaching, our Franciscan spirituality and the Documents of the Order.
- b) JPIC Animators need to show how the dimension of minority and JPIC values should be taken into account in the elaboration of the project of life and mission of the local fraternities and of the Entity. They should offer concrete proposals.
- c) The JPIC Animators should work together with the Formators:
  - i. So that the values of JPIC, which are very present in the *Ratio Formationis* in a transverse way, are included in all stages of formation.
  - ii. To accomplish this, formation should be incarnational, experiential, and integral (offer proposals for each stage of formation).
  - iii. To promote translation and use of the handbook on Chap. IV of the GGCC *Pilgrims and Strangers in this World*.
- d) To promote the relationship between JPIC and Evangelization.

**5. How should we present and animate JPIC so that there is no resistance and that the friars do not perceive it as something "extra" or optional?**

- a) Start with our Franciscan spirituality, the General Constitutions (especially Chaps. IV and V) and the Document of General Chapter 2009 *Bearer of the Gift of the Gospel*.
- b) Be balanced in our JPIC work; beware of partial or erroneous readings of reality (for example, excessive identification with partisan politics).
- c) Promote the dimension of minority in our lives and our actions, and include JPIC directly within this dimension.

#### 6. Challenges

- a) Obtain the participation of all Animators in the meetings of the JPIC Commissions of the Conferences.
- b) Transmit the spirituality of JPIC to the friars so that the Friars Minor can continue being relevant in today's society.
- c) Communication with certain Entities due to difference of language.
- d) The formation of Animators.
- e) That Animators be given sufficient time for their work.
- f) Continuity in JPIC animation work.
- g) When there is a change of personnel, the outgoing Animator should orient the new one regarding the work.
- h) Obtain the support and collaboration of Provincials, Custodes, and Formators.
- i) Communication between members of the JPIC Commission of the Conference.
- j) Conference Coordinators should not be eternal, so that JPIC is not identified only with them.

## VII. CONTINENTAL MEETINGS AND INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

**Introduction.** Brother Joseph Rozansky shared some thoughts on the question of future Continental meetings and International Congresses. Small groups were then formed to discuss the topic, and a synthesis of their reflections follows:

**A) Do you agree that we continue to have Continental Meetings? If yes, indicate your reasons and offer suggestions on how we can make these meetings better.**

1. All the members of the International Council are in favor of continuing the continental meetings for these reasons:
  - a) It is a good opportunity for animation and formation of JPIC animators.
  - b) It is an opportunity to share experiences and to develop our JPIC work as Franciscans, from the level of Entities and Conferences, to the continental level.
  - c) It is an opportunity to study in greater depth the mandates of the General Chapter. These themes ought to be considered in relation to the reality of the continents.
  - d) It is an opportunity to consider other important continental themes.
  - e) It strengthens visibility and recognition of JPIC in Entities and Conferences.
2. Suggestions on how to make the continental meetings better:
  - a) We should have fewer themes and study them in greater depth
  - b) JPIC Animators should be involved in the preparation of the meetings
  - c) JPIC Animators should ensure that the conclusions of the Continental meetings reach all the friars of the Entities

**B) Do you agree that we should have an International Congress in this six-year period? Give the pros and cons.**

1. Pro (Europe, Asia, Africa and most of the Americas):
  - a) To help give continuity to the important work done at all levels on the Chapter mandates.

- b) It is good to meet and exchange experiences at the world level in regard to our Franciscan commitment to Minority.
  - c) It is an important opportunity for formation.
  - d) It is an important opportunity for animation of Animators.
  - e) It offers an opportunity to seek consensus regarding our criteria for animation in all the Entities of the Order.
  - f) It is an opportunity to prepare the JPIC contribution to the General Chapter (for this reason it should be held a year or a year and a half before the Chapter).
2. Con (Minority of friars from the Americas):
- a) Formation should be done at the Conference level.
  - b) In some Entities the naming of participants is improvised.
  - c) Costs are high and excessive for some Entities.
- C) Do you think that there should be some sort of continuity between the continental meetings and the International Congress, so that the work of the continental meetings will lead into the International Congress, and that the same theme will be dealt with at both levels, although the theme will be dealt with according to the perspective of each continent? Pros and cons.**
- 1. All of us agree that the continental meetings should be part of a process that prepares for the International Congress. The same theme(s) should be treated at both levels, but other themes are not excluded at the continental meetings or the International Congress.
  - 2. The process needs to be initiated beforehand at the Entity and Conference level and afterwards the JPIC Animators should ensure that the conclusions of the International Congress reach all the friars of the Entities.