



SVD BROTHERS



NEWSLETTER

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Dear Confreres!

Before Christmas, the feast of love, we are sending you **the next issue of SVD BROTHERS, our bulletin**. Since the work of our Brothers in JPIC (*Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation*) is an answer to Divine Love, this next issue is dedicated to JPIC. Our contributions were guided by the following questions of Fr. Milan Bubak, Generalate JPIC Coordinator.

The JPIC is understood in our Society in two ways: as a ministry and as a dimension. Ministry means you are directly involved in one of the JPIC projects. Dimension means JPIC is integrated into whatever you do or whatever you are.

- What has been your experience so far with this understanding of JPIC, in your life? in your ministry? in the life and ministry of other confreres?

- What was your formation in the JPIC area? What should be done to make the formation for the JPIC in your province better? What is being done in the ongoing JPIC formation in your province?

- As an SVD Brother, how can you personally contribute to a better understanding and living of the JPIC among our SVD confreres?

As you already know, our bulletin is written from the contributions of the readers. We thank you again for your interest and response.

*Corresponding to the recommendation of some confreres, SVD BROTHERS will have in the future only 10-12 pages. But all contributions will be present here, some in the form of an excerpt. If somebody writes a long contribution, the text of his **WHOLE CONTRIBUTION** will be available at the Generalate's homepage under **SVD Brothers**.*

*After some changes in the Generalate's homepage, **svdcuria.org**, we can now more easily find documents on SVD Brother vocation. After you have opened the homepage, look for **siteplan**, and then for **SVD Brothers**.*

We also expect your contributions, written in your own favorite language, to reach us through the following address of the Network: svd_brothersphil@yahoo.com. If your contribution contains a personal message, please send it to any of our personal e-mail addresses: newlanyi@hotmail.com (Br. Bela Lanyi) or bromyabulad@yahoo.com (Br. Romualdo Abulad). I am happy to inform you that we now have a translator for the Indonesian language, Br. Hubertus Guru in Manila, Philippines.

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A REAL BREAKTHROUGH IN CEBU...

Br. Paulino "Paul" Bongcaras, PHS

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC)? When I was asked to share my experience with JPIC, I felt uneasy because I have not been employed by any JPIC office. *I am a college instructor by profession, a volunteer field worker by choice, and a Divine Word Missionary Brother by vocation.* My brothering activities caught the attention of our former Provincial, Fr. Magdaleno Fabiosa, SVD. He gave the activities a name: *SVD Friends of the Poor and Marginalized.*

I began my brothering activities in the *early 70s*, visiting the poor streets and slum areas of Cebu City. Then came our first home for street children, the Cebu Children's Community Kitchen. But my undertaking was not for long. The late Provincial Federico Lemon, SVD, made me stop, believing I was already making myself vulnerable to sickness, danger and even to temptation. It was his act of protecting my health as well as my vocation aside from looking at my brothering activities as not SVD concerns.

In 1977, I was missioned to Papua New Guinea (PNG) and I believed it was another blessing because I found myself working initially with "rascals," the

Papuan's term for juvenile delinquents or young people in conflict with the law. I was assigned to work at the Boy's Town located in the Diocese of Wewak. It was run and managed by the Brothers of the Sacred Heart and supported by Bishop Leo Arkfeld, SVD, whom they called as the "flying bishop."

After fifteen years in PNG, I was recalled to the Philippines and was assigned at the Divine Word University in Tacloban City. Then in the mid 90s I was assigned as the National Brother Vocation Animator for six years and continued my work.

In 2003, a real breakthrough came when Fr. Leo Kleden, SVD, the Roman General Visitor, joined me twice when I was visiting the red light areas (night clubs) of Metro Cebu. His report to Rome commended my silent brothering activities and the many personal endeavors of the same nature of Fr. Heinz Kulueke, SVD. He reported and recognized our work as an important apostolate of the Society of the Divine Word (SVD).

