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Editorial

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Editorial

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Some words from leaders of the Society of Jesus have the power to shape a generation of the people in Jesuit higher education, and beyond. The question from Fr. Pedro Arrupe, S.J., to the Jesuit alumni at Valencia, Spain in 1973—“Have we educated you for justice?”—resonates in Jesuit universities today as much as it did forty-eight years ago, calling us to continual growth and transformation.¹ So, too, one of the key claims in the fourth decree of General Congregation 32 in 1975—“[t]he mission of the Society of Jesus today is the service of faith, of which the promotion of justice is an absolute requirement. For reconciliation with God demands the reconciliation of people with one another”—continues to challenge and inspire Jesuit higher education.² Fr. Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, S.J., claimed that “the real measure of our Jesuit universities lies in who our students become,” thereby asking educators to align our curricular and co-curricular work with our deepest hopes for students and for the world.³ And Fr. Adolfo Nicolas, S.J., called Jesuit universities to depth, universality, and learned ministry in our work.⁴ These words, among others, have shaped my own sense of vocational calling as a professor and editor in Jesuit higher education.

To these words I add those of Fr. Arturo Sosa, S.J., in his February 2019 letter introducing the Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAPs), which are an integrative set of four “preferences” to guide all of the apostolates of the Society for the next ten years.⁵ From a college of theology in Delhi, India to refugee services in Kakuma, Kenya, from a retreat center in Manresa, Spain to a high school in Denver, Colorado, all of these Jesuit “works” share a commitment to showing the way to God through the Spiritual Exercises and discernment, walking with those whose dignity has been violated, journeying with youth in creating a hope-filled future, and caring for creation, our common home. As preferences, the UAPs help us to clarify our purpose, re-imagine

our work, and dream more creatively and boldly for our future.

As a member of the Central and Southern Province (USA) Commission on Ministries in 2017-18, I witnessed the process of communal discernment that culminated in the articulation of the UAPs. Jesuits and their lay co-workers alike shared what they valued most about their Jesuit identity as well as the most pressing needs in their local settings. Looking back, I can see how contributions from Jesuits and lay companions around the world shaped these preferences as a generative guide for all the works of the Society. The experience provided me with a deep affirmation of the integrity of Ignatian communal discernment as well as the importance of my own small piece of that whole as a teacher-scholar-administrator at a Jesuit university.


And yet, words run the risk of being simplified, reduced to slogans, or even ignored if we do not engage them with the depth of our critical thinking and integrative experience. For these words to shape another generation, we need to engage them with the best of our scholarly abilities, thinking through their implications and developing inspired praxis. Here, the intellectual apostolate of Jesuit higher education can contribute to the whole Society with the very nature of our distinctive work: we reason, question, research, analyze, teach, and engage in scholarly discussion. In this spirit, *Jesuit Higher Education: A Journal (JHE)* offers scholarship, praxis, and reflection articles on the UAPs, starting in this issue and continuing in future issues. We hope that this serves as a resource to Jesuit higher education in its efforts to live into the preferences, as well as to the broader works of the Society.

This issue features articles on integrating the UAPs in a university discernment group and strategic planning (Strunk and Mooney), through a

college-hosted high school theology program (Ratliff and Chanderbhan), an Urban Catholic Teacher Corps program (Friedman et al.), the Loyola University Chicago School of Environmental Sustainability (Polito), and a university community reflection (Ford McNamee). Together, these essays demonstrate the interconnectedness of the UAPs in different settings, as well as their transformative potential.

In addition to the articles that explicitly engage the UAPs, the other articles engage topics that correspond to the preferences: accompanying youth as a basketball coach and Ignatian heroic leader (Petit), fostering queer inclusivity at a Jesuit university (Winterrowd and Knorr), engaging

students in transformative information literacy library instruction, and responding to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic (Bosco). Finally, Resources editor Gregory Beabout offers a double review of two books that explore deep internal crises for Jesuit Catholic universities, suggesting insights from Pope Francis's *Fratelli Tutti* as a possible way forward.

In all, this issue begins an ongoing *JHE* conversation on how we can enact the preferences more fully in our distinctive educational work and settings. 

Notes

¹ Pedro Arrupe, S.J., "The Promotion of Justice and the Formation in the Alumni Associations (Men for Others)," address at the Tenth European Congress of Jesuit Alumni (Valencia, Spain: August 1, 1973), http://www.sjweb.info/documents/education/arr_men_eng.pdf.

² Society of Jesus, General Congregation 32, Decree 4, "Our Mission Today: The Service of Faith and the Promotion of Justice" (1975), 2, https://jesuitportal.bc.edu/research/documents/1975_decree4gc32/.

³ Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, S.J., "The Service of Faith and the Promotion of Justice in American Jesuit Higher Education,"

address at Santa Clara University, (October 6, 2000), <https://www.scu.edu/ic/programs/ignatian-worldview/kolvenbach/>.

⁴ Adolfo Nicolas, S.J., "Depth, Universality, and Learned Ministry: Challenges to Jesuit Higher Education Today," address at Networking Jesuit Higher Education: Shaping the Future for a Humane, Just, Sustainable Globe (Mexico City: April 23, 2010), http://www.sjweb.info/documents/ansj/100423_Mexico%20City_Higher%20Education%20Today_ENG.pdf.

⁵ Arturo Sosa, S.J., "Universal Apostolic Preferences of the Society of Jesus, 2019-2029," (Rome: February 19, 2019), https://www.jesuits.global/sj_files/2020/05/2019-06_19feb19_eng.pdf.