



MISSION NEWS

Canadian Jesuits International (CJI)

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Special issue:
YEAR IN REVIEW

Lok Manch: The power of collective action

Lok Manch community awareness meeting on basic rights.

Jebamalai Stanislaus SJ is National Coordinator of Lok Manch and one of its founders. He is a grassroots legal activist and an Ashoka Fellow (2001).

Access to quality education, health and other basic services continues to be a problem in both rural and urban areas in India. In spite of numerous legislative bills that have been passed by the government to address these issues, Dalits, Adivasis (Indigenous people), women and other people living in poverty continue to be denied their rights. The government's lack of political will to implement these laws effectively and a pervasive culture of corruption and discrimination has meant that the people who were supposed to benefit from these laws continue to be inadequately served by the education, health and legal systems of the country.

Lok Manch (peoples' forum) was born in 2015 to address these issues. This national platform, in which Jesuit Provinces from 13 states in India are involved, has the following goals: 1) to develop a rights-based approach in addressing economic, social and cultural issues; and 2) to provide communities and their leaders with a rights-based perspective, knowledge and skills to bring about social change. Lok Manch also serves as a vehicle for these leaders, civil society organizations (CSOs), non-government organizations (NGOs) and grassroots groups to come together, realize the power of collective action and celebrate their achievements as a community.

(continued on page 3)

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.

To learn more about Canadian Jesuits International or to make a donation, please contact us at:

70 Saint Mary Street
Toronto, ON M5S 1J3

Tel: 416.465.1824
Toll Free (within Canada & USA)
1.800.448.2148

canadianjesuitsinternational.ca

facebook.com/canadianjesuitsinternational

instagram.com/canadianjesuitsinternational

twitter.com/weareCJI

E-mail: cji@jesuits.ca

Jenny Cafiso
Director

Victor Reyes
Editor

Stefano Maero
Design



A word from Jenny Cafiso, CJI Director

Last June I had the privilege to participate in the general assembly of COMPARTE in Guadalajara, Mexico. The meeting brought together 60 people from more than 10 countries in Latin America as well as Canada and Europe. COMPARTE, which means “to share,” is at the heart of this network of 15 Jesuit economic development organizations and social centres. CJI supports COMPARTE as they accompany productive associations in the local implementation of economic initiatives while sharing knowledge and generating new strategies. At the end of the workshop, they asked each of us to plant a seed, to symbolize what we had done in our meeting and our hope for the future. It reminded me of Archbishop Oscar Romero’s prayer: “We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.”

That small, but significant gesture, summarizes for me the work of CJI this past year. The highlights of our work which we present in this issue of our newsletter represent some of the seeds that we have planted through our partnership with so many Jesuit initiatives in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Some have fallen on fertile ground such as providing education and a window to a new future to children of estate workers who would otherwise be condemned to working from generation to generation as indentured labourers. Other seeds have fallen on uncertain and dangerous ground, like defending human rights violations in Honduras. The members of our partner Radio Progreso-ERIC risk their lives in a context where war and conflict seem to continue unabated, despite their courageous work. And we continued to plant seeds with people and communities, especially youth across Canada who participated in our workshops, attended our events and committed themselves to work for a world of justice and peace.

In our cover article Jebamalai Stanislaus SJ tells us how through the initiative Lok Manch, Dalits, Adivasis (Indigenous people), women and other people living in poverty and at the margins of society organize, defend human rights and create space for social change. By so doing they have brought hope and inspired confidence in marginalized communities that another world is possible.

As with Lok Manch, in all the initiatives CJI supports, we are guided by a commitment to the people who live in the margins of society. It is from margins “where people cling to the life that is taken from them” as Fr. Melo from Honduras recently said, that a new vision of society is born, one based on just relations with one another and with the earth.

Lok Manch: The power of collective action (continued from cover page)

“Together, we make a difference” has been the rallying cry of Lok Manch. In the four years since its inception, the movement has brought hope and inspired confidence in marginalized communities by engaging over 100 CSOs, NGOs, grassroots groups and leaders from various cultures, castes, tribes, regions and religions. It is through these collaborations that Lok Manch has been able to address community concerns regarding food security, health, land displacement, human trafficking, housing, livelihood and other social justice issues.