Today, anyone might see and say that the vision-mission of the *SVD Friends of the Poor and the Marginalized* is "The World is for All with No One Being Left Out." Our annual activity is to support the educational needs of 175 street and poor children in elementary and high school

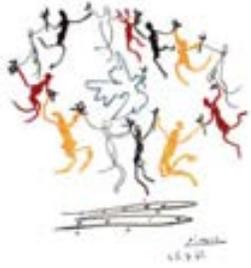
levels. We also support those who aspire and qualify to take up vocational courses as much as the donations can allow. Currently, we work hand in hand with the Best Buddies, Phil., headed by Bro. Roland Pontevedra, SVD.

Our dream is for the SVD brothers, seminarians, the street children, the prostituted women, the experiential advocates, and students to *become one force in sharing food with old people living in the sidewalks.* It would be most gratifying to see all of them act as Brothers and Sisters of the Poor, as volunteer Buddies, and *continue the jail apostolate and the recollective (recolle^{ct}ion + picnic).* I look at the religious brothers and sisters and the lay as uniquely blessed, called to journey with the poor on an equal rather than hierarchical level.



JUST LET US START AMONG OURSELVES!

Br. Stephen Bonsu, Ghana



The poor have a privileged place in the gospel. In a world deeply scarred by injustice and inhuman living conditions, our faith calls us to recognize the presence of Christ in the poor and the oppressed. We thus commit ourselves to fostering unity and justice and to overcoming egoism and the abuse of power. We consider it our duty to promote justice according to the gospel in solidarity with the poor and the oppressed. (Ref. S.V.D. Constitution 112.4).

In reality I do not see justice and peace being practiced in our modern world. I personally have gone through injustice throughout my formation up to my present religious life. In some communities where I stayed with brothers or priests, there has been no peace or justice. In

such communities there has always been injustice. Sometimes one confrere takes delight in being the House Praeses or the House Superior for many years and would not give way to any other confrere. Certain leaders favor some confreres but victimize others. This is injustice.

There are some confreres, too, who always see the negative aspects of other confreres. They do not learn to recognize the many good aspects of other confreres in the community. There are some confreres also who give out community property to their families and nobody dares question them. There is no regular house meeting in some communities and so there is no fostering of dialogue. Since there is no interaction, there is no trust, understanding, and teamwork. This breeds tension and unforgiving feelings in the community. There is no openness and communication in some of the communities.

Our Lord has implored us with a burning love for Christ and a dedication to the missionary calling of the Church. There is a need to ask God to help us build families and communities where

justice, compassion and equality are lived.

In Ghana we demand high qualifications for one to become a brother candidate. This prepares the Brother for his future ministry and his apostolate work. It also helps the Brother to relate with equality, uniqueness and freedom with the people he may work with. Academic formation for Brothers as well as a balanced spiritual formation during temporary vows are very important. Academics in any field of study gives the Brother the tools to work with and spirituality gives the Brother the insight and creativity on how he will relate to the people of God. We need Brothers with a strong spiritual formation to include the maturing of the Brothers into being fully integrated members of the community in which they find themselves.



LEARN, HOW TO LOVE OTHERS

Br. Grzegorz Kendik (POL)



I thank you for focusing on JPIC. Of course, I observe it from the viewpoint of our life as Brothers. During the years of my own formation, JPIC could be interpreted as anybody pleased. In my feeling, this topic deserves a detailed inquiry. What you write on JPIC can be referred to in all our activities in our formation. Then all our works must be performed for the glory of Jesus who calls us “to love others as He loved, to see others as He saw, to be as He is. But this is an ongoing task, long-term formation.” These are words of Fr. Amadeo Cincini FdCC and Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa OFM, formators recognized all over the world.

Mother Theresa also writes, “Lord, teach me to love the other person as you loved me!” Mentioned are people whose realized the need for love in this materialistic, hedonistic world. I can say with clean conscience that I would like my formation to be based on the Constitution, which contains telling explanations of our calling as Brother Missionaries. Is this JPIC? We have to ask ourselves

this question. For sure it is! In my formation, I want to love all people as Jesus loved me.

“The Brothers are called to carry out the missionary task of the church, entrusted to every Christian in baptism and confirmation, in the decisive way called for by the religious life. Through their varied services and witness to the Gospel, the Brothers share in the mission of Christ to renew all things. The better trained they are for their professional, social and pastoral activities, the more effectively they can fulfill their vocation.” (SVD Const. 515).

WE, SVD BROTHER SEMINARIANS..

