



Visit to Africa by Fr Pierre Salembier SJ

In March 2007, Father General's Delegate to the World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae (WUJA) visited African countries to prepare for the Pan-African Meeting to be held in Nairobi, Kenya in September 2007. His report follows.

(Fr Salembier's trip took place before the decision to move the location of the 2009 Congress from Yaoundé to Bujumbura.)

The prospect of a congress of the Jesuit Alumni World Union in Africa constitutes a particular challenge. Indeed, this continent has no tradition of international gatherings of alumni. Certainly, in 1995, the Libermann school's old boys took the initiative of a first African congress which included the Cameroonese with some representatives of the Democratic Republic of Congo and of Madagascar but this meeting concerned only French-speaking Africa. So with the view that the

2009 World Congress of Yaounde be really an 'African' event, it was necessary to get in touch with all the Jesuit schools of Africa, English-speaking as well as French-speaking, and to bring alumni of all these schools to meet and to commit to take part in the preparation of such a congress.

To organize this meeting, we first had to find a place accessible to all the concerned countries of Africa, without forgetting Madagascar. Considering available communication networks, Nairobi was quickly considered as the best meeting place. It turns out that this is where the Jesuits have founded the Hekima College, the faculty of English-speaking theology. This school offered an ideal meeting location.

The World Union maintains contacts with certain African schools, such as in Douala, site of the next congress, also the school from Boboto in Kinshasa, the Alfajiri school in Bukavu (RDC) or others, like the St Esprit College in Bujumbura (Burundi), the St Georges school in Harare (Zimbabwe). However, the alumni of the other schools of Africa have never participated in any international congress of alumni and some of them, whose foundation is still recent, as yet have not formally established alumni associations. That's why it was necessary to go on location and get in touch with those in charge of these schools to see how they could be represented to the next African congress and participate in its preparation. This is what brought me to decide to tour the schools



This painting entitled 'Resurrection' is on the altar wall of the Chapel of Hekima College, Nairobi in Kenya. It was painted according to drawings by Fr Engelbert Mveng, a Cameroonian Jesuit, who was an inspired historian, archaeologist and artist.

in question during a conversation with our Father General.

My journey, which took place during March 2007, began with a preparatory visit to the theology faculty of Hekima College in Nairobi to verify the feasibility of such a meeting. Once this was confirmed, the executive committee of the WUJA decided to hold the meeting on September 14–16, 2007.

I stopped next in Douala to meet with the steering committee of the Congress and to meet those in charge of the University of

Central Africa in Yaounde where the Congress will be held.

I then went on to get in touch with the Jesuits in charge of the new province of Northwest Africa, consisting of Nigeria and Ghana. Nigeria already possesses an alumni association, with Sina Buraimoh Ademuyewo as the representative on the WUJA Council. But it was necessary to wait until 1995 for the first school to be founded by the Jesuits, about 10 kilometres from the centre of Abuja, the new administrative capital of Nigeria. A very recent school, which was upset on December 10, 2005 by the terrible tragedy of a plane crash that cost the lives of 60 pupils who had left for Christmas holidays.

From Nigeria, I went to Kinshasa. The difficulties of communication between these two countries considerably shortened the duration of my stay. Nevertheless the day spent in Boboto and prepared by Fr André Cnockaert SJ, the spiritual counsellor of the Jesuit Alumni Federation of the DRC, allowed me to meet the vice-chancellors of schools, as well as a significant group of alumni from the various schools of the region of Kinshasa. Geronce Balemire, the president of the alumni association of Alfajiri (Bukavu), also participated in this meeting. During the meeting, it was underlined that an alumni delegation from the DRC's schools must be put together to participate in the Nairobi meeting and that had to be done in full agreement with the Society of Jesus, represented by Fr André Cnockaert.

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Editorial

Bienvenue Welcome Bienvenido



Thank you for the response to the April edition of Ensemble Together Concorde (ETC).

Contact came from Germany, Canada, Democratic Republic of Congo, Spain and several countries in Latin America, some requesting ETC in an electronic form so that they could on-send it to their association's members. The result is that ETC has been emailed as a PDF file to those who requested it, for either printing and posting or to be sent electronically. I am delighted!