Relationship-building and partnerships also extend to local officials and elected representatives. These relationships, together with visibility in the media and the public eye, have enabled us to successfully advocate and lobby state governments to effectively implement the National Food Security Act (NFSA) and other laws that recognize and uphold the rights of poor and marginalized communities.

Although we have had much success in the past, the volatility of current events in India continues to present challenges. Recently, there has been an increase in violence against Dalits, Adivasis and minorities, and the rise of insular politics and populism has created an environment of fear, distrust and insecurity among marginalized people. Recent government policies have also added to the uncertainty; the price of essential commodities and services has been increased through a flat tax that does not exempt poor people, while an amendment to another policy has the potential to displace more Indigenous people.

There are also long-term obstacles that Lok Manch needs to face. These include the increased frequency of natural disasters; the persistence of the caste system; religious fundamentalism; the denial of basic rights to poor communities; and the continued discrimination, human rights violations and injustices against marginalized people.

We intend to meet these challenges by continuing to empower leaders and communities. We will provide them access to their legal rights and information on key issues that affect them. The strategy of Lok Manch will remain the same: make local and state governments accountable for the recognition of the inalienable rights of people; and support leaders that will guide these communities to an improved quality of life.

As we reflect on the past and look towards the future, we recognize and appreciate the solidarity shown by our partners from the Global North like CJJ. It is through their support, as well as systems and mechanisms put into place by organizations like the United Nations, that we are able to walk with marginalized people, defend human rights and create space for social change. ■

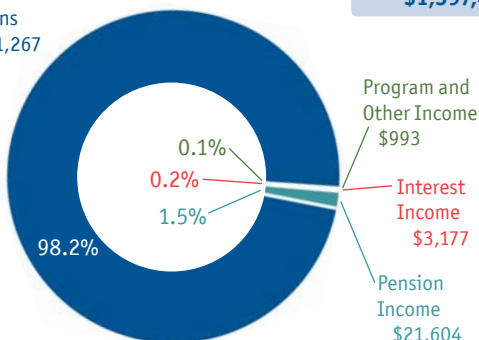
“Go to the people. Live with them. Learn from them. Love them. Start with what they know. Build with what they have. But with the best leaders, when the work is done, the task accomplished, the people will say ‘We have done this ourselves.’”

Lao Tzu

CJJ Statement of Operations 1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019

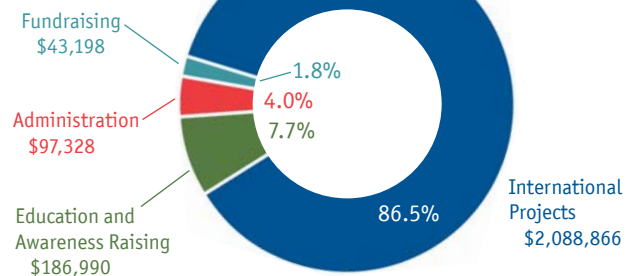
OPERATING REVENUE

Donations
\$1,371,267



Total Revenues:
\$1,397,041

OPERATING EXPENSES



Total Expenses:
\$2,416,382

CJJ holds investments, most of which are designated for specific projects. This provides stability for project partners and their ongoing work in the field. The unrealized gains/losses of these investments are not included in the operations shown here.

Supporting human dignity and social transformation

We are grateful to our supporters for helping our partners strengthen communities and build just relationships in the Global South. In the next few pages we list some of the over 40 projects you have supported, with one or two highlighted in each category. For more information or for a complete list of CJI projects, please contact us or visit our website.

EDUCATION AND HEALTH

Education and health are basic human rights that remain inaccessible to many people living in the Global South. CJI supports formal and informal education, distance learning, workshops and practical training. CJI continues also to promote and advocate for access to quality healthcare for all through partners who provide free medical care and facilitate health and medical training.

