



MISSION NEWS

Canadian Jesuits International (CJI)

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JesCom Zimbabwe-Mozambique

Empowering African youth

Integral Youth Development (IYD) leaders interact with school children in Zimbabwe to promote healthy living.

Tendai Ellton Matare SJ is studying theology at Hekima University College in Kenya. He is from the Jesuit Province of Zimbabwe-Mozambique and is active in youth outreach.

Young people in Africa today face many different challenges and circumstances. These engender both hope and hopelessness among them, depending on their particular context and on available support, resources and opportunities. In my experience, young people who are empowered easily find hope to imagine and create a good future for themselves – and in turn to empower other young people.

The situation of an average African young person often includes that of a conflictive political situation, threats such as HIV/AIDS, the violence of poverty, a broken family and problems related to climate change such as frequent

drought. While Africa today is often characterized as an “emerging market,” with growing economies, improving institutions of governance and decreasing poverty, these are indicators that appear in annual macro-economic reports but are yet to be experienced by many ordinary young people, particularly the poor majority. Commenting on this, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Africa’s first female President (Liberia) and the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize winner, said that “Africa is not poor but poorly managed.”

One major factor amid all the challenges for youth is the rapid advancement of communications technology. Some consider this technology, which is strongly

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The vision & mission of CJI

The vision of Canadian Jesuits International is a world of peace, justice and integrity of creation, transformed through active commitment and finding God in all things.

The mission of CJI is to love and to serve by working with people struggling for social justice and dignity in the world. Together with Jesuit and other partners, CJI responds in solidarity, through awareness-raising and advocacy in Canada and supporting partnerships in the Global South.

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A word from Jenny Cafiso, CJI Director

Anyone who has travelled in the Global South, to a refugee camp or to almost any urban centre, will have been struck by the proportion of young people. The world now has the largest generation of youth between the ages of 15 and 25 in history and 90% of them live in the Global South.

So any proposal for the future of society has to start with considering the role of youth, not only because of their increasing numbers, but also because of their enthusiasm, passion and new ideas.

Yet youth are often overlooked in development plans. This has led to tremendous disaffection among youth, who are often also the most affected by conflict, unemployment and exploitation. This in turn causes social disintegration. As UN Secretary General António Guterres says, “The frustration generated in young people who have no hope in the future is a major source of insecurity in today’s world... when governments plan their economic activities, when the international community develops forms of cooperation, it is essential to put youth employment, youth skills at the centre of all priorities.”

Any effort toward social transformation needs to support young people to become catalysts for poverty reduction, good governance, and sustainable development.

The Jesuits have long made work with youth a key part of their mission. In this issue of the Newsletter, we read of some Jesuit initiatives that illustrate the change and empowerment that can happen when young people take the lead.

In the cover article, Tendai Matare SJ describes how they use Catholic Social Teaching and Ignatian Spirituality to become agents of change or as Pope Francis says, “protagonists of history.” With the pan-Amazon initiatives, the Jesuits are working with young people to affirm indigenous languages, knowledge and identity, and in the process to re-establish a holistic relationship with nature.

In a speech to young people in January 2018, in preparation for the next World Youth Day, Pope Francis said, “I have come to see how many good ideas there are in young people, in their minds and hearts. Young people are restless; they are seekers and idealists.” I also was able to witness these characteristics in my recent visit to the Dominican Republic. As you can read on page 5, young people who were living on the street spoke of their dreams to study, build careers and become “men and women for others.” It is among them – poor and marginalized young people – that we find our hope.

Empowering African youth

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embraced by young people, as a new “opium.” The various Silicon Valley creations are hugely popular and widely consumed in the continent. But others point to an encouraging “Arab Spring” in the area of social media. The use of social applications is a notable alternative to conventional communication methods. It is providing important avenues for real-time communication, for disseminating news, for advertising the involvement of youth in different projects and for discussion forums on a wide range of topics.

