

CONTACT



The Franciscan dream and journey @COP26 (Glasgow)

"I urgently appeal . . . for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all." (LS. 14)

1

ECOLOGY

Italy - Brazil - United Kingdom - Ireland

2

MIGRATION

Central America - Honduras

3

HUMAN RIGHTS

Switzerland - Mexico - Philippines - Honduras



JPIC Italy elects New Council



Honduras: Human Rights and Migration



Sister Providence Social Project



God makes fraternal unity among us possible through the gift of his Son Jesus.

As an Office we are forever grateful for all the blessings the Lord showered upon us throughout this challenging year, as we explore all means to be of service to the Church, the Order, to our brothers and to all of you. As acceptable expressions: broad concepts, and imprecise sentiments have nothing to do with the fraternity He delivers. It is a brotherhood established on genuine love that enables us to meet people who are unlike us, feel compassion for their suffering, grow close to them, and care for them even though they are not members of our communities, family, ethnic group, or religion. Regardless of their differences, they are still our brothers and sisters.

The same holds for ties between individuals and nations: we are all brothers and sisters! It is even more critical that we identify as brothers and sisters at this point in history, characterized by ecological calamities and severe economic and social injustices that the coronavirus outbreak has worsened.

At Christmas, we commemorate the entry of Christ's light into the world; he comes for everyone, not just a select few. Today, amid the pandemic's doom and gloom, several rays of optimism shine through, like the discovery of vaccinations. However, for these lights to shine and bring hope to everyone, they must be available for all. We must not allow the numerous varieties of nationalism to close in on itself and prevent us from living like a real human family. And we cannot enable radical individualism to infect us and blind us to the suffering of our brothers and sisters. We cannot put ourselves first, allowing commercial forces and patents to trump the law of compassion and humanity's health.

“At Christmas, we commemorate the entry of Christ's light into the world; he comes for everyone, not just a select few. Today, amid the pandemic's doom and gloom, several rays of optimism shine through, like the discovery of vaccinations.”

We must call everyone, the church and government leaders, corporations, and international organizations, to prioritize collaboration over competition and work toward a solution that benefits everyone: vaccines and opportunities for everyone, especially the world's most vulnerable and impoverished. Priority is given to the most vulnerable and in need!

Although Jesus was born in a stable, the Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph love him dearly. By his physical birth, the Son of God consecrated familial love. Our thoughts focus on our communities and families: those unable to gather this season and those confined to their homes. May Christmas inspire us to rediscover the family as a cradle of life and faith, a place of acceptance and love, conversation, forgiveness, brotherly solidarity, and shared joy, and a source of peace for all humanity.

We cannot create barriers in the face of an insurmountable obstacle. We are all in the same boat. Every other individual is either our brother or sister. We see the face of God in everyone, and in those who suffer, we see the Lord appealing for assistance. We see him in the sick, the impoverished, the unemployed, the disadvantaged, the migrants, and the refugees: in all of His creation!

Merry Christmas and a blessed New year 2022!



Br. Jaime Campos, OFM
Br. Angelito Cortez, OFM
JPIC Office



Towards a strong Franciscan Collaboration

The OFM - JPIC Office represented by Br. Angelito A. Cortez, OFM, went to Geneva, Switzerland last October 3 to 9, 2021, to visit Franciscan International for future collaboration and prepare for the preparation of Franciscan Participation in COP 26.

The first day of the said visit was a simple celebration in honor of the feast of our seraphic father, St. Francis of Assisi. All the staff attended the festivity with other neighboring Catholic NGOs in the same building, such as Dominican International, Vivat International, and Edmund Rice International. The visit also coincides with the culmination of the United Nations 48th Human Rights Council. One of the main objectives of the visit is to talk about developments on the work of collaboration with the Office and FI. Currently, friars are working with FI on the issue of Migration, Human Rights, and Climate Change in the Franciscan entities in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

The Office also had the opportunity to attend the weekly FI staff meeting in the presence of their executive director Br. Markus Heinze, OFM. It was a hybrid meeting (online and offline), discussing the updates and whereabouts of the daily goal and accomplishment of the staff both in Geneva and New York. During the said meeting, Br. Markus expressed his gratitude to the office for the support and continuous collaboration. Almost all the staff mentioned the same sentiments. They appreciated the experience of working with the friars in every country of their concern.

Br. Angelito Cortez, OFM
JPIC Office



Franciscans in 48th UN Human Rights Council

During this pandemic, advocacy work was challenging. Franciscan International has the difficulty of bringing partners from outside Europe. On that note, they maximized the opportunity that Br. Angel Cortez, OFM was there with them.

As a Filipino Franciscan, he worked with them for almost four years before his mission in the office in Rome. He is part of the Philippine Human Rights Delegation that does lobby work every UN Human Rights Council. This time he was asked by FI to meet some diplomats for some lobby work and read a statement during agenda item number ten of the council.

The statement calls that despite the attention paid by the Human Rights Council to the situation in the Philippines, there has been no substantial positive change on the ground. FI and partners denounced the widespread and daily State violence against the Filipino people. Noting that domestic mechanisms have failed to show meaningful progress toward achieving justice for the many victims of the so-called ‘war on drugs,’ the statement reiterated the call on the council to establish a Commission of Inquiry to start a long-overdue investigation.

48th Session of the UN Human Rights Council

Item 10:
Oral Update of the High Commissioner on
Technical Cooperation and Building in the Philippines



Franciscans International
A voice at the United Nations

FASTENOPFER

Dominicans
for justice and peace

Dreikönigsaktion
Netzwerk der katholischen Jugend

Task Force
Detainees of the
Philippines

PAHRA

amrsp

Logo of the Philippine Human Rights Delegation

MISEREOR
euer Hilfswerk

fidh

On the same day, a solidarity protest for the Philippines was held in the infamous Broken Chair landmark in front of the UN flag of Nations. It was attended by different Human Rights Church and Civil Society NGOs in Europe led by Geneva Forum for Philippine Concerns.

Br. Angelito Cortez, OFM
JPIC Office



Franciscans preparing for COP26 in Glasgow

The arrangements and timetable for the Franciscan Presence and Participation at COP 26 in Glasgow were finalized on the penultimate day of the OFM-JPIC office's visit to Franciscan International. The Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) holds its 26th summit (UNFCCC). Delegates from governments, civil society organizations, people's movements, NGOs, indigenous organizations, trade unions, companies, spiritual leaders, and others interested in climate change gather at this yearly summit to debate global climate action.

Six years after the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement, it's critical to assess progress while ramping up pledges and laying out a clear plan of action for achieving climate action goals in the short, medium, and long term. Furthermore, COP26 offers a significant chance to advance global ambitions to save the Earth from further degradation by lowering emissions, building resilience, and adapting to climate change. We have the opportunity to urge that world leaders commit to decisive and just action on the ecological crisis that our shared home is experiencing during the COP26.

