



Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat of the Society of Jesus

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

Narrative

Simplicity - Sustainability - Sharing

Vilaiwan Phokthavi (Kep) - Jesuit Prison Ministry Thailand (TAI)



Mr. Vieng is a strong, 57 year old man from Laos. I knew him in 2009 in the prison in Thailand, where I work for the Jesuit Ministry. Vieng is a very hardworking and humble man who loves planting and gardening. He was arrested in May 1997 for drug trafficking because of his ingenuousness. He tried to defend himself by proclaiming that he had got involved in the situation without really being aware of what he was into, as a result he was sentenced to 40 years.

While he was in prison, he grew vegetables that he offered to his prison mates and also to us who worked there.

Vieng always looked forward to our visits and, as a sign of gratitude, he would give us a big bunch of vegetables to bring back home every time. He deeply appreciated our prison services and considered us his family. He would always smile and live a day at a time, in accordance with the Buddhism teachings. [Read more...](#)

Flashnews

Kinshasa - Meeting of the African social apostolate coordinators

African Social Apostolate Coordinators, Directors of the Social Centers and collaborators gathered in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, from 30th July to 4th August, 2016.? They shared context analysis of every province and región at political, religious and economic



levels. They also focused on issues of leadership and governance, migration, climate change, governance of natural resources and Islam radicalism. [Click here to read the press release in English](#) [For the French version.](#)

Asia Pacific - Dialoguing on the sustainability of life



An opportunity to reflect, discuss, and explore actions to respond to the sustainability of life across several ministries in the Jesuit Conference Asia Pacific (JCAP) was offered through a conference entitled A Call to Dialogue on the Sustainability of Life in the ASEAN Context at the Sanata Dharma University in Yogyakarta on 8 to 10 August 2016. This has been the largest collaboration of JCAP sectors in recent years and involves nine areas in which the Jesuits in Asia Pacific work: Dialogue with Buddhism, Dialogue with Islam, Indigenous Ministry, Social Apostolate, Migration, Reconciliation with Creation, Higher Education, Basic Education, and Formation. [Read more...](#) You can also [watch a short video](#) of the event.

Bolivia - Meeting of the Latin American Indigenous network



In August 9-12, in Charagua, Bolivia, 80 persons (indigenous, Jesuits and collaborators) coming from Mexico, Peru, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Chile, Brazil and Guyana, gathered together to celebrate the 12th meeting of the network. They reflected on common concerns such as migration, identity and leadership of the youth in their communities. [To know more...](#)

Asia Pacific - Deeper faith with the help of Indigenous Peoples



A group of 17 consisting of 10 Jesuit scholastics, one priest, five Religious sisters and one lay woman came together recently to learn, re-learn and unlearn with our Indigenous sisters and brothers in Tarlac, Philippines. Their two-week immersion was part of the Asia Pacific Contextual Theology for Engagement Programme (ACOTEP) planned for students of the Loyola School of Theology. [More...](#)

Global - New Website for Justice in Mining Network



The Justice in Mining Network (formerly GNMR Network) is a Global Ignatian Advocacy Network that aims to ensure that issues of equity and sustainability are addressed in mining activity throughout the world. The Justice in Mining Network marked the Feast Day of St Ignatius on 31 July with the launch of its new website, www.justiceinmining.com. The website builds on the Network's existing Facebook presence, and is part of a communications strategy to help build awareness of human rights and environmental issues relating to mining. [Read more...](#)

Global - Right to Education, Right to Hope



This is a Campaign - promoted by the GIAN network for the Right to Education - that aims to contribute to our consideration of education as a human right, raise awareness on education inequality, and promote the responsibility to defend and enforce this right. The activities of the Campaign are addressed to educators, children and youth between ages of 4 and 18 years, and for adults. We invite you to [download the pedagogical resources](#),

watch a [new video of the Campaign](#) and work together in the defense of the right to education for everyone.

India - Indigenous people defending together their rights



The Jesuit-run Indian Social Institute in collaboration with indigenous youth groups in New Delhi organized an event on August 9, urging adivasis to unite for their rights, combatting mainly their displacement and exploitation, as Fr Stanislaus Tirkey sj, secretary of the Indian bishops' office, said during the event. Some 1.000 people gathered together for the occasion. [To know more...](#)

Canada - Jesuits call to protect Honduran activists



Jesuit Fathers Jean-Marc Biron and Peter Bisson, provincials of the French Canada and English Canada Province Jesuits respectively, are calling on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the Canadian government to urge Honduran authorities to assure the security of human rights and environmental activists in Honduras. They decided to write the letter after a recent visit to Canada by Honduran Jesuit Father Ismael Moreno, a human rights activist in his country known as Padre Melo. [To know more...](#) [Click here to read the letter.](#)

Colombia - Elaborating a risk map of a collective territory



In the context of the peace agreement in between the government and the FARC guerilla in Colombia, several sectors of the society are doing their best to make this agreement durable, and an occasion to build up a new country from the contribution of all territories. CINEP, a social center of the Jesuit Colombian Province is also doing its best to contribute to peace in this new context. [To know more...](#)

Europe - Networking for justice in the European Conference



Sometimes the most obvious journey is not always the easiest to accomplish. This is the case with collaboration for justice through networking. In a short video, José Ignacio García, social coordinator in the European Conference explains how they are creating Jesuit networks in Europe collaborating for justice. [See the video...](#)

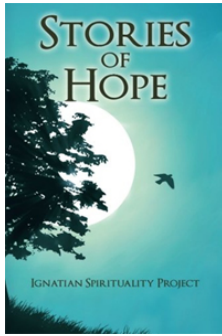
Global - World day of prayer for the care of creation



On September 1 Christians churches will come together to celebrate the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and to observe the Season of Creation between that day and October 4 - the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Major Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant, and Anglican organizations have joined to encourage the 2.2 billion Christians worldwide to pray and act on ecological issues, promoting a new ecumenical website with special resources, [SeasonOfCreation.org](#). You can find the [Pope video](#) "respect of creation" which was originally released last February.

US - Spiritual Retreats for the homeless

The first [Ignatian Spirituality Project](#) (ISP) retreat for those experiencing homelessness and recovering from addiction took place in 1998 in Chicago. Today ISP is a national network with overnight retreat programs in 26 cities across the United States and Canada. With ongoing training and support from the Chicago-based office, dedicated volunteers in each city deliver the retreats. In a recent publication, "Stories of Hope", they have shared countless powerful stories from the retreatants. [To know more...](#)



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