

JPIC supplement to candidacy formation
by Andrew Conradi, ofs (JPIC National Animator), 2016
Some ideas/points that could be included at the discretion of the formator

CANDIDACY

Chapter 24 “The Gift of Work”

The Franciscan Journey (Updated version 2010) by Lester Bach, OFM Cap.

Note: *Understanding JPIC (UJPIC)* can be found here:

<http://www.franciscanvoicecanada.com/> Click on “Understanding JPIC” at the foot of the page. [It is best to get it from this source as it will post the amendments quickly after they are made so you will get the latest updated version here]

1.

From *FJ* p258: “*In the conviction that work is a right and duty
....*”

Comment: This speaks for itself!

Now let us look specifically at work for JPIC

From *UJPIC* p 2: “I by my works will show you my faith.” Jas
2:18

From *UJPIC*:

2.0.4. Although St Francis of Assisi is reputed to have said:
“Preach - use words if you must,” actually what he wrote in
Chapter 17 of the Rule of 1221 was: “All the Friars . . . should
preach by their example.” (Habig, 1983, 44) In some translations
“example” is rendered as “deeds” or “works.”

3.1.7. After the October 2008 Synod, Benedict XVI addressed the
word of God and JPIC. He has this to say on the word of God and
commitment to justice in society (2010, *Verbum domini*, nn. 100-
103):

“God’s word inspires men and women to build relationships based
on rectitude and justice, and testifies to the great value in God’s
eyes of every effort to create a more just and more liveable
world.[327] The word of God itself unambiguously denounces
injustices and promotes solidarity and equality.[328] In the light of
the Lord’s words, let us discern the “signs of the times” present in
history, and not flee from a commitment to those who suffer and

the victims of forms of selfishness. ... the Synod Fathers wished to say a special word to all those who take part in political and social life. Evangelization and the spread of God's word ought to inspire their activity in the world, as they work for the true common good in respecting and promoting the dignity of every person. ... It is primarily the task of the lay faithful, formed in the school of the Gospel, to be directly involved in political and social activity. For this reason, the Synod recommends that they receive a suitable formation in the principles of the Church's social teaching.[330]" (emphasis added)

[Note JM or JW in the paragraph below means *Justitia in Mundo* (JM) / Justice in the World (JW)]

3.2.15. Fr Donal Dorr, SPS is, among other things, a theologian and activist in JPIC who has served as a consultor to the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. His latest book is titled *Option for the Poor and for the Earth; Catholic Social Teaching* (Orbis, Maryknoll, NY, 2012). His thoughts on JM have been used extensively in this consideration of it. He is not alone in his interpretations which are echoed by Peter Henriot, S.J., who served for 21 years as the director of the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection in Lusaka, Zambia and is currently engaged in Jesuit educational work in Malawi. (Henriot, 2011) In a talk Fr Dorr gave on JM (which he refers to as JW), he explains the meaning of the word "constitutive" in this oft quoted paragraph: "Action on behalf of justice and participation in the transformation of the world fully appear to us as a constitutive dimension of the preaching of the Gospel" (JM, n. 6). Fr Dorr said: "The word 'constitutive' means 'essential'. So the document is saying that if the Church in any given situation is not working to promote justice, then it is failing to be what Jesus calls it to be. ... an essential aspect of living out our faith is to work to overcome injustice and to create a world of justice, peace, reconciliation, and respect for the environment." (Dorr, 2011, 1 & 2) "Instead of understanding the word to mean

“necessary” or “essential,” some have interpreted it to mean only “integral” (simply one part among many in the evangelical message) or merely “helpful” (assisting the work of spreading the Gospel). But when *constitutive* is taken to mean an absolute requirement, then work for justice cannot be ignored in any ecclesial project.” (Henriot, 2011)

3.5.3. David Couturier, OFM Cap, one time President of Franciscans International and Associate Director of the Capuchin International Office of Justice and Peace said:

“..... justice, peace and the integrity of creation are not what a Franciscan community does when it has time or energy left over from its other more important work. Neither is it the activity left to a small group of highly motivated individuals at the corners of the Province. It is the primary task of each and every community of faith that dares to claim a role in the evangelizing work of the Spirit today.” (A Talk to Franciscan Directors of JPIC, 27 November 2003, emphasis added)

Question:

Do you agree that JPIC is our primary task as Franciscans?

Does it seem that it is so in your fraternity?