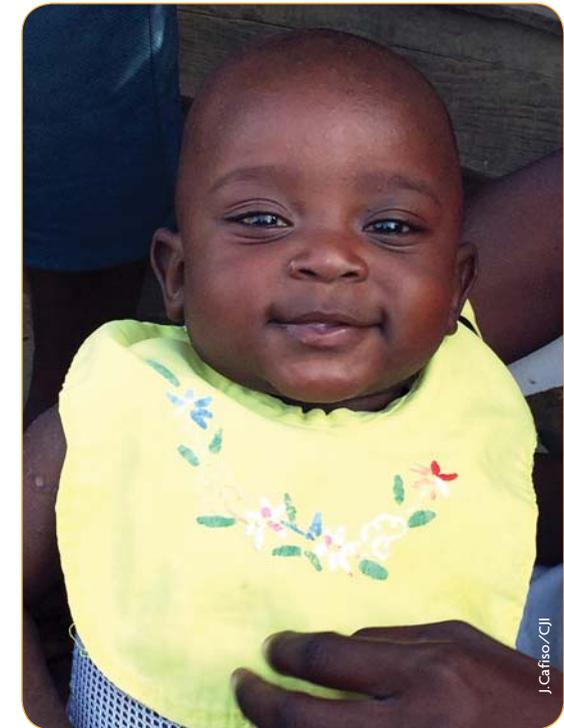




2018 Christmas Appeal

“WITH JUSTICE AND WITH RIGHTEOUSNESS”



“There shall be endless peace ... with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.”

Isaiah 9:7

CJI VISION AND MISSION

The **VISION** of Canadian Jesuits International (CJI) 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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Lok Manch demonstration in India for the right to food under the National Food Security Act.

Christmas – with justice and righteousness!

Peace and joy are central to Christmas. They figure prominently in the gospel accounts of Jesus’ birth. But what makes people joyful and what produces peace? The prophets say it is the exercise of justice and righteousness.

From Isaiah to John the Baptist, all the great prophets declare that the coming Messiah will be known by his justice and righteousness. These attributes are fundamental to the Christmas message. God brings justice and righteousness to the world through Jesus’ birth – and for many people in the world who are victims of injustice that is very good news!

Often in the Bible justice and righteousness mean practically the same thing. When there is a difference, justice is more the quality of being fair, equitable or honest; while righteousness is about being holy, pure and in sync with God. Jesus embodied both. Our world needs both.

This Christmas, CJI is focusing on four projects that highlight the work for justice and righteousness. Success in these projects will mean joy and peace for many people. We hope you will join us in celebrating Jesus’ birth by supporting them.

Have a peaceful and holy Christmas!



First Sunday of Advent 2 December

"I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up ... and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land." — Jeremiah 33:15

AMAZON REGION: Caring for Our Common Home

The people who live in the Amazon region share resources, cultures and land that stretch across national boundaries. The Jesuit Service for the Pan-Amazon Region (SJPAM) and Fe y Alegría are working with 26 local schools and communities in 5 countries – Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela – to strengthen indigenous identity and address environmental issues.

CJI is supporting this initiative. Our partners are developing new school curricula and collaborating with indigenous communities to build a culture of solidarity, awareness and care for "our common home."

Students in the Santa María Educational Unit in Trinidad, Bolivia.



Elvira Nee Moya

Second Sunday of Advent 9 December

"For God will lead Israel with joy ... with the mercy and righteousness that come from him." — Baruch 5:9



Lok Manch

Sharing information on government programs at a Lok Manch community meeting.

INDIA: Lok Manch

Lok Manch (People's Forum) is a movement of dalits, adivasi (indigenous people), women and people living in poverty. It operates in 12 states across India and promotes justice and access to legal rights for thousands of marginalized people.

CJI's Jesuit partners in India play a key role in Lok Manch – building leadership capacity, engaging in policy changes, educating citizens about their rights and advocating with them. The current goal of Lok Manch is to develop a vibrant network to help improve the quality of life for up to 300,000 households. The process is guided by thousands of community leaders, half of whom are women.



Noelle Fitzpatrick

Students from Loyola Secondary School in Wau, South Sudan, help to pack medicine for distribution.

Third Sunday of Advent 16 December

"John the Baptist said to the crowds, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.'" — Luke 3:11

SOUTH SUDAN: Solidarity with Displaced People

Civil war has displaced millions of people in South Sudan since 2013 and has caused widespread hunger and food insecurity. CJI is working with the Xavier Network, Jesuit Refugee Service and the local Jesuit province to help with feeding programs, education and psychosocial support, especially in camps for internally displaced people and in communities around Jesuit schools in the country.



Fourth Sunday of Advent 23 December

"Stir up your might, and come to save us! Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved." — Psalm 80:2–3

SYRIA: Family Support in Damascus

The conflict in Syria is now in its eighth year. It has displaced more than 12 million people, including at least 7.6 million who are internally displaced.

The Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) has been active in Syria from the beginning. JRS is increasingly focusing its attention and resources on children and their families, with programs for education, child protection and psychosocial services. An enhanced family support program is running in the Jaramanah area of Damascus. CJI is a partner in this initiative.



Ouwais Sadik/JRS

Yasmin Bouzo gets health care from JRS in Damascus.