Youth have also become a major determining factor in today’s politico-economic arenas through the use of social media, and this has created an “online Arab Spring” with its creative ideas and instant exchange of information, both of which challenge the more traditional thinking of those who hold the reins of power and wealth.

Tragically, left behind by the rapid pace of technological transformation, and by growth and change, are the many young people who do not have the same access or opportunities. These youth remain poorly educated and unemployed as their governments and economies do not provide conducive environments for self-growth and self-realization. This then becomes a push factor for young people, who may even risk their lives by engaging in desperate attempts to migrate, as evidenced by the mass drownings of African people crossing the Mediterranean Sea.

It is in this context, which may be either oppressive or promising, that the Church continues to form

young people who are determined to grow and change, using the tools of Catholic Social Teaching and Ignatian Spirituality. Youth ministry programs, such as Magis or Integral Youth Development (IYD) in my own Jesuit Province of Zimbabwe-Mozambique, for example, have been avenues for socio-economic and spiritual change. Magis promotes Ignatian Spirituality among young people and a way of life dedicated to service and the pursuit of justice; IYD is a Jesuit project that seeks to empower youth aged 12-29 to prevent HIV infection, to attend to their civic responsibilities and to protect the environment.

One ongoing, outstanding example of a beneficial youth program is found at St Peter’s Parish in Mbare, the poorest and oldest township of Harare, Zimbabwe. Unemployed young people there started a clean-up campaign to raise awareness and improve stewardship of society’s public spaces. Through their efforts, a novel project was born – the “Team Up 2 Clean Mbare” initiative for ecological justice. Its

monthly clean-up campaigns in the neighbourhood have transformed a former dumpsite in Mbare into a park and playground.

Another example is the Catholic Youth Network for Environmental Sustainability in Africa (CYNESIA), which was started by a Jesuit brother and two Ignatian Youth members. CYNESIA has its headquarters in Kenya and now has offices in eight African countries. The network’s mandate is education, networking, advocacy training and supporting local action plans for responsible stewardship of the environment. Among other projects, CYNESIA created a Climate Change Toolkit in 2014 for use by youth in Jesuit institutions in Kenya, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. And last year, in Mombasa, Kenya, it held a training workshop on waste management, which brought together about 40 young women leaders from the Christian, Muslim and Brahma Kumaris communities. CYNESIA is a fine example of change and empowerment that can happen when young people take the lead. ■

Team Up 2 Clean Mbare



Young people from St Peter’s Parish at work in the “Team Up 2 Clean Mbare” campaign in Zimbabwe.

Strengthening youth in the Amazon region

Eufronio Toro Vaca is a coordinator of the Pan-Amazon Jesuit Initiative

The rural youth of the Amazon region would like to remain in their communities but they are aware that they must migrate to the cities. Their aspirations, including education, employment and health-care, cannot be met where they currently live. Added to these are the expectations of their families and communities. Yet even in the obligatory migration to the big cities, they still hope to return to their communities and contribute to their development. The youth themselves foresee that this will take time.

It is in this context that a collective of partners is implementing a bold project: “Caring for our Common Home” by raising ecological awareness and intercultural, bilingual education in the educational centres of Fe y Alegría. The partners include Jesuit Service for the Pan-Amazon (SJPAM), Fe y Alegría of Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru,

educational goals of the schools to the particular challenges of each centre.

In preparation for this initiative, a mapping exercise of the schools was undertaken to identify the characteristics, concerns and alternatives for action of the educational centres located in the Amazon biome. The map was drawn along lines pertinent to the project: intercultural and bilingual education, and the care and defence of nature.

Currently, work is being done in gathering knowledge, elaborating a formation program, producing pedagogical materials, accompanying and training teachers, recording the uses of the indigenous and Spanish languages, sensitizing and enabling teachers and group leaders, and undertaking actions of communal significance.

