

20 December 2023

Dear <<First Name>> <<Last Name>>,

Warm greetings from Rome!

A couple of days ago, COP28 concluded. We went to Dubai, UAE, with a relatively clear idea of our expectations for this important gathering on climate change, thanks to the declaration we prepared as an Ignatian family. We felt strengthened by the strong call of Pope Francis expressed in *Laudate Deum* and his intention to take an active part in this gathering. I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all the members of our apostolic body who accompanied this event, either remotely or by their presence alongside the delegations or by their efforts to report the event to anyone who wished to follow through the communication from Ecojesuit team.

Even if our expectations were not completely fulfilled, we accept the outcome, not grudgingly but with gratitude and a sincere desire to work harder and to advocate for and with the people in the coming years. One of the positive things that happened was the recognition of the faith groups' role in leading the change that the world needs today. It encourages our ecological advocacy network to press ahead to catalyse the action required for a sustainable world. As Pope Francis said, to imagine that "there is nothing to hope for would be suicidal" (LD #53). Let us continue to advocate for changes from the political leaders. But let us not forget that "there are no lasting changes without cultural changes, without a maturing lifestyles... and personal changes" (LD #70). Let us continue our actions and reflections with a firm HOPE.

The limited action taken by the Conference of Parties to achieve the objectives shows the extent to which other related parameters must also be considered to facilitate movement. These include the search for peace and, above all, the proper use of human discoveries. This is why the Holy Father based his [message for the 2024 World Day of Peace](#) on "Artificial Intelligence and Peace". He prayed "*that the rapid development of forms of artificial intelligence will not increase cases of inequality and injustice all too present in today's world, but will help put an end to wars and conflicts, and alleviate many forms of*

suffering that afflict our human family". Only in this way can the world resolutely tackle the challenges of caring for our common home.

May Jesus be born in our minds and hearts to be, live, and love like him!

With deep gratitude and Christmas blessings!

Xavier Jeyaraj, SJ
SJES - Rome

TESTIMONY



Feeling Life and Hope in Walking with First Peoples

Mercedes Solis

In this experience I learned that it is essential to listen to the messages of wisdom of the peoples, of the spirituality of the earth, of women as tender resistance in order to continue fighting to proclaim the harmony of good living, feeling the life that brings us closer and protects us. [Read more...](#)

SJES NEWS



Rome - VOICES: Filipe, Social Apostolate Secretary of JCEP outlines five networks that focus on various aspects of social engagement in Europe. Click on the video