A hybrid (online and face-to-face) webinar on “Defending a Healthy Planet: The Contribution of Franciscans at COP26”, is one of the major plans. The goal of this webinar is to offer information and engage the franciscan family in a discussion on how we can be proactive in advocating for and asking for bold actions to address the current environmental catastrophe. We'll talk about how we may react to the voice of the Earth, and the cry of the most vulnerable, especially those threatened by climate change, as inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*. We'll hear from experts and others working on climate justice and grassroots action. They aim in this event is to use a rights-based approach to advocate at the United Nations (UN) to protect human dignity and environmental justice.

Br. Angelito Cortez, OFM
JPIC Office

Franciscan Milestone at the UN

The last activity of the OFM-JPIC visit is a meeting with the Franciscan International advocacy team.

Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change			
ARGENTINA	ABST	ERITREA	YES
ARMENIA	YES	FUJ	YES
AUSTRIA	YES	FRANCE	YES
BAHAMAS	YES	GABON	YES
BAHRAIN	YES	GERMANY	YES
BANGLADESH	ABST	INDIA	YES
BOLIVIA (PLURINATIONAL STATE OF)	YES	INDONESIA	YES
BRAZIL	YES	ITALY	YES
BULGARIA	ABST	JAPAN	YES
BURKINA FASO	YES	LIBYA	YES
CAMEROON	YES	MALAWI	YES
CHINA	YES	MARSHALL ISLANDS	YES
		NETHERLANDS	YES
		PAKISTAN	YES
		PHILIPPINES	YES
		POLAND	YES
		REPUBLIC OF KOREA	YES
		RUSSIAN FEDERATION	YES
		SENEGAL	YES
		SOMALIA	YES
		SUDAN	YES
		TOGO	YES
		UKRAINE	YES
		UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	YES

The purpose of the conference is to identify new plans for their existing advocacies and accomplishments. During the session, the OFM - JPIC office witnessed a momentous event for FI. Following years of sustained collective advocacy, the United Nations Human Rights Council adopted two landmark resolutions. It included the recognition of a right that has the potential to transform the environment and the appointment of a dedicated UN expert who can finally shed light on the missing links between climate change impacts and human rights.



As if watching a football match, the team set up a big screen and followed the deliberation of the UN Human Rights Council on these two important resolutions. It was a meaningful way to end the OFM-JPIC office visit to FI. The office congratulates FI for their milestones in our calls at the UN to protect our common home. The office wishes to thank Br. Markus Heinze OFM, Ms. Sandra Epal-Ratjen, all the staff, and most especially to Mr. Budi Tjahjono for organizing the entire visit. It was indeed a fruitful and meaningful visit. The office is looking forward to more collaboration in the future.

Br. Angelito Cortez, OFM
JPIC Office



More than 60 Catholic organizations issue statement on COP26 draft agreement

As Catholics, united for our common home, we urgently ask leaders at the United Nations 26th Climate Change Conference to follow Pope Francis' leadership in reaching a prophetic final agreement.

The science is clear: an extractive, unsustainable economy, fueled by fossil fuels, is causing the climate crisis that's destroying God's creation and harming the most vulnerable among us the most, those who have done little to cause the crisis.

We owe it to our poorest sisters and brothers, future generations, and all of God's creation to seize this historic opportunity. In 2015, Pope Francis wrote in *Laudato Si'* that fossil fuels need "to be progressively replaced without delay." Now, in 2021, we have reached a decisive moment. We must reach an agreement in Glasgow that sets a **clear and ambitious timeline for a just transition away from harmful fossil fuels**. Setting out such a pathway is an essential step to accelerating investment in a clean energy future for all.

As Catholics, we have other priorities for the final agreement as well, including recognizing the rights of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and keeping the commitment of 1.5 degrees. It is also essential that the final declaration reaffirms the commitment to climate finance for adaptation, as well as loss and damage.

But above all, a final agreement must deliver on a clear pathway forward to a just transition away from an extractive economy based on fossil fuels, the root cause of the climate crisis. We will continue working and praying for that prophetic outcome.

Signed by:

Bishop John Arnold, Environment spokesperson for Bishops of England and Wales

Bishop Martin Hayes, *Laudato Si'* Coordinator, Irish Episcopal Conference

Association of Leaders of Missionaries and Religious of Ireland (AMRI)

Christine Allen, Director, CAFOD

Eduardo Agosta Scarel, O. Carm., CarmeliteNGO.org

Daniel Misleh, Founder, and Jose Aguto, Executive Director, Catholic Climate Covenant

Alistair Dutton, Chief Executive, SCIAF (Caritas Scotland)

Joe Gunn, Executive Director, Centre Oblat

Josianne Gauthier, Secretary General, CIDSE

Laura Morales, Chapter Leader Citizens' Climate Lobby Colombia

Rohan Dominic, CMF, Fondazione Proclade Internazionale, Claretian Missionaries

Sister Durstynne Farnan, OP Dominican Leadership Conference

Stefania Papa, EcoOne – Focolare Movement

Budi Tjahjono, Franciscans International

Analisa Ramsahai, Regional Programme Coordinator, The Franciscan Institute for Personal and Family Development, Caribbean

Rev. Fletcher Harper, Executive Director, GreenFaith
 Sr Ann Marie Quinn, International Presentation Association
 Michel Roy, Justice et Paix France
 Br. Angelito Cortez, OFM, Vice Director, OFM-JPIC General Cura office
 Sr Sheila Kinsey, FCJM, JPIC Commission USG-UISG
 Jessica Gatty r.a., JPIC co-ordinator, Religious of the Assumption Europe
 Sr Maureen O'Connell, JPIC, Diocese of Kerry, Ireland
 Dr. Garry Carville, Irish Council for Justice and Peace
 Steeven Kezanutima, Program Manager ,JPIC-Franciscans Africa
 Anja Appel, Director, KOO / Austria
 Marvie L. Misolas, MM Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic/Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
 Angela Reed rsm, Head, Mercy Global Action, Mercy International Association
 Amy Echeverria, Missionary Society of St. Columban (International)
 Paul Southgate, Chair, National Justice and Peace Network for England and Wales
 Lorna Gold, President, and Tomas Insua, Executive Director, Laudato SI' Movement
 Fr. Santiago González, OFM, MLS – Colombia
 Tra-my Nguyen, Young Adult Ministry Project Worker, Religious of the Assumption
 Marianne Comfort, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team
 Teresa Kotturan SCN, Sisters of Charity Federation
 Frank McCann, CSJP-A, Peace thru Justice Facilitator, Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace
 Sr Susanna Choi, Congregational Leader of the Missionary Sisters of St Columban
 Darlene O'Leary, Martha Justice Ministry, Sisters of St. Martha, Antigonish, NS, Canada
 Michelle Loisel DC, Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul
 Dr. Mark Hathaway, Executive Director, Jesuit Forum for Social Faith and Justice, Canada
 Thomas Pallithanam, Salesian Missions
 Xavier Jeyaraj SJ, Secretary, SJES – Rome (Society of Jesus)
 Sylvia Thompson, St John's Care of Creation , Tralee, Kerry, Ireland.
 Caoimhe de Barra, Chief Executive Officer, Trócaire
 Miguel Ángel Velasco López cmf, Misionero Claretiano. Equipo cmf ante la ONU
 Maria Lourdes Santos SSpS, VIVAT International
 Dr Austen Ivereigh, Campion Hall, University of Oxford
 Sr. Judith Bell, President, Franciscan Sisters of Mary
 Allen Ottaro, CEO, CYNESA
 Sr. Amarachi Grace Ezeonu, NGO Representative – Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur at the UN
 Sr. Sue Wilson, CSJ, Executive Director, Office for Systemic Justice, Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada
 Lina Sedano Rodríguez – Coordinator Laudato SI' Movement Chapter Colombia
 Rosa María Berrío Herazo, Animadora Laudato SI' Córdoba, Colombia.
 Emilia Sena Coordinadora del Equipo de Solidaridad y Misión de los Misioneros Claretianos de America.
 SOMICLA
 Mark Campanale, London
 Luke Henkel, Laudato Si Generation
 Susan Gunn, Director Maryknoll Office for Global Concern.
 Stephen Makagutu, Laudato Si Movement- Africa
 Fr. Dermot Lane, co-chair Laudato Si Working Group, Irish Episcopal Conference
 Henry Ramirez Soler cmf equipo Claretiano ante la ONU
 Joan Atkinson, CSJ in Canada, Office for Systemic Justice
 Rodne R. Galicha, Living Laudato Si' Philippines
 Sister Margo Ritchie, Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada
 Fr. Francis J Breen, Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers
 Leah Watkiss, Chair, Joint Ecological Ministry (JEM)
 Dr. Garry Carville, Irish Council for Justice and Peace



