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Prairie Fire News

Franciscans of the Prairie Regional Fraternity, O.F.S.

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Justice



Peace



Integrity of Creation



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serrv

A better life in the making

Serrv International is a nonprofit dedicated to fighting global poverty through fair and ethical trade.

Poverty remains a terrible reality for many of our world's citizens. While it exists everywhere, it's most severe in developing countries, where more than 700 million people—half of them children—live on less than \$1.90 a day.

At Serrv, we work to fight poverty and improve lives through handwork. Behind every fair trade handcraft we sell, there's a story of positive change. And after nearly 70 years, we've seen what trading fair can do. Marginalized artisans and farmers who are empowered by sustainable employment, fair wages and safe working conditions find security and dignity in their work. They create stronger and healthier communities. They send their children to school. They hand down traditions of cultural craft.

You have the power to positively change a life with every purchase. Our collection of 1,000 unique handcrafts represents the best in global artistry and traditional craftsmanship, with each piece carefully inspected to meet Serrv's quality standards. Shop with purpose. Choose fair.

History & Impact

One of the first fair trade organizations in the United States, Serrv was established in 1949 to help displaced refugees trade their handcrafts for income after the Second World War. As a founding member of both the World Fair Trade Organization and the Fair Trade Federation, we've steadily increased our impact in the fight against global poverty. Today we employ and empower

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COMING REGIONAL EVENTS

July 20, 2019

Regional Formation Gathering

September 27—29, 2019

Regional Retreat and Silver Jubilee

NATIONAL EVENTS

August 29—September 1, 2019

National JPIC Convocation, St. Louis, MO

SERRV International continued

nearly 8,000 artisans and farmers in 24 countries.

In our world today, handcraft production is the second largest form of employment behind agriculture. Serrv's fair trade mission is dedicated not only to paying our artisans fair wages and ensuring safe working conditions, but to creating opportunity for individuals, communities, and environments to thrive and grow. More than a business philosophy, fair trade is the development of relationships built on respect, honesty, freedom, and dignity.

Our Values

As a founding member of the World Fair Trade Organization (WFTO) and the Fair Trade Federation (FTF), Serrv is committed to a code of practice based upon these fair trade values:

Security

We pay fair wages up front, guaranteeing long-term, sustainable livelihoods for artisans and their families, and assuming all business risk associated with the sale of their products.

Education

We invest in literacy, life skills, and vocation training for our artisans—and in access to education for their families—to grow businesses, self-sufficiency, and the opportunity for a brighter future.

Responsibility

We are accountable to artisans and farmers, their communities, cultures, and environments—and seek to build relationships based on respect, compassion, integrity, and transparency.

Rights

We are committed to men, women, and children achieving basic human rights, including safe working conditions, fair wages for their work, educa-

*The ultimate test of your greatness is the way you treat every human being...
~ St. John Paul II*

From Daily Ray of Hope—Sierra Club



I have sometimes been wildly, despairingly, acutely miserable, but through it all I still know quite certainly that just to be alive is a grand thing.

~ Agatha Christie

Word for the Day—from Gratefulness.org

*The world doesn't want to be saved.
It wants to be loved.
That's how you save it.*

~Richard Brendan

SERRV International continued

tion, and freedom from exploitation.

Value

We honor the creativity and craftsmanship of our artisans' work and tradition

Our Commitment to the Environment

Environmental degradation is linked directly to poverty in much of the world. Serrv's mission to fight poverty cannot happen without a thriving environment and healthy, sustainable practices.

We work with our artisans to ensure that our products are made responsibly, with sustainable materials—including recycled and remnant materials—and production techniques. Many of our artisans are active in environmental projects within their communities, including sustainable harvesting of materials, waste water treatment, reforestation initiatives, and environmental education programs. We also import the vast majority of our products by sea, which takes longer but has much less of an environmental impact than air freight.

At our offices, we incorporate sustainability into all aspects of our operations, from recycling and composting to the purchase of environmentally friendly cleaning products. In our warehouse, we reduce waste by reusing packaging materials, encouraging reusable products and recycling. Our catalogs are also printed on FSC-certified paper using inks with renewable resource content.

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These comments are excerpted from the SERRV.org website. SERRV and CRS Relief Services have joined in a nonprofit partnership to promote ethical trade.

Relevant websites are [Catholic Relief Services—Ethical and Fair Trade](#) and [SERRV International](#). You can find a whole lot more information about Fair and Ethical Trade on these websites. SERRV provides a large variety of hand-made products for sale.

This [link](#) will take you to a world map that shows all of the countries represented by the craftsmen and women who provide products for the SERRV catalogue.

A paper catalogue is available from SERVVE by clicking this [link](#) and completing the form.

Or, you can order online by clicking this [link](#).

Whoever plants a tree and diligently looks after it until it matures and bears fruit is rewarded. The world is green and beautiful and God has appointed you as stewards over it.

~Muhammad

JPIC Mission Statement

The mission of JPIC is to assist the Professed Secular Franciscans as they reflect on their relationship with God as manifested in the fruits of conversion in their lives. This with special regard to the daily choices made in the areas of justice, peace making and respect for all created things and people; as brothers and sisters of penance, bringing life to the Gospel and the Gospel to Life.

Goals of JPIC

To foster an atmosphere in fraternity, the privileged place, where with openness and trust, we may share with each other, the manner in which our personal conversions are shaping our Franciscan lives.

To reinforce the appreciation of the dignity of the human person in the choices made in our professed lives by responding in charity and patience to all we meet and to respond as Franciscans to anything which would denigrate the dignity of the human person, beginning with our own personal communications with one another.

To assist in the living out of obedience to the common good as intended by God so that the professed Secular Franciscan builds up all that is good for all of Creation and does nothing which would damage the fabric of communal interdependence.

To strengthen the professed Secular Franciscans' commitment to solidarity with all of Creation enabling them to make those choices in life which would bring about a more fraternal and evangelical world.

~ From the FUN Manual

Laudato Sí

Pope Francis

Today, however, 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.