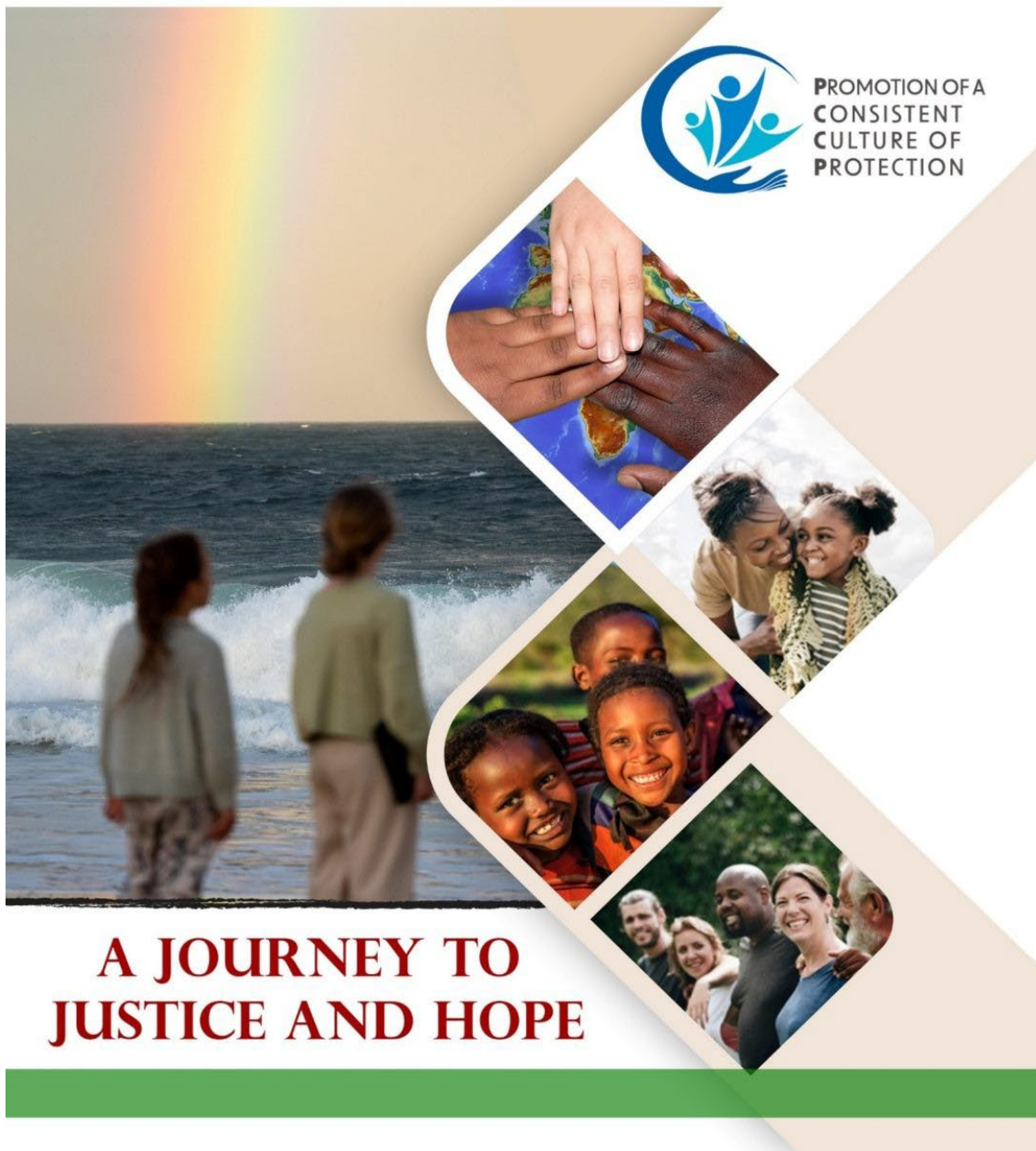
Rome - VOICES: Pedro Walpole, the leader of Ecojesuit or GIAN Ecology Network, highlights the Ecojesuit work areas. Click on the video



