



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

Two works, one spirit

Moritz Kuhlmann SJ (GER)



"Try to engage our students in a social project!" says Father Axel Bödefeld SJ, the headmaster of Loyola gymnasium. He has this wish for the students of Loyola gymnasium, which is considered the best school in Kosovo. Ignatian pedagogy however aims at more than best results in comparative tests. He wants the elite students to receive an education for their hearts as well.

Saide gets 15 Cents for a kilogram of scrap metal. The old woman dropped her wheelbarrow on the side of the street. In a dirty puddle, she was washing her face. She introduced me to her neighborhood, to every house and family. I find myself in the Roma quarter 'Tranzit', next to the highway. Here I want to take the Loyola students.

Loyola High School and Tranzit are two extreme worlds. On one hand the sharp looking EU-colored uniforms, worn by Albanians of good families, on the other hand ratty street clothes with muddy boots, worn by Roma children of poor houses. Albanians claim that Roma during the Kosovo war in 1999 were fighting alongside the Serbs against Albanians. In order to escape the hatred, many deny their identity as Roma and call themselves Ashkali. Will it be possible to build a bridge between the two worlds? Loyola can bring education, uplift, recognition to Tranzit. But Tranzit can help Loyola and its students too, with a more responsible and reconciled life, with a deep formation of personality. [Read more...](#)

Flashnews

DR Congo - Support a Church of the Poor Fighting for the Poor



The Church in DR Congo is undergoing hardships and attacks as the political and socio-economic situation worsens. President Kabila, who has been in power since 2001 is unwilling to go even after the expiration of his term in 2016. In the context of violent repression by the government including attacks and killing of demonstrators and priests, the Archbishop of Kinshasa, Cardinal Laurent Monsengwo and Jesuit Bishop Donat Bafuidinsoni issued statements condemning the action. On the eve of the January 21 demonstrations, the ACE Provincial, Fr. José Minaku, published a letter reminding that we, Jesuits, have to be on the side of the poor, as Christ our Model, who did choose the "party of the anawim," the poor of YHWH. [Read more...](#)

Global - GIAN Migration Network Meets to Plan for Future



The core team members of GIAN Migration network from 6 Jesuit Conferences along with the advocacy director of JRS met in Johannesburg-South Africa to report, review and renew their commitment to work for the cause of migrants. The members, taking the invitation of GC 36 (D1, n. 26), reflected on possible ways of collaborating on migration issues along with JRS and other apostolic works. The members also looked at the importance of organizational structure required for GIAN network to function effectively and committed to work together on '*promoting a culture of hospitality*' besides working on strengthening migration network at the local and conference levels.

Ireland - Responding to Injustice: An Ignatian Approach



[Responding to Injustice: An Ignatian Approach](#), a book published by *Education for Justice - Jesuit Schools Ireland*, provides students with the opportunity to understand the real meaning of Justice. Grounded in Christian Values and an Ignatian Charism, this module sets out to foster 'a spiritual vision of the world in the face of materialism, a simplicity in the face of consumerism, and a concern for others in the face of egoism and injustice'. The module consists of twelve sequential lessons leading to a concrete response. The lessons comprise an array of teacher-led, student-led, individual and group activities. The use of visual images, audio-visual clips, questions, worksheets, role plays, reflection, meditation, and class discussions demonstrate this. [Read more...](#)

Guyana - Jesuits meet on Caribbean Social Problems



Fifty Jesuits from around the Caribbean and South America gathered between January 15 and 18 for a 'Caribbean Common Social Problems' seminar aimed to deepen knowledge of Guyana and its place in the Caribbean Jesuit Mission, and expand the current understanding of common issues of concerns and how they impact Jesuit apostolic work and the lives of Caribbean peoples. Some of the major conclusions were on the issues of Caribbean migration, informal economy and the international movement of Cubans, Ecological challenges and inequality and its repercussions in Caribbean societies. [Read more...](#)

South Asia - Hindu hardliners attack Indian Christian Schools



Hindu hardliners have stepped up intimidation of Christian educational institutions in India, not least Catholic colleges. In one recent case, sheer numbers were used to break through a security cordon with the aim of performing a nationalistic ritual. Braving wintry early January winds, armed police guarded St. Mary's College in Vidisha of Madhya Pradesh state in central India. Some 800 young Hindu men entered the campus, some by scaling walls, but police managed to stop them performing a purportedly patriotic ritual in front of students. [Read more...](#) Cardinal Oswald Gracias, the president of Catholic Bishops' Conference of India says, [Rising intolerance in India is causing anxiety](#).