Sem. Francisco C. Dablo Jr. (PHS)



We, SVD Brother Seminarians in Cebu, are indeed directly involved in the JPIC program, with two such apostolates. One is the tutoring of “community scout” boys, former street children. The other is the “night feeding” where we distribute food to old homeless people. These activities help us to grow in our vocation and to know reality better in order to be

true witnesses of the Divine Word. Through this effort, we, SVD Brother Seminarians, take the opportunity to see the world from a different point of view. Getting closer to others, we feel what they feel so that the sense of mission becomes more colorful and meaningful for us. Yes, we, SVD Brother seminarians, serve the people unconditionally.

LACK OF INFORMATION IN JPIC

Br. Krzysztof Charchuta (POL)



In my ongoing formation, I have been entrusted with the job of being a receptionist in Nysa for one year now. I also work with the Mission Museum, which is a great job because I have plenty of contacts with people. I am very happy with this work. Here, I also have the opportunity to learn languages.

I do not have much experience with JPIC although in the noviciate, I participated in meetings which raised questions on justice and morality. The JPIC coordinator also conducted a

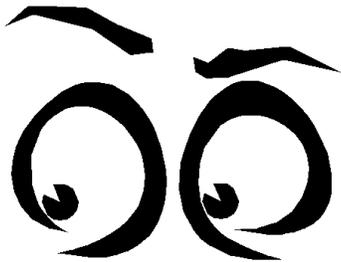
Cont. Br. Charcuta

retreat for us. But I do not know anything more about this.

I think the responsible persons have to visit the communities in our Province and inform us about this topic. But that is all from me. I thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion and also for the Polish translation of the questions concerning JPIC.

KEEP OUR EYES OPEN!

Br Włodzimerz Fijalkowski (POL)



I don't have any theoretical grounding concerning JPIC and I also do not know how the personal preparation for this apostolate is going on. Concerning my opinion in this regard, I can briefly state that we should keep our eyes open every day of our life. This observation should turn to practice, that is, we have to endeavor an update reaction honestly, authentically, and rightfully in our relationships among confreres as well as in our

connections with people outside our communities.

We don't need to speak so much about justice and peace, but we should live on the basis of those values. We should express trust towards God and hope towards our fellow men, so that our behavior will be objectively right, at least in its inner intention. We must not devote efforts for human considerations, acting against our conviction or conscience. Even if we do something against our conviction, it will just be to respect the different views of others, to maintain peace, or to address a higher value.

OUR MINISTRY OF SOLIDARITY

Br. Jerzy Kuzma, PNG



I understand my living and serving among people of PNG as sharing of the gifts of faith, education and many others with the less privileged. I see my ministry here as solidarity with the poor and unprivileged. A substantial contribution to my understanding of JPIC issues was a unit on the social teaching of the Church. In PNG Province, during the ongoing

formation, some topics are relevant to JPIC, e.g., on AIDS, youth in PNG, corruption, democracy. There are also a lot of seminars on JPIC topics in the Divine Word University, Papua New-Guinea.

My contribution to JPIC is largely the witness of life and service to the poor, in particular the involvement in bush trips with medical services to the most remote areas of PNGs. I am involved in teaching and promoting community health and in the education of medical professionals in the developing country.

ADDICTS FIND HEALTH AND GOD...

Br. Maroš Butala (SLO)



I work here in Slovakia as therapist of young people who are addicted to alcohol or to narcotics. This is a difficult work but we can prepare them even to baptism or confirmation. By now, I have prepared 3 boys and on December 9, one of them will receive Baptism and Holy Communion.

Cont. Br. Butala

I teach them basic prayers. We read the Holy Bible and we talk. We also go to churches and schools to give witness on the life of the addicted before and after therapy. When they are healed and leave the hospital, I keep in touch with them personally or by phone.

Many people from all of Slovakia call me and ask for my advice, what could they do. Once a year we go to Medjugorje in a pilgrimage. We strengthen our faith there and pray for those who are still slaves of alcohol or narcotics. We also pray for our parents. It is a great moment when the boys then go to confession and their eyes fill with tears.

