



**Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat of the Society of Jesus**

**ENG July 2015**

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

## **Narrative**

### **Reason to Rejoice with Ruzean**

**Girish Santiago, SJ (GUJ)**

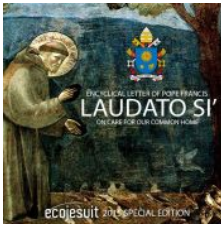


In the month of January 2014, I was visiting various educational centres of our Christian organizations in the four dioceses of Gujarat, India. Primarily I had to interview a few students with disabilities and non-disabilities, their parents and principals, in order to assess the impact of the inclusive education in their respective educational institutions.

I reached to interview the English medium students of St. Anne school, Kalol, in Gandhinagar Archdiocese. While an interview was on, the concern filled Principal Sr. Sissy Scaria, approached me with a mother and her child and said, "Father, this 12 year old Ruzean is our student. She cannot hear and speak. She is in 6<sup>th</sup> standard. I fully trust in God and you. Do something please!" Having listened to the genuine request of the disabled-friendly Principal, the young divorced mother Mrs. Bilkis Sulemanbhai Ghanchi, standing nearby pleaded me with her painful tears: "Please Father, heal my daughter from such hearing and speech impairments". While such conversations were on, Ruzean Asif was in her own world, for neither she heard the requests nor could she request me for such a healing. Instead, she kept on smiling and was holding the hands of her younger sister Kushboo, the 4<sup>th</sup> standard girl of the same school. In the midst of such an environment, what I enjoyed the most was the innocent smile of the relaxed Ruzean and her direct pierced look into my eyes. [Read more...](#)

## **Flashnews**

**Rome - Publication of Encyclical Laudato Si'**



The long awaited Encyclical of Pope Francis, [\*Laudato Si' \(Be Praised\), on the Care for our Common Home\*](#), was published during the month of June. The Encyclical is a call to unity-unity in prayer for the environment and for the poor, in the conversion of our hearts and our lifestyles to respect and love everyone and everything given to us by God. On this occasion, *Ecojesuit* has put up a [guidance map](#) to the different parts of the environment encyclical of Pope Francis.

## Global - Jesuit universities meet in Melbourne 2015



Following the previous meeting in Mexico 2010, Jesuit Universities from all over the world gather from 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> of July in Melbourne. The title of the meeting was "[Expanding the Jesuit Higher Education Network: Collaborations for Social Justice](#)". They shared several initiatives already active such as higher education for the marginalized, the promotion of social entrepreneurship, a living text on ecology for the use in the universities, etc. They also prepared a video highlighting the contents of the document "Promotion of justice in the universities of the Society", that appeared months ago as [Promotio Iustitiae 116](#).

## Global - New e-bulletin from Edujesuit



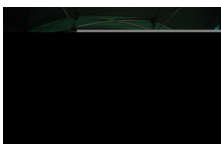
[Edujesuit](#) has launched a [new bulletin](#) with the most recent news and editorials. It covers questions such as proposals for financing education for the meeting in Addis Abeba; the need for quality education as a key element in the Education international agenda; the required tax reform to defend human rights. It also includes some voices coming from Syrian refugees in Lebanon and from refugees in Malawi.

## Latin America - Social apostolate meeting in Guayaquil



More than 50 Jesuits and collaborators recently participated in a meeting of Delegates for the Social Apostolate and Directors of Social Centres of the Latin American provinces in Guayaquil, Ecuador. Three main topics were covered. First, spirituality of social action. Second, the need and challenge for finding ways of having greater public and political impact at various levels of society. And third, the urgency of letting "the youth", their reality, their challenges, their capabilities and proposals come through the doors and windows of our apostolic works as true collaborators and just not as the object of our Mission.

## Portugal - Third edition of Bgreen, ecological film festival



This project aims to appeal to a strengthened environmental awareness and sustainability, instilling respect for the surrounding nature. The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition was characterized by the internationalization of the initiative, which allowed for the participation of many young Europeans. Throughout the gala, 22 pre-selected videos from Spain, Norway and Portugal were shown. This year's award was won by a spot named "Lady Lancelot", produced by a group of students from the Norwegian school Vardafjell. To know more about the gala, [click here](#).

## Latin America - Meeting of organizations looking for missing migrants



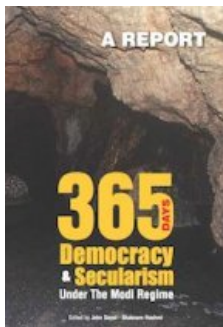
Committees of migrants' relatives, shelters, human rights and solidarity organizations from Central America, Mexico and the US met in Mexico DF from 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> of June to face one of the most painful violations of human rights migrants and their families may suffer: disappearance. The meeting was convened by the Servicio Jesuita al migrante in Mexico and members of the Red Jesuita con migrantes from Central America also took part in it. [Read more...](#)

## Global - Catholic universities commitment for the environment



Catholic universities are expressing their commitment for the environment in a declaration recently launched. They express their commitment "to work regionally and globally through all the means available to and appropriate for our colleges and universities as institutions of higher learning, to study, promote, and act on the ideals and vision of integral ecology laid out by Pope Francis". You can [click here](#) to read and sign up the declaration.

## India - Democracy & secularism under Modi



Last June saw the release of the report "[365 days - democracy and secularism under the Modi regime](#)". This report is an attempt to document the endangered democratic rights of citizens and secular values enshrined in the Constitution of India. The purpose of the document is to make the damage suffered visible. The report has been possible due to the cooperation of many individuals and fraternal organizations working in various states. The Indian Social Institute in Delhi has contributed to spread this document. Cedric Prakash SJ is one of the authors.

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Publisher: Patxi Álvarez SJ - Editor: Concetta Negri

<http://www.sjweb.info/sjes>