

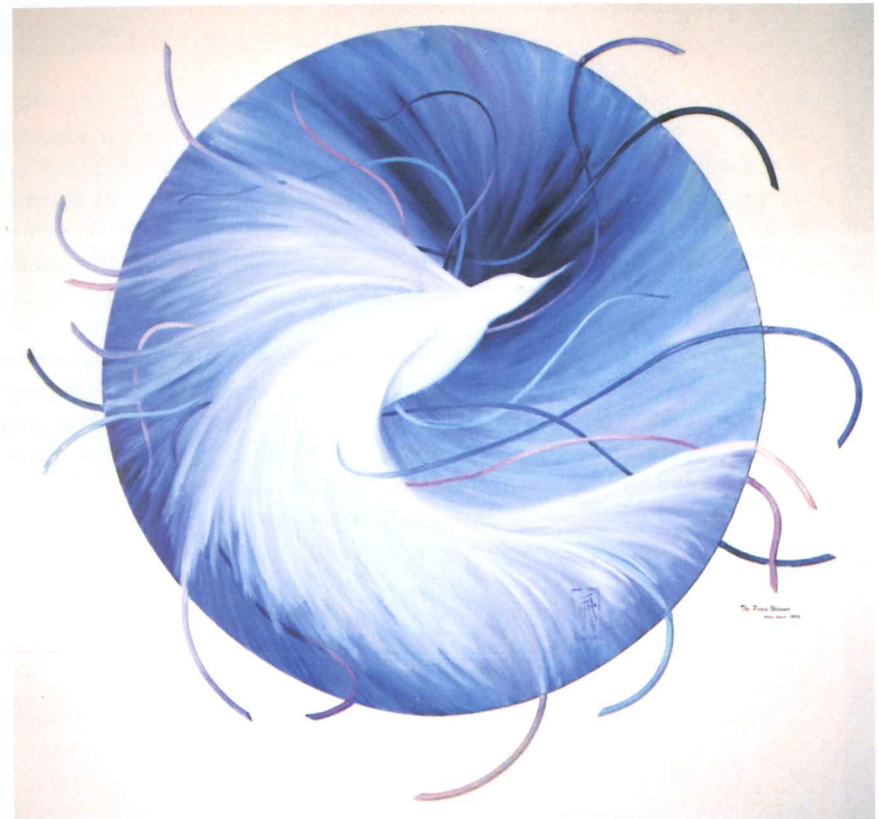


Casa Loreto, Via Massaua 3, Roma 00162.



*Justice, Peace and
Integrity of Creation*

Handbook for Reflection and Planning



Be lovers of truth and doers of justice

Mary Ward



CASA LORETO - ROME

May 2006



Dear Friends,

In 1971 the bishops of the world gathered in Rome for a special synod on "Justice in the World." At subsequent General Congregations both the Irish and North American branches of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary stressed the importance of making justice, peace and integrity of creation (JPIC) a constitutive dimension of Christian life and ministry. In 1997 both branches developed an Inter-Branch Justice Statement focusing on specific areas of need.

In 2003 the Kolkata International Education Guidelines highlighted the importance of educating agents of social change who will work to build a better world. This challenge applies equally to each one of us in the IBVM worldwide family. As IBVM/Loreto sisters, associates, teachers, colleagues, friends, past and present students we need to regularly ask ourselves where and how we are responding to the Gospel imperative "to seek first the Reign of God and God's justice."

The Province justice and peace coordinators met last year in New York for the purpose of evaluating our worldwide efforts to make the promotion of justice, peace and integrity of creation integral to our way of living. Our presence as an NGO at the United Nations is a sign and symbol of our corporate desire to work collaboratively with others to highlight both the needs of those who are voiceless and marginalized and the issues that threaten planet Earth.

During their workshop the coordinators developed this reflection material which they now offer as a tool for personal and group evaluation and action. In using it may each of us search for new ways to respond to the needs of today's world.

Mary Wright
Mary Wright IBVM
(General Superior)



BACKGROUND

In the Pastoral Constitution, The Church in the Modern World (Gaudium et Spes), the Second Vatican Council recognizes the intimate link between the church and the world of humanity:

The joy and the hope, the grief and the anguish of the people of our time, especially of those who are poor or afflicted in any way, are the joy and the hope, the grief and anguish of the followers of Christ as well. (GS #1)

Another document, *Justice in the World* issued by the Bishops of the world in 1971, spells out the relationship between a person's faith and her/his action for social transformation saying: "Action for justice and participation in the transformation of the world is a constitutive dimension of the preaching of the Gospel." (#6) Theological developments in all Christian denominations have helped Christians realize that they are called to be "kingdom people" – people committed to furthering God's Reign of justice and peace, in the world. The biblical understanding of **justice** as right relationship is understood in terms of relationship with self, others, the whole of creation and with the Creator God. **Peace** (shalom) signifying fullness of life is the fruit of right relationships, which must promote just and sustainable development. Therefore justice peace and development are intrinsically linked.