PEACE VIGIL IN DOWNTOWN CHICAGO

Bro Bryan McLaughlin (USC)



My name is Bro. Brian McLaughlin and I am the JPIC coordinator for the

Chicago Province (USC). I am blessed with the time and ability to work on JPIC issues full time.

The major part of my ministry is at the 8th Day Center for Justice, a Catholic faith-based NGO that works toward social change. Several religious communities fund and sponsor the 8th Day Center. Among those sponsors is the Chicago Province. As a center we work on a number of different issues, but for purposes of this brief article, I would like to share with you our Tuesday Morning Peace Vigil.

Since 9-11 the 8th Day Center stands in vigil every Tuesday morning at Federal Plaza in downtown Chicago, holding signs of peace and passing out leaflets to raise awareness on the destruction of war and to remind people of our need for peace. Regardless of the weather, we are out there every Tuesday morning keeping vigil between 8:00-9:00 AM. I have been involved with the Tuesday morning vigil for the past 6 months.

The attitude of the public toward the vigil has changed drastically over time. In the beginning, people were downright hostile toward the vigil-keepers. Now there is general support for our efforts at raising awareness and calling for peace. Sometimes we get an angry comment or a critical glance, but we try to meet all hostility with nonviolence and peace.

Since the election of Barack Obama as our next president, keeping vigil at the Federal Plaza has been noticeably more difficult. As many of you may already know, Obama is the senator for the state of Illinois; therefore, he still keeps his office at Federal Plaza. Since Obama is now the president-elect, security downtown has been particularly tight. Last week for instance, the police (ICE agents: Immigration and Customs Enforcement, a branch of Homeland Security) asked for my ID, wrote down all the information, and thoroughly searched my bag.

Cont. Br. McLaughlin

Again, we try to meet all hostility and invasion of privacy with nonviolence and peace. Sometimes this is very difficult in the face of attempted intimidation.

I am glad for the opportunity to explain to you about our Tuesday Morning Peace Vigil.

AS SUPERIOR DELEGATUS...

Br. Piotr Szewczuk (POL)

For me as superior delegatus, justice is an important value for my services/ministry. It must be realized that every missionary should be served with whatever expectations he has on the land of his mission. The important thing here, of course, is that a dialogue should begin. Oftentimes the missionary comes not only with hidden fears and anxieties, but also with so much hope. Of course I always have to remember that every missionary has the right to be listened to. It is this justice which I have to offer. Frankly listening and being sensitive to his expectations give him a sense of peace and acceptance in the new environment. That sense of acceptance and peace is the integration with the surrounding creations and the Creator.

This flows out from a “justice” or a natural order of things which brings with itself

the dynamism of joy that is expected, needed, at the same time given when one has a strong sense of values. This joyful experience of the holiday is a personal integration with the new environment which allows the missionary entry to new dimensions that are originally hidden when one first arrives in one’s mission country. For me, there is also a personal sense of joy to participate in this great mission that God has commanded, “to know Him as the Creator and His Son as the Redeemer, the Holy Spirit that was given to us to bring everyone to the full Truth.” The accompanying atmosphere of my formation allowed for the mutual acceptance and rereading the signs of the times.

As for the so-called “ongoing formation,” superiors should provide opportunity for us to develop our talents, and confreres should endeavor to effectively use and enhance their talents. Personally, I need to be a man of peaceful attitude, a listening rather than a criticizing man. May the flying stork on the picture—a symbol of Polish countryside and of the purity of the Polish environment—serve as an inspiration toward making efforts for the integration of the entire environment as well created as the spiritual.



THE NEED FOR VISIONARIES

Br. Muktlal Ekka (INE)



Per your request I am happy to share my understanding and little experience in the field of JPIC. Together with formation work, I was assigned to animate and evaluate the work of Specialized Apostolate. JPIC is one of the main areas and important activities of our mission. In the formation, we do introduce our students all the areas of activities. JPIC is purely an action-oriented activity. Our confreres are very active and focused on their plan and action. The JPIC's effective role in INE is very much evident. In the Indian situation now, it has bigger challenges to face with regard to communal violence. It will take years to bring back the peace in our country.

The emerging Community College in INE is another milestone of mission work in the province. It deals with students who are under matrix. They are given special classes in language (English) and the entire syllabus is focused on job-oriented activities.

