



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

A journey of compassion and solidarity with people facing HIV and AIDS

Fr. Elphège Quenum, SJ (AOC)



My first involvement in HIV and AIDS ministry happened in 2003. I was sent as regent to the new Jesuit organization, African Jesuit AIDS Network (AJAN), created by the Jesuit Major Superiors of Africa and Madagascar and put under the leadership of Fr Michael Czerny. Being part of the infancy of AJAN became also the beginning of the journey into the reality of HIV/AIDS and issues related to it.

AJAN is a network of Jesuit centres and initiatives that support and assist the people infected and affected by HIV and AIDS in more than 16 countries across Africa. Its headquarters is in Nairobi, Kenya. In June

2017 AJAN celebrated its 15th anniversary. It was a celebration of 15 years of compassion, solidarity, respect and protection of the dignity of human being as image of God.

The mission of AJAN emerged from the need of sharing, discernment and common reflection on the Jesuit individual experiences on HIV and AIDS. The Jesuits and collaborators providing local responses to the challenge of HIV and AIDS, realized that it would be enriching and fruitful to come together, pray and discern about the HIV and AIDS related suffering and vulnerability of the population that they were serving. The scope of the challenge was and is so devastating that an individual response is not enough. AJAN is then created to initiate synergy and enrich the Jesuit local responses at a continental level. [Read more...](#)

Flashnews

Canada-USA - Statement from the Jesuits' Office of Justice and Ecology on Honduras Election



On December 3, Pope Francis told pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square that he is praying for the people of Honduras, who have been embroiled in a violent political crisis after a delayed vote count in a recent presidential election. The Jesuits of Canada and the United States echo the Holy Father's prayers and share the strong condemnation expressed by the Jesuits of Central America in denouncing Honduras' Supreme Electoral Tribunal. Calling out the Tribunal's "lack of professionalism and ethics" the Central American Jesuits state, "it is no longer just a suspicion, but a certainty," that the election has been grossly manipulated and influenced by the state in an attempt to disregard the will of the people of Honduras. [Read more...](#)

Asia Pacific - Rerum Novarum Center's 'little' ambassador



The Jesuit social service centre in Taipei has a 'little' ambassador. Twenty-seven-year-old Lily jumps at the opportunity to introduce Rerum Novarum Center whenever she hears of women who are abused by their employers. Looking at her now, few would guess that Lily too had suffered from abuse. Lily went to Taiwan from Indonesia to work as a caregiver, but after only two months of working, she had lost 12 kilograms. [Read more...](#)

Africa - Charles Chilufya (ZAM) the new Social delegate for Africa and Madagascar



On Jan 3, 2018 the JESAM president appointed Charles Chilufya SJ as the new social apostolate coordinator and JASCNET director. Charles will take over from Rigobert Minani in March 2018. Charles served as the social apostolate coordinator of Zambia Malawi and had also started the Jesuit Centre for Leadership and Development (JCLD) in Kitwe and remained part of JASCNET for many years. We wish Charles 'Karibusana' and all the best. We also thank Rigobert Minani for his able leadership and guidance during the last 6 years. Thank you Rigobert !

India - Bagaicha Centre moves the court on tribal and dalit under-trial prisoners



"There are around 4,000 tribals charged as 'naxals' (extremists). Majority are ordinary tribals trying to protect their land from corporate land grab. If trials take place, almost all of them would be acquitted... trials deliberately delayed, so they remain behind bars for years", says Stan Swamy, a leading Jesuit social activist from Bagaicha centre in Ranchi. He led a study on the tribal and dalit under-trial prisoners languishing in jails in Jharkhand state in India. Stan who also leads the Persecuted Prisoners' Solidarity Committee (PPSC) - a platform of Lawyers, Activists and socially committed persons - has moved the High Court to expedite the criminal proceedings long pending before various criminal courts in the state, which comes up for hearing on January 29. [Read more...](#)

Asia Pacific - Thirty years of serving at the frontiers of humanity



Thirty years ago, a 74-year-old Spanish Jesuit priest had his first encounter with a community of persons affected by leprosy in China. Moved by the terrible situation of the leprosy-affected persons in Taikam Island in Guangdong Province, Fr Luis Ruiz SJ decided to work with local governments and church communities to change the conditions of leprosy patients in China. That was the beginning of Ricci Social Services, a social service network created to bring relief, dignity and social justice to the poor and marginalised people in mainland China and Macau. [Read more ...](#)

South Asia - The Xavier Network in Nepal: serving remote communities



Some secluded villages in the north-east of Nepal can only be approached by crossing a hanging bridge. Now the Nepal Jesuit Social Institute, alongside Jesuiten mission Germany, has built another bridge, this time a figurative one. It connects the people of this drought affected region with the helpers from all over the world. [Read more ...](#)

Australia - Reconciliation with Creation survey results



In August 2017, the Australian Jesuit Province: Reconciliation with Creation (RwC) Advisory Group emailed a survey to 53 Jesuit communities and works. Over the following three months, 31 responses were received (58 per cent). The survey asked what RwC activities Jesuit communities/works have committed to completing over the next five years (2018-23). The greatest number of RwC commitments were in using only recycled paper, improving building insulation/draught proofing, reducing/reusing materials, landscaping to capture, use and clean storm water, eliminating/reducing the use of bottled water, and providing liturgy/prayer to facilitate ecological conversion. [Read more...](#)

Britain - New community for young Catholics in Wimbledon



The Jesuits are supporting a group of young Catholics to create a new community in the former international Jesuit students' residence in Wimbledon. With the closure of Heythrop College in October 2018, the community houses in London which supported Jesuit scholastics from round the world are being re-purposed as the province considers and plans for a new and different future ministry in the intellectual apostolate. Two former participants in what is now called the 'Faith and Politics Internship' run by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales have approached Jesuits in Britain about using one of the houses for a community of young Catholics. They are exploring ways to meet local community needs, for example homelessness or isolation. [Read more ...](#)

Global - Justice in Mining joins the campaign #StopAdani



What started as pockets of localized lobbying has grown into a coordinated campaign under the umbrella of #StopAdani. Stop Adani has engaged a diverse cross-section of the community in public protests and awareness-raising. A number of advocacy groups, including Jesuit Social Services, have joined the association Stop Adani Coalition which undertakes behind-the-scenes lobbying of politicians and business groups. Jesuit Social Services CEO Julie Edwards leads the Justice in Mining Network, and this connection spurred the organisation's involvement in the campaign. [Read more...](#)

Europe - 'I get you' A Report on Migrants



In a climate of divisive rhetoric and xenophobic populism from political leaders in Europe, JRS Europe's new research that has been recently published shows that overwhelming numbers of Europeans actively welcome and include forced migrants in our societies. "Our findings show that politicians are lagging behind ordinary citizens when it comes to the social inclusion of forced migrants," says JRS Europe director Jose Ignacio Garcia. The 'I Get You' final report draws on two years of in-depth research and campaigning with 315 community-building initiatives in nine EU countries. [Read more...](#)

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