

# Peace, Justice & the Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Webinar Notes (2011)

## Webinar #1-

Opening prayer by Kent Ferris: (he included the following)

Franciscan prayer begins and ends with the Incarnation.

"Franciscan Prayer is about Gospel living and making the

'Good News' come alive." (Ilia Delio)

The International Fraternity of the SFO(CIOFS) is the Franciscan presence in the world

Topic: "Courageous Initiative"- it is in addition to all the existing SFO efforts, i.e.

Franciscan Action Network(FAN), Ecumenical Advocacy Days, etc.

## Catholics Confront Global Poverty:

What is it? The campaign was launched in 2009 as initiated by both the USCCB and Catholic Relief Services (CRS). The goal is to engage one million Catholics in the U.S. to act on key issues worldwide. So far, 1.17 million people are engaged.

### Seven policy objectives:

- ~ International Assistance (eg. funding in Haiti)
- ~ Debt Relief
- ~ International Trade (the hope is mutuality and solidarity)
- ~ Global Climate Change (assist countries most adversely affected by droughts and heavy rains)
- ~ Migration
- ~ Peace (eg. negotiations between Israel and Palestine)
- ~ Extractive Industries (wealthy nations taking resources they think is rightfully theirs and not compensating the host country adequately, if at all)

New goal: One million actions to confront global poverty

How? Pray

Learn

Share

Advocate

## How you can contribute as a fraternity:

1. pray about the initiative and how you might participate; to find issues that are important to address, go to:  
[www.peace in Sudan.org](http://www.peaceinSudan.org)  
[www.usccb.org/sdwp/global-poverty/](http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/global-poverty/)  
[www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org)
2. use Catholics Confront Global Poverty(CCGP) as an umbrella for existing activities
3. provide stories to Kent about what your fraternity is doing
4. become a "star" on the solidarity map; website for the map is:  
[www.crs.org/global-poverty](http://www.crs.org/global-poverty)

**Webinar #2-**

"Courageous Initiative" is a joint effort by NAFRA/JPIC and Catholic Relief Services

If we desire justice, peace and love, then we must become justice, peace and love.

What we as Secular Franciscans are called to do (Chapter 2, section 4 of the Rule):

- ~ observe the Gospel
- ~ follow the example of St. Francis
- ~ do careful reading of the Gospel
- ~ live Gospel to life and life to Gospel (seek to encounter Jesus)

What can we do in regards to poverty?

- ~ participate in "Operation Rice Bowl"- started in 1975 to give hope to a world in need; this outreach is connected to our Eucharistic call; the website is [www.orb.crs.org](http://www.orb.crs.org) OR 1-800-222-0025
- \* NAFRA/JPIC wants SFO fraternities to get involved in "Operation Rice Bowl" The national date for the CRS Collection is always the fourth Sunday of Lent.
- ~ hold a "food fast"
- ~ join Catholics confront Global Poverty

"Operation Rice Bowl" theme: "We are disciples for all nations"

In 2011, this outreach is spotlighting the nations of Haiti, Kenya, Indonesia, Senegal, Honduras and, in the U.S., the Diocese of Chicago

How can SFO members get involved?

- ~ provide parish bulletin inserts
- ~ invite Catholic school educators to use lesson plans, prayer eggs, etc.
- ~ integrate the "Operation Rice Bowl" theme into the parish (eg. Lenten meals or other special events)

Justice for Immigrants website:

<http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org/index.shtml>

**Webinar #3-** (due to technical difficulties with the recorded session, these notes are taken from alternate related sources provided by Kent)

We cannot confront global poverty without each other and an understanding of mutual respect

Catholics Confront Global Poverty:

Don't balance the budget on the backs of the poor

Message from Bishop Hubbard:

- ~ Challenges us to enter into a relationship of solidarity with all those living in poverty and to advocate for a world where the life and dignity of all people can be respected
- ~ To build peace is to fight poverty
- ~ Peace isn't just the absence of war, but the fulfillment of the human person that God intended for us to be

### Webinar #3 cont.-

#### Message from Bishop Hubbard cont.:

- ~ Focus, too, on governments that interfere with relief efforts to the poor because the poorest of the poor aren't getting their needs met
- ~ The "face of the poor" is the face of Christ

