

**JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION  
LOME TOGO 7TH-13TH FEBRUARY 2010  
AFRAM ZONE**

Most people have experience of some form of Justice and injustice. Justice and peace are part of human history and our own lives. A helpful place to begin to understand the concept of justice and peace is by thinking about our personal experiences of justice and injustice in the light of our Faith.

**SOME BIBLICAL TEXTS:** Biblical stories to help us as we reflect on these issues of JPIC. Stoning of the woman accused of adultery (John 8:3-11), Susana and her accuser (Daniel 13:1-64). Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-42).

The need to overcome injustice is something we have alluded to repeatedly. The reason for such repetition is that widespread injustice is the greatest sin facing us, the greatest denial of love. Working for true justice is therefore the most challenging task for any Parish. No Parish, community or movement should consider itself excused from this task. We cannot be community serving humanity if we disregard the deepest challenges before us. To accept the Gospel means to accept the demands of Justice and Peace and to overcome discrimination and inequality.

Before I deal with issues from different provinces and regions let me mention something about "**Spirituality** of Justice and Peace Ministry"

The Spirituality of Justice and Peace ministry is part of Christian Spirituality. The Spirituality of Justice and Peace is expressed through our words and actions as we work for JPIC in our communities, Parishes, Country and the World. There are FOUR Key words that identify the key aspect of the Spirituality of JPIC.

1. Faith. We are believers in Jesus Christ, the son of God who walked among us to ensure that all people have life and live to the full.
2. Relationship. We live our faith through what we say and do, especially the way we treat others and our relationship with them.
3. Prophetic. We live our faith through the way we play in society, exercise prophetic role when we identify with the people in society who are real need.
4. The Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps us to live our faith and express our JPIC Spirituality.

**REPORTS FROM DIFFERENT REGIONS /PROVINCES IN AFRAM ZONE.**

**TOGO-BENIN**

Regular visit to work with persons infected with HIV/AIDS at center opened NGO called "Espoir Vie" (Hope Life) in Togo which gives consolation, hope to the victims. --Social awareness on social status of women by empowering them through education. At the center of rehabilitation of young girls between 12-15 who had been in the streets for being abandoned by parents/family members="La Providence".

--Sensitization works on individual levels as well as Parish levels so as to promote JPIC Issues. One example is the Parish of "Notre Dame Sous La Croix". Objectives of teaching was to strengthen the capacity of JPIC formed at Parish.

---Training of Laity as Para Jurist in Benin district. In the beginning presence of Para Jurist brought some misunderstanding as police were concerned but understanding and collaboration was attained at the end.

## **GHANA.**

Conferes in the Northern part of the country have to do with people who are affected by conflict. Those in Accra and Koforidua are dealing with streets families and urban migration. Those in the Afram plains are dealing with problems of child labor.

In Ghana they have formed an Inter-congregational JPIC coordination which consist of all religious congregations in the country .At the moment they have a project of empowering Women to be self supportive. They will also be having an inter-congregational JPIC meeting from 4th-7<sup>th</sup> of Feb. to look at how together they can deal with JPIC Issues in Ghana.

Br. Oswald also tries to contact seminarians and young brothers and to listen to them as well as-if necessary, make suggestions to format ors about individual matters.

### **On specialized apostolate under JPIC**

Fr.Andrew Cambel established a Leprosarium in Accara for lepers who had been banished from their homes. At one time he managed to get government and other NGOs to support the feeding of the inmates. Br. Paul in West Akyem as chaplain in the National Prison managed to build a small library for the inmates and prisoners receiving Sacrament of initiation.

Ghana also has a provincial coordinator for HIV/AIDS issues. He network with other coordinators. Not forgetting the Orthopedic Training Center.

## **BOTSWANA.**

Botwana, Zambia and S. Africa are so different economically and politically. The three countries struggle with social problems such as HIV/AIDS, refugees from D.R. Congo, Zimbabwe and Mozambique, about children and women, lack of proper family life etc.

HIV/AIDS has plugged the region in such a way that it has caused the problem of single parents, orphans, unemployment etc.

It is these environment confreres are undertaking their mission responsibilities. They collaborate with NGOs, Dioceses and other organs within localities where they operate.