Hundreds of Catholic institutions, communities, and families have already committed to making their **Laudato Si' Plans. We're building a better future together because **"everything in the world is connected."** (LS 16)**

Join us at
LaudatoSiActionPlatform.org
#LaudatoSi Link in bio

Laudato Si' Action Platform Launches with Leadership from the JPIC Office of the Order.

Today, the World Day of Prayer for the Poor, the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development announces the launch of the next phase of the Laudato Si' Action Platform. The JPIC Office has played a key role in its development as a member of the steering committee.

The Laudato Si' Action Platform is a key Vatican initiative to empower the universal Church to achieve total sustainability in the holistic spirit of integral ecology. The human family faces increasing risks of hunger, disease, migration, and conflict due to climate change and environmental degradation, unfortunately, the most vulnerable suffer above all.

The Laudato Si' Action Platform provides practical tools to address this socio-ecological crisis. By committing to creating a Laudato Si' Plan, the friars of the Order and of the Franciscan Family members can access free resources to evaluate where you stand on the road to sustainability, reflect on the principles of integral ecology, and make a plan to take action.

Over the past year, the JPIC Office has helped shape both the model and the content for this program. Through deep and sustained conversations with the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and a global network of partners, the Holy Spirit has created a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts, a shared space for action that offers new momentum to urgently address our socio-ecological crisis.

We invite you and all members of the universal Church to join us and the Vatican on this Laudato Si' journey.

Find out more at www.laudatosiactionplatform.org



JPIC Italy elects New Council

A meeting of the JPIC animators of Italy (Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation) was held at the General Curia in Rome on 22 and 23 November 2021.

The meeting was opened by the Minister General, Br Massimo Fusarelli. He invited the animators to change the paradigm, from the human being as *dominus* to the human being as *frater*, living in communion with all. From human beings who take care of themselves to human beings who take care of each other and are open to creatures, living peace as a gift from on high, witnessing the encounter with the little ones as brothers and sisters.

On the second day, the animators elected the new Council for the next three years. Br Francesco ZECCA, from Lecce, was elected JPIC Coordinator of Italy, Br Antonio LEMBO, from Puglia-Molise, Vice Coordinator and as Councilors were elected Br Sergio SPIGA from Northern Italy, Br Andrea FRIGO from Umbria-Sardinia and Br Marino PORCELLI from Lazio-Abruzzo.

Source: ofm.org



Letter of the Minister General on the occasion of the World Day of the Poor.

18th October 2021

Feast of St. Luke the Evangelist

**To Provincial Ministers, Custodians and Presidents of Foundations.
To all Friars of the Order of Friars Minor**

Dear Brothers,

May the Lord give you peace

On 14th November the 5th World Day of the Poor will be celebrated and just two days before that on Friday 12th November, Pope Francis will be a pilgrim at the Portiuncola, in the Basilica of Our Lady of the Angels, to meet 500 poor people, coming from different parts of Europe, to listen to and converse with them. Once again the Pope has given an eloquent witness through his deeds.

I will be present, along with other brothers, for this moment. I will be there representing all of you.

On hearing the news of this visit, together with a great joy, I felt strongly for all friars the challenge of this gesture, which will be made exactly in the place where all of us were born.

The Pope does not limit himself to writing a message, but meets us in the flesh, the same flesh of the poor that is the sacrament of Christ, who for love of us made himself poor and wished to be identified with the poor.

I am reminded of the words of St. John XXIII, a secular Franciscan, who one month before the opening of the Second Vatican Council, spoke with a prophetic voice:

The Church presents itself as it is, and as it wants to be, the Church of all, and particularly the Church of the poor

(Radio broadcast to all the faithful 11th September 1962).

This awareness of the Church of every time, finds an extraordinary witness in St. Francis, who as the Pope reminded us in his message to our recent General Chapter:

Renewing one's own vision: that is what happened to the young Francis of Assisi. He bears witness to it himself, recounting the story in his Testament as to what gave rise to his own conversion: his meeting with the lepers, when that which was bitter to him changed into sweetness of body and soul (Test 1 -4). At the root of your spirituality is this meeting with the least and with those suffering, in the form of showing mercy. God touched the heart of Francis through mercy being shown to his brother, and he continues to touch our hearts through our meetings with others, above all with the most needy. The renewal of your vision can only start from here with a new manner of looking at a poor and marginalized brother, a sign, almost a sacrament of the presence of God. From this new manner of seeing, from this real meeting with one's neighbour and with their wounds you can be endowed with new energy to look forward to a future as both brothers and minors, as you are, according to the beautiful name of lesser brothers, which St. Francis chose for himself and for you.

I ask myself, listening to my conscience and the voice of the Lord, and I do so with each one of you:

- To what extent am I aware that meeting the poor is at the heart of my life as a friar minor in the footsteps of Jesus, He, who was rich above all others, (and) wanted to choose in this world, together with the most blessed Virgin, poverty (2LFI, 5: FF182)?

- How many times have I had a meeting, a shared experience with the poor in a concrete fashion? Do I feel that this has bothered me and I have begun again my journey? Or otherwise?

- Do I often defend myself thinking that this is a dimension which is more social and less religious? Though according to the prophets in the Scriptures, aren't the poor the mirror in which we look if we are still believers? God loved them and wished that his Son be one of them. The same goes for the Apostles and for the friends of the Lord throughout history, not least with St. Francis, St. Clare and St. Elizabeth. Will meeting the real face of some poor people and their real suffering, with their smell and sometimes unpleasant presence, together with the questions they ask of us, finally move us both emotionally and physically? Will they lead us to convert? Will they make us come out of our, often too comfortable, dens?