Cont. Br. Ekka

We, brothers, still have to come up with better measures with regard to the work of JPIC. So far we have not prepared our brothers for this mission. Proper motivation in the initial stage is very important. Brothers have an ample opportunity to venture into it. We have a long way to go to train our brothers for this special, noble task. The syllabus or the curriculum needs to be updated.

I do feel that Brothers can do very well in this area. All of us need to cooperate and work hand in hand to motivate and prepare our candidates to be visionary.

THE CONSCIOUS CHOICE

Br. Bela Lanyi, SVD (PHS)



“Working for JPIC requires a conscious choice between competing values. On the one hand, our world values power and money. ... On the other hand, the Kingdom of God is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (Rom 14:17)” (From: SVD

Characteristic Dimensions, Rome, 5.2.3)

This conscious choice is also given in the Brothers' vocation. One of our Brother candidates in Cebu told me that “people do not think of power and money when an SVD Brother is introduced to them. But we can give them so much true peace and joy when we fulfill our vocation.” What a telling remark! May it inspire us to combine our Brother vocations with a commitment for the poor and marginalized.

JPIC AND MY VOCATION AS AN SVD BROTHER

Br. Eugene Orog PHC



Injustice has always been an issue in the history of humanity. Indeed litanies of complaints and blame are as old as humanity. The proliferation of injustices greatly affect the integrity of creation. But the term of *integrity of creation* is relatively new. It was created due to the increasing significance of

the present precarious state of the planet. It was created not only by Franciscans or Greenpeace but also by the Union of General Superiors of Men and Women in Rome, with the belief that issues on nature cannot be ignored anymore. Hence it is now called JPIC.

The Church is very clear of her teachings with regard to JPIC. She mandated everyone to reach to all peoples in their various contexts and aspirations. The mission is to help interpret these aspirations to discover transcendence, and to disclose the presence of Christ the Liberator and Savior as in the words of Octogesima Adveniens: to disclose “the mystery of people discovering himself to be God's son/daughter.” Truly the basis of our dignity as persons is to become His children, thereby becoming fully human and alive. The absence of such is an outcry for justice and a search for an endless peace.

I started working for JPIC in the last year of my college studies. At that time we were required to join a civic action program in a community so that we could graduate. I worked among prisoners as catechist, and eventually as processor of psychological modules through journal writing. I also had an opportunity to work with people at a mental hospital for a year. My interest

started when we had a field trip as part of our course in clinical psychology whereby we had to interact with mental patients. Among my realizations from all those experiences was the importance of being deeply respectful for each person no matter what his/her condition may be.

In the 70s we had catechesis on social justice. I remember having to join rallies in the streets of Manila as our final examination. Young and idealistic as I was at that time, I got excited about it. In 2000 through the AJS in the Philippines, JPIC became a part of the module. We went into exposure in order to be educated and informed about JPIC issues. We used the tool for social analysis: to see, to judge, and to act. Toward the end of the exposure we were learned “not only to look but see; not only to hear but also to listen; not only to know but also to feel and to judge (discern); finally, to get involved and be committed for change.”

I carried these formation experiences with me when I became a formator. For instance, in the novitiate, we see to it that novices should have personal contact with the poor. They need to experience the life of the poor and situations of marginalization and injustice. They live with indigenous people (IP -

Mangyans) for a month. In the Postulancy, our Postulants educate sexually-abused girls. They also go on a two-week immersion with the urban poor in the Metro Manila area.

How can an SVD Brother contribute in the JPIC? Within his own sphere of influences, whether as a formator or not, he should strive to live out the mandate that all people are one, and that Jesus came so that everybody, not just a few privileged ones, will have life.

BASIC ISSUE IS THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

Br. Marian Paron (POL)



I believe it is important to align the talents and abilities of our Brothers in a way that they can realize their vocation in the place where they are. The basic issue is that we have to put spiritual life—prayer, asking God for the necessary grace to save ourselves and others—above everything else. Lack of this spiritual foundation

makes it easier for one to leave the community.