Because of cost restrictions our mailing list is limited, but with this kind of enthusiasm and assistance, ETC, with its news of the World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae (WUJA) and Jesuit Alumni/ae Associations, will reach a much broader base. I hope that this edition will generate more interest and more requests for an ETC file in your language choice of English, French or Spanish, so that more associations around the world will follow this trend and promote the WUJA. By supplying it I will keep track of where extra copies are reaching, so please contact me, I will be only too happy to respond.

Of course, ETC is included by web-master, Mario Soavi on the website of the WUJA www.jesuitalumni.org – please visit this site for more information on WUJA, its history and very soon, the next World Congress of Jesuit Alumni/ae.

In July 2008, World Youth Day will be held in my home city of Sydney, Australia – MAGiS08 is the Ignatian Program for World Youth Day. It takes its name from Magis the Latin word for more and is used to describe 'seeking more of what God wants for us'.

MAGiS08 invites young people aged from 18 to 30 to join together on a journey with those of a like mind and heart from different countries, cultures and languages, to explore and to share their experiences in an Ignatian context fostering 'a faith that does justice'.

This is an ideal event for young Jesuit alumni/ae and likeminded friends worldwide to plan to attend. Please see page 8 and visit the website www.magis08.org for more information.

The following year in July 2009, the World Congress of Jesuit Alumni/ae is to be held in Africa, to which all Jesuit alumni/ae are invited to attend. To quote Fr Pierre Salembier SJ, (ETC – April 2007) ... "During its last General Congregation the Society of Jesus decided to make Africa one of its priorities. We hope that this event will provide the opportunity for the Alumni from the various countries of Africa to establish contacts and to begin collaborating together. We also hope that Alumni/ae from the rest of the world bearing interest and concern for Africa, and those who have some experience of Africa, will find in this African World Congress, a privileged place for exchanges and sharing."

Please plan ahead to attend this important World Congress of Jesuit Alumni/ae. God bless,

Robyn Treseder

Editor – Ensemble Together Concorde

Council Member – Oceania

World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae

Email: robyn.tr@bigpond.net.au

My sincere thanks go to Eric de Langsdorff and Frederic Buxtorf for the French, and Cécile Launay for the Spanish translations and proof reading for ETC. Grateful thanks also go to proof reader Sr Josepha Clancy CSJ for English. Ed.

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I regretted leaving Kinshasa so quickly after these meetings but events which took place in Kinshasa would have made the continuation of my journey in this country much more uncertain. Immediately following my departure, a confrontation between the presidential guard and the armed forces in the service of the political opponent, M Bemba, who had lost presidential elections, took place in the district where the Boboto School is located. The school fortunately suffered no casualties but underwent a raid by about 15 policemen who took the pupils hostage for some hours during which time some of them were beaten up.



Fr Pierre Salembier SJ

In the meantime, I flew towards Zambia. The Society of Jesus has run a school there for a long time, in Chikuni Mission, some three hours by road from the capital Lusaka. But this school has never had an alumni association. My talks with the Father Superior of the community as well as with the lay director of the school left me with hope that the prospect of the Congress will give the opportunity to create such an association and to send some representatives of the old boys of this school to the Congress.

Finally, I ended my trip in Zimbabwe where the Society of Jesus has been involved in the schools' apostolic mission for a long time. St Georges College possesses a solid alumni association, which supports its school and has already participated in several WUJA congresses. St Ignatius College, situated in the countryside surrounding Harare, is also a beautiful boarding school, which enjoys a strong reputation. Regrettably, both schools, because of the soaring devaluation occurring in the past several years in Zimbabwe, are facing extreme economic difficulties.

Naturally, within one month, I was not able to visit all the Jesuit schools in Africa, but the World Union Council was able to contact former students of the other schools of Africa by mail. And so, on the initiative of the association of the Dar es Salaam school, the president of the association recently became a member of the WUJA and has registered for the Nairobi meeting.

