

# JPIC Gathering in Via Aurelia 2018

A group of 39 inter- congregational and international JPIC animators gathered in Rome from 14th to 17th November, 2018, including seven Marist Sisters. The workshop theme was Building Right Relationships. The JPIC Team Rome welcomed the group with the inspirational reminder that the world is a joyful mystery ! This set the tone of the whole four days.

Inputs included

- a powerful presentation on Laudato Si and Contemplation which again brought the reminder that the world is indeed a joyful mystery, to be embraced with respect and care !
- JPIC and Religious Vows,
- Itinerary for Prophetic Religious Life
- JPIC Commission Structure, and
- Two examples of Congregational Structures

Prayer was facilitated by the different Working Groups in Rome, followed by a brief introduction to their work. Also time was set aside for forward planning, taking into account the many helps we had been given over the previous days.

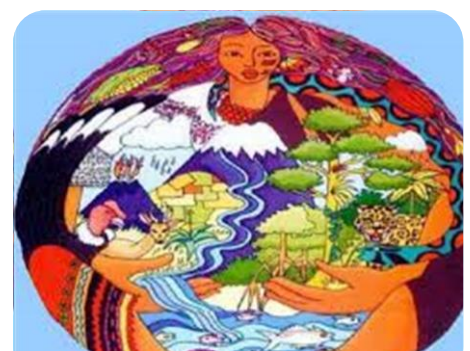
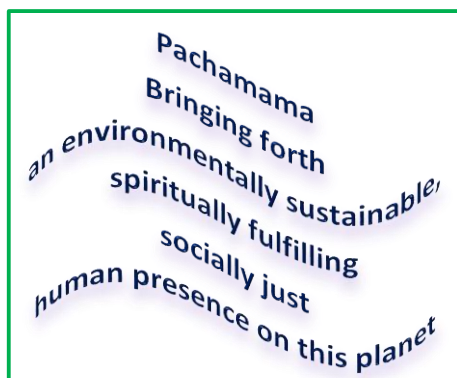
JPIC was defined as : 'the conscious prayer and action to transform the world in the spirit of the Gospel through lives of justice, peace and care for the integrity of creation.' These workshop days helped us to ground all our JPIC endeavours in God's word and prayer, to network with others, and to appreciate the See, Judge, Act model.



The day after completing the JPIC Workshop, Sunday 18th November, we had a three hour symposium with Father Peter Stoll OMI, on the Pachamama Alliance. Pachamama, an expression of the Inca Indians of Peru, means Mother Earth. The aim was to wake us up and raise awareness about care of the Earth, using videos, songs and dance to stimulate discussion and raise questions.

We believe that Mary is inviting us to take care of life and of the earth. If we take care of the Earth we will have pure water, clean air, healthy food, and we will learn to collaborate so that everyone "may have life in abundance" (John 10:10).

We invite you to visit the website: [pachamamasymposium.org](http://pachamamasymposium.org) and to work together to discover new and creative ways to take care of our Mother Earth.





The next day, as we listened to one another sharing the vision and reality of JPIC in the six units represented at our meeting here in Rome, we were standing on Holy Ground.

Leading by example when it comes to caring for the environment and speaking out for the earth, the sisters are encouraging others to care for our 'common home'.

Sisters continue to educate themselves in "awareness" of what is happening in our world today and also work to raise awareness in others and to advocate on behalf of women and children facing violence, trafficking, poverty, discrimination, racism and injustice.

We do not stand alone but network and work alongside groups like Caritas International, ANZRATH, SAMIN (Sisters Association of Mindanao) and CIRM (Conference of Major Religious Superiors- Mexico), to name but a few.

Children and women will always have a special place in our hearts and lives and so we rejoiced at projects in Brazil, Fiji, New Zealand, West Africa, Philippines and Mexico which touch the lives of street children, young girls and boys who have been rejected by the education system, daughters of prostituted women, troubled youth and prisoners.

As we visited Assisi and Domitilla Catacombs these words which inspired and 'en-couraged' the early Christians, St Francis of Assisi and our Foundress echoed in our hearts: Do not be afraid (Mk 6:50) " I am with you always, to the end of the world( Mt. 28:20). They call us to to deepen our faith and to go forth and serve with the same courage that the Holy Spirit stirred up in the Apostles ( Gaudete et Exsultate ).

At the end of the Second Vatican Council, 1965, forty bishops responded and made a special pact, promising to live as St. Francis did, for and with the poor, and renouncing the wealth, power and prestige of the world .

As a Marist JPIC group we were deeply moved. This challenges us, as Marists today, to live a simple life, to be with the poor, to love creation and to be bold in proclaiming the life of Christ and being His living witnesses in today's world.

As JPIC animators we need to go back to our beginnings, so as not to lose what we have learned from our Foundress and early sisters. It is easy to be led astray by status and power and to oppress others and become selfish.

St. Francis, the Pact of the Catacombs, our Foundress and Pope Francis show us a better, simpler, more loving way!