THEY GIVE US WISDOM

Villamor Penoj-an (PHS)



The first time I heard of JPIC (Justice and Peace and Integrity of Creation) was when I was a second-year college seminarian six years ago. Further on in my formation, my understanding of this apostolate became better. This time I understood clearly that the main endeavor of this apostolate is on working for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation. I was eager to hear from people, especially SVD priests and brothers, who were directly involved in this kind of apostolate. Thanks to the initiative of our formators, the formation program includes exposures, summer camps, and apostolates of seminarians to areas which are somehow in the sphere of JPIC. These experiences have helped me discern my vocation.

Taken as a tool, JPIC gives us, SVD missionaries, the opportunity to share our lives with people we serve,

especially victims of injustices. JPIC also gives us the privilege of taking care of God's creation as His gift to us. In effect, the people we serve also have the opportunity to share their life and faith with us. This allows us to have mutual sharing of life and eventually gives meaning to our life. When we give money to and build projects for poor and marginalized people, they give us wisdom in return, and our life as missionaries become even more meaningful. Therefore, we should also be thankful to them for welcoming us in our mission.

My suggestion is to continue incorporating JPIC in every SVD formation, especially the Brothers' formation. Through the JPIC coordinator, exposures to some JPIC projects and works should be taken into account. Through this, seminarians will know more of the apostolate and might find it helpful in their discernment process. JPIC apostolate is really connected to the work of brothers. Thus, exposure of future Brothers to this kind of apostolate is commendable.

TO ACCEPT ALL AS THEY ARE

Br. Ruben Paineon, SVD (IDJ)



I am a communications student. My understanding about JPIC up to this moment is keeping justice and peace wherever and whenever I am. I am aware that choosing to become a Brother entails "working at the back stage." This reflection on my role as a Brother brings me the decision of serving and proclaiming the Good News in any way I can, no matter how simple.

To realize the JPIC, I should be FLEXIBLE in accepting people as they are, like Jesus who accepted everybody in his heart and made people feel accepted in their uniqueness regardless of their race or religion. I believe that through this simple act, the people whom I serve will feel the presence of peace and justice.

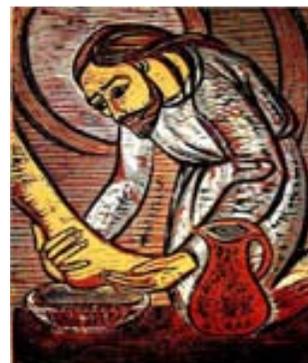
In our campus, I always attend seminars about the environment, mostly focused on global warming. I also organize a kind of "academic discussion" among Catholic

students in our campus, stressing the importance of proving our environmental concerns in real life and concrete action. For instance, I requested all the Catholic students to plant at least one tree and take care of it themselves.

I wish the province would organize some seminars and workshops pertaining the JPIC to the lay. Thanks to the Editors for giving me the opportunity to share my experience through this website. I feel honored, privileged and grateful. The creation of the website must be the Cebu Brothers' realization of the JPIC.

GIVE A JPIC A FACE!

Br. Bernd Ruffing (OES-AUS)



Today I want to share my experiences with marginalized people who stand on the edge of our society.

Behind the stigma

During my novitiate in Berlin a Jesuit priest was my spiritual director. He lived in an "open" community, open for those who otherwise would just stand in front of a

door. He went so far as to share his own room with illegal aliens, the sick and the lonely. With him and others I went to the prison (custody pending deportation).

In front of the closed prison door, we held solemn vigils in regular intervals. "We shall overcome," we sang. I still remember the cries of captives inside. We used to visit them after the vigils. They became prisoners just because of their desire to live in Germany! I heard lots of stories from them which are just unbelievable. They only had one meal a day and did not have enough medical support. Even a pregnant woman didn't receive new clothes despite her changing figure. The prisoners had several hunger strikes but outside nobody heard or even wanted to hear about their situation. This is Germany!

I also visited prisoners with life sentences. They invited us once for a dinner which they themselves provided. This was such a strange experience! Imagine, they never have an opportunity to invite guests. Just entering into the high security prison is a different kind of experience by itself. I was deeply moved by this shared dinner, so close to my discovery that behind every "lifelong" stigma is a person, a human being! I'll never forget this experience, a situation in which I had to completely trust Him. Indeed, I trusted Him and my confidence in Him was not broken.