Asia Pacific - Living Laudato Si': A Spirituality for Action Workshop



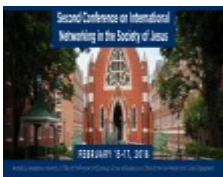
The Reconciliation with Creation program of the Jesuit Conference Asia Pacific (JCAP) is organising a series of Living Laudato Si' workshops in Mindanao this year to contribute to the formation of apostolic communities of practice capable of reconciling with creation. The first workshop from 21 to 25 January drew 32 participants from 13 Jesuit works in four countries. There were also discernment discussions on the three letters of Fr. Arturo Sosa on *Our life is mission mission is our life*, *Discernment in common* and *Discernment of Universal Apostolic Preferences* that guided the workshop participant. [Read more...](#)

Canada USA - Conference Advocacy Office Prioritizes 5 Issues for Action



The **Jesuit Conference Advocacy Office** aims to educate and inform legislators, public officials, and multinational corporations on issues of importance affecting the Jesuit mission and Catholic faith. Our nonpartisan office seeks to express how Catholic values such as human dignity and the common good are at stake in policy decisions. **Jesuit Advocates** like you are our partners in giving voice to the voiceless on matters of social concern before government and corporate institutions. We advocate by increasing awareness and engaging the wide Jesuit network of educational and pastoral ministries. Learn more about our work on our five issues: **Migration, Central America, Economic Justice, Criminal Justice, and Environmental Justice.** [Read more...](#)

Global - Second Conference on International Networking in the Society of Jesus



The Second International Jesuit Networking Conference, hosted by the McDonough School of Business at Georgetown University, will take place from February 15-17, 2018. This gathering is a concerted effort to continue conversations about networking and to catalyze connections among practitioners, researchers and officials across the Society of Jesus and its institutions. The conference will reflect on the existing global and regional networks including: Fe y Alegría, Jesuit Refugee Service, Global Ignatian Advocacy Networks, Educate Magis, Xavier Network, Jesuit Networking, Ignatian Solidarity Network, CVX-CLC, World Union of Jesuit Alumnae and a few others. You can follow the conference on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) for regular updates. [Read more ...](#)

Venezuela - No and Yes of the Presidential Elections: A Reflection



The unconstitutional Constituent Assembly wants to impose dictatorial elections in order to prolong the current national tensions by six more years. Evidently, due to government ineptitude and corruption, every Venezuelan who is suffering and surviving amidst this immense disaster, does not want cheating in election with an improper lapse of a couple of months to prepare along with parties, false voter identity cards, disqualified candidates, and polling officials sold. [Read more...](#)

Thailand - From Prison to Farm and a Fresh Start in Life



In a farm in the north of Thailand, a man bends as he plants peppers. However, Mr Sun is not just planting peppers; he is getting a fresh start in life as a free man. Originally from Myanmar, Sun is the first participant in the rehabilitation project of the Jesuit prison ministry in Thailand that seeks to help ex-prisoners re-integrate into society through organic farming. "When we discussed it at that time with Mr Sun, we didn't think about a pepper plantation at all," shares Vilaiwan "Kep" Phokthavi, Director of Jesuit Foundation-Prison Ministry. "It was Mr Sun who sparked the idea, and we were excited to experiment and learn about this plant with him." [Read more...](#)

Asia Pacific - Coordination Protocol for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management



Disaster risk reduction is a major concern of the Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific. Our geographic region experiences more natural disasters than any other part of the world, and increasingly countries are recognising the need to plan for a natural disaster rather than focus on what to do after a disaster strikes. At the Conference level, we have developed a protocol calling for greater integration of capacity and networking, and we are encouraging our various provinces to develop their own protocol. The Philippine Province, which experiences natural disasters every year, was the first to develop a province [Disaster Response Coordination Protocol](#). Now the Conference has also prepared a [conference level protocol](#). [Read more...](#)

Global - Webcast series on Laudato Si



[Globethics.net](#) in collaboration with [CITVN](#) (Catholic Internet Television Network) has produced a webcast series on the reading of Pope Francis' environmental encyclical Laudato Si. Over 36 weeks the webcast series will focus on different sections of Laudato Si led by 56 experts from churches, NGOs, businesses, governments and academia related to the environment and sustainability. The broadcast of these sessions started January 30th, and will take place every Tuesday until July. [Read more ...](#)

Global - Migration Data Portal



The [Global Migration Data Portal](#), launched in December 2017 and managed and developed by [IOM's Global Migration Data Analysis Centre \(GMDAC\)](#), aims to serve as a unique access point to timely, comprehensive migration statistics and reliable information about migration data globally. The site is designed to help policy makers, national statistics officers, journalists and the general public interested in the field of migration to navigate the increasingly complex landscape of international migration data, currently scattered across different organisations and agencies. [Read more...](#)

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