

## A JPIC Moment

### *Life in the Pressure Cooker*

Global warming! Terrorist bombing! Mass shootings! Ethnic cleansing! Rifts within our own government! Hatred; Impatience; Inter and intra generational infringement upon liberties; increase in domestic violence; maltreatment of the marginalized! The world's general discontent with just about everyone and everything!

When does it end?

Unfortunately, there is no end in sight. Our lives have become a pressure cooker and we are in it. It is depressing to hear the stories today in the news which bring to the forefront how cruel humanity can be, in total contrast to the definition of the word 'humanity' which is defined as: compassion, brotherly love, fraternity, fellow feeling, philanthropy, humaneness, kindness, consideration, understanding, sympathy, tolerance and more.

There is such a constant stream of 'bad news', that we wonder "Where is the good news?" It is at times such as these in our history that we feel powerless to change, correct, adjust, or rectify the evils brought to bear upon us and our world, but it is at times like these when we must be strong not weak, resolute not succumbing, faithful not doubting, and hopeful not despairing.

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation are coming under attack from all sides. JPIC seems to be making a last stand in a transcendent citadel besieged by the onslaught of in-humanity, and the disregard for what God has given us: a place to live in stewardship, and even more so, in kinship with all that exists.

Fear not! There IS hope!

"Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, or has it so much as dawned on man what God has prepared for those who love him: (1 Corinthians 2:6-10a)

I'm not one for politics but when our own government sees global warming as 'fake', and places industry and capitalization first, should we not wonder where we are really headed?

So what is the root cause of what seems to be worldwide discontent and upheaval? Maybe the answer can be found in the words of St. Peter: "Stay sober and alert. Your opponent the devil is prowling like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, solid in your faith". (1 Peter 5:8-9a)

If that is so, what can we do as the children of God, in seeking the Lord's divine intervention in rebuking Satan, and all his evil spirits, who feed on human weakness, and exploit us seeking the ruin of our souls?

Faith, prayer, devotion and courage are our 'Knights-in-shining armor' against the soldiers of Satan and the evil he wroughts upon the earth. The power of prayer can never be underestimated!

I believe that the gospel of Mark says it best: "And he said to them, this kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer." (Mark 9:29)

The Prayer to our protector, St. Michael the Archangel, is most powerful in combating the evils of Satan.

*St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle  
Be our protector against the wickedness and snares  
of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and  
do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of  
God, cast into Hell, Satan and all other evil spirits who  
prowl through the world, seeking the ruin of souls. Amen*

Pray my brothers and sisters, and when you believe you have prayed enough, then pray some more.

“Pray without ceasing”. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Let us remember, 'With God all things are possible' (Matthew 19:26)

Pace e bene,

*Frank Scotto, ofs.  
..TAU Cross Region..  
Regional Vice Minister  
Regional JPIC Animator  
Fraternity Minister, St. Helen*