In Berlin exists the so called "church positHIV," a program conducted by Catholics and Protestants, inviting people who are infected with HIV. There I had the same realization: behind "HIV" is a person, a human being.

Being one of them

In Vienna, where I continued my Brother formation program, I used to meet homeless people. I prepared their drugs, dressed their wounds, assisted them in showering and did foot care for them. While doing this, I had to go down on my knees. Without fail I remembered Jesus washing the feet of his disciples.

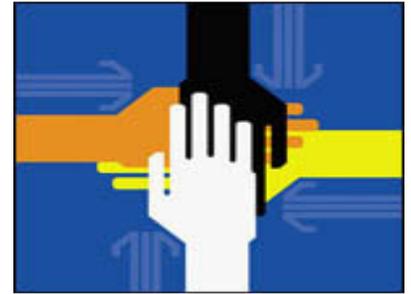
A beggar in the city asked me once for some money. I told him that I didn't have money but that I just came from a place where he could find food. He said, "Oh, sorry, you are one of us." That's it: being one of them! This is a great idea and challenge for us, SVD brothers.

Following Jesus

In my opinion the brother vocation is based on what Jesus did. He washed the feet of his disciples. Now it's up to us to follow him, washing feet (whatever this means for anyone) and sharing dinner with those who are not invited by others. It's up to us to welcome them. BE GOOD and LOVE THEM!

SVD BROTHER: THE DIVINE CREATION

Br. Rajesh Soreng (INH)



It is the faith in the unseen Divine God that motivates me to narrate my relationship with Him in the present reality of India. Indian society is multicultural. We, the SVD Brothers, commit ourselves to work in such society. It is very challenging. The Brothers respond to the challenges through their religious call. It is a challenge that sometimes costs one's life. In India, Brothers work among different people irrespective of caste, creed and religion.

As an SVD Brother, I believe in the Divine Power behind my life and my mission. As I am very much involved in the Formation, I am directly responsible for the Brother Candidates who undergo their formation under my supervision. I am well aware of the care that they need from the staff.

Cont. Br. Soreng

It is the candidates who make the community alive and active. But we need to be constantly with them in order to know them better. Both the staff and the candidates grow by living a community life together

Our community living becomes the model of the Trinitarian family in today's world. We are the mediators between the Divine and the human. The students understand that they are cared for and loved by their superiors, hence they develop confidence in their superiors. This is the first step for correcting the candidates' weaknesses. We need to give justice to ourselves and to our responsibility. This will help us to do the same to our candidates and to the surrounding reality.

The formation that we give should be directly in touch with today's reality. The institutional formation that we undergo in the formation houses should be the basis for our ministry in future. At one stage in the formation, we send our candidates to the mission for one or two years. This is the time

when they experience the beauty of brotherhood in the given community and the hardship of the mission. This is the time when their real self comes out in the form of their missionary life

I wish that all our young Brothers lead their life during formation in accordance with the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation. They must go through the formation of living in the mission so that they become more effective and balanced in their future ministry.

TO SERVE HEARTILY!

Yohannes Asa Ati (ROM))



Greetings from Rome and thanks for the newsletter sent to me through my email address. I would like to share my 17 years of experience working in Rome up to the present. I would like to thank all the Brothers who directly or

indirectly involved themselves in JPIC.

My understanding of JPIC used to be way out of the context of everyday life. Yet, as I come to understand what JPIC is all about, I can now dare to share about it. As an SVD Brother, I have tried my best to live the four words of JPIC in the community through the services which I seriously and sincerely perform.

Since 1992, I have been tasked to run errands at the Generalate/Collegio. More than just seeing this as a job, I take it as my service to God and my confreres. Through this I have known SVD confreres all over the world. As a member of the community I also accepted the task of a sacristan. It is my way of serving the community. To live the JPIC, our service should be balanced with the SVD spirituality as written in our SVD constitution.

Young brothers should be given more practical formation in the context of SVD spirituality. The vision of the Founder should be lived and carried out in our time especially in facing the new millennium where high-tech becomes the center of everything.

My contribution to the JPIC in the context of living among confreres is "serving heartily." Therefore, to all the young brothers, I encourage you to serve heartily and to be dedicated to the job entrusted to you.