For this, as your minister and servant and in communion with the General Definitory, after prayerful consideration I am asking in this letter that all the friars in the Order and in the different fraternities of the world, to make time during the month of November for a concrete meeting with the poor. Not on their own, but as a fraternity, at least two by two (see Luke 10,1), in order to have a simple meeting of presence, closeness and service for one of them, knocking at their door, as the Holy Father wrote in his message for this 5th World Poor Day. Let us listen:

We cannot wait until the poor knock at our door, we must urgently seek them in their houses, in the hospitals and in care homes, on the streets and in the dark corners where they sometimes hide, in refuge and care centres. It is important to understand how they feel, what they are experiencing and what desires they have in their hearts. Let us make our own the words of Don Primo Mazzolari: 'I want to beg you not to ask me if there are poor people and who and how many they are, because I fear that such questions are only a distraction or pretext to avoid a precise direction to the conscience and the heart'. I have never counted the poor, because you can't count them, you embrace them, you don't count them (Adesso no. 7, 15th April 1949). The poor are in our midst. How evangelical would it be if we could truthfully say that we too are poor, because only then will we succeed in truly recognizing them and making them part of our lives and an instrument of salvation.

In the General Chapter we asked ourselves again about our identity and recognized it in fraternity and in minority. We can discuss the matter interminably but always find ourselves at the same point.

We are happy that the Holy Father is coming to the Portiuncola: he certainly honours the place and us by his visit, but at the same time he is pushing us to come out of ourselves and our houses and everyday business to meet the poor, to discover that our identity is here, it is awaiting us, giving us new light and that it is possible to live it today with joy even amongst all the difficulties.

I believe that a step of this kind is possible for all of us: for the Ministers and all the brothers; for the young as well as the old; for friars engaged in pastoral care as well as those who study; for novices and postulants as well as their formators; for the evangelizers and the missionaries; for those who are solid in their vocation as well as those who are questioning themselves and perhaps looking elsewhere.

This is because meeting the poor is not an activity nor is it an ideology: it is a door towards mercy, which is always open. Let us choose to cross the threshold together and I believe that we will experience a great surprise of the Spirit, an important new beginning in our Gospel life. It does not matter whether we are saints or sinners: the poor welcome that poor person that is in each one of us, they recognize him, and if we approach them without arrogance or fear, they help us to walk and sustain us in our journey.

If Pope Francis dreams of a Church of the poor, I dream that in our universal Fraternity we may know how to rediscover and meet once again the face of the poor and the little ones, with their different names and conditions. I believe that from this meeting experienced through our vocation, we friars will receive a special grace and be able to choose again to become poor, reconsidering our relationship with things, with money, with power and with our affections. God knows how much we need this, so as not to extinguish ourselves in a too comfortable and guaranteed life, so far away from the condition of the poor that we no longer feel the thirst for Christ and for a new and genuine humanity capable of giving.

The poor are our teachers (CG93 ¶1): let us be evangelized by them! The Lord is waiting for us with them and is ready to gift us with great surprises. Let Him do it to us, beloved brothers in the Lord, let us not resist that desire, that breath of the charism which the Spirit evokes in us still, with a force that we, on our own, do not know how to find. I pray, and let us all pray, for this.

I ask you in the name of St. Francis: let us try to take this step towards the poor in the month of November and we will be surprised by the outcome! The Lord goes ahead of us and awaits us on this journey: let us choose a gesture, let us go to a house, a hospice, the friars' infirmary, a prison, a hospital, a migrant centre, an area of the periphery, a welcome centre or so many other places to see Christ in his vicars, the poor. And let us allow ourselves to be found by Him, who wishes to attract us still and to light up our lives.

I will happily receive from you who wish to do it, a restitution, a little account of the meeting you had with some poor people, on how it has kept alive the flame of our faith and our vocation. We can begin to write the tract of Franciscan life that has been given to us and asked of us in our time, so that we may transmit it, with our words and our lives, to the next generation.

May the Lord bless you and St. Francis sustain you in this blessed yet difficult time with the desire of a new beginning of our vocation as brothers, lesser and poor, to find the face of our Lord on the streets of the men and women of today, capable of meeting and giving witness.

I embrace you with fraternal affection.

your minister and servant

Br. Massimo Fusarelli, ofm
Minister General

Prot 110780



The Franciscan dream and journey @Cop26 (Glasgow)

"I urgently appeal . . . for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all." (LS. 14) "The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all." (LS. 23) "The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change." (LS. 13) - Pope Francis

The COVID-19 virus has wreaked havoc on millions of people around the world, causing widespread economic disruption. Governments around the world have taken action to safeguard lives and livelihoods. On the other hand, climate change has persisted, and it now poses a threat to life on Earth. For decades, religious communities have been involved in this line of work, and the Encyclical *Laudato Si'* had a significant spiritual impact. For many years, the JPIC General Office has worked to foster ecological conversion in the order and the Franciscan family by actively participating in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties (COP) in conjunction with climate change impacted communities and the civil society.

As a continuous response to this climate crisis, the JPIC-OFM represented by Br. Angelito Cortez, OFM, later accompanied by Br. Billy Hoyne, OFM, and Br. Gabriel Kinahan, OFM; Franciscan International represented by Mr. Budi Tjahjono and Mr. Thomas Kleinveld; and the Anglican Franciscans represented by Br. Clark Berge, SSF; collaborated to organize a delegation for COP26 at Glasgow, Scotland. The local Franciscans supported them in Glasgow and neighboring towns such as the friars of the Blessed John Duns Scotus Community headed by Br. George Smulski, OFM (guardian). The contingent aims to raise consciousness about climate justice and concrete actions; to offer an opportunity for formation on climate crisis with the local Franciscans and the entire Franciscan family through a hybrid webinar; to express solidarity through movement for climate justice along with other faith-based groups and the civil society organizations; to promote and celebrate the spirit and teachings of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato si'* and to listen and bring our Franciscan spirituality and presence to every formal and informal activity, dialogue and negotiations.

With these objectives, the delegation took part in various activities at COP26. The first week was jump-packed with conversations, conferences, prayer, and faith services collaborating with the Interfaith Liaison Committee to UNFCCC (ILC). The ILC works as a platform for faith-based organizations to facilitate dialogue and action. They organize opportunities for collaboration on faith advocacy for climate ambition, embracing all the pillars of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. In the middle of these two weeks, the delegation participated in two major solidarity protests as Global days of action with Young People and faith-based organizations such as Laudato Si Movement, Living Laudato Si, and all other sectors calling for Climate



Justice. On the second week, the Franciscan contingent joined the People Summit. While world leaders meet to discuss the future at COP26, the People summit allowed building people’s power for system change together. The forum brought together the climate justice movement to discuss, learn and strategize for system change.

With this extraordinary journey, the Franciscan delegation expresses their calls for the following key issues that need to be addressed by the church and world leaders, including people of faith, as a common dream: advocacy; resilience and empowerment; finance; loss and damage; adaptation; human rights; just transition; climate science; indigenous peoples; youth and global governance.

