



Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat of the Society of Jesus

March 2018

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

Narrative

Happy to be Part of the Effort...

Charles B. Chilufya, SJ, *Social Delegate - JESAM*



For many years as I grew up, I lived by the conviction that my destiny was to develop myself in the engineering career. I grew up in a mining town, in Mufulira, Zambia and seeing the prospering lives of engineers of all kinds who worked for the mines, I felt attracted to the good life that those engineers led. At the same time, I grew up in a very Catholic family and so from very early on I had a strong desire to become a priest. So, for the first three decades of my life, my vision of life oscillated between serving my own personal career goals and the deeper goals of serving God and humanity.

Three things were to change my life toward the service of God and humanity. First, I had a strong attraction toward silent prayer and from early on in my childhood, I used to spend a lot of time in quiet prayer and reading the scriptures. Second, because of my love for personal reflection and for the daily Eucharist, was the discovery that my life was meant to be broken like the body of Christ and be shared by all. This image of my life became so vivid that I could not run away from it. In addition, this discovery of the relationship between my life and the Eucharist, set me on the path toward the search for what that really meant. [Read more...](#)

Flashnews

Promotio Iustitiae 125 on Leadership and Governance



The authors in this issue on Leadership and Governance approach and reflect not merely from the viewpoints of the person Jesus, bible, theology, Ignatian spirituality and the Society's apostolic orientation and mission but also emphasise the numerous challenges and opportunities that the Society of Jesus experiences today in various conferences. They are quite realistic and challenging in their approach and give valuable suggestion for the leadership and governance to become "personal, spiritual and apostolic." [Read more...](#)

Latin America - Meeting of Indigenous Peoples



Between February 26 and 28, Manga's Karipuna families hosted the meeting of Indigenous Peoples in the Brazil, French-Guiana and Suriname region. Traditional leaders, teachers and health workers, men and women, young and old, from the Karipuna, Palikur, Galibi-Marworno, Galibi Kalinã / kali'na and Wayana met with the intention of identifying and articulating the main cries and threats that affect the life and territories of indigenous peoples of the region and to find ways to face the challenges. The members of the local team of the Missionary Indigenous Council-CIMI and some socio-environmental and indigenous organizations that operate in the area also participated in the meeting. "The more united we are, the stronger we will be", said the community chief in his words of welcome. [Read more...](#)

Japan - A search for Jesuit partnering between Japan and Vietnam



The Jesuit Social Centre Migrant Desk in Tokyo is discussing ways to collaborate with the Vietnam Jesuit Province, after seeing a sharp increase in the number of Vietnamese workers entering Japan under the guise of trainees. Within the last three years, the number of Vietnamese living and working in Japan has grown to more than 200,000. In January and February, Fr Ando Isamu SJ, Head of the Migrant Desk spent five weeks in Vietnam gathering concrete information about the fast growing phenomenon of young Vietnamese looking for jobs in Japan. [Read more...](#)

India - Seminar on Migration from North East India



A two-day seminar-cum-workshop on *Migration from Northeast India to South Indian States* was jointly organised by Indian Social Institute (ISI), Bangalore and North Eastern Social Research Centre (NESRC), Guwahati on 23-24 February in Guwahati, the capital of Assam, India. The participants consisted of academics, social activists, students and members of civil society organisations. The presentations and sharing during the seminar-cum-workshop focussed on the issues at the source and destination of migration. [Read more...](#)

Rwanda - Summer Camp for Youth at Urumuri Social Centre




In Rwanda, one person in two is under 18 years of age and the overall population age is about 22.7 years. These children need care, protection and guidance. It is not rare to hear of recurring incidences of school dropouts or police apprehension in cases related to child-pregnancies, delinquency or drug abuse. To mitigate the escalation of the above, Urumuri Centre: Jesuit Centre for Research and Social Action in Kigali thought it paramount to accompany children in their growth by offering to provide them with opportunities to interact, mingle and learn about their Rwandan cultural heritage as well as their responsibility towards their own future, that of their community and their nation as a whole. [Read more...](#)

