Regional Fraternity of Eastern Canada

## Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation Action Plan

## *Adapted from the National Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation Action Plan*

# **1. The Basis of Franciscan JPIC concern and action**

1.1. The basis of Franciscan justice, peace and integrity of creation (JPIC) concern and action is the Bible, Catholic Social Doctrine/Teaching, Franciscan Tradition and Spirituality, the OFS Rule and General Constitutions, reading the “signs of the times” and the Catholic Action model of “See, Judge, Act.” Franciscan values for 800 years have been: poverty, simplicity, humility, justice, peace, joy in God, universal brotherhood and kinship with creation.

**2. OFS Rule and General Constitutions**

2.1. The OFS Rule (nn.13-19) and the OFS General Constitutions (“For a Just and Fraternal Society” nn. 18-23) form the OFS basis of the JPIC “holy activity” mentioned by Our Seraphic Father Francis (Later Adm & Exhort 51-53).

2.2. The Rule and General Constitutions are in turn grounded on the basic principles of Catholic Social Doctrine e.g. human dignity; the common good; the preferential option for the poor; agápe/caritas/love and peace; solidarity; and the sacramentality, integrity and stewardship of creation.

**3. JPIC Structure for the OFS**

3.1. A National JPIC Commission, chaired by the National JPIC Animator, will be composed of French and English Regional JPIC Directors. Based on the National JPIC Action Plan, the task of our Region is to enact this JPIC Action Plan and recommend resources and materials specifically for the local fraternities of this region.

3.2. The National Council requests:

1. each Regional Fraternity to select a JPIC Director who, with their committee, will promote and animate JPIC in their Regional Fraternity.
2. each Local Fraternity to select a JPIC Councillor who will work with their Regional JPIC Director and promote and animate JPIC in their Local Fraternity.
3. each Local Fraternity to consider their Regional JPIC Action Plan and adopt for formation and action one or more key issues (outlined below in 4.1) which affect justice, peace or creation.
4. all Fraternities to:

a. consider the whole Rule (anew) from the perspective of JPIC, and

b. integrate OFS Rule (nn 13-19) and the OFS General Constitutions (art 18-23) in (all) fraternity meetings, workshops, retreats and daily life.

**4. Key Issues for 2012-2015**

4.1 The National JPIC Commission has reviewed the issues of concern of the other branches of the Franciscan family and the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP), The Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) and the Canadian Religious Conference (CRC). As it is impossible to address every issue that arises, the primary priorities suggested by the National Fraternity includes:

1. Extreme poverty and the excluded
2. The ethical use of resources: especially water, mining and fair trade
3. Food: security and sovereignty
4. Human Trafficking and Contemporary Forms of Slavery
5. Care of Creation: particularly one or more of the following: Pollution; Climate Change; the Alberta Oil Sands and/or Hydraulic fracturing (fracking)
6. Peace, conflict resolution and active non-violence
7. Treatment of Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons and Migrants
8. Solidarity with, and support for, Christians in countries threatened by hostile cultures
9. Current issues regarding Aboriginal Peoples in Canada
10. The Regional JPIC Committee may suggest more focused priorities more relevant to our Region.
11. Other topics at the discretion of the fraternities.

**5. The Process – See, Judge, Act**

5.1. The process for dealing with these issues is to take information, together with Catholic Social Doctrine/Teaching and Franciscan Tradition and spirituality, as the basis for continuing formation which must then lead to action. “See, judge, act” (to which we add “evaluate and celebrate”), is the Catholic Action model favoured by many Catholic organisations including the OFM JPIC Office.

5.2. Local Fraternities are asked to consider this plan and these issues at a General Meeting. The fraternities are asked to decide which issue(s) their Fraternity will address to the extent that they are able and to select (elect or appoint) a JPIC Councillor to promote and animate JPIC in their Fraternity. That person should be supported by additional committee members when it is possible.

5.3. Once the issues have been selected by a Fraternity, reference the appendices of the National JPIC Action Plan for available resources for formation and action.

**6. Franciscan Voice Canada (Eastern Region)**

6.1. Conclusions from the XIII General Chapter of the OFS October 22-29, 2011:

***“****Since "the lay faithful are never to relinquish their participation in ‘politics’" (Christifideles Laici, 42), it is necessary to underline the importance of political education for citizen advocacy, based on the social doctrine of the Church. … Franciscans must be agents of social transformation.”*

6.2 Advocacy is a major tool of JPIC action. Promotion and advocacy of values of Franciscan spirituality highlighted in the JPIC issues above can be effectively achieved through the medium of Franciscan Voice Canada (FVC). The object of FVC is to use social media to promote advocacy to our OFS Regions and its friends.

6.3 Each Local Fraternity considers the Regional and National JPIC Action Plans and decides which JPIC issues it will adopt for action. If possible, the Local Fraternity JPIC Councillor will either join the email list of selected organisations active in the chosen field(s) either from a list of organisations disseminated by the National committee, the Regional JPIC Committee or of its own choosing and thus obtain the information for actions as it becomes available.

6.4. A larger voice is usually more effective thus coordinating local Fraternity initiatives with the Regional JPIC Committee should be sought whenever possible. This is when social media works best. The Local Fraternity then considers the most appropriate way to take action after receiving on-going formation as deemed necessary.

6.5. This model involves members through email and fraternity bulletin/newsletter mail-outs. Thus it can involve all fraternity members including isolated and shut-in members and those unable to attend a particular meeting.

6.6. The Local Fraternity is encouraged to invite participation in their FVC network actions by other Franciscans, Catholics and people of other faiths or no-faith.

7. **Reporting**

7.1. Local Fraternity JPIC Councillors need to keep their Regional JPIC Director informed by regular updates on which issues and organisations the Local Fraternity has chosen to work on and with.

7.2. Likewise the Regional JPIC Director is asked to keep the National JPIC Animator informed.

7.3. The present Regional JPIC Director for Eastern Canada, George Guimond, ofs, can be contacted by email at [geosherr@xplornet.com](mailto:geosherr@xplornet.com) or telephone 506-894-2453.

7.4. The present National JPIC Animator, Andrew Conradi, ofs, can be contacted by email at [apconradi@telus.net](mailto:apconradi@telus.net) or telephone 604-522-8417.

**8. Exhortation**

As Francis said, and would undoubtedly say again today (but today he would also include sisters): “Let us begin, brothers, ... for up to now we have made little or no progress.” (1 C, n.103)

*Rev. July 30,13*