



Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat of the Society of Jesus

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

Narrative

The Joy of Service

Erik John J. Gerilla, SJ (ETR)



I entered the Novitiate in Manila in 2003 and at that time I don't have any other inclination on what particular ministry I will be in except that I was hoping to become a priest someday and might end up in a parish. But little did I know that the apostolate assignments I was given as a novice and as a scholastic would eventually shape my interest and desire to engage in Social Apostolate for the most part of my Jesuit life. In the Philippines we have a wide menu of social apostolate where the Jesuits are involved. The Catholic Social Teachings and other tools I learned in formation has altogether primed up my desire to explore more deeply this often complex ministry ridden with a good mix of joys and pains. [Read more...](#)

Flashnews

Africa - Message on World AIDS day



Fr Michael Lewis, SJ, President of the Conference of Africa and Madagascar issued a message on World AIDS day last December. He encourages AJAN (African Jesuits AIDS network) to continue the work in this field, and he says that fighting AIDS "is about promoting integral human development, not least among young people, to allow them to live their own lives to the full and to contribute actively to bringing about an AIDS-free society". You can read the [full message here](#).

Europe - "Working Notes" publishes a response to the SJES report "Justice in the Global Economy"



Last February 2016, the Jesuit Secretariat for Social Justice and Ecology and for Higher Education in Rome published a Special Report on Justice in the Global Economy that highlights the inter-relationship between environmental justice and economic justice. The latest issue of *Working Notes*, a journal published by the Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice, in Ireland, is a response to this Report, focusing specifically on two major themes: the changing nature of work and the implications for inequality and social justice, and the unattended fragility of our common home. [To learn more...](#)

USA - Jesuit Parishes Urged to Respond to Plight of Refugee Families



On the Feast of the Holy Family (December 30), Jesuit leaders asked their parish communities to consider how they can best respond to the plight of migrants, who often live in vulnerable situations, fearing separation, detention, deportation and limited participation in their communities. In a message scheduled to appear in Jesuit parish bulletins, the nine Jesuit provincials of the U.S. and Canada wrote that Jesuit parishes have "always been a home to the immigrant and the foreigner. Many of our churches were built to care for immigrants, and they remain one of the few Jesuit ministries that serve the public on a daily basis." [Read more...](#)

Asia Pacific - Puskat Film Festival gains momentum with environment theme



This year's Puskat Film Festival received five times more entries than last year, when it was launched by Studio Audio Visual (SAV), Puskat, the Jesuit audio-visual centre in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. SAV Puskat attributes the increase to promotion of the awards and the relevance of the theme, which is "Environment". SAV Puskat received 110 entries from across the country for this year's film festival. Young filmmakers produced the 35 documentary films and 75 feature films. [Read more...](#)

Global - Global Collaboration for Global Challenges



Fr Mark Raper, President of Asia Pacific Conference, speaks about global collaboration in the context of the recent General Congregation. Collaboration in the Society of Jesus can be understood in different ways. Often we refer to collaboration with others, with companions, with collaborators or-in general-with those with whom we share responsibility in mission. But in other instances we speak of the necessary collaboration as the Society of Jesus between our own organisations and governance structures in order to respond to global issues that cannot be addressed at the local level. [Read more...](#)

Asia Pacific - A safe house in the city



The Utama Safe House (USH) is a community that provides a safe haven for survivors of trafficking and domestic violence, especially those who have no support and are in need of protection. The staff also assist survivors through outreach programmes. USH was initiated by Sahabat Insan, a Jesuit organisation for migrant workers in Indonesia, in collaboration with several other organisations, and individual women activists, as a response to the closure of several institutions that had provided shelters for women in Jakarta. [Read more...](#)

Latin America - First meeting on Afro-American communities



In December 5-8, Jesuits and lay colleagues gathered in Cartagena (Colombia) to share and reflect about the mission of the Society of Jesus with Afro-American communities in Latin America and the Caribe. They identified some areas in which they can work: struggle for land, cultural identity, structural xenophobia, entrepreneurship and Afro-American spirituality and theology. They made an option for a pastoral approach and a spiritual and theological perspective for their work in the future. [Read more...](#)

France - French Catholics, the Far Right, and the Centre Sèvres in Paris



Politics, and the threat of the far right taking power, has been a serious anxiety in recent months in many countries, not least in France. Recently, the French bishops produced an important [document](#) helping Catholics to reflect on their political responsibilities. A few weeks back, the Jesuit theology centre in Paris, the [Centre Sèvres](#), held an interesting discussion on the issues. The main speaker was Philippe Portier, a professor at the Sorbonne, a noted commentator on Catholic affairs, and an expert on the history of French secularism. You can [access here his speech](#). [Read more...](#)

Rome - Pope Francis appoints Fr. Michael Czerny SJ, to New Vatican Office for Refugees and Migrants



Pope Francis has appointed Jesuit Father Michael Czerny and Scalabrinian Father Fabio Baggio as undersecretaries to the "Section for Refugees and Migrants" in the new Vatican department for the Promotion of Integral Human Development. The Vatican said Pope Francis appointed them as his "direct collaborators" in all matters concerning refugees and migrants. [Read more...](#)

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