We hope also for participation from the alumni of Charles Lwanga College, a secondary school in Sarh, Chad. There is a group of alumni from this school in Yaounde and another one in Paris. That should facilitate contacts. The St Esprit College in Bujumbura, that Eric de Langsdorff and myself visited in November 2005, will be represented in Nairobi by its president. The uncertainty of representative participation from the schools in Madagascar still remains, but it is to be hoped that they will want to be active participants in this event. Now, the Nairobi meeting is approaching. We hope that it will be a decisive step in the preparation of this Congress and we shall give you a report of it in the next ETC issue.

Fr Pierre Salembier SJ

Delegate of Father General



President's letter

Fellow Alumni/ae



Bernard Thompson

We live in a world in which natural disasters frequently occur. As I sit writing this message it is the horrifying floods in Mexico, which have captured the headlines and our thoughts and prayers are with the unfortunate victims.

Whilst we can only have a limited influence over nature, we can try to exert more influence over the actions of the politicians of the world. As if natural disasters were not enough, our politicians, from both democratic and non-democratic countries seem determined to create more suffering in the world and claim that it is for our benefit.

In spite of this we are nonetheless in a period of celebration. Last year the World Union celebrated 50 years of existence. This year November 14 is the 100th anniversary of the birth of Fr Pedro Arrupe SJ, the Superior General of the Society from 1965 to 1983.

Fr Arrupe was a major influence in the formation of the *World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae* and his successor Fr Kolvenbach has continued to have a major influence on its ongoing existence. It is therefore very natural that we should offer Fr Kolvenbach our sincere gratitude for all that he has done to support our efforts and to wish the Society well for a successful outcome for the forthcoming *General Congregation*.

In the last edition of *ETC* you will recall that we spoke of two major events, which were being planned. The *Latin American Confederation Congress* was to have been held in November 2007. The organising committee decided that it would prefer to delay the Congress by one year to enable it to focus on the outcomes of the General Congregation and it will now be held in 2008.

Our own *World Union Congress* has also had to be changed but for different reasons. The original plan was to hold it in Cameroon in 2009, but due to organisational difficulties this plan has had to be terminated. The representatives from all the African Countries present at the pan-African meeting held in Nairobi in September were determined that the *World Union Congress* should still be held in Africa and were unanimous in their decision to put forward the proposal that it be held in Bujumbura in Burundi as an alternative. This proposal has been accepted. A report of this landmark meeting in Nairobi appears elsewhere in this magazine.

May I finally ask you all to join your prayers with mine for all the victims of injustice and for those who are victims of natural disaster?

Bernard Thompson

President – World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae

A crucial meeting of the World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae in Nairobi, Kenya



Delegates at the Nairobi meeting. WUJA delegates included Géronce Balegamire, François-Xavier Camenen, Pierre Salembier SJ, Peter Wong, Bernard Thompson, Sina Buraimoh Ademuyewo, Tom Bausch and Eric de Langsdorff (Arrupe).

From September 14 to 16, the Council of the World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae met in Nairobi together with delegates of most African alumni associations. This was the first council meeting in Africa and indeed a crucial one.

Participants were hosted by Hekima College, the Jesuit Theological School for English-speaking Africa, a very nice place in the suburbs of Nairobi. We enjoyed the warm hospitality of the rector, Fr Orobator SJ, and of the minister, Br Byebalilo SJ. We had every help and facility for our work and were very glad to meet a number of young Jesuit students and to share religious services with them in the beautiful chapel decorated with the famous *Way of the Cross* drawn by Fr Engelbert Mveng, a Cameroonian Jesuit artist.

The two days were mainly filled with the meetings, between members of the Council and African delegates, devoted to the preparation of the 2009 Congress. It was the first time that African alumni had such a representative gathering where both French-speaking and English-speaking countries were largely represented, by delegates of alumni associations as well as by Jesuit Fathers. These countries were Burundi, Congo (Democratic Republic), Nigeria, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, with the most welcome presence of Jesuit Frs Guillaume Ndayishimiye (Burundi), André Cnockaert and Hubert Mvula (Congo), Kevin Odey (Nigeria) and Dhanapalan Rayar (Zambia). Fr Etienne Triaille, secretary of Fr Fratern Masawe (president of the conference of African Provincials) was also present. All these delegations described the history and present situation of their schools and associations, which led to a very rich and moving exchange of views. Unfortunately Cameroon, Chad and Madagascar were not represented.