- **UGANDA** – *Ocer Campion Jesuit College*

School furnishings

- **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO** – *Fe y Alegría*

Access to quality education

- **NEPAL** – *Moran Memorial School*

School for vulnerable children

- **PAN-AMAZON REGION** – *Fe y Alegría and Jesuit Service for the Pan-Amazon Region (SJPAM)*

Intercultural and bilingual education

- **PHILIPPINES** – *Ateneo de Zamboanga University School of Medicine*

Scholarships and community health

- **AFRICA** – *Justice and Ecology Network of Africa (JENA)*

Pan-African Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program

- **INDIA** – *Jesu Ashram*

Healthcare and education

- **INDIA** – *Hayden Hall*

Organization and empowerment of poor marginalized women

- **JAMAICA** – *St Anne's Parish*

Support to students living in poverty

School furnishings

Ocer Campion Jesuit College (OCJC) was founded in 2010, following peace talks in northern Uganda. This area had been ravaged over a 25-year period by violence and war. This resulted in the displacement of the local population and disruption of people's education.



Students are now able to use the school library with the new furnishings.

OCJC started as a secondary school with the aim of providing quality education to students who have been victims of civil unrest. The school's population has grown from 40 to over 700. OCJC has also become a haven for girls who dream of finishing school and not be forced into early marriages. CJI supported the acquisition of furnishings for OCJC's library and administration block. This enabled the school to revert 3 classrooms, which had been used as an improvised library and administration office, back into spaces for learning.

OCJC Director: Fr Tony J. Wach SJ. Website: ocercampion.org

Pan-African Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program

Jesuits have made major contributions to education in Africa over the years. More recently, they have begun focusing on the leadership potential of young people. The Justice and Ecology Network of Africa (JENA) has started a Pan-African Leadership Development and Mentorship program which CJI is supporting. The goal of the project is to empower university students in different countries in Africa with people-centred leadership skills.



Participants of the Pan-African Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program having a discussion.

In 2019, JENA brought 250 African youth to an international conference in Kigali, contributed to the development of the leadership capacity of 40 students and trained 15 university chaplains by providing them with leadership skills and support.

Director: Fr Charles Chilufya SJ. Website: jena.africa

HUMAN RIGHTS

CJI stands in solidarity with our partners in the promotion of peace and the defence of human rights. Through advocacy, capacity building and the promotion of good governance, our partners address issues such as freedom of speech, access to basic rights, tax justice, migration and Indigenous peoples' rights.

- **HONDURAS** – *Radio Progreso-ERIC*

Defence of human rights

- **INDIA** – *Lok Manch*

Access to basic rights

- **MEXICO** – *A.C. Indigenous Rights Centre*

Conflict resolution according to the Tzeltal Normative System

- **AFRICA** – *Justice and Ecology Network Africa (JENA)*

Tax justice advocacy

Defence of human rights

Radio Progreso-ERIC accompanies the people of Honduras, defends their human rights, and promotes economic, social and political alternatives which benefit marginalized communities.

This project builds the capacity of the media, and of environmental, women's and Indigenous organizations in order to bring about social change in a context of widespread poverty, inequality and corruption. Through field visits, workshops and skills training, it promotes dialogue and strengthens democracy.

Director: Fr Ismael "Melo" Moreno Coto SJ.

Website: radioprogressohn.net



Mikolaj Cempla for SJES

Fr Melo speaking to the participants of the 50th Anniversary of the Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat.

Livelihood support and capacity building

Tea plantation labourers in North Bengal, India, are frequently deprived of their rights and subjected to exploitation by plantation managers and government agencies. Plantation owners often fail to provide workers with just wages, medical services and primary education for workers' children. Government agencies also deny workers their basic rights and benefits.

CJI supports HLDRC's programs that provide training to Indigenous people, and underprivileged and vulnerable communities. These capacity building programs empower marginalized people by informing them of their legal rights, helping them form self-help groups and giving them access to alternative livelihood opportunities.

Director: Fr Pascal Xalxo SJ. Website: hldrcsocialcentre.org



HLDRC

A community workshop to promote access to legal rights and protection mechanisms.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT

Sustainable agriculture and a dependable source of income help communities break free from poverty, promote self-reliance and dignity and empower people to care for our common home. CJI supports a number of projects that promote sustainable agriculture and livelihood support through advocacy, workshops, skills training and community development.