Development is another word for peace
Paul VI

The term Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) was first used by the World Council of Churches (WCC) and later adopted by the Catholic Church. The WCC appealed to Christian churches to make public commitments and undertake common action on threats to life in the areas of justice, peace and integrity of creation. The phrase JPIC captures the theological understanding that the life and work of the church are intimately bound up with God's plan for the salvation of the world. This includes the liberation and development of all people and the responsible stewardship of planet earth. JPIC is a way of describing the Christian's responsibility to make God's reign visible in the world by bringing Good News to the poor and excluded, exposing oppression and living in solidarity with those on the edge of society. This means challenging systems, structures and policies that marginalize and exclude people from full social participation and from adequately sharing the fruits of the earth. These actions must flow from a love that seeks to liberate both the oppressed and the oppressor. They must be based on prayerful reflection on concrete situations and humbly recognize that both the oppressor and the oppressed live within each person.

THE IBVM RESPONSE

IBVM members, associates and collaborators within the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary worldwide have already clearly expressed a commitment to promote Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) on several occasions.

We commit our energies and resources to promoting

- *the dignity and liberation of all, particularly of women and children,*
- *to challenging unjust systems and structures,*

- to standing with those on the edges of society,
- to showing reverent care for the earth and all of creation.

(Direction 2 – General Congregation, Irish Branch 1998)

and

We, the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary in North America, commit ourselves to the inter-branch Justice Network statement as our intentional focus for justice issues. The IBVM Inter-Branch Justice Statement (formulated by members from the three Branches of the Institute at the JPIC Conference in Toronto/Chicago in 1997) is as follows:

Women are voiceless, powerless and invisible in the political, cultural, social, economic and religious structures of society.

Therefore:

As IBVM women who see the need continually to make the connection between service/charity and systemic change in the work of justice, we commit ourselves to:

- *work with others to challenge structures*
- *take specific steps in whatever ways are possible and appropriate, to engage in awareness-raising that leads to action*
- *to claim the voice, the power and the visibility of women*

(Commitment to Action – General Chapter '99 – North American Branch)

The roots of human rights are to be found in the dignity that belongs to each human being.

GS (#27)

Recently we pledged our efforts and commitments to promote the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) throughout the Institute and its ministries.

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education for all
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure sustainable development
8. Develop a global partnership for development

(Endorsed at the Meeting for JPIC Coordinators – New York, September '05; and at IBVM Education Meeting in Loyola, Spain, October '04)

In order to reflect on how IBVM worldwide is actively responding to these various challenges, the Province justice peace and integrity of creation (JPIC) coordinators met in New York in September '05. They identified and described

- The need for a JPIC focus in our lives and ministries
- The JPIC values that can influence the life and work of IBVM sisters, associates, lay collaborators, alumnae, present students and those who participate in IBVM sponsored ministries
- The aims and objectives of the JPIC mission and ministry
- Helpful frameworks for focusing and supporting our personal and collective JPIC efforts.

BECOME INVOLVED?

As an IBVM sister, as an associate, colleague, collaborator, student (present or past), friend you are invited to reflect on the various elements of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) which are presented in this booklet and to relate them to your current life and ministry contexts.

You are also invited to become active in the IBVM worldwide JPIC network and to become involved in at least one JPIC issue and action at local level. You can also explore inter-province links by sharing your JPIC experiences and concerns with others worldwide by writing letters, emails or contributing to the “Ring of Fire” on the web. Why not network with others through the IBVM-RSCJ NGO Office at the United Nations? (ngo@ibvmgen.org)

*The non-violent technique
does not depend for its success
on the goodwill of the oppressor,
but rather on the unfailing assistance of God.*

Cesar Chavez

WHY A JUSTICE PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION FOCUS?