The meeting devoted much time to discussing all the important aspects of the 2009 Congress: suitable dates, wording of the theme, basic structure of the program, method of choice of speakers and witnesses, method of registration, timetable of preparation.

The major problem was the absence of Cameroonians, whereas Cameroon

Mass in the Chapel of Hekima College.



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Nkunga Ellis Pendo, François-Xavier Camenen, Sina Buraimoh Ademuyewo, Janet Namara Gabone and Pierre Salembier s.j.

had been, since the Calcutta Congress, the country chosen to host the congress. This absence, at this crucial meeting intended to examine all the important aspects of the organisation of the congress, created doubts on the ability of the country to meet the conditions of success of the congress. This led to the Council requesting African delegates to consider three possible solutions: 1) to continue to support the pan-team in Cameroon in organising the Congress; 2) to consider changing places with Latin America on the current rota; or 3) to agree on an alternative location in Africa which could meet the requirements of the World Union. After a discussion of some two hours the pan-African delegates unanimously requested the Council to accept a proposal to hold the congress in Burundi. This proposal was endorsed by the Council, which held a **formal meeting** at the end of the session and took a number of other decisions regarding the congress.



During their stay in Nairobi, members of the Council visited St Aloysius Gonzaga Secondary School. It is situated at the outskirts of Nairobi, in the Kibera slum, the biggest in Africa with a population of some 800,000 people. Created by a Jesuit Father, it is a school for AIDS orphans who live in the slum. It was really striking to see the good behaviour of these children, all in uniform, with their extreme dedication to studies, even though they have very poor classrooms and school equipment and live in a harsh environment – a lesson for school children of affluent countries whose behaviour is sometimes not in tune with the facilities they enjoy.

François-Xavier Camenen – Secretary
World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae

European C Report of the I

The National Federation Committee held their second meeting



Delegates at the Frankfurt meeting.

Train strikes in France regrettably prevented some of us getting to Frankfurt at the last minute, as we had intended. This was the case for Fr Pierre Salembier s.j, spiritual counsellor for the European Confederation and for our friend Serge Delair.

Happily, almost all European Confederation Union member presidents or their representatives (14 out of 15) were present at the meeting; we learned that Germany and France had elected new presidents, and Fr Maurice Pilette s.j, spiritual counsellor for the Southern Belgium Federation, let it be known that he was to be succeeded by Fr Michel Gilson s.j.

At the Paris meeting, and further to a very detailed report concerning young people, from the young vice-president of the Confederation, Nomedra Myselite of Lithuania, a decision was made to invite more young people from our European member countries to take part in the Frankfurt meeting. This objective was reached: actually, there were more than 15 young people from Belgium, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Spain and Switzerland, who met in Frankfurt with the presidents of their respective Federations, at the Jesuit university centre of Saint Georgen. We were delighted by the attendance of this young group because the future dynamism of our Confederation is greatly dependent on the presence, or not, of young alumni/ae from our schools. They wished to have time to meet among themselves, in order to get to know each other better. They expressed the following two wishes at the final session: to establish their own network of exchanges by way of the internet and help prepare the future World Union Congress, which will take place in Burundi in July, 2009 with a service experiment in Africa.

During this meeting, the National Federation Presidents gave a report on their main activities since the last meeting and informed the group of their immediate projects. It is to be noted that three countries are going to organize events around the question of education, which is certainly going to generate a synergy between



Confederation of Jesuit Alumni/ae Frankfurt Meeting – October 2007

Presidents, who are members of the European Confederation, of 2007 in Frankfurt, Germany, on October 20–21

them. Following a suggestion from the German representative, the Committee gave its agreement in principle to support a European Education Project through training for young people. (Obtaining European funds for this program actually must involve eight European countries).

The six members of the board also reported on their major European actions since the Paris meeting which included the sending of European Confederation 'postulates' to the future Jesuit General Congregation and following up on updating the statutes (in collaboration with lawyers from Belgium). Also, contacts have been made (or are in the process of being set up) with those in charge of various European Jesuit networks, for example, InYgo International, JRS Europe or the Javier Solidarity Network, the idea being that these initiatives are to promote more European alumni/ae co-workers or associates (the appropriate formula to be clarified in each case) for the missions of these networks and to allow the European Confederation to improve its European visibility, representativeness and efficiency.



