

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

Some Tips on Organizing JPIC in your Fraternity

(from the JPIC Committee of St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity, Cornwall, PEI:
Michael Cassidy, Doug Hagen, Louise Larkin, Marion Marshall)

1. **Form a committee of 2-4 people and appoint a chairperson.** With about 25 active fraternity members, we are fortunate to be able to have a committee of four. We rotate half the committee every 3 years. Even with smaller fraternities, you should try to have at least 2 people on the JPIC committee.
2. **Meet once a month for a maximum time of one hour.** Prepare an agenda and have someone take minutes or a written summary of the meeting. Send copies of the minutes to all council members. We always open our meetings with a short and appropriate Scriptural reading and reflection and close with a short prayer.
(these 2 points above are fundamental for planning and continuity;
“if you fail to plan, you plan to fail.”)
3. **For 3-4 months at a time, focus on one of the three JPIC themes:** a) social justice, b) peace, and c) integrity of creation.
4. **At each fraternity meeting, have 5-8 minutes scheduled for a ‘JPIC Moment.’** Work with your Minister to have this as regular feature at each meeting. Use this ‘Moment’ to inform or engage the fraternity on some JPIC issue. You do not need to involve a lot of technology. We sometimes open our ‘Moment’ with a one-minute skit that gets the message across better than a barrage of words, posters and power point slides. Use your monthly JPIC committee meeting to plan this ‘JPIC Moment.’
5. **Contribute a JPIC article to every issue of your fraternity newsletter.** Use your monthly JPIC committee meeting to plan the articles. We often use the most recent ‘JPIC Moment’ as the basis for a written article.
6. **At least once a year, at a regular fraternity meeting, engage the fraternity in a 45-minute formation session on some JPIC issue.**
7. **Encourage the fraternity members to read the newspapers with a critical ‘JPIC eye’,** paying attention to news items and upcoming local meetings that are JPIC-related. This gathering of information helps lead to action on the part of fraternity members. (The role of the JPIC committee is to encourage the fraternity members to take action on JPIC issues; it is not expected that the JPIC committee do all the work of the fraternity in responding to these issues.)
8. For those fraternities and JPIC committees that are relatively new at committing to JPIC actions, **a good place to start is with ‘Integrity of Creation.’** This theme deals mostly with environmental issues such as:
 - Water consumption; bottled water
 - Use of plastics and styrofoam
 - Use of pesticides, herbicides, laundry detergent
 - Buying locally-produced foods
 - Re-cycle and re-use materials
9. **Some issues associated with Social Justice include:**
 - Eradication of poverty
 - A livable income
 - Food insecurity
 - The 4 goals of Pope Francis’ “Vision for the Catholic Church”

- The campaigns of the Canadian Catholic Organization of Development and Peace
- Fair trade
- First Nations issues

10. **Some issues associated with Peace include:**

- Listening with respect
- Debate versus dialogue (when encountering differences of opinion or belief)
- Gospel peace versus political peace

11. **Start small to be successful.** Your goal is to have fraternity members integrate JPIC in their daily routines “little by little” (as Dorothy Day would say). Some reasonably easy activities that can spark a wider discussion are:

- Using fair trade coffee at home and at meetings
- Volunteering at the local soup kitchen
- Avoiding the use of plastic and styrofoam at large gatherings
- Attending meetings on poverty eradication, food insecurity, a guaranteed livable income, environmental concerns, native rights concerns, etc.
- Starting a file of newspaper clippings on JPIC-related issues.

12. **Communicate with other JPIC groups.** Let your fraternity members know about Franciscan Voice Canada (FVC). Contribute your ideas and successful efforts to FVC and Franciscan Focus. We would love to be in touch with many of you. Contact us through Michael Cassidy (mcassidypei@hotmail.com).