One confrere is involved in Prison ministry. Another one is involved in managing a Hospice to provide quality health care to the chronically ill.

In S. Africa, Parishes are running home based care programmes for those affected by HIV/AIDS.

## **ANGOLA.**

Street children Pastoral and General election in the country.

In Angola they have Arnold Janssen rehabilitation street center where three confreres are working full time. The center has more than 100 children and others outside the center where they are followed by social workers.

Fundo Devolutivo- its a micro credit which consist of giving some amount of money to the poor to start a small business to help the family.

## **D.R. CONGO**

*“In face of the disastrous image and the multiple challenges of our society, how can we close our eyes, cover our ears and stay indifferent? Peace is much cheaper than war!”*

The vision of the JPIC Coordination in the SVD is to promote and support the integration of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation in Christian life as well as in religious and missionary

life. The provincial coordinator works together with the three district coordinators for JPIC in the province. He is in close collaboration with the Church organizations, also with the Civil institutions and the State.

- *In the field of conscientisation* the coordinator is distributing leaflets for JPIC. Some of the titles are: (1) "Commitment at all price" underlining the capital importance of fighting for Justice and Peace – keeping silence vis-à-vis the injustices is participating in it! (2) "The ten enemy concepts of Development" – Corruption, ignorance, laziness, jalousie, lie, fear, injustice, insecurity, irresponsibility and immorality. (3) Presentation of what JPIC means. CDs are also produced on the impact of JPIC in development, the malnutrition and its consequences in development and the impact of conflicts in development.

- *In the field of formation* the JPIC coordinator has also organized several sessions and conferences about (1) Human rights, (2) the World Economic Crises and (3) the Ethics and Morals in the profession as Development Agents. He is currently working on a document on Justice, Peace and Reconciliation as an echo of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Synod of Bishops.

- *In the field of environment and care of creation* he is involved in the campaign and work for reforestation in his area. In collaboration with SANRU he has developed six water sources in six villages.

## **KENYA TANZANIA.**

Tree Planting. This is being demonstrated in various Parishes and Institutions by our own SVD confreres. Example tree planting in Kayole and Soweto Parishes. Also tree planting in Katani, Ruai, Simanjiro and Doldol.

HIV/AIDS. In collaboration with groups like Huduma ya afya to carry out free testing in our parishes.

Civic Education. Paralegal groups in our parishes educate our small Christian communities on various legal matters as well about the Constitution review process. Also to bring legal awareness to the Christians.

Students and JPIC issues. Our formators keep informing our students the need to save water, electricity and the need to keep our environment clean. On Saturdays our students are engaged in manual work within our premises and parish.

Youth Dancing group. It is a youth dancing troupe which uses dancing to bring message of JPIC to our Parishioners and the people around our parishes and outstations.

VIVAT WORKSHOP. It was held from 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> of January in Nairobi in view of opening an office in Nairobi. Members were from East Africa, Egypt and Jordan=Mid East. In attendance were the VIVAT Team from New York.

## **DIFFICULTIES AND DREAM.**

Communication is the biggest huddle. Language barriers and no communication from the coordinators poses a big problem.

Transfer of confrere from the office hence living a vacuum of communication and no continuity. Lack of Internet facilities.

Lack of communication from the Provincials or Regionals.

## **DREAM.**

Lay people participation(collaboration)

On-going formation programmes with JPIC issues.

JPIC awareness among our SVD conferees.

Small Christian Communities can be our strongest agents in our parishes.

Role of JPIC Coordinators as spelt out in the handbook of superiors be implemented.

Share materials available with other confrere in the Regions or other Provinces.

VIVAT Team. We should send articles from our grassroots level.

### **EXPECTATION.**

We should identify a confrere with interest in JPIC in the Province or in the Formation house.

Coordinators should work closely with the Provincial/Regional and keep contact with the Generalate coordinator.

### **CONCLUSION.**

I THANK THE Fr.General and his council as well as all the Provincials in Afram for the opportunity to serve as the JPIC Afram Zonal coordinator.

Your cooperation is highly appreciated and God bless you all.

God Bless Afram and God bless the SVD.

Br. Lawrence Kithinji..