

HLDRC provides education support for the children of tea workers through its non-formal study centres.

HLDRC

“**Let** the **heavens** be glad, and **let** the **earth** rejoice.” | (Psalm 96:11)

The birth of Jesus was so profound and wonderful that the heavens were summoned to “be glad” and the earth to rejoice. This beautiful verse expresses the joy of Christmas. It is not just us who celebrate the coming of our Saviour, but all of creation. It serves as a powerful reminder of the deep connection between people and nature. We rely on nature for clean air and water, food, and sustenance. In return, we are expected to care for the Earth, our common home. It is also our sacred duty to care for the poor and marginalized, who are the least responsible for harming nature, yet bear the brunt of its devastation. The message of Psalm 96:11 gains resonance when we consider the deepening ecological crisis.

However, the fact that the world is facing many challenges today does not necessarily mean that we cannot feel joy at Christmas. As Pope Leo XIV reminds us, joy does not mean the absence of suffering. We can have joy even in difficult times “if we have the profound conviction that God cares for us as His beloved children.” Joy also arises when we live out the Gospel by caring for others, particularly the poor, and for the Earth.

The transformative work of our Jesuit partners in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America and the Caribbean, supported by you, our devoted supporters and partners, demonstrates the gifts of love and joy that Christmas brings. Together you help poor and marginalized children to gain access to quality education. You provide accompaniment to refugees and migrants. You help to empower tea garden workers to advocate for their rights. You help good governance and servant leadership to thrive.

We thank you and wish you a joyful Christmas.

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 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 by supporting partnerships in the Global South.

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2026 Christmas Appeal

“Let the **heavens** be glad, and **let** the **earth** rejoice.”

(Psalm 96:11)



Fe y Alegria

CJI partner Fe y Alegría runs early childhood development classes, focusing on poor rural areas.

CJI

Canadian Jesuits International

First **Sunday** of **Advent**

29 November 2026

"And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake." – Mark 13:37

Support for **vulnerable** communities

Jesuits in Haiti

Canadian Jesuits International is supporting projects by the Jesuits in Haiti, ranging from free preschool education for the most vulnerable children in rural areas, to humanitarian support for Haitian refugees and migrants. Fe y Alegría has been providing universal, free, and quality education, particularly for the most vulnerable. It has a network of 15 public educational centres that offer preschool, primary, and secondary education. Jesuit Service for Migrants-Haiti provides food, temporary shelter, hygiene kits and transportation support to about 1,500 Haitians who have been forcibly repatriated, mainly from the Dominican Republic.

The Jesuits in Haiti run a variety of projects, from preschool education to refugee and migrant support.



Fe y Alegria-Haiti



RJM-CANA

Refugees and migrants attend a counselling session as part of the psychosocial support program offered by the Jesuit Migration Network.

Second **Sunday** of **Advent**

6 December 2026

"Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God." – Isaiah 40:1

Migrants and **Refugee** Support

Jesuit Migration Network (RJM-CANA)

Canadian Jesuits International is funding a project that will support 500 migrant and refugee women, children, and adolescents along the migratory route in Uruguay, the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico, and Brazil. The network will provide refugees and migrants with food, medication, hygiene kits, temporary shelter, psychosocial support, and legal advice. Refugees and migrants in the Americas often lack access to basic human rights. They also face tightened immigration policies in the United States and Mexico and complex cross-border refugee application procedures in Central America.

Third **Sunday** of **Advent**

13 December 2026

"He has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed." – Isaiah 61:1

Livelihood support and capacity **building** for tea **workers**

Human Life Development and Research Centre (HLDRC)

The exploitation of tea plantation workers in North Bengal, India, by plantation managers and government agencies is a common occurrence. Canadian Jesuits International supports a project by its Jesuit partner, HLDRC, that empowers tea workers to be aware and to advocate for their rights. The project also offers them livelihood support through self-help groups that engage in small-scale business opportunities, as well as grassroots leadership development training. HLDRC also provides vocational training for young people and education support for the children of tea workers through its non-formal study centres.

HLDRC provides livelihood support to tea garden workers through self-help groups that engage in small-scale businesses.



Jenny Cafiso/CJI



JCTR

JCTR organizes events to raise awareness among Zambians of the importance of good governance, accountability and transparency in government.

Fourth **Sunday** of **Advent**

20 December 2026

"For nothing will be impossible with God." – Luke: 1:37

Formation for citizen's democratic **participation**

Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR)

In Zambia, Canadian Jesuits International is supporting a project aimed at strengthening the capacity of Zambians to advocate for good governance, accountability and transparency at all levels of government. The project by JCTR includes awareness-raising workshops, and advocacy training programs that increase awareness of Catholic Social Teaching and a human rights-based approach to development. It will also train 300 members of seven parishes on key social accountability tools, host dialogues between communities and governments, and facilitate the monitoring of community projects.