We, as Franciscans who actively participated in COP26, dreaming, hoping, and calling that COP26 will involve faith groups in climate negotiations and encourage our church leaders to walk the talk and promote ecological lifestyles that have environmental impacts, such as divestment from fossil fuels; and to create programs that can equip and assist people psychologically, physically, and materially to meet the current climate urgency.

We dream, hope and call that COP26 will increase the number of grants rather than loans and eliminate climate debts, to shift the Global South’s focus from assistance to fair compensation and to produce large-scale climate finance and fulfil the USD 100 billion financing target; To address loss and damage effectively between the Global North and the Global South in a spirit of solidarity and to give required financing to assist poorer and more vulnerable countries in dealing with loss and destruction; Ascertain that adaptation is a primary focus of the climate agenda and make 50% of the nearly \$100 billion commitment to climate action immediately available for adaptation; To encourage accountability among UNFCCC parties for their climate efforts, particularly in demonstrating that their climate actions do not violate human rights and ensure that policies on climate change, development, and human rights are coherent and create forums for social dialogue; To ensure that the costs of transitioning to a post-fossil fuel economy do not fall on the already vulnerable, mainly through workforce training, compensation, and social protection.

We dream, hope, and call that COP26 will make judgments that are consistent with the IPCC’s climate science and include faith-based organizations and their traditions that advocate for a more sustainable way of life; To safeguard indigenous peoples’ rights when responding to climate change and heed Indigenous wisdom and worldviews; to take an intergenerational perspective into account while making decisions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and ensure that young people are represented in climate conversation; To initiate a process of designing and establishing new global institutions and projects centered on a core ethic for everyone, with a clear commitment to care for one another across the human family, promote an ethical leadership and accountability culture in UNFCCC decision-making and narrow the chasm between words and actions in UNFCCC climate decisions.

As we come back bringing all that we got from our COP26 Glasgow journey and dream, we will continue our work as Franciscans taking care of our common home, remembering Pope Francis in his message for COP26 “Time is running out; this occasion must not be wasted, lest we have to face God’s judgment for our failure to be faithful stewards of the world he has entrusted to our care.”

Br. Angelito Cortez, OFM
JPIC Office - Rome



Virtual Training "Migration and Human Rights 2021" has been completed

The Franciscan Network for Migrants (RFM) and Franciscans International, the NGO of the Franciscan Family before the United Nations, concluded on October 29, the first part of the Training: "Migration and Human Rights 2021".

In the three-month training, RFM members from Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Colombia, Mexico, the U.S., and Costa Rica, who are implementing or serving in projects such as centers for migrants, shelters, parishes, and individual migrant services, had the opportunity to attend six modules of training, to strengthen their skills and achieve best practices and approaches in their coordinated efforts in their work with migrants, refugees, and people in need of international protection.

The Migration and Human Rights Training offered RFM members a solid formation from the roots of Franciscan spirituality and from a human rights perspective. Among the facilitators of the training, we had the privilege of having United Nations officials based in Geneva and International Organizations specialized in migration matters. Such as, for example, Felipe Gonzales, the Special Rapporteur on Migration and Human Rights; Carolina Hernández, the Migration and Human Rights Advisor for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Pablo Ceriani, former and future member of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Director of Advocacy at Franciscans International (FI), Sandra-Epal Ratjen, among other experts in the field who addressed issues such as human rights at international borders, militarization, detention and expulsion of migrants, the criminalization of migration and defenders, among others.

Participants thanked the Franciscan Network for Migrants and FI for the opportunity provided by offering them these training tools that will help to perform their task more effectively while they are working on the ground with people in situations of mobility. In addition to the members of the RFM, there was also the participation of some members of the CLAMOR Network and the Jesuit Network with Migrants.

Nydia Díaz, from the RFM – Colombia, mentioned that: "The course was a meeting place to talk about the exodus of human mobility in different latitudes of the American continent, inspired by Franciscan

spirituality and its articulation with the defense of human rights. We had the opportunity to discuss experiences, readings, strategies, and possibilities of making more visible the problems of our migrants, refugees and/or internally displaced people, with members of the Franciscan Network for Migrants, Franciscans International, Latin American and Caribbean Ecclesial Network on Migration, Displacement, Refugee and Trafficking in Persons (CLAMOR), Jesuit Network with Migrants, academics and United Nations agents. This allowed us not only to think about possibilities of action but also to connect and influence and to favor the re-construction of the social fabric and the bonds of fraternity."

Likewise, Brenda Peralta, member of RFM in Guatemala said: "I think the training process we have started is fundamental. We must know widely all the aspects involved in the phenomenon of migration with attention from the beginning, during transit and arrival; to the structural causes that force people to migrate, leaving their countries behind when it is preferable for them to risk everything on the way to a new destination than to stay to die slowly in their country of origin. In this process it is very important to understand how the migration policies of the different countries works, the obligations they have acquired and the rights of migrants, to be able to carry out our work in a more efficient way."

The Network's activities will continue to focus on the mutual empowerment of local teams, coordinated advocacy, exchange of information, coordinated and personalized accompaniment to migrants, refugees and displaced persons; and therefore, it will conclude with the second part of the training on Migration and Human Rights, in a face-to-face format from Honduras.

Massiel Gómez Fernández
Advocacy Intern
Franciscans International



"Human Rights and Migration" training held in person in Honduras.

The alliance between Franciscans International and the Franciscan Network for Migrants created this training which was offered in 2021. It was divided into two stages: 6 virtual modules and 4 face-to-face days.

One of the areas that the Franciscan Network for Migrants has developed is training for its members on topics of interest that allow them to provide a better service to migrants. The defense of human rights remains one of the principal objectives of the RFM. For this reason, together with *Franciscans International*, the Franciscan Family's NGO to the United Nations, the Franciscan Network for Migrants prepared the content for this training course entitled, **"Human Rights and Migration."**

The first part was delivered virtually and synchronously, in 6 modules over three months. The second part took place in the vicinity of Tegucigalpa, in person, and was both a challenge and a great joy. A total of 18 people participated, from Mexico (Tenosique, Salto de Agua, Cholula), Colombia (Medellín, Bogotá, Barrancabermeja), El Salvador (San Salvador), Guatemala (C. de Guatemala), Switzerland (Geneva), Italy (Roma), United States (Chicago) and Honduras (Tegucigalpa, La Mosquitia).

During the mornings, the program included visits to places of high outward migration in the vicinity of Tegucigalpa, such as Ciudad Guzmán, Crematorio del Distrito Central and Colonia Ramón Amaya Amador. Experiencing these places allowed us to recognize the context of one of the Central American countries that expels the most migrants from its territory annually. At the same time, we were able to witness the efforts being made to keep hope alive and offer, especially to young people, opportunities that allow them to overcome the lack of employment and the constant threat of organized crime violence present in much of the territory national.

During the afternoon sessions, there was a time to share impressions about the experience in the morning. Likewise, the *Franciscans International* team made up of Sandra Epal-Ratjen and Ulises Quero, presented a workshop every day that allowed participants to apply the content learned during the virtual part of the training

to the events that were observed day by day. That is, the group reflected and transformed first-hand information into context and case analysis to give content and form to an advocacy document. It should be noted that the RFM Advocacy Team, created at the beginning of this year, participated fully in the training, receiving tools that will be useful to continue defending the rights of migrants.