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Promotio Iustitiae

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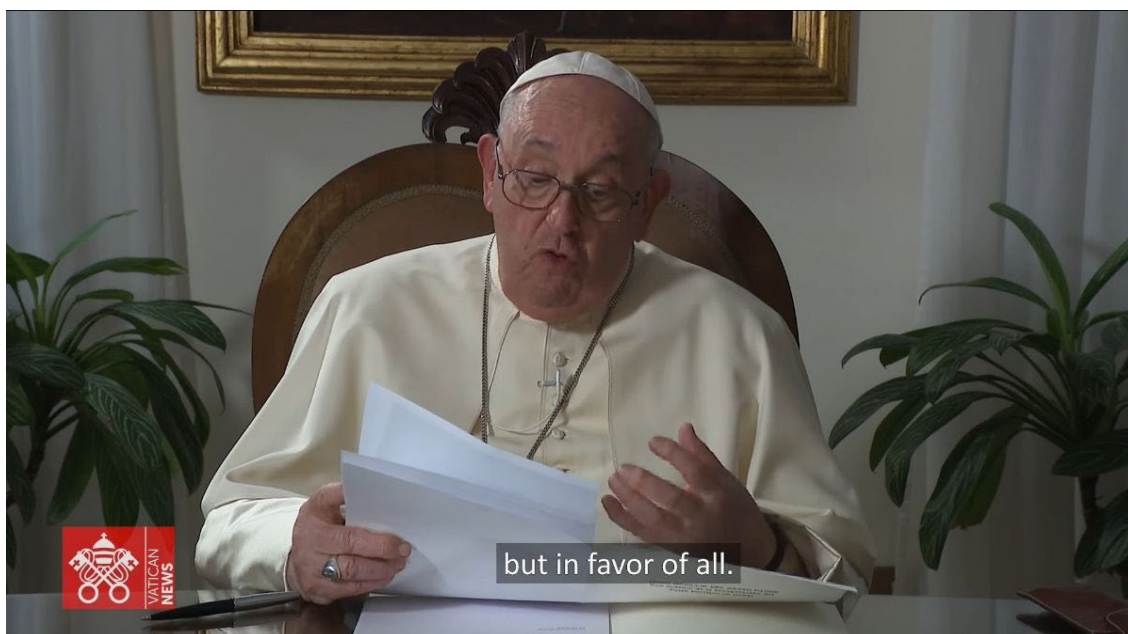
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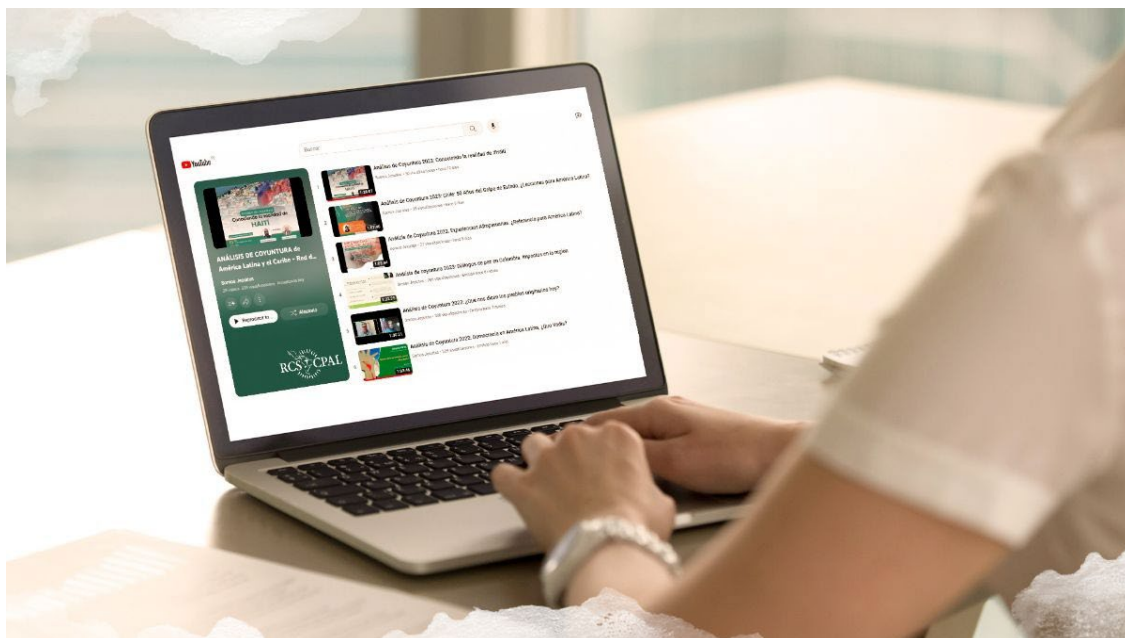
GLOBAL CHURCH NEWS



Global – Pope Francis Urges Religious Leaders to Work Together for Peace and Climate

At the heart of Pope Francis' video message to Dubai for the inauguration of the “COP28 Faith Pavilion” is the idea of creating alliances for the common good. The Pope's message, broadcast on Sunday morning during the event, was entrusted to the Vatican's Secretary of State, Pietro Parolin, [Read more...](#)

CONFERENCE NEWS



CPAL – New Situation Analyses from RCS Available on YouTube

The most recent Situation Analyses conducted by the Social Centers Network (RCS) of the CPAL are now available on our Somos Jesuitas YouTube channel. On the channel, you will find a complete playlist segmented by year, [Read more...](#)



JCAM – World Aids Day 2023 Statement of JCAM: We are not the ‘Son of the Owner’; the Community is!