Young alumni/ae from member countries attending the European Confederation Meeting.

The president has also reported on the meeting just held in September 2007 in Nairobi, (Kenya), with members of the World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae, president (Bernard Thompson), secretary (François-Xavier Camenen) and Fr Pierre Salembier SJ, Father General's delegate to the World Union, with alumni/ae and Jesuit delegates from the different Provinces of Africa, in order to launch effectively the preparation of the next World Congress due to be held in Africa in July 2009. He also evoked the circumstances which led to the change of location for the Congress and indicated that it will take place July 23–27, 2009 in Bujumbura (Burundi). The members of the Executive Committee present in Nairobi unanimously ratified this proposal submitted by the African country delegations.

Then, the treasurer gave a report on his financial management over the past two years and issued the traditional appeal to the

National Federations for funds, which are intended to give to the Confederation the means to operate during the upcoming two years.

The spiritual dimension of our meeting was not forgotten and began with a reading of messages sent to the laymen and to the young people by Father General (who is almost at the term of his mandate). (These messages were taken from an interview in the September 2007 issue of the magazine from a French school.) It continued with a Mass celebrated in the Liebfrauen Church, where we heard a moving homily from Fr Luk Arts (spiritual advisor of North Belgium Federation) calling for a return to the basic Christian vocation of love and service.

We could not leave Frankfurt without visiting the magnificent and grand room of the Emperors in the historic city hall. The program for the visit added a cultural dimension to this meeting for us and the companions, thanks to the perfect organization by the past German Federation president, Hermann von Braunmühl and of the European Confederation secretary, Bernard Kottrup.

We did not forget either that it was in Frankfurt in 1953 that several pioneers, convinced of the European dimension of the alumni action, held a preparatory meeting, which then gave birth, a year later, to the creation of the European Confederation.

The first *Committee of the Presidents* meeting in 2008 will be held the first weekend in March in Turin (Italy), where we hope to give a more concrete report on the progress of the work with young people and the collaborative efforts with the Society of Jesus through its different European apostolic networks.

Meanwhile, the General Congregation of the Society of Jesus will be held in January 2008, for the spiritual success of which our Committee prayed during its ever so friendly meeting in Frankfurt.

Eric de Langsdorff

President – European Confederation of Jesuit Alumni/ae

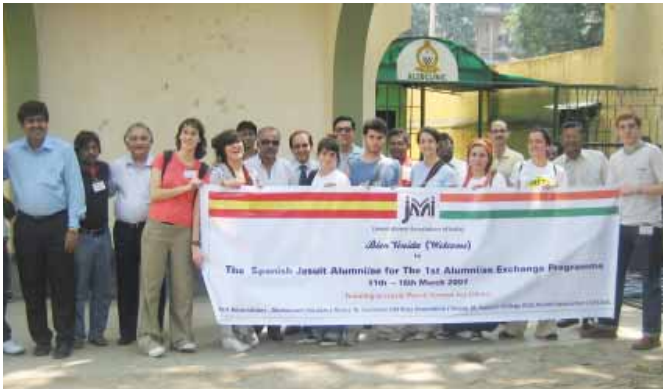
Paris – November 6, 2007



Alumni/ae and families visit the Emperor's Room at city hall, Frankfurt.

AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE FOR YOUNG ALUMNI/AE FROM SPAIN AND INDIA

The *Exchange Program* involving Spanish and Indian alumni/ae arose from the good relations formed between the Federations of both countries at the World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae Congress, held in January 2003, in Kolkata, India. It was seen as an opportunity for a group of young alumni/ae to experience a new reality in a far away country, to be sensitive to and to convey to others, those experiences. The main idea being that these experiences could be useful in their development as men and women for others and to pass on the values gained, to other young alumni/ae.



The visiting Spanish alumni/ae with their Indian hosts – March 2007

In March this year, a group of 10 alumni/ae from different associations (Gijón, Oviedo, Barcelona and Madrid) left for Kolkata. We wanted to know and learn the reality of India, a country with dramatic social inequalities, to live with Indian alumni/ae and to create a stable and combined working group to give continuity to the project.

