

INTERCONNECTION

Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Newsletter
Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Joseph, USA



MAY/JUNE 2019

FIFTY YEARS SINCE CHAPTER PEACE RESOLUTION

By David Hirt, OFM Cap.

1969 was a big year. The Zodiac Killer was on the rampage. The Vietnam War was looking like it might end, though the draft was still in effect and riots were happening in Berkeley. Levi Jeans sold their first bell bottoms and Disney World began construction. John and Yoko recorded "Give Peace a Chance" while the FBI was plotting to undermine "New Left and Extremist Movements." The United States put Neil Armstrong on the moon and a probe past Mars. Woodstock followed. Connecticut had a race riot and the trial of the Chicago 8 began while Marvel Comics introduced Sam "The Falcon" Wilson as their first African American superhero.

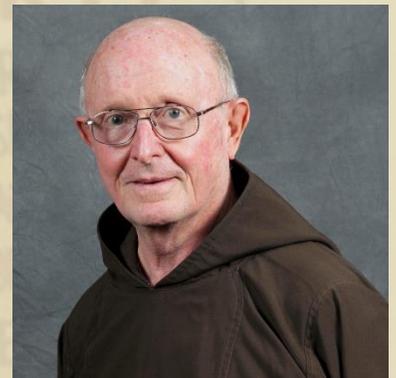
In October, peace demonstrators staged activities all over the US. Jack Kerouac died. The first email was sent on ARPAnet. A group of Native Americans occupied Alcatraz and Sesame Street premiered. Wendy's opened and Nixon banned DDT and biological weapons. It's hard to imagine that was all 50 years ago at this point.

In the Province, a group of friars had proposed a meeting of the entire province to be held in '69. While many were skeptical about its need or even the possibility, the special Chapter was held. The purpose? A "Peace" Resolution which called for the establishment of a commission of social

justice and world peace with the following responsibilities.

1. Education of the friars of the Province regarding pertinent matters relating to social justice and world peace.
2. Encourage the friars to join organizations working to promote social justice and world peace
3. Implementation of the principles of the Pastoral Guide
4. Education of the friars as to the problems affecting young men and their families due to the war
5. Give the friars a basic understanding of the principles of draft counselling
6. Help friars form right consciences in matters pertaining to social justice and world peace.

The discussion was lengthy. Many of the 'J-P Boys,' such as Mike Crosby, Dale Olen, and Ken Rolling, tended to get



under the skins [†]Mike Crosby, OFM Cap. (d. 2017) of other friars (which Mike apologized for in his goodbye reflection last chapter). Some believed the Province wasn't doing enough for social justice while others felt they didn't know enough to make a judgment. Getting "beyond generalities and pious platitudes

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and (taking) a stand on political and social issues where there is a moral issue also involved," was a recurrent theme. In the end, the proposal passed.

I don't bring all of this up to open old wounds or moralize. This special chapter was the beginning of something for our Province: the beginning of our reputation for being the "Justice and Peace" province, for good or for ill. In the past 50 years, the Province has done much, with the help of dedicated friars and lay people, to keep JPIC an important part of who we are.

The current JPIC commission, the fruit of this proposal, looks back at this history, at the entire JPIC history of the province, with awe and love and looks to the future of the commission as well as for the province in a world where the issues are just as pressing as they were in the '60s and '70s.

50 years. It's a milestone; and with it, the current JPIC Commission hopes to take the next few years to reimagine ourselves, taking our original charter, and seeing how it can speak to us today. And we're going to ask for your help. Because Justice and Peace is the work of all of us.

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WORLD REFUGEE DAY JUNE 20, 2019

A Moment for Grace A Prayer for Refugees

**God of our Wandering Ancestors,
Long have we known
That your heart is with the refugee:
That you were born into time
In a family of refugees
Fleeing violence in their homeland,
Who then gathered up their hungry child
And fled into alien country.**

**Their cry, your cry, resounds through the
ages:
"Will you let me in?"**

**Give us hearts that break open
When our brothers and sisters turn to us
with that same cry.**

**Then surely all these things will follow:
Ears will no longer turn deaf to their
voices.
Eyes will see a moment for grace instead
of a threat.**

**Tongues will not be silenced but will
instead advocate.**

**And hands will reach out—
working for peace in their homeland,
working for justice in the lands where
they seek safe haven.**

**Lord, protect all refugees in their travels.
May they find a friend in me
And so make me worthy
Of the refuge I have found in you.**

AMEN

Catholic Relief Services

<https://www.crs.org/resource-center/moment-grace-prayer-refugees>

Chairman of U.S. Bishops' Committee on Migration Expresses Support for Mexican Bishops Concerns Regarding Recent Agreement Between Mexico and the United States

On June 10, the Catholic Bishops of Mexico stated:

“We express our concern for the lack of a truly humanitarian reception for our brother migrants, which reflects our conviction regarding the protection of the rights of all human beings equally,” the bishops further stated, “Our brother migrants must not be a bargaining chip. No negotiations should be placed above what the church and civil society have defended for years: not criminalizing migrants nor the defenders of human rights.”

Bishop Joe Vásquez responded with the following statement of support:

“We stand in solidarity with our brother bishops in Mexico. We implore the Administration not to confuse economic issues with the humanitarian issues of forced migration. Families fleeing violence, persecution and extreme poverty must be treated with love and compassion and not be used as a tool for negotiations. As always, we recognize the right of a nation to secure its borders. However, the Gospel teaches us to love our neighbor. This is the imperative we must follow in treating our migrant brothers and sisters with compassion and dignity. We should be working with the governments of the Northern Triangle and the Mexican Government to eradicate violence and improve the local economies from which families are being forced to migrate.”



we are one family under God

Excerpts from [a message](#) of Pope Francis for 2019 World Day for Migrants and Refugees:

Dear brothers and sisters, our response to the challenges posed by contemporary migration can be summed up in four verbs: *welcome, protect, promote and integrate*. Yet these verbs do not apply only to migrants and refugees. They describe the Church's mission to all those living in the existential peripheries, who need to be welcomed, protected, promoted and integrated. If we put those four verbs into practice, we will help build the city of God and man. We will promote the integral human development of all people. We will also help the world community to come closer to the goals of sustainable development that it has set for itself and that, lacking such an approach, will prove difficult to achieve.

In a word, it is not only the cause of migrants that is at stake; it is not just about them, but about all of us, and about the present and future of the human family. Migrants, especially those who are most vulnerable, help us to read the “signs of the times”. Through them, the Lord is calling us to conversion, to be set free from exclusivity, indifference and the throw-away culture.

Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Joseph, JPIC Commission

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