



Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat of the Society of Jesus

ENG February 2015

...to exchange social justice and ecology news, stimulate contacts, share spirituality and promote networking...

Narrative

Children, a new drive to ecology!

Anne-Marie Kirori (AOR)



Being a young, optimistic, enthusiastic and charismatic catholic, I am strongly moved by ecology and how people behave on matters to do with ecology. The environment is a gift given to us by God. It has, has been and will always be. As Christians we have been called to care for creation. The challenges to respond are huge as well and Jesuits and collaborators in the region, especially the youth, need support as they face the social and environmental concerns and accompany the poor whose situations are further worsened by continuing environmental degradation.

It moves my heart to see children taking the initiative to care for creation and create time to address ecological concerns. Indeed our future has hope. We cannot afford to play around with creation. The late peace Nobel laureate and renowned environmentalist, Wangari Maathai once said "If you destroy nature,

nature will destroy you" (Nyamwaya, 2011). A similar message was also echoed by Pope Francis who during one of his lessons cautioned that "if we destroy Creation, in the end it will destroy us!" (Francis, 2014). [Read more...](#)

Flashnews

Global - Global Catholic Climate Movement launched

The Global Catholic Climate Movement, a collaboration of Catholic organizations and leaders from different parts of the world, was launched last 14 January 2015 with a [statement](#) presented to Pope Francis during his papal visit to the Philippines. Ecojesuit and [Reconciliation with Creation of the Jesuit Conference Asia Pacific](#) are part of this growing



movement, which [can still be joined](#). In their statement, the movement is calling for prayer and action among the world's Catholic population, making it the first time that such a global movement of Catholics gathers to work together on climate issues. [Read more...](#)

Korea - Peace Conference on Jeju Island



Resistance to the construction of a naval base at Gangjeong on Jeju Island, South Korea, continues although the base is already under construction. The Jeju Volcanic Island and Lava Tubes are a UNESCO World Heritage site. The most recent significant effort was the *Gangjeong Peace Conference and Peace Festival* organized by the Jesuit Research Centre for Advocacy and Solidarity (JAS) at the Seoguipo Catholic Parish and Gangjeong Village. [Read more...](#)

Africa - Ecological responses from Africa: A renewed call for commitment to safeguard creation



The Jesuit African Social Centers Network is responding to ecological concerns in the region by promoting awareness among Jesuits and their collaborators about ecology, supporting interest in the field of ecology, and encouraging transformative education to create responsible attitudes to safeguard Creation. The network is composed of 30 social centers of the Jesuits of Africa and Madagascar (JESAM) Social Apostolate, and for which ecology is one of the six themes identified where activities are focused. Three activities in November and December 2014 were undertaken to assist the network in their continuing work and focus on ecology. [To learn more...](#)

USA - Jesuit Conference condemns anti-immigrant amendments



The Jesuit Conference has condemned the anti-immigrant amendments made by the House of Representatives to the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act that were added in mid January. In response to the House's actions, Jesuit Conference President, Father Timothy Kesicki, SJ, made the following statement: "As Jesuits, we assess every piece of legislation through the lens of whether or not it improves the lives of the poor and marginalized, or whether it further undermines the justice they seek and deserve. Unfortunately, the legislation introduced in the House of Representatives does not meet that standard..." [Read more ...](#)

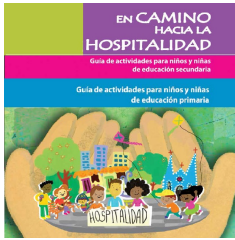
India - "India Today": the reality and the social action response



The Jesuits in Social Action of the West Zone in India organize their annual meeting addressing the situation of India at present and looking for new Jesuit responses. They meet at a crucial time when not only minorities but also the majority community (most of whom are secular) and the democratic ethos of the country seem to be threatened.

Latin America - Educational materials promoting hospitality

The Campaign for Hospitality, jointly carried out by the Jesuit Network with Migrants of Latin America, has distributed a guide to educational activities, with the aim that children and young people, to whom the campaign is addressed, become aware of the reality of migrants, refugees and displaced people. This initiative represents also an opportunity to discover the



richness of cultural diversity and multiculturalism and to commit oneself to accept and respect all people. [Read more...](#)

Europe - Reflecting on the European emissions trading system



Ecojesuit has published an [article](#) in which they explain and evaluate the European emissions trading system. This scheme sets a "cap," a limit that is established as the total amount of certain greenhouse gases that may be emitted by factories, power plants, and other emitting installations. Companies receive emissions allowances that are limited by the cap, and these allowances then may be "traded," which means sold or bought by one from another as needed.

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