We are grateful for an experience that allowed us to strengthen ties between the attendees. Special thanks to the RFM-Honduras Team who carried out the previous logistical organization and part of the program dedicated to “ritualizing life experience and the psycho-social impact.” Likewise, we are grateful to the Franciscan brothers of the fraternities in San Salvador who supported with accommodation and transfer to 7 participants of the training who arrived in Central America through El Salvador.





"Grita tierra" an urgent call to care for the planet

UN Live-Museum for the United Nations brings together famous artists, religious figures and scientists from Colombia and around the world to sing "Grita Tierra" (Shout Earth) and make an urgent call to care for the planet.

The goal is to reach the United Nations Climate Change Conference in 2021 - COP26.

*Grita Tierra is a testimony of universal solidarity, and it is the result of an alliance with the OFM-JPIC Office of the Franciscans and high-level artists. The project also enjoys the collaboration of the Humboldt Institute and the support of the Hempel Foundation.

- Among the personalities who participated in this initiative are Catalina García, vocalist of Monsieur Periné, as the leading voice of the song 'Grita Tierra'; Héctor Buitrago, of Aterciopelados; and Roco Pachukote, of Maldita Vecindad (recognised as a legend of Mexican alternative-punk), among other renowned artists.

Bogotá, October 2021- "Grita Tierra" is the name of the musical initiative led by the UN Live Museum for the United Nations, in which artists from Colombia, Mexico, India and Kenya, among other countries, unite their talent and conviction to create a song that inspires action and makes humanity's urgent environmental manifesto felt at COP26, to be held from 1-12 November in Glasgow, Scotland.

"Under the slogan "the planet has no shirt", we invited diverse and renowned musicians, graphic and audio-visual artists to be inspired by Pope Francis' Encyclical 'Laudato Si', to compose artistic pieces that express the urgency of environmental care, giving particular emphasis to communities whose voice is not heard and are disproportionately affected by climate and environmental catastrophes," says Ángela Puentes, director of programmes for UN Live Museum for the United Nations, in Latin America.

Among the artists involved are Catalina García (vocalist of Monsieur Periné) on lead vocals, Héctor Buitrago (Aterciopelados) and Daniel Roa (Un Bosque Encantado) as producers, and Sister Nidia Raquel Macías, Franciscan Religious, who makes her debut as a songwriter in the music industry. Joining this group of Latin American musicians to rap are Mexican alternative-punk legend Roco Pachukote (Maldita Vecindad) and Fray Sandesh Manuel, OFM Franciscan Religious from India, who in his habit surprises us with his rap and his call

for action in the face of environmental urgency. Kenyan musician and producer Udulele John join Mercy Nyambura Swinton Nkatha, Fariji Napalos and African singers from Kenya to close the composition.

This musical explosion is encapsulated in a music video directed by Simón Hernández, a renowned Colombian documentary filmmaker who has directed several videos for Bomba Estéreo and who recently released the documentary Sonic Forest produced by Hollywood actor Joaquín Phoenix. Guache, a Colombian visual artist and muralist who has exhibited his traditional painting and graphic work in several countries in Europe, the United States, and Latin America, provides the finishing touch to this work. Closing this collaboration is Suany, Colombian VJ, graphic designer, teacher and writer recognised for her visual projects with different artists such as Aterciopelados.

Grita Tierra also seeks to mobilise the Healthy Planet, Healthy People petition, led by the “Laudato Si’ Movement”, Grita Tierra also aims to mobilise the Healthy Planet, Healthy People petition, led by the “Laudato Si’ Movement”, with whom we are joining forces to move from the enjoyment of the senses to environmental practice through a petition campaign to communicate to global leaders the urgency of taking immediate action to mitigate climate change and protect our biodiversity.

Br. Jaime Campos, OFM
JPIC Office





United States: Young man from St. Camillus Franciscan Parish on hunger strike



A young man from a Franciscan parish of St. Camillus Church in Silver Spring, MD entered his 6th day of water-only hunger strike for climate justice. He and four other members of the Youth-led Sunrise Movement for social and climate justice have been doing it in Washington DC, in front of the White House. The stakes are high.

As the world leaders are preparing for Climate Change Summit in Glasgow (COP26), the scientists tell us that, currently, we are heading toward a catastrophic 2.7 degrees of Celcius increase in the average, global temperature. (1.5 degrees of Celcius is the absolute maximum that must be aimed at so that we can have a fighting chance of avoiding going over the critical tipping points). In the United States, the Biden Administration has put forth a legislative proposal Build Back Better Act that would allocate \$3.5 trillion to be used to promote justice for the poor and propel a decisive transition to clean renewable energy. However, all the Republicans and two Democrats Senators are blocking the passage of the bill. One of those two Senators, Joe Manchin represents West Virginia. He and his family have received millions of dollars from the dirty fossil fuel industry. Sen. Manchin identifies himself as a Catholic.

Paul Campion, one of the young people carrying out a nearly week-long hunger strike is also a Catholic. Paul tries to live the Gospel from the prophetic call of the encyclical Laudato Si' of Pope Francis. Nearly two years ago, Paul Campion on the special invitation from Jacek Orzechowski, OFM, a member of the JPIC Animation Committee of the Franciscan Order joined a team of presenters for the Laudato Si' and Integral Ecology Franciscan free online course. You can watch his inspirational video talk in section 9: Cry of the Poor and the Cry of the Earth: A Response from the Youth-led Social Movement.

From his new parish assignment in Durham, NC, Jacek Orzechowski, OFM joined Paul Campion and his four companions in the water-only hunger fast for three days. And he has been urging his parishioners and other Catholics in the United States to themselves be inspired by the prophetic witness of the young people from Sunrise Movement: to pray, fast, and advocate: https://youtu.be/Ar1Cs_cAT3A

You can read more about the youth-led hunger fast in front of the White House and find a list of things you can do

Fr. Jacek Orzechowski, OFM
Animation Committee Member



Sister Providence Social Project

In early December 2020, the community store "Sister Providence" opened its doors.

Amid the significant health and economic crisis generated by the COVID pandemic and at a point in the great Metropolitan Zone of Mexico City, the parish of Our Lady of San Juan de Los Lagos in the diocese of Nezahualcoyotl organized itself to mitigate its crisis and help alleviate it in its community. A community with a population of approximately 20,000 people in some 5,000 families.

It was the first parish experience selling vegetables, the "Huerta de San Juanita," in the middle of the year with two people from the community. Afterward, a group of ten people was formed, Friar Samuel López, a Franciscan religious, who encouraged, promoted, and accompanied this initiative. A loan of four thousand Mexican pesos was obtained to purchase merchandise, with which this adventure of solidarity work began.

During this time, the possibility arose of obtaining support from Franciscan Missions of the United States for a socio-pastoral project to alleviate the economic and human crisis of the community. This support arrived at the end of May 2021.

