



JPIC Voices

Being Artisans of Hope in Our Blessed and Broken World

Continuing the JPIC journey....

Drawing inspiration from General Chapter 2016 and the significant moments in the years that followed, the International JPIC Team counts on the collaboration of the Family of the Sacred Heart so that "together, with hope and in Cor Unum, we shall write the next pages of this JPIC story...." [Being Artisans of Hope, p. 25].

General Chapter 2016 mandated us "to be One Body which loves, practices, and gives witness to justice, peace, and integrity of creation at all levels of our life and mission" (GC2016, p. 25). The International JPIC Meeting that took place in the Philippines in November 2018 was a significant step towards realizing this vision. Through this meeting and the process of reflection in preparation for it, the entire Society became more aware of JPIC and its key role in our mission and spirituality. Our JPIC document, *Being Artisans of Hope in Our Blessed and Broken World*, which was a fruit of this encounter, expresses our Declaration of Commitment to JPIC and highlights our four imperatives: 1) Washing one another's feet; 2) Transforming and being transformed; 3) Caring for our Common Home; and 4) Welcoming people on the move. Inspired by this JPIC Document, we identified five practices that can help us live JPIC in our diverse contexts and cultures: 1) Connection; 2) Social discernment; 3) Ethics of caring; 4) Transformative education; and 5) Sustainability. *Being Artisans of Hope* has truly been not only a launching pad for action and reflection, but also an invitation to discernment and growth in interior attitudes.

Through concrete and creative steps that we take as "artisans of hope," we weave our JPIC priorities with the calls of the 2016 General Chapter. Together, we endeavor to reach new "frontiers" by seeking ways to respond to the cries of Mother Earth and to walk with people on the move. We desire not only to "live more humanly" in situations that demand justice and peace, but also to transform and be transformed, to educate and to learn, to "create silence" and "act as One Body". To some extent, JPIC provides an "incarnated" way of responding to these calls. These responses take different forms: pursuing JPIC at the local level, according to our different contexts and capacities; building transformative communities of practices; participating in events at the United Nations that help us move back and forth organically from local to global frontiers; working with other groups, like JCoR (Justice Coalition of Religious), a group of religious congregations at the UN who work collaboratively for the common good; sharing prayer-guides prepared by persons from different parts of the Society, and making resources available through the JPIC Learning Hub; and doing all this as "One Body" animated by one JPIC International Team.



Now in the midst of this unprecedented COVID-19 context, we are confronted with "divides" (digital, vaccine, education, employment, media, to name a few) that have been unmasked and require an even more urgent collective response. The International JPIC Team counts on the help of the Family of the Sacred Heart to respond to the challenge of this "new frontier" and to rekindle our hope. At the same time, with the whole Society of the Sacred Heart, we pray for and await the results of the 2021 Special Chapter.

Outcomes of the July 2021 High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF 2021)

The High Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development (HLPF) took place from 6th to 15th July 2021. The Sacred Heart Family participated virtually with a delegation of 11 persons from Colombia, Japan, Mexico, Spain, and the UN-NGO Office. As promised, our participants now share with us the outcome documents, what they learnt as a delegation, and their next steps.

1. Summary of Outcomes:

The theme of HLPF 2021 was *“Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: Building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development.”*

In summary, Civil Society declared that HLPF 2021 failed to achieve its goal of recovery and promotion of the SDGs for the following reasons:

- failure of UN States to agree on a strong, human-rights-centered transformative action
- lack of ambition for multilateralism
- lack of collaborative response to COVID-19
- consistent refusal to address the root causes and systemic barriers to achieve a world where no one is left behind

Civil society is gravely concerned about several specific issues that were not addressed in the Ministerial Declaration. They are:

- equitable universal free access to COVID-19 vaccines and treatment
- eradication of poverty and hunger
- effective means of SDG implementation
- lack of genuine and sincere response to the climate crisis
- universal social protection
- recognition of diverse wisdom and knowledge systems
- exclusion, recognition of human rights and gender equality as central
- using the excuse of COVID-19 to limit civil society participation and to discriminate against marginalized groups and violate workers' rights;
- to respect civil society and other stakeholders

To read the documents:

Ministerial Declaration made by UN States	Statement by Civil Society
Click this link to access the document. Available in English, French, and Spanish.	Click this link to access the document. Available only in English.

2. Some key learnings of the Sacred Heart delegation:



- “The HLPF preparation helped us to focus on our everyday realities and what we are living – this is a strength. The preparation process made the SDGs more concrete and what we were able to present was very focused.”
- “What we shared came out of our One Body. I felt deep gratitude and joy to see the One Body in action, being one family in the presence of the Spirit. I am very happy to have participated in this work that is so aligned with our mission.”
- “JPIC unites all of us, even the governments. We educate governments of today and of the future. Citizens have our responsibility; we should not give away our rights, but need to take our responsibility.”
- “Our events were very specific, which I found good. I found shared challenges and similarities with other countries. It was very enlightening to see how we share problems, educational programs, and schools.”
- “I felt that we are really sisters and belong to One Body. I finally understood the importance of participating in JCoR. I think this process helped us link to others with similar challenges.”
- “The preparation process was both experience and training in the full sense. Solidarity goes beyond sharing knowledge; it means getting involved in different realities and cultures. If we share our dreams, we can build larger dreams.”
- “The process helped me to see humanity as One. I touched our internationality; which is like going to the baker to buy bread. While there are basic ingredients in making bread, there can be additional elements. That gave me hope.”
- “It was getting involved in life experiences, letting these penetrate our hearts. It helped me to recognize the woundedness in the hearts of others, be they RSCJ, other congregations, civil society, or those who fight for our common home.”
- “The challenge is not to stop working and to be critical. Another challenge is to see how all the movements and groups function together. I also saw that all this is made possible by the work of many. Every panelist, for example, had a team.”
- “Some work at the abstract policy level, and many others work at the grassroots level. The HLPF events bridged both groups, because of the work we all did together. We were able to distill the complex world of the UN and interpret it. It is a new experience for me to be part of this community.”
- “JPIC is based on the spirituality of the open heart. Spirituality is at the heart of JPIC and education promotes it.”



3. Next steps and recommendations:

- Communicate how Sacred Heart students and educators can contribute to holistic and intersectional approaches to peace, which is at the heart of achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals in a Post-COVID era
- Give space to the voices of those from marginalized groups at future participations in HLPF
- Connect with national governments on SDG implementation
- Share outcomes of HLPF with the Family of the Sacred Heart
- Develop an SDG awareness program for the international Family of the Sacred Heart

Resources



This website: <http://overcomingpoverty.org> offers a wealth of resources (in different languages) that can help us in our mission.

We highlight two resources:

1. [Making Human Rights Work for People Living in Extreme Poverty](#) - This handbook is a critical tool for the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights.
2. [The Hidden Dimensions of Poverty](#) - This is a summary of the findings of a study that identifies nine key poverty dimensions that are surprisingly similar and closely interdependent despite differences in daily lives of people in poverty.

Upcoming JPIC Events

11 October	International Day of the Girl: Stand together and change the world	<u>Click here</u> to view videos made by students of the Sacred Heart.
17 October	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	<u>Click here</u> to learn more.
18 December	International Migrants Day	

*We will also be celebrating a number of Society feasts.
Prayer-reflection guides for each of these feasts will be available.*

Visit the JPIC website of the Family of the Sacred Heart:



<https://rscj-jpic.org>

Share about your JPIC engagements and activities.

Send your contributions to:
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