We believe that:

- JPIC issues are a key part of the reality in which we live and work – it is impossible to avoid justice, peace and creation issues
- JPIC as a focus helps us to name and highlight local, national and international realities which affect our lives
- JPIC is a framework for describing, analysing, reflecting and acting on such issues – it is a way of understanding and engaging with issues in a coherent and integrated way
- JPIC as a distinguishing trademark of our Mary Ward/Ignatian spirituality influences how we approach life and work and helps us build links and communicate with others
- JPIC is a reminder of the need to focus more effectively and more consistently on various issues which affect people’s lives
- JPIC is a framework and an approach, as well as a source of energy and encouragement, which assists us in building national and international IBVM networks, focusing together on common concerns
- JPIC is something ‘we make’ happen.

JPIC VALUES TO INFLUENCE OUR LIVES AND WORK

Flowing from a spirituality that is person-centred and creation-centred and inspired by Gospel values, the IBVM JPIC Network builds its action and reflection firmly on values such as:

A Rights-Based Approach

- based on the inherent dignity of every person
- viewing the human development needs of everyone as a matter of rights and not simply of goodwill or charity
- recognizing that such rights must be actively nurtured, respected, defended and developed and not taken for granted
- recognizing that rights are now increasingly protected and promoted in national and international law and that this legal framework needs to be implemented and developed further

A Commitment to Right Relationships

- that are the basis of justice... and are characterized by sincerity and truth
- with self and others, with God and Creation
- aware that relations between countries today, especially those between 'developed' and 'developing' countries are neither right nor sustainable

A Belief in Equality

- we know that at birth, all are equal – in theory – but everywhere discrimination and inequality undermine this fundamental truth

- instead, we seek to place equality at the centre of our work, our prayer and our lives and actively work to identify and root out inequality

Freedom

- from want, from fear and to live in dignity

Non-Violence

- we reject violence, from whatever source
- we seek to promote all forms of non-violence
- we know that true peace is not just the absence of war, and that it must be built on truth, freedom, justice and love

Taking Responsibility

- we accept that responsibilities are an intrinsic and necessary part of rights and that these responsibilities are a duty for everyone, not an option
- we acknowledge that there is a price to be paid for promoting rights and responsibilities

The Fundamental Importance of Creation

- we recognize that God comes to presence in all that exists and that the emerging story of Creation reveals the inter-connectedness of all life forms, throughout time
- we believe that Earth is sacred and we seek to promote respect, understanding, harmony and the sustainability of our planet.

*Care for the environment represents a challenge
for all of humanity.*

John Paul II

Partnership

- we actively value the work of others and we seek to work with other like-minded groups and structures to achieve common goals
- we recognise ourselves as being part of a broader movement
- we believe that inter-faith, inter-cultural and international respect, dialogue and collaboration are fundamental to our concept of partnership.

To love the poor, persevere in the same, live, rise and die with them was all the aim of Mary Ward who having lived 60 years died 20th (sic) January 1645.
(Inscription on her tombstone in York, England)

SOME KEY CHURCH JPIC STATEMENTS

Let every person examine themselves, to see what they have done up to now, and what they ought to do.

It is not enough to recall principles, state intentions, point to crying injustice and utter prophetic denunciations;

these words will lack real weight unless they are accompanied for each individual by a livelier awareness of personal responsibility and by effective action.

It is too easy to throw back on others the responsibility for injustice, if at the same time one does not realize how each one shares in it personally, and how personal conversion is needed first.

Octogesima Advenians, Paul VI, 1971 (#48)

The social message of the Gospel is and always has been a basis for action.

Centesimus Annus, John Paul II, 1991, (#39)

We must build a new culture of life that confronts today's problems affecting life. The purpose of the Gospel is, in fact to transform humanity from within and to make it new. We need to begin within our Christian communities themselves.

Evangelium Vitae, John Paul II, 1995, (#95)

The theological dimension is needed both for interpreting and for solving present day problems in human society.

Centesimus Annus (#55)

THE AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF THE JPIC MINISTRY WITHIN IBVM

We commit ourselves to the following aim and objectives because of our shared Ignatian/Mary Ward spirituality and heritage and because we view justice, peace and creation values and issues as core to Gospel living.

Our Overall Aim and Objectives

Aim

Through our work, our prayer and our lives, we seek to contribute positively to the building of a world that is more just, more peaceful and more respectful of creation in all its dimensions.

Objectives

We commit ourselves to:

1. Develop a coherent programme of work that positively promotes and effectively supports, justice, peace, environment and creation values and activities
2. Develop and deliver this programme in our Institute, in our Province, in our schools, in our sponsored ministries, in the communities with whom we work and amongst partner organisations and structures.