- **INDIA** – *Human Life Development and Research Centre (HLDRC)*

Livelihood support and capacity building

- **LATIN AMERICAN** – *Comparte Sustainable livelihood initiatives*

- **ZAMBIA** – *Kasisi Agricultural Training Centre (KATC)*

Capacity building in organic agriculture

- **INDIA** – *SOJASI/SASAC*

Skills training for local villagers

FORCIBLY DISPLACED PEOPLE AND EMERGENCY RELIEF

There are about 71 million refugees and internally displaced people worldwide. CJI supports its partners who accompany, serve and advocate for forcibly displaced people through emergency relief and long-term development projects. Because refugees spend on average 17 years away from their home, investing in education is essential.

For emergency responses CJI works with the Xavier Network to maximize the effectiveness of their collective effort.

- **COLOMBIA** – *Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)*

Accompaniment of internally displaced people

- **SOUTH SUDAN** – *Jesuit Province of Eastern Africa*

Education, advocacy and institutional strengthening

- **JORDAN** – *Jesuit Centre, Amman*
Assistance for vulnerable refugees

- **ETHIOPIA** – *Jesuit Refugee Service*
Adult education and livelihood support

- **SYRIA** – *Jesuit Refugee Service*
Family support for Syrian refugees

- **VENEZUELA/COLOMBIA** – *Jesuit Refugee Service*

Humanitarian assistance to displaced Venezuelans

- **MOZAMBIQUE, ZIMBABWE, MALAWI** – *Jesuit provinces*

Beyond Cyclone Idai – Restoration and reconstruction

- **SOUTH SUDAN** – *Jesuit Refugee Service*

Education and feeding of school children

Accompaniment of internally displaced people

A historic peace agreement between the Government of Colombia and the Armed Revolutionary Forces of Colombia (FARC) was signed in 2016. However, violence and strife continue to persist resulting in the internal displacement of thousands of Colombians. The municipality of Barrancabermeja hosts many forcibly displaced families who struggle to adjust to their new environment and face the ever-present threat of violence in the area.

CJI supports JRS Colombia which accompanies 3 vulnerable communities in Barrancabermeja. The project facilitates the integration process between displaced people and host populations, and strengthens relationships between them. It also identifies community leaders who help with the reconciliation and settlement processes.

Director: Fr Mauricio García Duran SJ
Website: jrs.net/en/country/colombia/



Community-building activity for internally displaced people and their hosts.

Family support for Syrian refugees

CJI supports the work of JRS Middle East and North Africa (MENA) in a region where the needs of forcibly displaced people remain extremely challenging.

In Syria, a large number of schools have been damaged or destroyed in the course of the conflict. Those that have managed to remain open are so overcrowded they cannot accommodate more displaced children. In addition, children face major risks of violence and exploitation as seen in the significant rise in child marriages, labour and soldiers. Many young people have experienced severe physical and psychological trauma.

Eight years after starting emergency services for forcibly displaced people, JRS teams are increasingly devoting resources to the social and psychological needs of children and their families as well as to educational programs for both children and adults.

JRS Regional Director: Fr Nawras Sammour SJ
Website: jrsmena.org



Education programs have been implemented across the Middle East to support Syrian refugees.

EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY

The education and advocacy programs of CJI seek to raise awareness of Canadians and encourage them to advocate for international social justice. Last year, CJI engaged in a number of important initiatives with outreach in schools and parishes, communication with supporters, advocacy, events for the general public and collaboration with sister organizations. Activities included:

- Youth for Others Days – justice focused days with more than 150 students and educators in different cities.
- Advocacy on extractive sector oversight for Canadian companies working abroad through participation in Justice in Mining and the Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability (CNCA)
- Advocacy and solidarity with other social justice organizations in Canada in support of the defence of human rights in Honduras, Colombia and Nicaragua
- Public event – More than coffee: Cultivating dignity and justice in Chiapas
- Public event – Tax justice and the common good
- Giving Tuesday – Just Communities campaign
- Mission Co-op Sundays – speakers at different parishes

More than coffee: Cultivating dignity and justice in Chiapas

Fr Arturo Estrada SJ, Director of the Bachajón Jesuit Mission in Chiapas, Mexico, visited Ontario and Newfoundland last November 18 – 27. His visit coincided with Canadian Jesuits International's (CJI) Giving Tuesday campaign, "JUST Communities." This campaign, which ended on December 3, highlighted the work of our community partners in the Global South and their effort to strengthen just relationships among people and with the earth – our common home.



