

Proposal for JPIC Action

The National JPIC Committee would like to use the remainder of this term (2022-2025) to inspire Secular Franciscans across Canada to live out their call to seek justice, promote peace and ensure the integrity of creation. As a first initiative, we are calling for a focus on reconciliation with our Indigenous Brothers and Sisters here in Canada.

Article 15 of the Rule:

Let them individually and collectively be in the forefront in promoting justice by the testimony of their human lives and their courageous initiatives. Especially in the field of public life, they should make definite choices in harmony with their faith.

Article 19 of the Rule:

Mindful that they are bearers of peace which must be built up unceasingly, they should seek ways of unity and fraternal harmony through dialogue, trusting in the presence of the divine seed in everyone and in the transforming power of love and pardon.

Messengers of perfect joy in every circumstance, they should strive to bring joy and hope to others.

Since they are immersed in the resurrection of Christ, which gives true meaning to Sister Death, let them serenely tend toward the ultimate encounter with the Father

We are suggesting two main courses of action, while maintaining openness to others as led by the Holy Spirit.

1. We are encouraging Canadian Secular Franciscans to develop/strengthen relationships with our Indigenous sisters and brothers with a focus on reconciliation. (See Appendix A for details.)
2. We are urging local fraternities to consider fundraisers and/or donations to support the work of a local Friendship Centre.

The National JPIC Committee suggests fraternities and individuals submit stories or reflections on reconciliation to the committee to be shared with Secular Franciscans across the country. These could include but are not limited to the following:

- Stories and/or pictures and videos of any reconciliation events in which members participated.
- Reflections on the impact of participation in such events.
- Reflections on any participation in listening circles or educational events.
- Stories of fundraising endeavors.

Appendix A:

We are encouraging Secular Franciscans across Canada to develop/strengthen relationships with our Indigenous sisters and brothers with a focus on reconciliation.

- a. If you are blessed to already have relationships with Indigenous sisters and brothers work on strengthening those relationships. In particular, ask these sisters and brothers if there are events focused on reconciliation in which you can participate.
- b. If you do not have any relationships with Indigenous sisters and brothers work on establishing such relationships. An excellent starting place is a Friendship Centre in your area. You can check the following link for Friendship Centre locations:
<https://nafc.ca/friendship-centres/find-a-friendship-centre?lang=en> for English or
<https://nafc.ca/friendship-centres/find-a-friendship-centre?lang=fr> for Francais. Contact any Friendship Centre near you to see if there events focused on reconciliation in which you can participate.
- c. If the fraternity is not close to a Friendship Centre, members could learn about on whose land they are living and research if there are any listening circles or educational programs in their area.

We remind all to allow our Indigenous brothers and sisters to take the lead regarding what actions will best foster reconciliation.