

JPIC - AN OVERVIEW OF THE JPIC ANIMATORS' CONFERENCE IN ROME

I have Heard My people Cry (Ex.3:7) was the theme of JPIC animators' conference in Rome from 13 July to 19 July 2014. It was echoing in our ears and hearts as we travelled from 17 provinces/ regions to Rome. The conference began with the welcoming of animators by the generalate team. It helped us to identify the names by faces (earlier we knew only the names). After the sharing of our expectations of the conference we had the inaugural mass by Fr. Xavier Jayaraj SJ. He challenged us 'to become a drop in the desert' not a drop in the ocean because we know how precious a drop of water is in the desert. Each day started with a prayer introducing the theme of the day. JPIC is conscious prayer of action to transform the world in the light of the Gospel..... JPIC has its roots in scriptures, Vatican Council for Peace and Justice and Social Teachings of the Catholic Church. We were exhorted to identify and share "The Flame" within each one of us on which we rely for strength as we live our spiritual life. The 10 minutes presentation by each animator on "The response and challenges in responding to the cry of the poor" gave us a wider understanding of how the world wide CJ is reaching out to the needy. The input session on Spiritual Growth and Option for the poor made us to realize that charity should give way to justice. We were brought in touch with the plight of the refugees as we visited Centro Astali – the Jesuit Refugee Service in Rome. We had a unique experience as we celebrated Holy Mass in the room of St. Ignatius where he spent his last days and the first three General Congregation were held and wrote the Constitutions of the SJ. Through an experiential Exercise the participants were made to reflect on the importance of creating web / networking. Sr. Jane highlighted the close-knit relation between the "Just Soul" JPIC, and she further stressed on how the virtues of Freedom, Justice and Sincerity impel us to be the promoters of JPIC. JPIC is not a separate mission, but it is an integral part of our entire ministry. Based on the input sessions, sharing and reflections the animators were asked to prepare a concrete action plan to be implemented in one's own province/ region. The sharing of each animator's action plan enhanced us further. The culmination of the conference was the missioning of each animator by Sr. Jane during the concluding Mass in the following words; "I mission you to return to your Province/ Region as its JPIC animator and to work with your Provincial/ Regional Superior and her council and with all the members of your Province/ Region to make the Just Soul and JPIC as central to all our ministries. Our mission is not limited to our works. Our personal and community relationship with the Lord, our relationship with one another as friends in the Lord, our

solidarity with the poor and marginalised, and our lifestyle responsible to creation are all important aspects of our lives as members of the CJ.

Sr. Japa CJ

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