Fr Arturo Estrada SJ speaking to participants at the public forum in Toronto.

The culmination of Fr Arturo's visit were the three public engagement events held in Ottawa, St John's and Toronto: *More than coffee; cultivating dignity and justice in Chiapas*. At these events, Fr Arturo talked about the Jesuit partnership with the Tseltal and how they promote dignity and justice by:

- 1) promoting land ownership, food security, and fair wages;
- 2) advocating for socio-political self-governance consistent with the values of the Tseltal culture; and
- 3) strengthening the Indigenous church through synthesis with the Mayan rite and through greater roles for lay people.



Meet the CJI staff

From left to right: Victor Reyes (Communications Coordinator), Lena Balkaran (Donor Relations Coordinator), Aroni Anirban (Office Administrator), Jenny Cafiso (Director), Mercedes Arango Vasquez (International Programs Coordinator) and Pieter Niemeyer (Outreach Coordinator).

50th Anniversary of the Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat

Last November 4-8, 2019, Jesuit organizations from all over the world came together in Rome to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat (SJES). The Secretariat serves as a coordinating body for the six Jesuit Conferences in their work promoting social justice and uniting Ignatian social ministries.

Right at the outset of the Rome Congress, Fr. Arturo Sosa, General of the Society of Jesus, challenged all participants to make the gathering not only a time to celebrate the many accomplishments of the last 50 years, but to take advantage “of this special moment in which God is again speaking to us and inviting us to remember, to thank, to discern, and to take audacious, bold, and risky decisions to accompany Jesus and his people at the frontiers, together with the most excluded, poor, and vulnerable.” Fr Sosa also met with all the women in



Servizio Fotografico Vaticano

Jenny Cafiso presenting Pope Francis with a copy of the CJI Newsletter.

Congress at a special ad hoc meeting. This came about as Father General laid out ten challenges during his address, one of which was the role of women in Church.

Jenny Cafiso, CJI Executive Director, was one of four representatives from the Province of Canada and moderated the first panel, “A Faith that does Justice: Life and Spirituality of Social Apostolate.” Jenny, along with all the other delegates at the Golden Jubilee, met with Pope Francis at the end of the celebration. ■

Steve Bell in concert: A successful CJI fundraiser

Last December 12, 2019, CJI held a benefit concert featuring Juno winner Steve Bell at Knox Presbyterian Church in Toronto. The night was full of heartwarming stories and songs as Steve shared his message of hope, faith and love through his music. Steve told the audience how he was influenced by the work of the Jesuits in Darjeeling. We would like to thank all the volunteers who helped make the event a success, the audience and all the people who continue to support CJI and our partners who work in the Global South. ■

Fr William Bourke SJ

Fr William J. Bourke SJ of the Jesuit Province of Darjeeling (India) passed away peacefully on November 29, 2019 in his 94th year and 71st year as a member of the Society of Jesus. His funeral Mass was held at 2 pm on November 30 at St Joseph’s school, North Point, Darjeeling, and he was buried in the Jesuit cemetery there.

Fr Bourke was born and raised in Halifax, the son of the late William and Edith (Waller). He began his mission to Darjeeling in 1955. He is survived by his sisters, Kathleen Mackett, Eileen Wood and Sheila McGinity. ■



J. Cafiso/CJI

SUPPORT CJI IN 2020!

Your donation will support the projects of our partners in the Global South.

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

Tax receipts will be issued for gifts of \$20 or more. All personal information is held in accordance with Canadian Government Privacy Policy.

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www.canadianjesuitsinternational.ca

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70 Saint Mary Street
Toronto, ON M5S 1J3

Phone toll-free: **1-800-448-2148**

Thank you for your support!