NOT TO DO, BUT TO BE

Bro Róbert Zabos (HUN)



In Hungary, JPIC activities had already started even before, but the JPIC Provincial Coordinator, Fr. Modestus Lando, has been appointed only this year. The ongoing JPIC activities can be divided into two fields. One takes place in the framework of the Youth Mission Camps, where children and young people arrive from almost all layers of the Hungarian society in order to spend a week with SVD confreres and volunteers in the spirit of the world missions. Ranging from well-off children to those in state care or those who come from the marginalized “roma” (gipsy) minority, many children are given the opportunity to meet each other.

Five to six years ago, we observed reservations among the participants. But now, there are no cliques

anymore. I believe the main reason for this is that the Youth Mission Camps present the opportunity to destroy prejudices among the participants, realizing that we are all children of God, equal despite our differences.

The other field is meeting the needs of the youth in state care. On the one hand, there are those whose parents cannot provide the basic necessities for the upbringing of children because of social or psychological reasons. On the other hand, there are those with deviant behavior.

For three years now, young Divine Word Missionaries and their volunteer helpers have moved into these institutions. The purpose of this mission is “to become one with them,” to get more deeply acquainted with them, and to share the joys and sorrows of their life while adjusting to their rules and daily schedule. “No hay que hacer, sino hay que ser,” as the Latin-American saying goes: “The need is not to do, but to be.” Our objective is not to change something. This would be too idealistic an approach. The point is to be there

whenever they need us, whether for conversation or merely for play, in order to overcome the monotony of day-to-day routine.

CHRIST IN THE SUFFERING

Br. Miller Hernandez (COL/USC)



When people talk about JPIC as a characteristic dimension of the Divine Word Society, I feel really excited and challenged.

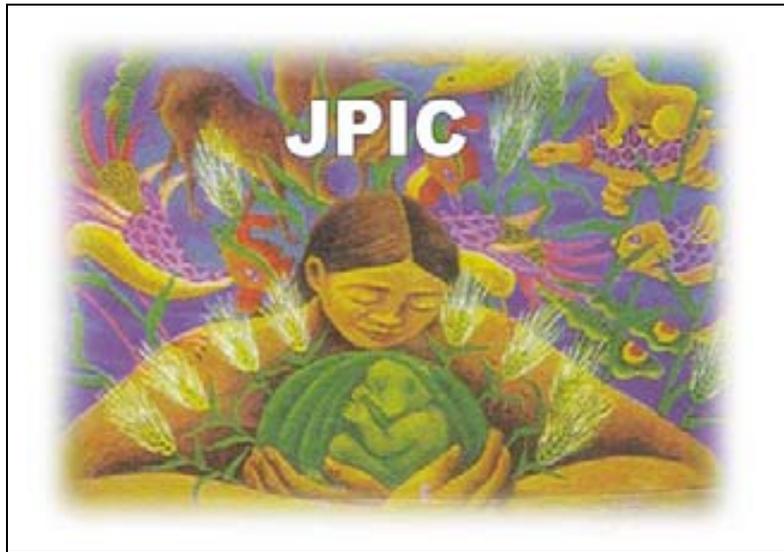
That exciting challenge makes me recall my formation training in Colombia. At that time, I used to do my pastoral work in African-descent communities. I worked with juvenile groups, building leadership in their communities through group gatherings. We had conferences about different topics, such as communication, discrimination, community, and spirituality. In addition, we organized one or two masses every semester in African-Colombian style, using drums and dancing, displaying in this

Cont. Br. Hernandez

way some elements of spirituality, and also the happiness of the African-descent communities in Colombia.

I once asked my superiors why the African-descent community mission had not been specifically included in the society? In reply, they explained all dimensions, their interaction, and their specific areas. JPIC as a prophetic dimension

allows us to identify clearly not only discrimination and marginalization, but also dishonesty, violence and abuses that exist in many communities. As missionaries, we must be fair, denounce injustice, promote peace, and be committed to follow Jesus. Therefore, let's not forget that JPIC is an essential part of the Divine Word Society.



A LAST WORD, FROM THE EDITORS

Let us continue the dialogue! Please write your echoes in the language of your choice. We thank you for that. We look forward to a vivid dialogue!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Your Brothers in Cebu.

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