We visited many schools for underprivileged children. Being with them was always very easy and we were pleased that they were so glad and happy with our company. When we arrived, they took our hands and showed us all the areas: the rooms where they slept, the few books where they learnt reading and writing, the classes, most of them just with just a blackboard and a chair for the teacher, and the vegetable garden, where they worked every day. We played with them, sang classic songs, danced and, above all, we enjoyed each other and smiled a lot. It was amazing to see the smiles of the children and how happy they were. The pleasure they experienced by showing us everything, by being with us and having fun, made me feel full of joy and really satisfied.

An obligatory visit in the city is the Mother Teresa House. Some of us took part in the morning Mass with the Missionary Sisters of Charity for missionaries who work in the area. Later we had a simple breakfast that the nuns prepared with much love. A lot of young people from around the world meet there every morning with just one purpose, to help underprivileged people. In that time spent with so many different people, but with so much in common, our hearts were overcome with emotion and a special feeling went through our body.

One of their missions is an old people's home: an oasis of peace and calm in the middle of a city with so much noise in the streets. Everything was cared for and clean. We were talking with some of them, and others sang us songs from their childhood. It was wonderful to see the inner power that most of them still had despite suffering so many problems, miseries and political changes during their lives. Another of the Sisters' missions is in the outskirts of Kolkata. It is a

school for children with special educational needs, problems and mental disorders. They have great willpower and courage to daily help children, who need constant attention. It was the hardest moment for some of us, to see children, who aren't aware of the surrounding world, yet have quality of life. At least other children we met in the schools, although in basic conditions, had access to education. They could play and interact with other children and, most importantly, they will be able to go out and know the world. As always, every experience is useful, but this was the hardest.

Every night we met with people from the alumni associations of Kolkata, New Delhi and others in the India Federation. They organized everything for our stay and we have a lot for which to thank them. Their invitations to dinners in their homes, to know Indian culture and to see the city from this other more privileged point of view, were an honor for us. They also had us participate in a traditional Indian wedding and made us Indian clothes. Their work and dedication to us, together with their continuous care, and the young alumni/ae who accompanied us day and night, made our stay there very comfortable and very special. Thank you very much.



Alfonso Ruiz de Eguino with a teacher and children at the school for children with special needs situated on the outskirts of Kolkata.

What really surprised me was how happy people were in India. Here in Spain, we live always in a hurry, constantly dealing with many small problems. Over there they are happy with the fact of living and they are always smiling, whatever the social status. We spent the nights in a Jesuit's residence in the poorest region of Kolkata, with people around us living in the street, without anything, sleeping on the floor and washing in the water of the drain, in inhuman conditions, but they were happy because they were alive. They enjoyed so much having photographs taken with us and shaking hands. Now I really understand that Kolkata is the *City of Joy* because in spite of being a place with extreme poverty, people are happy with what they have and they know how to value the gift of the life. Unforgettable.

Alfonso Ruiz de Eguino
Asociación de Antiguos Alumnos del Colegio
de la Inmaculada de Gijón, Spain



FR TOM SMOLICH SJ, PRESIDENT, CONFERENCE OF JESUIT PROVINCIALS OF USA,
SPOKE ON *PARTNERSHIP* AT THE MEETING OF WORLD UNION OF JESUIT ALUMNI/AE
WITH THE LATIN AMERICAN AND US JESUIT ALUMNI/AE ASSOCIATIONS
HELD IN MIAMI, USA—NOVEMBER 2006



Tom Smolich SJ

His address was based on the *Preliminary Report of the Partnership Commission to the Jesuit Conference Board USA—October 11, 2006*. This is an edited version of that report.

Partnership in Mission

From the very beginning of their ministry, Ignatius and his first companions relied on partnership with lay men and women, and vowed religious, to accomplish his mission of *helping souls*. Throughout their history, Jesuit and lay colleagues have recognized that diverse and complementary gifts are required to ensure the success of their apostolic endeavors.