#### Message from Bill O'Keefe: (Director of Policy and Advocacy for CRS regarding International Assistance)

- ~ U.S. contributions fight disease, hunger, poverty, and they are an expression of the generosity of Americans
- ~ The Gospel is about generosity and giving
- ~ International assistance helps people live lives worthy of dignity, who are made in God's image
- ~ International assistance can help the children of God across the world lift themselves up out of poverty

#### Catholic Relief Services Guiding Principles:

1. Sacredness and Dignity of the Human Person (foundation for #2-8 below)
2. Rights and Responsibilities
3. Social Nature of Humanity
4. The Common Good
5. Subsidiarity
6. Solidarity (we are one family in God's eyes)
7. Preferential Option for the Poor
8. Stewardship

#### What solidarity looks like:

- Solidarity- the responsibility to stand with another to embrace justice and peace;
- ~To reverse poverty throughout the world.
- ~As followers of Jesus, how we stand or fail to stand with people who are hungry, ill, poor, homeless, or in danger is a measure of our commitment to the Body of Christ.
- ~Solidarity is a dynamic relationship that seeks change and is built on the idea that there is strength in numbers.
- ~ Transformation from poverty to sustainability, from struggle to hope

#### Key issues to reverse poverty throughout the world:

1. To improve and increase U.S. assistance to fund long-term sustainable solutions to poverty
2. Strengthen international peacekeeping and peace building efforts so countries are not driven into poverty by violent conflict
3. Complete debt relief to free up financial resources so poor countries can meet the needs of their own people
4. Make global trade and agricultural policies fair so small farmers in developing countries and here in the U.S. can flourish

Key issues to reverse poverty cont.

5. Ensure extraction and sale of natural resources benefits poor people while also caring for God's creation by minimizing environmental impact
  6. Promote comprehensive immigration reform and address the root causes of why people migrate  
main reasons for migration-
    - ~ to find employment and meet basic needs due to lack of opportunities
    - ~ to escape poverty
    - ~ to improve their standard of living and seek social protection
  7. Respond to global climate change and help poor countries adapt to its effects
- \* Note: CEDICAM (Center for Integral Small Farmer Development in the Mixteca in Mexico) A Mexican non-profit organization that has partnered with Catholic Relief Services to help local farmers learn sustainable farming techniques so they can grow enough food and stay at home instead of being compelled to emigrate

**Webinar #4-** "Courageous Initiative"

Message of keynote speaker: Fr. Chris Promis, C.S.Sp. (Spiritan religious group):

- he is the Institutional Officer for Catholic Relief Services
- ~ Solidarity is the basis of community whether local, regional, national or international; How do we expand our SFO to those whose main language is not English?
- ~ Global solidarity within the SFO and the wider Franciscan family is a bond based on relationship and belonging by sharing the love of Francis, a common mindset and a commitment to the Order
- ~ How do we see those in need as our sisters and brothers?
- ~ Catholic Social Teaching calls us to put our faith in action both locally and globally
- ~ Global solidarity is not only overseas, but also in the U.S. (the scope of the "we"); when we pray the "Our Father", we need to be sure that our love is as inclusive as is God's; this solidarity calls us to be truly Catholic, i.e. universal; How much am I called to do?
- ~ "I act so that we can act."
- ~ Solidarity comes through personal encounters; telling stories that make people and their needs real is crucial

**Discussion questions for fraternities:**

1. How do you personally live out your sense of belonging to the SFO?
2. How do you balance the need to be personally connected with the poor and with those beyond our borders with a sense of helplessness in watching catastrophes/disasters and other serious issues on a global scale in order to figure out how to be able to help people in need?
3. How can we, as Secular Franciscans, give witness to God's love and kindness on a global scale?

**Webinar #5-** "Call to a vocation and Response through good works"

(a continuation of webinar #4)

Fr. Chris Promis works with religious orders in regards to outreach activity

**Message:**

- ~ The sacredness and dignity of the human person comes directly from our own creation and not from any action of our own
- ~ Love of God, love of neighbor, and love of self reflect the Incarnation and are intertwined
- ~ Vocation- recognizing Jesus in our lives in an experiential way
- ~ Speak the truth even if your voice shakes

**Discussion questions for fraternities:**

1. What are the life issues that confront all Christians and, therefore, Catholics?
2. What does a human being need to live a fully human life?
3. How might you put this reflection (see message #2 above) into practice?

From Pope John XXIII's Peace on Earth (#11)

"Our duty is to make sure everyone else has their rights as human beings, as well as ourselves."

Book by Catholic Relief Services- Prayer without Borders