

CONTEMPLATION IN ACTION



The engagement in JPIC concerns is characterized by SEE, JUDGE and ACT, an established methodology promoted for JPIC efforts. We are challenged to see with the eyes of God, to judge reality with the compassion of God and to act with the presence of God.

Through contemplation, we take the time to reflect more deeply on the issues which we are to address and the relationships we are to develop. We strive to deepen our consciousness of who we are in relationship with God, others, and all of creation.

In contemplation, we turn towards Christ as he accompanies us on our journey to explore our own motivations and desires in areas needing social change. By knowing ourselves, we are better able to organize and network with others so that our strengths are integrated in faith-filled efforts to build the reign of God as we care for all of creation.

“The ideal is not only to pass from the exterior to the interior to discover the action of God in the soul, but also to discover God in all things.” (LS 233)

We create space to hold the conflict in a special prayerful way and to ponder the many facets of the conflict that require action. By contemplating and studying the interconnecting systems that keep a conflict alive, we can direct our attention and action in specific ways towards building the reign of God.

When our rootedness in God through contemplation goes deep enough and our understanding of reality is clear enough, contemplation expands into a prophetic attitude. The prophet is one “whose eye is opened, and who hears and speaks the words of God; [...] a person of three times: the promise of the past, the contemplation of the present, the courage to point out the path toward the future.” (41) REJOICE! (A letter to consecrated men and women. A message from the teachings of Pope Francis)

Our Blessed Mother provides us with an example of how this is done. After the annunciation and Mary's acceptance of God's request, she went immediately to be with Elizabeth. The presence of God within her was honored by both Elizabeth and John the Baptist. Mary's song of praise for the work of God in her was the Magnificat. (Lk 1:46-50) She continued to ponder many experiences in her heart.

Scripture tells us that she continued to ponder many experiences in her heart. Pope Francis provides us with this insight today: "Mary is able to recognize the traces of God's Spirit in events great and small. She constantly contemplates the mystery of God in our world, in human history and in our daily lives. She is the woman of prayer and work in Nazareth, and she is also Our Lady of Help, who sets out from her town "with haste" (Lk 1:39) to be of service to others. This interplay of justice and tenderness, of contemplation and concern for others, is what makes the ecclesial community look to Mary as a model of evangelization." (EG 288)