



Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat of the Society of Jesus

ENG September 2015

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

Narrative

Connexions: Jesuit Social Services, Melbourne Australia

Nunzio Di Benedetto, SJ (ASL)



My name is Nunzio Di Benedetto and I'm a Jesuit Brother of the Australian Province. I have for the past three years worked in a service called *Connexions* as part of my regency, which I entered shortly after completing my Masters in Counselling Psychology at Boston College. *Connexions* is a program of Jesuit Social Services in Melbourne and was established in 1996 to support young people with concurrent mental illness *and* substance addiction (those with a "dual diagnosis").

At *Connexions* we provide counselling to young people aged 16 to 28 years of age who meet the dual diagnosis criteria, and attempt to address the people we accompany in a holistic way. [Read more...](#)

Flashnews

Europe - President's call to support refugees



Fr. John Dardis, as President of the Conference of European Provincials, has sent a letter to Major Superiors in Europe, Jesuits and friends about the current Refugee crisis in Europe. Because of the dimensions of the crisis, the letter makes a call to respond beyond the capacities of JRS in Europe, asking Jesuits and their institutions to provide their help according to their possibilities. It gives very concrete examples of commitment. [To read the letter...](#)

Asia Pacific - JCAP social apostolate meeting in Kuala Lumpur



This year marks the 40th anniversary of the seminal Decree 4 of the 32nd General Congregation, which prompted an outpouring of social action among Jesuits and lay collaborators against the oppression and poverty that engulfed much of Asia Pacific at that time. Asia Pacific is a very different place now, although structures of injustice remain in various forms. The call to live a faith that does justice still rings true, therefore, the Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific organised a meeting in Kuala Lumpur from 3 to 7 August to reflect on the promotion of justice as an absolute requirement in the mission of the Society of Jesus. [Read more...](#)

Mexico - Report on the situation faced by migrants



A network of organizations defending the rights of migrants, of which the Jesuit Service to Migrants is one of the members, has recently presented the report "Invisible migrants, flagrant violence" where they analyze the situation of human rights of migrants in transit through Mexico. They have compiled data from 14 shelters on this route. [To read the news and the report...](#)

Central America - Migrants week, 1-6 September



On September 1-6 in Central America, Mexico and Caribe, Jesuits have celebrated the Migrants Week. This year the campaign arrives under an expression of Pope Francis in his letter on migration: "A Church without borders, mother of all". They want to refer to the numerous walls that migrants are facing: physical, legal, cultural (stereotypes and prejudices), moral ones... that build up an atmosphere of hostility. Therefore, they commit to promote a culture of hospitality, because hospitality breaks walls. [To read more...](#)

Global - New newsletter from Edujesuit and from Prison ministry networks



In the last month both Edujesuit and Prison Ministry global networks have launched their newsletters. They provide information about recent news in both areas, and they give voice to people engaged in education and prison ministries through interviews. The newsletters can already be found in their respective webpages. Click here to see the [Edujesuit newsletter](#). Click here to see the [newsletter from the Prison ministry network](#).

Asia Pacific - JCAP Provincials' statement on Laudato Si'



Provincials of Asia Pacific gathered in Cambodia in July 2015 made a statement promoting the recently launched Papal Encyclical *Laudato Si'*, asking Jesuits for personal conversion and communities to embark on a discernment toward making concrete changes in their lifestyle. They also animated schools and social media institutions to promote education towards the "ecological citizenship" Pope Francis envisions. They hope that the Encyclical will help Jesuits experience a change of heart and focus on the needs of the poor. [To read Provincials' statement...](#)

USA - Call for repair of broken Juvenile Justice System

A letter to the House of Representatives signed on behalf of the Society by Tim Kesicki, Greg Boyle, Michael Kennedy and Fred Kammer conveys support for the bipartisan Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support and Education (PROMISE) Act. Citing the experience of Jesuit ministries, which work with youth, they convey the power of innovative local solutions to change lives and mitigate root causes of violence. [Click for letter..](#)



Africa - AJAN meeting in Nairobi 26-29 July



A meeting of AJAN took place in Nairobi from 26 to 29 July and was attended by 50 Jesuits and co-workers involved in AIDS ministry, in 14 countries across sub-Saharan Africa. An external evaluator of AJAN, Ochieng Oloo, facilitated the discussion. Asking participants what they think AJAN is, Ochieng summarized their answers in the simplest and most inclusive possible way: "AJAN is found where AIDS and Jesuits meet." [To read more...](#)

USA - Anti-poverty advocacy



Joining together with 160 other faith, charitable, and civil rights organizations, the Jesuit Conference urges Congress to save critical provisions of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC) before they expire. According to the letter, these programs "are among the nation's strongest tools to help working families escape poverty and achieve greater self-sufficiency." The letter maintains that low wage workers and families (up to 50 million Americans, including 25 million children) should not be left behind in the event the tax credits expire. [Click here to read the letter...](#)

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