The project began with three areas of action, and as it progressed, a fourth was implemented:

1) COMMUNITY STORE. Continue and strengthen its operation: going from a single day to open seven days a week. In addition, it goes out every Friday to different streets of the community where a parishioner requests it. This program seeks to operate in a cooperative spirit.

2) **SELF-EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOPS.** During August and September, four self-employment workshops were held: "First Aid," "electricity," "plumbing," and "urban gardens." Basic notions for daily life and the home were taught.

3) **SOCIAL TRAINING WORKSHOPS.** The fundamental pillar of all social work is to train and involve the community as the protagonist of its destiny. The doctrinal and practical foundation of the social dimension of faith is given through the social doctrine of the Church. Four workshops are offered: "Building the Little House" (civic culture), "Social Doctrine of the Church," "Laudato Si'," and "Fratelli tutti."

4) The need to talk about grief arose. A conference was organized, followed by a complete course on thanatology, since many people need to confront this reality and overcome it.

A total of 240 people participated in the workshops. An outstanding fact is that people from 12 parishes attended the social formation workshops. From the beginning of the pandemic, Pope Francis said, "one never comes out of a crisis the same as before, never. We come out better, or we come out worse."

Our conclusion and teaching are that it was a year of sowing and a year of learning teamwork, that from necessity comes cooperation. Thus a more just, supportive, and participatory society can be built if we share what we are, know, and have.

Raymundo Molina
Our Lady of San Juan de los Lagos Parish
Diocese of Nezahualcóyotl, México





Church organizations and popular movements publish manifesto for an economy at the service of social justice and care for the Common Home

The entities join Pope Francis' call for an economy that curbs human rights and environmental violations by extractive industries.

According to the appeal made by Pope Francis during the IV World Meeting of Popular Movements, a group of entities are calling for an economy "at the service of peoples to build a lasting peace based on social justice and care for the common home". During his speech on Sunday (16), the Pope called on extractive companies to put an end to the violations of human and environmental rights involved in their activities, such as the destruction of the environment, water pollution, poisoning of people and food.

"This system, with its relentless logic of profit, is escaping all human control. It is time to stop the locomotive, an out-of-control locomotive that is taking us to the abyss," Pope Francis invited. "Personal change is necessary, but it is also essential to adjust our socio-economic models so that they have a human face. To return to the old ways would be truly suicidal and, if I may stretch the words a bit, ecocidal and genocidal," he reinforced.

The document launched in line with the papal speech recalls the crime that occurred in Brumadinho in 2019, which completed 1000 days of impunity, where more than 270 people died buried by the rupture of a tailings dam of the company Vale. In line with the work carried out by the signatories with the communities martyred by large-scale mining, the document reaffirms the accompaniment and denunciation of the "injustice suffered by thousands of people due to extractivism and we raise awareness about the impacts of mining and other predatory projects".

The more than 20 organizations that unite through the manifesto call for the urgency of the transnational mining model that "expands over the vast geography and socio-biodiversity of Our America" and declare it as a "contemporary expression of the colonialism inherent to the development of capitalism as a civilizing project". The group of organizations, in a letter, assumes the co-responsibility of promoting an economy that acts with proposals that contribute to a post-extractivist economy.

[The manifesto](#) being presented calls on churches, popular movements and civil society to unite in the creation of a social structure that "is capable of transforming the economic model characterized by the blind voracity of a type of extractive exploitation that does not stop growing and expanding; that the more it extracts and the more it depresses, the more it needs to continue destroying nature".

Read the full statement: [Português](#), [Espanhol](#) ou [Inglês](#)
For organizations that wish to sign the manifesto, please [address your request here](#)



Defending a Healthy Planet

Yes, indeed, the highlight of the four days we spent at Cop 26 in Glasgow was undoubtedly the march for climate justice which should encourage us to a more sustained local effort to begin again as guardians of creation.

The friars at Bl John Duns Scotus, Ballater St., gave us accommodation, and we greatly appreciated their welcome and the simple and prayerful atmosphere in the fraternity. Br. Angel Cortez of our JPIC office in Rome was also a guest for the duration of Cop 26. He was very busy throughout the conference, networking with various faith groups and facilitating our participation in some events. We had already seen him virtually on the webinar streamed from Duns Scotus friary on Monday 1st of November: ‘Defending a Healthy Planet – the Contribution of Franciscans at Cop 26... Of the many items treated, I mention three.

(a) Franciscans International, representing many female and male Franciscan groups, with an office in Geneva and a voice on the UN Human Rights Council. Through its worldwide network of Franciscans working for the human rights of people exposed to the worst effects of deforestation and the extractive industries, it is providing a convincing voice at the UN to advocate for the defense of these people and has gained much support in its campaign to have a special rapporteur for human rights and climate change appointed by the UN.

(b) The ecological farm of the Anglican friars at Hillfield, Dorset. A compelling example of what can be done locally to model a lifestyle that genuinely cares for Mother Earth. A community project shared by six friars and 22 other people, aged from 1 to 81! A forty-acre farm with cattle, sheep, chickens, and bees. Work includes laying out hedges that provide a rich habitat for many species, such as dormice and the tiny, very rare Duke of Burgundy butterflies. Solar panels give the energy, and the farm’s biomass plantation provides heating. Some community members have spent time in jail for involvement in protests defending the environment.

(c) Br Angel spoke about his own country, which experienced its first tsunami some time ago, with devastating effects. He explained the work of Rome VI, the inter-Franciscan commission of the JPIC offices of

OFPs Capuchins, Conventuals, TOR, and SFO. The presence of their delegation at the World Social Forum in Montreal and COP 21 in Paris showed that the message of St. Francis is a universal one that touches the hearts and sensibilities of different cultures and religions. For Angel, collaborative work is the key to success. Rome VI joined the Global Catholic Climate Movement, which became, in July 2021, the Laudato Si Movement.

On our daily short walk from Duns Scotus into the city center, we saw from the posters that Glasgow aims to be a 'Net Zero' carbon emission city by 2030, helped by planting 18 million trees(10 for each person) in the rural and urban parts of Glasgow City Region, by becoming home of the largest fleet of hydrogen-powered bin lorries in the world and by creating 'Wildflower Meadows' across the city. At least we have the wildflower meadows in Clonmel and many apple trees planted along the Suir!

A personal highlight of Cop 26 for me was being present in the Jesuit Spirituality Centre at the webinar 'Fossil Fuel Divestment, Climate Justice and a Just Transition For All.' Organized by Operation Noah and sponsored by the Laudato Si Movement, the World Council of Churches, Cafod, and many others. Briefly, the following points were stressed by the panel:

- fossil fuel divestment is part of an ecological conversion for Christians
- faith communities worldwide play a big part in galvanizing support for ecological conversion
- there is an urgent need to invest heavily in clean energy – the technology is already there
- the duty of industrialized nations to compensate countries that have done least to pollute and to sponsor their transition from fossil fuels
- prayer is vital, as is the need to 'divest the heart of greed - and invest in faith, generosity, hope, courage, and justice'(Bishop Olivia Graham of Reading).