*Try to guide each other by sincere dialogue
in a spirit of mutual charity
and with anxious interest about all
in the common good.*

GS (#43)

3. Identify and provide the necessary supports and resources to help achieve our goals – personnel, structures, skills, finances, training and formation in the spirituality of JPIC etc.
4. Develop, monitor and review detailed plans of work in each key area of focus – education, community development, advocacy and spiritual ministries – all based firmly on JPIC values and perspectives
5. Build effective and appropriate partnerships with like-minded groups in order to achieve common goals and objectives
6. Advocate and pro-actively lobby for JPIC at local, national and international levels recognising that such an approach will be contested and challenged.

TWO FRAMEWORKS FOR EVALUATION, PLANNING AND ACTION

The following frameworks which were developed by the JPIC coordinators at the workshop provide excellent tools for evaluating and planning our JPIC focus and actions at province, group or personal levels.

A: JPIC Ministry Framework – this helps to focus our life and work according to a JPIC perspective

B: JPIC Support Areas Framework – this helps us to plan how to use our resources to support our JPIC commitment

A: JPIC MINISTRY FRAMEWORK

Activity Areas: We identified 5 key ministry areas within the Institute:

1. Education
2. Community Development
3. Spiritual and Pastoral Ministries
4. Advocacy and Lobbying
5. Relationship with the UN

Each of these can be a key part of JPIC focused work. However it is important to see and make the links between awareness raising through education, community development, spiritual formation, personal development, advocacy and lobbying, and our presence at the United Nations.

How Is My Ministry Focusing On JPIC?

Can you choose the particular core activity within which your ministry or area of work fits and ask yourself the following questions?

- (a) **SPECIFIC ACTIONS:** What specific actions am I personally doing in relation to this category?
- (b) **LINKS WITH THE MDGs:** How are these actions linked to furthering the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)?

How Are Our Ministries Focusing On JPIC?

Can you also choose the other core activities within which Province ministries fit and ask yourself the following questions?

- (c) **SPECIFIC ACTIONS:** What specific actions are we doing in relation to these other categories?

(d) **LINKS WITH MDGs:** How are these actions linked to furthering the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)?

1. Education

The primary focus in these ministries is on programmes and projects that emphasise either the formal or non-formal dimensions of education in schools, colleges, places of formation, in local communities, particular groups etc. Education programmes can focus directly or indirectly on all key dimensions of learning about JPIC - ideas/information, values/attitudes, skills/capabilities as well as experiences/actions.

2. Community Development

The primary focus is on programmes and projects of work that take place within the community at large or with specific groups within the community - women's groups, peace groups, youth groups etc. The projects or programmes may have particular areas of focus such as employment, income generation, sustainability etc., but they can also bring in other aspects of the JPIC agenda.

3. Spiritual and Pastoral Ministries

The primary focus is on making the necessary links and connections between those ministries that focus exclusively or predominantly on spiritual formation, pastoral ministries, personal support/service and JPIC. Within this work, there are many opportunities to include and integrate JPIC, especially with regard to its values base and perspective. There are also many opportunities to influence, shape and link the JPIC agenda with various aspects of personal and spiritual growth and development.

4. *Advocacy and Lobbying*

These are activities that are completely or partially, focused on specific advocacy or lobbying actions intended to promote the overall JPIC agenda or specific dimensions of it. It can be focused on a range of structures and groups – the UN, national or local government, companies, partner groups, schools, our Institute etc. It can be the core focus of the work or one dimension of the work associated with the other core JPIC areas below. A JPIC perspective on issues suggests that the advocacy dimension of our work should be routinely addressed.

5. *Relationship with the UN*

The primary focus is on linking the local and national dimensions of the JPIC agenda with the international aspect via the New York office. It is an opportunity to inform and, in turn, be informed by others outside our immediate context. This dimension encourages us to reflect on the broader lessons and challenges of our work and to share these with others. It also allows us to make particular suggestions or to propose particular actions or to seek particular types of support.

*All development worthy of the name must be integral...
it must be directed to the true good of every person
and of the whole person.*

John Paul II

B: JPIC SUPPORT AREAS FRAMEWORK

The support areas for JPIC are as follows:

1. Communications
2. Structures
3. Prayer and Reflection
4. Resourcing
5. Formation, Capacity Building and Training
6. Translations
7. Other Areas

1. *Communications*

This relates directly to the need for communication at a number of levels to be directly included in our planning for individual project or overall programme effectiveness. It has a number of key dimensions:

- *internal*, with our JPIC and other key area colleagues, with the necessary structures within the congregation, with other internal committees, Provinces etc.
- *external*, with partner organisations, like-minded groups, the media, local communities etc.
- *with the NGO New York Office*, to obtain or to provide necessary documentation and information

2. *Structures*

In planning to deliver an individual project or a JPIC focused set of activities, it is necessary to identify and set up appropriate structures such as:

- a JPIC Team
- a project planning and delivery group
- a group including other relevant internal or external participants or partner organisations
- groups of participants themselves etc.

