**St. Francis of Assisi JPIC Meeting**

**Monday, May 1, 2017, 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Mike’s home**

**Present:** Mike Cassidy (Chair), Charlie McDonald, Marion Marshall,

Maureen Goodick, Garry Doiron

1. **Opening prayer, reading & reflection** was led by Maureen (John 20: 15-18, “Feed my sheep …”)
2. **Minutes of April 3 meeting & matters arising:** The fraternity responded well to the theme of ‘Dignity for All’ for the JPIC Moment at the April 9 fraternity meeting.
3. **JPIC Moment** **for May 7 fraternity meeting**: Using the D&P materials, we will focus on the impact that women have had and still have on social change. Mike has prepared our script (**see attached below**).
4. **JPIC Moment** **for June 11 fraternity meeting: O**ur JPIC theme for the June 11 fraternity meeting is "The Delight of Diversity."  PEI is rapidly becoming more multi-cultural and that brings challenges and opportunities. We will use a Richard Rohr article as a resource. Mike will prepare our final script.
5. **Brainstorming: Resources for themes of social justice:** Marion had a copy of the Guardian newspaper of April 10, 2017 which highlighted the poverty situation on PEI. Marion and Mike will peruse the paper to obtain some material for the JPIC Moment for the July 9 fraternity meeting. Each of us willcontinue tobe on the alert for writings and events that we can use for our JPIC Moments and for possible ongoing formation topics.
6. **Miscellaneous:** We discussedthe upcoming film on the homeless to be screened at UPEI and the care-of-creation video that Joan MacDonald sent to the council.
7. **Next Meeting & adjourned:** Our next meeting will be on Monday, June 4, 1:30 p.m. at Charlie’s home. Marion will lead the opening reading and reflection and the closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m. with a prayer.

Minutes submitted by Mike Cassidy

**MIKE**

**The JPIC Moment**

**St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity Meeting, May 7, 2017**

**The Month of May: A Time to Pause and Honour the Centrality of Women as an Engine of Change**

**MAUREEN**

**May is the month of Mary and the second Sunday of the month is Mother’s Day**

**MARION**

**Millions of women and girls encounter sufferings, injustices and obstacles every day. Let us honour five of them whose courage has made a change in their communities.**

**MIKE (30-40 seconds; show Cécile’s name to the fraternity on a sheet of paper)**

**Cécile Kazadi Democratic Republic of the Congo**

* Cécile Kazadi is at the heart of change in her village in the southern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
* For two decades now, this country has been torn apart by a war that is marked by systematic acts of sexual violence committed against girls and women.
* Development and Peace has been supporting community radio networks in six provinces. They provide, amongst other things, information to women on their rights and legal recourse in the case of rape or sexual violence.
* When the daughter of Cécile was raped, she went to the radio station where they helped her publicize the assault and bring the case to justice.
* Her daughter’s aggressor was then imprisoned.
* This is what Cécile had to say about the change that she is making happen in her society:

**“We are aware of our rights and rape is no longer a secret. When a girl is raped, we go straight to the police and we ask for justice.”**

* The story of Cécile and her daughter shows the power of information and education.

**CHARLIE (30-40 seconds; show Hannan’s name to the fraternity on a sheet of paper)**

**Hannan Syria**

* Hannan lives in northern Syria with her husband and three children.
* She has had to support her family on her own ever since her husband suffered a stroke that left him partially paralyzed.
* She recently took an 11-week sewing course organized by Development & Peace.

This is what Hannan had to say about the changes that have taken place in her family:

**“Through the sewing course, I personally evolved a lot as a person.**

**I am no longer Hannan the shy, but Hannan the responsible woman who provides for her family.**

**I have more confidence in myself. Even my husband looks at me differently.**

**I did not imagine that one day in my life I would be in that place!**

**Today, I dream of teaching sewing and running a learning centre.”**

**MAUREEN(30-40 seconds; show Carmen’s name to the fraternity on a sheet of paper)**

**Carmen Quintana Chile**

* When she was 18 years old, Carmen Gloria Quintana was set on fire by the Chilean military.
* They had arrested her while she was participating in a protest against the military dictatorship of General Augusto Pinochet.
* With second and third degree burns to 62% of her body, she was thrown into the back of a truck, dumped like garbage in a ditch and left to die.
* Her friend Rodrigo Rojas suffered the same fate, but sadly, unlike Carmen, he did not survive the ordeal.
* Development and Peace supported Carmen’s visit to the United Nations in Geneva so she could give her personal testimony. Her words moved ambassadors to tears and led to strong international indictments against the brutal regime of General Pinochet.
* Carmen now works as a scientific attaché at the Chilean embassy in Ottawa and is the mother of three daughters.
* Hers is a story of true human resurrection.

**MARION (30-40 seconds; show Berta’s name to the fraternity on a sheet of paper)**

**Berta Cáceres Honduras**

* Berta Cáceres was an Indigenous leader, mother, midwife and environmental activist from Honduras who was assassinated a year ago in March 2016.
* Berta led a struggle to stop the building of four hydro-electric dams. The dams would have destroyed a river that her people relied on and it was a project in which they were given no say.
* Berta was murdered in her home by armed men believed to be connected to the military and the company building the dams.
* We remember Berta and other women activists like her, who work for the cause of social justice, often in the face of threats to their lives.

**GARRY (30-40 seconds; show Mary’s name to the fraternity on a sheet of paper)**

**MARY the Middle East**

* Mary was a young woman, probably about 16 years old.
* Her family was poor and lived in a small village in the Middle East
* She said: “YES.”
* And the Word became flesh !!
* And our world was changed forever.

**In the final couple of minutes:**

1. **We distribute the 21 copies of the mini-mag.**
2. **We ask people to think about women of courage in our own community who are effective in bringing about change and share this with their elbow partners.**
3. **We solicit a few responses from the fraternity.**

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