USA - Police arrest Catholic Leaders Calling for Immigration Reform


Dozens of Catholic group and faith leaders (including Thomas Reese SJ) were arrested on Capitol Hill Tuesday, after calling on lawmakers to support bipartisan immigration legislation that makes permanent protections available to Dreamers protected by the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. Ahead of a civil disobedience action in the Russell Senate Office Building rotunda during the "[National Catholic Day of Action with Dreamers](#)", Catholic leaders spoke about the moral imperative to pass legislation that provides dignity to undocumented immigrants. [Read more...](#)




Global - The Second Jesuit Networking Conference

The Second Jesuit Networking Conference (Feb. 15-17) brought together the main international networks of the Society of Jesus. The first one was in 2012 at Boston College after the inspiration received following the General Congregation 35. The recent conference took place at Georgetown University's Business School. 35 individuals from academia, Jesuit governance roles, and leaders from the main Jesuit international networks gathered together for two intense days of work around network culture, strategy, and governance. [Read more...](#)


Australia - Building Ecological Justice in Organisations

I work as an Ecological Justice Project Officer for Jesuit Social Services in Melbourne. The organisation has been on a journey of introducing ecology into its organisational structure, culture and programs. The CEO Julie Edwards was inspired to introduce ecology into a traditionally social justice focused organisation, seven years before Pope Francis' environmental encyclical *Laudato Si'* was released. Like all healthy gardens, it has been a slow and insightful journey. When I was employed in early 2017 the process was well underway. [Read more ...](#)


Pan-Amazonia - Seeking Environment and Economic Justice

Pan-Amazonia is a territory that encompasses areas of nine countries with seven million square kilometres and covers a third of all of South America. The future of the planet depends a lot on the Amazon basin. The future of all human beings also depends on our taking care of these living spaces, these forests, these waters, but above all, the wealth and knowledge of its peoples. This region is profoundly affected by the search for oil and gas, illegal logging, the rapid expansion of livestock and agriculture, and uncontrolled extraction of natural resources. [Read more...](#)

England - Jesuits to go Green with Renewable Energy

The Jesuits in Britain, along with other Catholic organisations in England and Wales, have come to an agreement that all their energy use should come from renewable sources. From April 1st 2018, a number of Jesuit properties will have one-hundred percent renewable electricity and there are plans being made to have one-hundred percent renewable gas by September 2019 at the very latest. Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) will be the new green energy supplier. [Read more ...](#)

Global - Where 'Flights for Forests' is Making an Impact?

 *Flights for Forests* is a voluntary carbon offset scheme started by the Jesuit Conference Asia Pacific (JCAP). It seeks to generate commitment amongst Jesuits and Jesuit institutions globally to support natural resource management at the local level and contribute to helping rural communities affected by global, economic, and climate changes. Recognizing the impact of Jesuit travel and work in the environment, the JCAP Reconciliation

with Creation program developed a simple carbon offset scheme encouraging Jesuits and partners to participate by contributing US\$5 for every flight taken. [Read more ...](#)

Europe - The future of Work - Labour after Laudato Si'



Fr. Pierre Martinot-Lagarde SJ, a Jesuit working with ILO, presents a project to address the challenges introduced by Laudato Si' for the world of work. Laudato Si' is and will be undoubtedly a landmark in the development of the social doctrine of the Church. Bringing reflection on the environment, on the world we contributed to change, is not just adding another dimension to a comprehensive social agenda. It is indeed a change in paradigm. This shall affect the various issues which have been traditionally addressed in this context: from peace, social justice and security, labour, governance and politics, family, migrations, to name just a few. It lays upon a comprehensive diagnosis of our current situation of globalisation. [Read more ...](#)

India - Jesuit Priest bags Social Activist Award



Father Irudya Jothi SJ, director of Udayani (awakening), bagged the 'Social Activist Award' at a function in Mumbai, western India. "I am extremely happy to receive an award called Modi Making Of Developed India from the Economic Times Now group along with World Corporate Social Responsibility groups at Taj Land Mumbai", Father Jothi told Matters India after received the award on February 17. "The award was in the Individual category as social activist, he added. [Read more...](#)

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