The theme of this year’s World AIDS Day is “Let the communities lead!” This assertion rightly recognises the agency of the affected people and their communities while admitting the futility of action that excludes the active participation of every member of society. [Read more...](#)



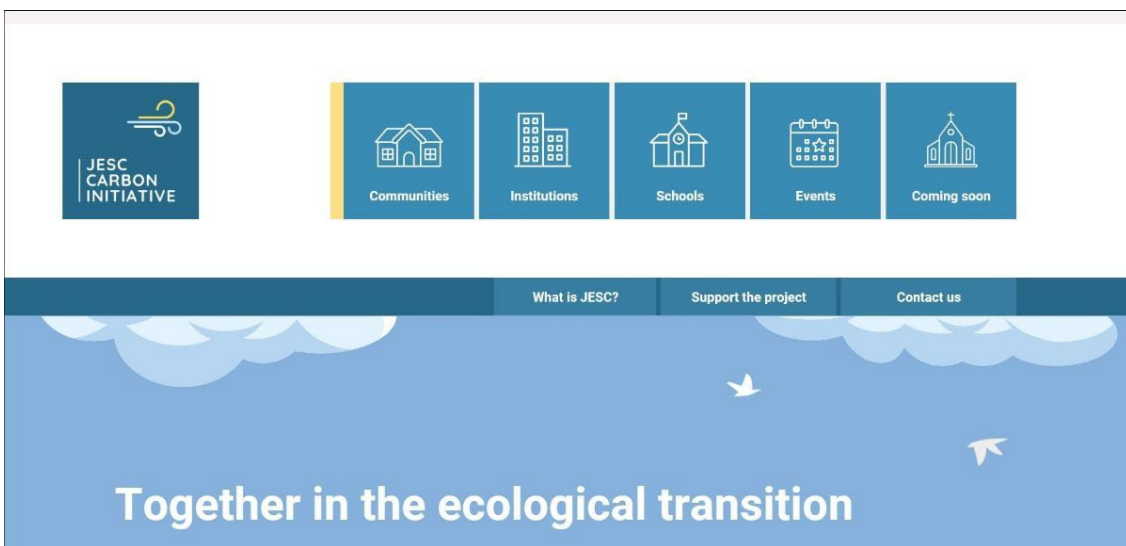
JCAP – Accompanying Afghan Refugees as a Language of Love

After about a year of accompanying the Afghan children, we felt compelled to get to know their mothers, who had a direct influence on their lives. When we finally met, it was evident from the weight on their faces that they were carrying a heavy burden. [Read more...](#)



JCCU – Ignatian Solidarity Network Recognized by Duke University Divinity School

The Ignatian Solidarity Network has been recognized as a Traditioned Innovation Award winner by Duke University's Divinity School Leadership and Education Initiative. The award recognizes initiatives and organizations that engage in experiments to transform communities. [Read more...](#)



JCEP – JESC's Carbon Initiative in Malta

The JESC Carbon Initiative (JCI), a JESC Ecology project aimed at accompanying faith-based organisations in their ecological transition, is developing its new school-oriented line of work in a partnership with [St Aloysius College in Malta](#). [Read more...](#)



GIAN - Right to Quality Education - CLADE Coordinator invites Fe y Alegría to take actions through advocacy

