



**Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat of the Society of Jesus**

**April 2018**

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

## **Narrative**

### **Accompanying Distress Migrant Workers**

**Martin Puthussery SJ (CCU)**



My first experience with migrant workers was when I was a 23 year old scholastic. I was travelling by train, in an emergency from Calcutta to Kerala, my home State in an unreserved coach. The coach was overcrowded with young Bengali men travelling over 2500 kilometres south, in search of work. During the 45 hour train journey, some young men of my age shared with me about their families, work they did in their villages, reasons for migration, types of

work they were going to do, their aspirations, etc. One of them even offered me a cup of tea.

This first encounter had an impact later in 2011 on my volunteering to initiate work among the migrant workers in Kerala. In the evenings I visited migrant workers in the labour camps and built rapport with them. Gradually I began to get involved in their issues such as non payment of wages, police cases, accidents, sickness, deaths, discrimination by the locals, etc. Thus, with over 500 workers, the *Jeevika- Migrant Workers Movement* was formed. [Read more...](#)

## **Flashnews**

### **Africa - Malawian Ecology in Daily Life**

The Jesuit Centre of Ecology and Development (JCED) in Malawi focusses on practical interventions through Environment and Food Security (EFS) project in the rural district of Kasungu. The project seeks to build the capacity of the vulnerable smallholder farmers to



produce sufficient food for their households while taking care of the environment. It promotes reforestation and the adoption of ceramic energy-efficient stoves in all its projects. JCED has distributed over 23,000 agroforestry tree seedlings to smallholder farmers and planted. And over 2,000 households are now enjoying the economic, health and environmental benefits of the low-carbon-emitting energy-efficient stoves, which were produced and

distributed by JCED. [Read more...](#)

## USA - Climate Change and Human Health: IES-LUC 5th Annual Climate Change Conference



The 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges of climate change and human health was the focus of the [Fifth Annual Climate Change Conference](#) and hosted by the Institute of Environment Sustainability (IES) of Loyola University Chicago (LUC) on 15 and 16 March 2018 in Chicago, Illinois, USA. As the changing climate continues to disrupt other countries, the impacts have reached the US as eight consecutive storms that strengthened into powerful hurricanes hit

the country last year during a 45-day period. Harvey devastated Houston with rainfall-triggered flooding and cost US\$ 125 billion in damages in August 2017, followed by Hurricane Irma, the strongest storm on record to exist in the open Atlantic region that devastated the Florida Keys and left US\$ 64.8 billion in damages. [Read more...](#)

## Asia Pacific - Helping Marawi Evacuees Rebuild their Community



On March 6, Xavier University, the Jesuit university in Cagayan de Oro, the local government of Marawi and the Office of the Vice President of the Philippines held the groundbreaking ceremony for Angat Buhay Village, a resettlement area for families who fled for their lives during the battle between terrorist groups and government forces in Marawi city in Mindanao, Philippines. The

transitory shelters should be durable enough to last for five years. "Angat Buhay" literally translates to an uplifted or better life. "It is wonderful that so many partners from the public and private sectors are involved in this project," said Xavier University President Fr Roberto Yap SJ. "With the bayanihan of so many partners, we hope to have most houses ready for occupancy by June 12, 2018." [Read more...](#)

## Latin America - Fe y Alegría Movement is Recognized by Government of Peru



Fr. Miguel Cruzado, SJ, Director of Fe y Alegría movement in Peru announced that it will share its experience of educational management and teaching accompaniment with at least 50 public schools in Peru. Idel Vexler, the Minister of Education in Peru presented a certificate of recognition to the Fe y Alegría Integral

Popular Education Movement for the important contribution it has made for the education of children and adolescents in the poorest areas of the country. [Read more...](#)

## Ireland - 'Laudato Tree' Project Launched in Áras



Pat Coyle of Irish Jesuit Communications and Jesuit theologian Gerry O'Hanlon were among a group of over 80 people invited to Áras an Uachtaráin for the launch of an environmental initiative in Ireland that could help transform the continent of Africa. The Laudato Tree Project, is inspired by the environmental encyclical letter of Pope Francis, *Laudato Sí*, along with an African initiative,

the growing of a Great Green Wall. The purpose of the wall is to halt the impact of desertification across the Sahel region of the continent. The project links the planting of trees in Ireland with increasing support for the planting of trees along Africa's Great Green Wall,

and it will be developed in association with various environmental organizations throughout Ireland, as well as local and national government. [Read more...](#)

## Portugal - IV Ignatian Social Assembly Reflects on Reconciliation



The fourth Ignatian Social Assembly of Portugal Province held between March 16-17 at the Retreat house of the Almada Seminary, Lisbon brought together around 90 people including directors, teams from parishes, schools, social organizations and volunteers from 25 different works linked to the Ignatian social sector. The assembly deepened the common themes and concerns, and helped in renewing the "sense of mission" among the works of the Society of Jesus. "Reconciliation", in its triple dimension - reconciliation with God and with one's self, with one another and with Creation - was the theme of the Assembly. [Read more...](#)