The key issue here is to ensure that those who need to be involved are involved and have a sense of ownership of the process. Paying attention to structures will enhance the JPIC focus not only for a particular individual project but also for future projects/programmes.

3. Prayer and Reflection

Ensuring that the JPIC agenda, values and perspectives are included in prayer and reflection is important. Theological reading and reflection on current themes and topics are encouraged.

We need to ensure that JPIC themes and issues are appropriately included and that the necessary resources are available to ensure this.

4. Resourcing

This is a vital area of support that includes key 'inputs' to the development of commitment to JPIC, such as personnel, finances, material needs, skills capacity etc. JPIC Co-ordinators need to become better skilled at thinking about, and planning around, this specific aspect of the work.

5. Formation, Capacity Building and Training

In the longer-term, the issue of building overall commitment to, understanding of and engagement with the JPIC agenda depends significantly on making it a constituent element of formation

programmes and the ongoing capacity building of the Institute. There are very many ways in which this can be done and it is the responsibility of JPIC Co-ordinators and Province Committees to ensure that JPIC is attended to, in both its short and long term dimensions.

6. Translations

The 3 working languages – English, French and Spanish – need to be supported effectively.

7. Additional areas etc.

You may want to add other support areas that you feel are appropriate to the context in which you are working.

*The word "Justice" and those in former times
that were called just persons,
works of justice done in innocence and that we be such
as we appear and appear such as we are:
these things have often since occurred to my mind
with a liking for them.*

Mary Ward, 1615

APPENDIX I

PROVINCE JPIC COORDINATOR/TEAM DESCRIPTION OF ROLE

The Province JPIC Coordinators/Teams respond to the challenges contained in:

- (a) Direction 2 (General Congregation '98 - Irish Branch).
- (b) Commitment to Action: Justice Network (General Chapter '99 - North American Branch).
- (c) Millennium Development Goals: (Endorsed at the Meeting for JPIC Coordinators - New York Sept. '05).
- (d) The decisions of GC '06

In order to respond to these challenges we will:

A: Work at the Following Actions:

Province/Local:

1. Get actively involved in JPIC issues – at local, national international levels – which are highlighted in Direction 2 '98, Commitment to Action '99, UN Millennium Development Goals and the NGO Office at the United Nations
2. Decide on some specific issues or topics related to the Millennium Development Goals which the Province will focus on for the coming year(s)

Peace is the fruit of justice.

Paul VI

3. Provide appropriate resources with good clear simple content for raising awareness about the issues on which we are focusing
4. Ask the NGO Office at the UN for help with acquiring relevant resources and keep them informed about how these materials are used
5. Provide practical suggestions for action and invite IBVMs, collaborators and associates to participate
6. Prepare suitable reflection materials which link JPIC issues and Ignatian spirituality.

International:

7. Communicate regularly with the NGO Office in order to keep it informed about Province issues of concern
8. Network with all other IBVM Provinces, using the “JPIC Ring of Fire” to raise Institute awareness about JPIC issues and action in our country/region
9. Contribute three times a year to the “Ring of Fire” on the website.

B: Work with the Following Groups:

Province/Local:

1. IBVM members
2. Community Leaders/Community contact persons
3. Provincial and Provincial Council
4. IBVM Schools' Network – through the Education Coordinator/Commission.

5. IBVM sponsored ministries – through the person responsible
6. IBVM associates and past students

National:

4. Justice Desk of National Conference(s) of Religious Superiors
5. Justice Desk of the Bishops' Conferences
6. Key NGO's e.g. IBVM is a member of the Africa Europe Faith and Justice Network (AEFJN - Europe and Africa) and the 8th Day Centre (USA)
7. Members of parliament
8. Any local UN Office or the national UN Information Office (if such exists in your country)

International:

1. NGO Office at the United Nations
2. Other Province JPIC Coordinators/Teams
3. Member of the General Council with responsibility for coordinating JPIC

C: Use the Following Means

1. Regular meetings of the Province JPIC committee
2. Regular meetings with communities, school personnel, associates, past students groups as appropriate
3. Regular evaluation with Provincial Council and periodic communication with the member of the General Council with responsibility for coordinating JPIC

4. Establish helpful structures to link with IBVM communities/groups, IBVM schools and IBVM sponsored ministries
5. Province JPIC newsletters, Province web site, justice alerts, presentations etc.
6. Contribute to the "Ring of Fire" on the IBVM international web site as a means of raising awareness about justice, peace and environmental issues and activities in different provinces.