To improve the quality of education of the students, teacher training is essential. Also fundamental for student learning is a close relationship between family and school. Furthermore, a close relationship between the school and the rest of the community encourages new perspectives on the development and enrichment of the culture of the youth. The students, especially the indigenous students, show interest in both the care and defence of nature as well as in the history and customs of their ancestors. They feel proud to be indigenous. Their hopeful dreams are pillars that fortify *Vivir Bien*, a concept understood as the harmonious co-existence between human beings and Mother Earth. These dreams also foster the growth of knowledge and skill for the construction of a just and equal society.

Endowed with marvellous cultural and spiritual wealth, thanks to the diversity of peoples who have adapted to the conditions in which they live, the Amazon region opens a new horizon for youth, so long as the education system bases itself on the values and knowledge of their own culture.

Special thanks to Greg Kennedy SJ for translating this article from Spanish. CJI supports the Pan-Amazon Caring for Our Common Home Initiative – see www.canadianjesuitsinternational.ca/?p=7922. ■



Students at Santa María Educational Unit in Trinidad, Bolivia, engage in group work.

Bolivia and Brazil, and the Xavier Network, of which Canadian Jesuits International is a member. Together, the collective aims to strengthen the local, land-based identity of the students, teachers and communities by way of a pan-Amazon perspective. There are 26 Fe y Alegría educational centres involved, directly benefiting 11,664 students and 697 teachers, as they adapt the

Communities of hope for youth

From June 30 to July 7, 2018, Canadian Jesuits International (CJI) led a group of 10 people from across Canada on a Caribbean Solidarity Trip to the Dominican Republic and Haiti. The group was accompanied by CJI Director Jenny Cafiso and Outreach Coordinator Pieter Niemeyer and they were hosted in the two countries by Fr Mario Serrano SJ and Centro Montalvo, a Jesuit social action centre. Participants visited communities impacted by Canadian mining companies such as Barrick Gold and Unigold, Fe y Alegría schools, shelters for street children, Jesuit Migration Service staff who work at the Haitian border, a textile free trade zone where 10,000 people work, and workers on banana plantations. Much was learned about poverty, inequality, racism and forced migration and about what is being done in the region for social justice and the environment.

Young people were also a focus of the learning tour. Pieter Niemeyer reports here on initiatives giving youth hope for the future.

“What do you want to be in the future?” It’s a question often asked of young people, and one that might even feel annoying for many young people in Canada. However, the question emerged near the end of our visit with a group of Haitian young boys, formerly living on the streets but who have now found shelter with Lakay Jezi (Home of Jesus) in Ouane-minthe, Haiti.

Previously these boys had been living on the streets in Dajabon, the town just across the border in the Dominican Republic, where they had encountered Fr Mario Serrano, a Jesuit priest, who also happened to be our guide on this learning tour. Fr Mario witnessed the difficult circumstances of these kids and the hopeless trajectory they were on, and he decided to intervene.

At Lakay Jezi and Hogar de Cristo (Home of Christ), two of the Jesuit shelters, one on each side of the border, hope has sparked within these young boys. The answer to the question, “What do you want to be in the future?” now has possibility – infused with hope. One young man said that he wanted to be a psychologist, because he experienced the benefit of treatment. Another said he wanted to be a doctor, while another a priest, inspired by positive encounters and models of hope.

To be certain, these children and youth face incredible odds because of extreme poverty, overarching systems of racism and limited sustainable employment opportunities, but the hope is also genuine. With access to safe housing, food, education, responsibilities and a community of people who care for them, these young peo-



Jacques Boudrias, from Brebeuf College in Montreal, talks with Haitian youth at Hogar de Cristo shelter for street kids in Dajabon, Dominican Republic.

ple may just become the next generation of psychologists, doctors or priests, who will make a difference in the lives of others.

The same kind of hope among young people was evident in other communities we visited on our learning tour – in Fe y Alegría schools on both sides of the border, among young migrants and workers who are fighting for just migration policies, and among young families who are losing their land or facing pollution of water sources by Canadian mining companies. Their hope is also based on trusting that people who have heard their story will advocate on their behalf in Canada to bring just relations and hope for the future.

