**National Fraternity of Canada**

**National Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Committee**

**2025-2028**

**Terms of Reference**

**"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied:**

**"'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.**

**This is the first and greatest commandment. The second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.**

**All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."**

**1. The Basis of the National Franciscan JPIC Committee**

**1.1.** The Franciscan concern for justice, peace, and integrity of creation (JPIC), and our subsequent call to action, is guided and inspired by: the Bible, the OFS Rule and General Constitutions, Catholic Social Teaching, Franciscan Tradition and Spirituality, and the Catholic Action model of "**See, Judge, Act, and Pray."**

**2. OFS Active Mission in the World**

**2.1** The OFS is called to an **active** mission in the world to exercise with determination and full visibility its own responsibilities **to witness and promote justice, peace, and the integrity of creation**.

**3. OFS Rule and General Constitutions**

**3.1.** The Rule and General Constitutions are grounded on the basic principles of **Catholic Social Doctrine** i.e., dignity of the human person; the common good; solidarity; preferential option for the poor; stewardship of creation; subsidiarity; participation; rights & responsibilities; economic justice; peace.

**3.2** The OFS, following its Rule, has a prophetic mission to make it a priority in its fraternal and individual lives to raise awareness for justice, peace and care of creation and to act out of this awareness.

**4. Franciscan Tradition and Spirituality**

**4.1** Franciscan tradition and spirituality leads us to put life before profit, to struggle for justice and peace, and to care for creation. *Laudato Si'* is our modern day resource for a new way of thinking and acting.

5. **Role of the National JPIC Committee**

**5.1** To raise the awareness in all fraternities of JPIC in our mission to move from Gospel to Life and Life to Gospel using the OFS Rule and General Constitutions, the OFM Guidelines for the Animation of JPIC and other Franciscan resources. **5.2** To guide and

provide examples of “Being a Voice through Advocacy” i.e., being a voice for the voiceless and/or speaking in solidarity with those whose voice benefits from amplification.

**6. <u>JPIC Committee Structure for the OFS National Fraternity of Canada</u>**

**6.1** A National JPIC Committee formed by a National Council member, chaired by an appointed committee leader, with one OFS member from each region, will be a bilingual endeavor and may also include representatives from other Franciscan family (Brothers, Sisters & Priests).

**6.2** The National Council suggests that:

• Each Regional Fraternity appoint a JPIC Director who will work with the National JPIC Committee and promote and animate JPIC in their Region. • Each Local Fraternity appoint a JPIC Animator who will work with their Regional JPIC Director to promote and animate JPIC in their Local Fraternity. • The Committee mandate would end with the 3-year term of the National Council.

**7. <u>Key JPIC Areas of Concern</u>**

**7.1.** The primary priorities suggested include but not limited to:

• Extreme poverty and the excluded

• The ethical use of resources: especially water, forest, mining and commodities • Food: security and sovereignty

• Human Trafficking and Contemporary Forms of Slavery

• Care of Creation

• Peace, conflict resolution and active non-violence

• Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons and Migrants

• Solidarity with Christians around the world

• Justice concerns of Indigenous Peoples in Canada

**8. <u>The Process – See, Judge, Act, Pray</u>**

**8.1.** For the Committee to provide resources, ideas and materials for the promotion of JPIC in our fraternities so that all members might be formed in the process to ‘see, judge, act & pray’ for justice, peace and the integrity of creation**.**

**9. <u>Resources - Franciscan Voice Canada</u>** and ***<u>the Common Good</u>***

**9.1. Franciscan Voice Canada** and its sister newsletter, ***the Common Good*** were initiated in 2011 at the request of the National Council. Today these two resources continue its work independent of the National Council, but are made available for all Secular Franciscans across the country.

**9.2.** Local Fraternities are encouraged to consider the content found in both publications for enhancing their formation programs whether initial or on-going.