*Then it was as if I suddenly
saw the secret beauty of their hearts,
the depths of their hearts where neither sin nor desire
nor self-knowledge can reach, the core of their reality,
the person that each one is in God's eyes.
If only they could see themselves as they really are.
If only we could see each other that way all the time,
there would be no more war, no more hatred,
no more cruelty, no more greed...
I suppose the big problem would
be that we would fall down and worship each other.*

Thomas Merton

APPENDIX II

JPIC "RING OF FIRE" ON THE IBVM INTERNATIONAL WEBSITE

The "Ring of Fire" is the name given to IBVM inter-province communication and networking for JPIC. In order to make it easier to contribute to the "The Ring of Fire" the following was decided at the meeting held in New York in September '05.

- The "Ring of Fire" has a separate section on the public side of the IBVM international web site.
- Each JPIC coordinator/team is asked to send material for the "The Ring of Fire" three times per year, as outlined on the table below.
- The material should be emailed to both the web weaver and the General Consultor with responsibility for JPIC.
- The material can be submitted in English, Spanish and French.
- At other times a Province JPIC co-ordinator/team may have other materials that might be of interest or useful for other provinces. These could be submitted for inclusion on the web site or send by mail to other Provinces.
- Other JPIC news items of a timely nature may always be submitted by individuals for the news section of the home page.

*The social message of the Gospel must
not be considered a theory but above all a basis
and a motivation for action.*

Centesimus Annus (#57)

The following is the time schedule for province "Ring of Fire" contributions:

Month	Beginning (1 st week)	Middle (2-3 week)	End (last week)
January	Rome	Canada	India
February	South Africa	USA	Mauritius
March	England	Australia	Eastern Africa
April	Peru	Ireland	Spain
May	Rome	Canada	India
June	South Africa	USA	Mauritius
July	England	Australia	Eastern Africa
August	Peru	Ireland	Spain
September	Rome	Canada	India
October	South Africa	USA	Mauritius
November	England	Australia	Eastern Africa
December	Peru	Ireland	Spain

*We cannot change the past,
but we can change our attitude toward it.
Uproot guilt and plant forgiveness.
Tear out arrogance and seed humility.
Exchange love for hate... thereby,
making the present comfortable
and the future promising.*

Maya Angelou

APPENDIX IV

PERSONAL/GROUP RESPONSE PAGE

Take each of the following 5 key ministry areas:

1. Education
2. Community Development
3. Spiritual and Pastoral Ministries
4. Advocacy and Lobbying
5. Relationship with the UN

and ask:

- (a) What specific actions am I personally doing in relation to this category?
- (b) What specific actions are members of the Institute doing in relation to this category?
- (c) How are these actions linked to furthering the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)?

<i>Specific Actions Personal/Institute</i>	<i>Links With MDGs</i>

APPENDIX V

SOME SUGGESTED RESOURCES

WEBSITES

See material about the MDG's, and other JPIC topics on the following internet sites:

- 8020: Educating and Acting for a Better World: www.developmenteducation.ie
- IBVM International: www.ibvm.org
- United Nations: www.un.org
- Africa Europe Faith and Justice Network: www.aefjn.org
- Africa Faith and Justice Network: www.afjn.org
- Caritas Internationalis: www.caritas.org
- Centre of Concern: www.coc.org

BOOKS, EDUCATION KITS & MEDIA RESOURCES

These are some books and other printed resources that may be useful for JPIC education and reflection:

- Peacebuilding: A Caritas Training Manual (2002)
- Working for Reconciliation: A Caritas Handbook (1999)
- Trafficking Kit: JPIC Commission of the USG/UISG
- Building Parish Justice and Peace Group: A Training Manual (2003) – from Lumko Institute (South Africa) – this is also available on www.omigen.org/jpic

Only love can completely transform the human person.

John Paul II

OTHER HELPFUL RESOURCES

*Today more than ever the social message
of the Church will gain credibility more immediately
from the witness of action than as a result
of its internal logic and consistency.*

Sollicitudo Rei Socialis (#583-584)

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