## Global - Global Mining Survey Shows Pollution a Concern in Areas where Jesuits Work



Environmental contamination, especially pollution of water sources, is causing significant concern in areas where Jesuits are based, according to a global survey conducted by the Justice in Mining Network. The survey also showed there is strong interest in mining justice issues, but indicated that many Jesuits and lay colleagues feel they have insufficient knowledge and expertise to take action. The Justice in Mining Network conducted the online survey last year, with support from Magis and the Xavier Network, to establish the primary causes of concern in areas with a Jesuit presence, whether or not those Jesuit institutions or communities are actively involved in mining advocacy. [Read more...](#)

## Madagascar - Two-day Workshop to Discern Universal Apostolic Preferences



The Province of Madagascar organized a two-day workshop (23-24 March 2018) for discerning the universal apostolic preferences of the Society of Jesus. The first day gathered young priests of the province, around 20 of them at the Centre Universitaire Jésuite in Antananarivo, some coming from remote parts of the country as far away as a thousand kilometers by road. The methodology combined presentations, personal and communal prayer, spiritual conversation and plenary discussion. Day Two gathered the scholastics and formators of Saint Paul Scholasticate, and young brothers and regents of the province. This was a much larger group of fifty Jesuits. [Read more...](#)

## Europe - Discerning Universal and European Preferences



Between April 8-11, 2018 the Social Apostolate Delegates of Europe and the Near East as well as the Directors of Jesuit European Social Centres met for their annual meeting, hosted by the Leone XIII College in Milano (Italy). The objective of this back-to-back meeting was to discuss universal apostolic as well as European-social preferences and the delegates identity for Father General and the Conference President. Check more insights from the event in the following [video](#) with more news on the [JESC website](#) and [newsletter](#) next week.

## Africa - Joint Apostolic Initiative Between Europe and Africa Madagascar Conferences

The President of JESAM, A.E. Orobator SJ, recently visited Madrid to witness first-hand a joint apostolic initiative between the Conference of European Provincials and the Conference of Africa and Madagascar. The initiative centres on urban migrants. Both Conferences have missioned a Jesuit each, Ashton Mugozi and Tomasz Lipa, to work in Pueblos Unidos, a non-



profit NGO dedicated to advocacy, accompaniment, defence and service of migrants. Ashton and Tomasz have been on mission at Pueblos Unidos for the last two years. [Read more...](#)

## Britain - Organising for the Common Good



Over the last 10 years a very fruitful synergy has developed between the Jesuits in Britain and [Citizens UK](#) - the community organising network. [Fr. Tim Byron SJ](#) talks to Neil Jameson, founder and director of Citizens UK. In a time of political polarisation and a weakening of trust and confidence in politics and public institutions, Citizens UK has brought the skills of community organising to local groups across the country.

Churches, schools, trade unions, mosques, charities, synagogues are all shown how to work together and engage with the powerful. [Read more...](#)

## Asia Pacific - AJCU-AP Commits to Provide Home for Sustainability Concept



The urgency of saving the planet from the greed of its human inhabitants cannot be emphasised enough. The Catholic Church has joined ranks with secular authorities in calling for immediate actions. In August 2016 the Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific held a three-day conference on sustainability of life to bring cross-sectoral initiatives together. The day after the conference

held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities in Asia Pacific (AJCU-AP) followed up by committing to provide an institutional home for the concept of sustainability. The new network will complement the work of the Reconciliation with Creation group, which has been driving the ecology agenda in the Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific for the past seven years. [Read more...](#)

## Cameroon - Youth from Unemployed to Entrepreneurs



The Jesuits of West Africa faced with the emergence of uneducated and unemployed youth in Cameroon, thought of a project that would teach young people how to breed fish and sell it. In Africa, school dropout is a significant problem. On the continent, over three million students fail to reach the minimum level of school education. In Cameroon, 70% of girls are illiterate. This phenomenon is particularly visible in the northern regions,

where it affects over one million girls between the ages of 10 and 19, which represents 31.9% of all girls in the region. The Jesuits have decided to respond to the problem through an entrepreneurial initiative. This is how fish breeding was born. [Read more...](#)

You receive this official Headlines (HL) Newsletter from [SJES](#) - sent in 4 languages to around 9.000 subscribers in 130 countries - because you are our esteemed subscriber.

[Modify your Email ID](#) :Kindly write under subject '**Modify**';

[Unsubscribe](#) :kindly write under subject '**Unsubscribe**'

If you are not receiving our Journal **Promotio Iustitiae (PJ)**, kindly [Subscribe](#)



### Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat (SJES)

Borgo S. Spirito 4 - 00193 Rome, Italy

Tel: +39-06-6986-8393, Email: [sjes@sjcuria.org](mailto:sjes@sjcuria.org)

Editors - Xavier Jeyaraj & Rossana Mattei

<http://www.sjweb.info/sjs>