For more on this and future Solidarity Trips, please see www.canadianjesuitsinternational.ca/?p=7865. ■

Transformation in Mindanao, Philippines

On August 19, 2018, Canadian Jesuits International hosted an event called “Transformation through community-based healthcare in Mindanao, Philippines.” It was held at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Toronto and featured presentations by Sr Petite Lao, RNDM, who works in community development among indigenous people in Mindanao, and Dr Ricardo Angeles, PhD, a graduate of Ateneo de Zamboanga University – School of Medicine (ADZU–SOM).

The event was well attended. Sr Petite gave an excellent overview of the multi-ethnic, multi-faith history and present-day situation in Mindanao, including its political instability and social needs, and Dr Ricardo described the holistic program of the School of Medicine at the Jesuit university and the good work that its graduates are doing among the people in the region.

CJI has been a partner of ADZU–SOM for the past 7 years. In particular, we support a scholarship fund to help promising young women and men during their 4 years of medical training, as well as an immersion program for medical students in selected rural areas of Mindanao. To date, hundreds of doctors have graduated from ADZU–SOM. Of these, 94% are still practising medicine in the Philippines, 70% within the region, and 50% in remote rural areas.

ADZU–SOM has developed a highly regarded community-based medical curriculum with emphases on family and rural medical practice. Half of the curriculum is based in a rural area where students learn firsthand about com-

Muhammad Matingka



A medical student gives a tetanus vaccination in the community.

munity health and the transformation that occurs when people are empowered to create a healthy environment.

The local government has also responded in very positive ways to the lead taken by ADZU–SOM and its graduates. They have increased local budgets for health, introduced proper garbage disposal, built more pit latrines and supported immunization campaigns. Altogether the transformative work in Mindanao that Dr Ricardo and Sr Petite shared with us is catching on!

For more information, or to donate, please visit www.canadianjesuitsinternational.ca/?p=7988. ■

Mission Co-op Sundays

On two Sundays in August 2018, Sr Petite Lao, RNDM, spoke at all the Masses, first at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Toronto and then at St Anne’s Church in Brampton, Ontario. Sr Lao shared experiences from her community development work among the indigenous people of Mindanao, Philippines. Her presentations were part of the Mission Co-op program of the Archdiocese of Toronto. CJI receives a share of the collections from these Masses for its partners’ work. This year, our share will be directed to the scholarship program for medical students at Ateneo de Zamboanga University that Sr Lao spoke about in her presentations and that CJI supports. Thank you Sr Lao for accepting our invitation to participate this year – and thanks to the two parishes and Archdiocese for hosting us! ■

Dr Ricardo Angeles and Sr Petite Lao.



CJI and the Jesuit Province of Canada

A new Jesuit Province came into being on 31 July 2018, the feast of the Jesuits' founder St Ignatius of Loyola. The creation of the Jesuit Province of Canada was formally decreed by the Superior General of the Society of Jesus, Fr Arturo Sosa SJ, earlier this year. Fr Sosa also appointed Fr Erik Oland SJ as the first Provincial of the new province, which has its headquarters in Montreal.

The Jesuits themselves of course are by no means new to Canada. Two of the earliest missionaries to work here

were Jesuits who arrived in 1611. By the early 20th century, the number of Jesuits and Jesuit works in English Canada warranted the creation of a new province. The Jesuit Provinces of English Canada and French Canada subsequently developed for almost a century along parallel lines, divided linguistically and culturally rather than geographically.

By the 21st century, the time had come to reunite these provinces. The new Province will not only be bilingual but also united in its focus on

reconciliation among Canada's culturally diverse peoples, including especially Canada's indigenous peoples.