Fr. Billy Hoyne, OFM
Animator
Province of Ireland



Sowing Seeds: a faith reflection at COP26

What do we want? Climate justice! When do we want it? Now !

For Billy and I those words will echo in our heads for a long time to come, and maybe that is no bad thing. On Saturday 6th Nov. we joined the *long march* for climate justice. The route was only three miles but it took us four hours to cover that distance. Over 100,000 people were marching. We were part of an activist group, we marched under the banner of The Laudato Si Movement, who repeatedly broke into the chant : “What do we want....”.

It was cold, it was wet, it was damp and when our spirits were flagging someone would rouse us with the Taizé chant *Laudate omnes gentes....*, and onward we trudged towards Glasgow Green. We carried nothing for journey but hope that those with power to make political decisions would listen

Will the presence of two Friars Minor in Glasgow make a difference?

Does one grain make a difference in a sack of wheat!

Over an hundred thousand people, from all parts of the world cry out on behalf of Sister Earth our Mother, we want climate justice now.

Will Bolsonaro, Xi Jinping, Putin, Micheal Martin listen to the cry of the poor ?

I don't know, but we live in hope.

Up ahead of us on the march an elderly lady, most likely an religious sister, carried a small placard:
“Act justly, love tenderly, walk humbly with your God.”

That kept us moving forward. That's why we are here, marching under those big grey clouds looming over Glasgow.

That is all we can do, each of us, individually and as a community, walk the walk, (*and less of the blah !*) We play our part, with what gifts we have, our own small part (*one mustard seed*) responding to the cry of the earth, the cry of the poor.

We are faced with “one of *the great moral issues of our time*: the preservation of God's creation, given to us as a garden to be cultivated and as a common home for our human family.”(*Pope Francis in a message to the Church in Scotland*)

Fr. Gabriel Kinahan, OFM
Provincial Animator
Province of Ireland



Franciscans' Home at Glasgow

We are here in the city of Glasgow in Scotland, and the venue of COP26. My name is Br George Smulski, a Franciscan friar resident here in Glasgow at the parish of Blessed John Duns Scotus in the city centre. The Franciscan Friars have been here in Glasgow since 1868 when we first ministered to the many migrant workers and displaced peoples from the Scottish Highlands and from Ireland . By the mid 1950's the Franciscan parish here stood at 11,000 parishioners.

Today the grandchildren and great grandchildren of those many settlers now make up much of the population of the diocese and of the city. And we continue to welcome and to minister to the many recent incomers especially from India and Sri Lanka, from Poland and East Europe and from the continent of Africa too.

In fact, the Friars were here in Scotland long before the Reformation of the 16th century and it was a native Scotsman John Duns Scotus who joined the Friars Minor about 1265 and went on to teach at Oxford and Paris and Cologne. The Friars were not only involved in academic teaching but also in the social and economic life of the people. It was they who set up the first credit unions offering loans of money to the poor at a very low interest rate. They used their influence to represent ordinary people before magistrates and judges, defending Jewish communities from expulsion and ministering to the sick and the dying in times of pandemic and plague.

Today we join with this great groundswell of protest and concern to speak up for our wonderful planet under threat of ruin and destruction and for the multitudes of peoples who live on it. And for the United Kingdom this is now the largest gathering of world leaders which it has ever hosted in its history.

So, this is the world's last best chance to stop climate catastrophe, as John Kerry, President Biden's climate envoy, declared recently. Inspired by Pope Francis's encyclical Letter, *Laudato Si*, we will discuss how we can respond to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the most vulnerable, especially those threatened by climate change. As the Holy Father says. May what we have begun today together bear much fruit and as we recall the words of our holyfather, St Francis - let us begin again because up to now we have done nothing.

Br George Smulski OFM
Guardian
Blessed John. Duns Scotus Friary



JPIC Office in El Salvador: 25 years of journeying, spirituality, and prophecy

In the Convent of the Conception Church in San Salvador, on October 12, 1996, the JPIC Office, then known as the Office of Justice, Peace, and Ecology of the Franciscan Friars in El Salvador, was inaugurated. This past October 12, we have already commemorated, grateful to the God of life, 25 years since that event so impacting the Franciscan charism in our country. After a significant journey, it is appropriate to make a grateful memory for our passionate present. This can give us the courage to launch ourselves after another 25 years, seeing the future always (with and) as hope.

The celebrations of the Office were carried out in a hybrid way, that is, in a virtual and face-to-face modality. The virtual commemoration began with a novena that coincided uniquely with the novena of Our Seraphic Father St. Francis. During those days, the Franciscan friars of the Province, having a brother sharing for each fraternity of the region of El Salvador, participated actively contributing with the message contained in the Encyclical Letter Fratelli tutti about fraternity social friendship. Different themes were discussed about the Franciscan spirituality and how they were related to the values of JPIC: The shadows of a closed world, a stranger on the way; thinking and creating an open world, a heart open to the whole world; the best politics, dialogue and social friendship; paths of reunion and ended with the chapter on religions at the service of fraternity in the world. In these meetings, there was the participation and interaction of the United Franciscan Family of a significant part of Central America and a profound closeness with the other fraternities of Latin America.

Jaime Campos, the coordinator of JPIC-OFM in Rome, is in communion with the different JPIC animators of the Province. In these spaces, enriching experiences were shared within this service and this form of Franciscan spirituality, which highlighted the direct benefits in the historical realization of the values of the Kingdom of God through the socio-historical and cultural spaces of each participant, according to the needs of the poor in different times and regions.

It is important to emphasize that art, as a form of expression for God and justice, as St. Francis knew it through song, was also present. The virtual celebrations culminated with a Festival of songs. Several Catholic singers from Latin America participated, and the postulants of our Province premiered two unpublished songs in this time of celebration: Somos Vida, Somos Arte, and Vamos caminando. Both are available on the YouTube platform of the JPIC El Salvador Office.

The final celebration was held at the Retreat House of Monte Alvernia. There was a meeting with the most significant Social and Civil Movements representatives that participated in the Ecological Walk led by the JPIC Office in El Salvador. A dialogue was held with them about the historical service of JPIC, as well as an exhibition of photographs of the years that preceded this service. This culminated with a shared lunch and lived Andean music for the participants.

These activities, which have a simple and fraternal face, remind us of the commitment of the JPIC Office of El Salvador to the social movements and their struggles, as well as the respect for the integral care of Creation and the inalienable value of human dignity. These 25 years of the journey once again demand from us Franciscans a radical coherence with the charism and its spirituality incarnated in the poor, since, for the next 25 years, the prophecy of fraternity and integral ecology will become much more demanding in this country so small, but also so unequal. We pray to God that Brother Francis will continue to inspire us to make our struggles shared, libertarian and equitable dreams.

Br. Víctor René Treminio, OFM
JPIC Media



International Days - January / March, 2022

January 1	World Day of Peace
January 15	World Day of Immigrants and Refugees
February 8	International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking
February 20	World Day of Social Justice
March 3	World Wildlife Day
March 8	International Women's Day
March 21	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
March 21	International Day of Forests
March 22	World Water Day



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