



## REPORT FROM NEP PROVINCE (2012-2014)

At our International Meeting in Rome in 2012, we affirmed that our spirituality “leads us to a greater consciousness of ourselves in right relationships with each other, our world, the whole universe and God....”. (2007 General Chapter)

The above commitment has been at the heart of the JPIC Network in the NEP Province since its inception and has been growing and deepening in the last two years in particular. When appointing a new JPIC Team in the province in 2012 it was felt that it would be good to invite sisters from different geographical areas of the province to be “**antennae**” people in touch with justice issues in their area. There was a very good response to this invitation and through this wider network, information is shared that challenges us to respond in prayer and or action as appropriate.

The main challenge faced in NEP province was trying to find creative ways to enable sisters to move from the practical aspects of concern for all creation to the deeper spirituality behind this namely our call to understand our place in the community of life and to live in a mutually enhancing way with the natural world recognizing that everything/everyone deserves to be revered for what it reveals of the divine presence.. Some progress was achieved through our shared reflection on suggested readings that were circulated to each sister as part of our preparation for **Part 1 of our Provincial Chapter** in October 2012 and this process continued following the Chapter as we prepared for the **General Chapter in June 2013** and **Part 2 of our own Chapter in October 2013**. In union with the UN and the inspiring material we receive from our representatives there we tried to heighten our awareness of world issues. We responded in practical ways by signing petitions to lobby our politicians, we participated in marches at the time of the London Olympics and as part of the If Campaign calling on the G8 to end Global Hunger. We supported the work of London Citizens – Telco (East End of London Citizens Organization) in Manor Park where our sisters are.

A number of our sisters work with victims of Human trafficking and others network with Organizations raising awareness on this subject. A particular issue that is being highlighted at the moment in each of our countries is the **Criminalizing of the Buyers of Sex** and we have been doing all in our power to progress this legislation by prayer and action.

Through our own internal bulletin – **Exchange**, we made a point of highlighting Justice Issues in each edition. For a number of months we included some very simple “Eco tips” that we felt everyone could relate to e.g. “turn your thermostat down by one or two degrees/dry clothes outdoors/fly less often/walk/cycle/use public transport/carpool, where possible”. Most of our sisters participated in **Earth Hour in March** each year to raise awareness on the need for prudent use of our resources so that the needs of future generations will be met. The **JPIC Calendar** is circulated to each community every month and in an effort to strengthen links between **NGO** and **JPIC**, the “antennae” sisters have been asked by the JPIC Team to follow up on some of the websites and encourage sisters in their area to use this material for prayer and/or inter-community meetings.

**At Part 2 of our Provincial Chapter** – two of the priorities chosen as our first area of commitment following the General Chapter were – Contemplative Listening and Respect for all Creation and it this was a great joy for me as it was to hear the majority of our sisters say that those two areas are now becoming an integral part of their lives. The challenge is to continue to open ourselves to insights from science and cosmology – we feel the bi-monthly Magazine – Resurgence & Ecologist is a very helpful resource to enable us to do this. Our hope is in the words of our General Chapter Statement that as apostolic women religious, we will be “impelled by the passion of God for humanity and all creation and Gailhac's vision, that all may have life” (Jn. 10/10).