As part of the Federative Leadership Training Plan, the "Advocacy and Defense of the Right to Education from Fe y Alegría" seminar took place. During this meeting, we had the participation of Nelsy Lizarazo, General Coordinator of CLADE (Latin American Campaign for the Right to Education), who sparked an enriching conversation. [Read more...](#)



Ecojesuit - Ecojesuit at COP28 Sharing Experiences

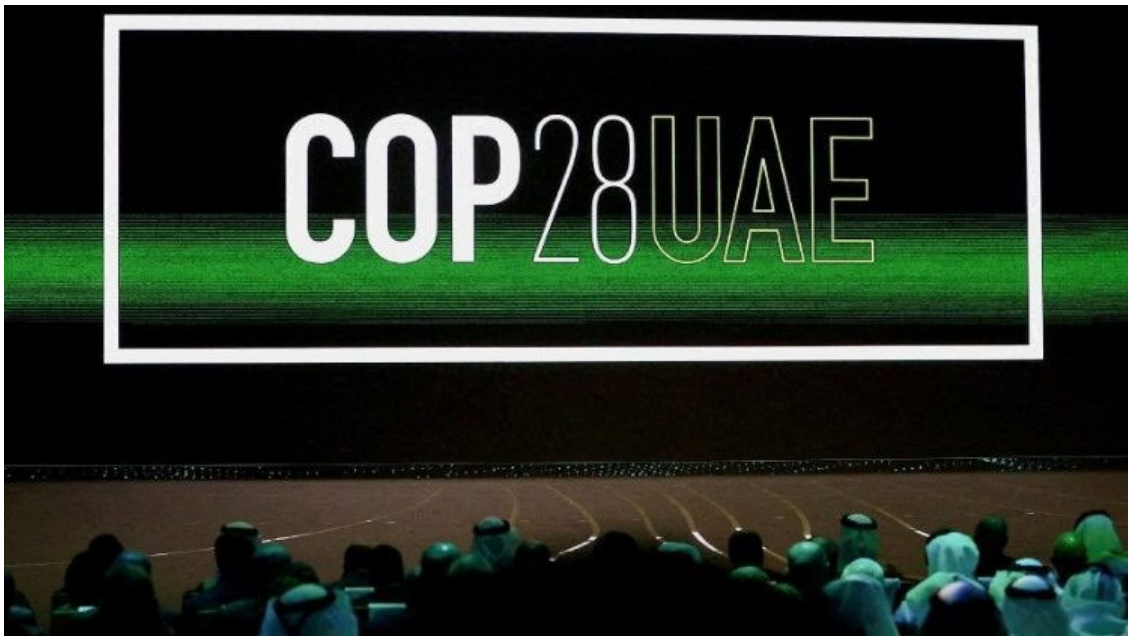
This year the focus developed around **food and water vulnerability** as the key area and hopefully this can be sustained for a number of years. While the local activities are for Provinces and Conferences to report and exchange on, the global network coordination connects with global agendas and platforms on the focused topic as a process of global networking. [Read more...](#)

REFLECTIONS - INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY - COP28



Guillermo Ottano – Extracting Human Rights: A Reflection from the Justice in Mining Network for International Human Rights Day

"This human right is an advocacy of the Justice in Mining Network, which brings together social centres and Jesuit NGOs working for socio-environmental justice in mining-affected contexts. Abandoning a model of economic development based on fossil fuel consumption is a moral obligation, and there is an urgent need to promote renewable energy and more sustainable and environmentally respectful lifestyles". [Read more...](#)



Pedro Walpole SJ – COP28: surprises, Renewed Challenges and Hope

"While COP28 proceeded with two wars close by, the purpose of COP did not collapse into accusation and counter accusation between peoples. This is an important moment in history for all – bringing nearly 200 countries together is an achievement for all the limitations of UN processes". [Read more...](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **1 January 2024**, International Day of Peace
- **8 January 2024**, Roberto Jaramillo SJ takes over as the Secretary of SJES from Xavier Jeyaraj SJ

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