

ASH WEDNESDAY 2022

Transforming and Being Transformed



Walking together!

Throughout Lent, the JPIC Team is inviting you to go on a spiritual journey, thanks to the contributions of our sisters in formation. We will also have the joy of praying with the different novitiates of the Society.



Each week, we will be able to set out on a journey inspired by an action word. Just like a springboard, it will open us up to the word of God and will guide us in what we want to do for our human family and our common home. Because, before being just an acronym, JPIC is an attitude of life to be lived out, which constantly leads us from contemplation to action.

Each week, on Facebook, you will be able to find out about the upcoming theme and read an excerpt from the social encyclicals; and each Friday you will receive prayer sheets related to the Sunday.

This proposal is also a way for us to be united in our hearts and to live in communion with each other and with the whole Sacred Heart family.

Happy Season of Lent!

Pope Francis reminds us in his encyclical, *Laudato Si'*:

“Today... we have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.” (#49). Perhaps the grace we should ask for during these 40 days is to allow ourselves to be deeply transformed, renewed, converted, and to become more gentle, so that our thoughts, our words, and our actions can be transformative.

The voices of the poorest people are heard “like a voice that cries out in the desert”. They are thirsty for an oasis of humanity, a space where they can be present, and be heard. During this Lenten season, we are able to reach out in a privileged way to the most fragile people around us – and to the most vulnerable part in ourselves – to welcome, to listen and to allow ourselves to be transformed little by little. We can learn from their words and their life experiences and “meditate on them in our hearts”. We can be inspired by them and let ourselves be converted.

We can therefore create the conditions for them to share their “human expertise”, of resilience and of hope... Then, little by little, our walk will become a “caravan” of humanity, of communion.

Our earth is also crying out in pain. We now know that we are responsible for the future of many peoples. This fertile and luxuriant Garden of Creation is being destroyed. Let us make the most of this Lenten period, a time of desert par excellence, to focus on the essential in our lives. By living in the desert, we can choose to live in voluntary and happy simplicity. May the winds of sand rid us of what is superfluous and may the tent of our heart gradually be uncluttered and made wider. Changing our relationship with Creation and changing our relationship with life is one and the same conversion.



Prayer of Intercession

Lord, You call us to tear our hearts open to reject appearances and the superfluous. May this Lenten season be for each one of us a time of fruitful inner life that draws us towards You, makes us live in You and opens our hearts to all those who are “at the side of the road”. Allow us to reach out and to take care of the most vulnerable among us in our communities and in Your creation.



“Now is the favorable time.” (2 Cor 6; 2)

The time has come to take a step into the desert
and renew our way towards life.

To walk in rhythm with his word
and to let it guide us.

The time has come to quench our thirst at the well of the encounter
and never stop reaching out to our brothers.

To find along the way the nomads of life,
and to share the work of Cyrene.

The time has come to live in forgiveness and healing
and to care for our broken lives.

The time has come to establish God’s home among us
and to proclaim that there is a full life for all.

The time has come to watch with Jesus
and to prepare the upper room.

“Be converted and believe in the Gospel.”

With all those with whom we live, we can choose a word from the liturgy that calls us...
Together we can also burn the Ashes of our doubts, our fears, our bitterness, our wounds...
Let us name them and let them be consumed in the fire of His love.

In communion on this road to Easter!

The JPIC team



JPIC LEARNING HUB
2022