Although many details still need to be worked out, Canadian Jesuits International will be the new Province's primary apostolate for international justice and solidarity. This means that CJI's current work in more than 20 countries around the world will continue and also expand to include new international partnerships. It will also continue to engage Canadians in its program of education and advocacy. ■

New International Programs Coordinator

CJI warmly welcomes Mercedes Arango-Vasquez as its new International Programs Coordinator. Mercedes comes to CJI with over five years of experience working in the area of social and economic development. Before joining CJI, she was a Program Officer for the British Embassy in Lima, Peru, monitoring the implementation of projects in health-care, education, sustainable living and renewable energy. Mercedes is a lawyer and holds an MA in Ethics and Business – Sustainable Development and Responsible Investment from Cergy Pontoise University, France. She is also a Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM) from the Project Management Institute in the United States. Welcome Mercedes! ■



Mercedes
Arango-Vasquez

New board member

CJI is pleased to welcome Tom Walsh to its Board of Trustees. Tom comes from Brockville, Ontario, and has spent most of his adult life in Latin America in a variety of roles, including as a Scarborough Foreign Missions (SFM) lay missionary associate, a regional country representative with the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD), a coordinator for community development projects and a manager for a local internet provider. In Canada, Tom has collaborated with Scarborough Missions, Development and Peace, and Coady International Institute at the University of St Francis Xavier, among others. Tom is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario's business school and a practising Christian meditator. He has a keen interest in spirituality and economics. We look forward to the deep experience and gifts that Tom will bring to CJI's work. ■



Tom Walsh

Thank you, Isabel!

CJI said farewell to Isabel Perez-Doherty in July 2018. Isabel was our Donor Relations Coordinator and a dynamic member of our team for over two years. She brought new life, dedication and professional standards to our quest for deeper and broader donor en-

agement and developed meaningful relationships with many of our supporters. Isabel's commitment, compassion and energy for development and social justice will be missed. We wish her all the best in her future career and say a big THANK YOU to her for being with us! ■

Upcoming events

Bridging Borders

CJI's Tell Ten campaign in November 2018 is called "Bridging Borders." It will feature guest speakers from the Dominican Republic and Syria and focus on young refugees and migrants. Special events will take place across Canada leading up to Giving Tuesday on November 27.

Y4O Day in Hamilton

A Youth 4 Others Social Justice Day will take place in Hamilton, Ontario, on November 7, 2018. Fr Mario Serrano SJ, from the Dominican Republic, will be the keynote speaker. For more information visit www.canadianjesuitsinternational.ca/?p=7928.

2019 Caribbean Solidarity Trips

Two Caribbean Solidarity Trips will take place in 2019, the first from April 30 – May 7 and the second from July 2 – 9. Please see www.canadianjesuitsinternational.ca/?p=7930 for details.

SUPPORT YOUTH EMPOWERMENT!

Please give to CJI. Your donation will provide young people in Africa, Asia and Latin America with education, resources, opportunities and hope for a better future.

Please give generously by making a one-time donation, a regular monthly donation or a bequest in your will.

All donations are tax deductible.
All personal information is held in accordance with Canadian Government Privacy Policy.



Fr Arturo Sosa SJ (middle) meets with CJI staff members (left to right) Pieter Niemeyer, Jenny Caf so, Craig Hincks, Kenneth Vaz.

Roel Weiss

CJI staff meet the Superior General

Canadian Jesuits International staff were delighted to meet Fr Arturo Sosa SJ at Regis College in Toronto on 29 May 2018. Fr Sosa was on his first visit to Canada since his election as the Superior General of the Society of Jesus in 2016.

Fr Arturo Sosa is the 31st Superior General of the Jesuits and the first from Latin America. He was born in Caracas, Venezuela, entered the Society of Jesus in 1966 and was ordained priest in 1977. Fr Sosa taught political science for many years. He also served as Coordinator of the Jesuit Social Apostolate and as Provincial Superior in Venezuela.

We look forward to future visits of Fr Sosa to Canada and wish him God's blessing and strength. ■

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