Over time, the Society of Jesus has come to see partnership not simply as a practical necessity for a particular time and place, but as an essential component of the Ignatian work itself. In a talk at Creighton University (July 2004) Fr Peter-Hans Kolvenbach said, "*Partnership and co-operation with others in ministry is not a pragmatic strategy resulting from diminished manpower; it is an essential dimension of the contemporary Jesuit way of proceeding, rooted in the realization that to prepare our complex and divided world for the coming of the Kingdom requires a plurality of gifts, perspectives, and experiences, both international and multicultural.*"

In a real sense, anyone who participates in and contributes to the success of a Jesuit-sponsored ministry can be considered as being in partnership with the Society. As Fr Peter-Hans Kolvenbach explicitly noted: "*Among the lay people, our partners in ministry, there is a rich variety of lay women and men called to holiness precisely as lay people, called to be the leaven of God's salvation in the world. They are members of the boards of Jesuit institutions and members of*

the Parish Councils of Jesuit parishes; people who serve in Jesuit sponsored parishes, retreat centers, missions, schools and on the province staff; but also benefactors, alumni, parents, middle school, high school, undergraduate and professional students, parishioners, and spiritual directors."

Ignatian Partners

All partners in Jesuit ministries share a mutual relationship shaped by the Ignatian charism for apostolic mission in which each brings the particular gifts of his or her vocation to the relationship. While all partnerships between and among Jesuits and their lay colleagues are to be honored and supported, what follows is an explication of a particular level of partnership, what might be called *Ignatian Partnership*.

Ignatian Partners may be described as those men and women, Jesuit and lay, who are central to the mission of a Jesuit work and exercise animator leadership within that particular ministry. They also have internalized the Ignatian charism, and have an ever deepening desire for and appreciation of the graces of the *Spiritual Exercises*. Further, these partners share responsibility for the work of their ministry and see their effort as a vocation called forth by God.

Why Partnership today?

It has become increasingly clear that to better serve the Church and its mission in today's world, working in partnership is not only a preference but also a necessity. Working in partnership makes more widely available the multitude of skills, gifts and experiences possessed by the people of God. The support and encouragement of partners can also increase the number and effectiveness of ministers as women and men live out their baptismal call. The values of partnering can model relationships that promote inter-religious and intercultural dialogue and advance healing and reconciliation within the Church. Partnership also enhances our ability to accompany, serve and empower people suffering from entrenched poverty.



The Pedro Arrupe World Association

1. Brief report (1991–2006)

From 1991 to late 2006, the Association collected 204,789 Euros (which represents about \$US250,000); it supported 48 programs, for a total amount of 168,195 Euros.

These 48 programs are broken down as follows:

- 14 in Africa (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Ivory Coast, Madagascar, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Chad, Zambia), 19 in Europe (Albania, Bosnia, France, Kosovo, Poland, Portugal, Romania), 2 in the Middle East (Lebanon), 3 in America (Bolivia, Guatemala), 10 in Asia (Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka).
- 47% of the funds were distributed in programs in Africa, 26% in Europe, 23% in Asia, 2% in America and 2% in the Middle East.
- 56% of the funds were allocated to humanitarian and socio-educational programs, 31% to the human and spiritual training of young people, 10% to help alumni from underdeveloped countries attend the World Congresses (one of the objectives of the Association), 3% for other development projects.
- 73% of the funds were allotted to Jesuit projects (of which 42% for JRS and 31% for other projects) and 27% for projects set up by alumni or their associations.

2. In 2007, a new program in Africa with the African Jesuit AIDS Network (AJAN)

"The African Jesuit AIDS Network has been able to strengthen and coordinate the efforts of many individuals, give respectability to the Church's involvement in resisting the pandemic spread of AIDS and, above all, accompany with dignity many of those suffering from its effects." Rev Fr Peter-Hans Kolvenbach SJ, Superior General, January 2007. (From *Linked for Life* issued in July 2007 by AJAN)

A first financial donation of 3.500 Euros was given to Fr Michael Czerny SJ, the African Jesuit Aids Network (AJAN) coordinator, to be allocated to a socio-educational program in favour of young people whose families are affected by AIDS.

Laurent Grégoire and Eric de Langsdorff
Vice-Presidents – Pedro Arrupe World Association
November 6, 2007

Banking references of the Pedro Arrupe World Association

(For the payment in US dollars or Euros):

- Bank:** ING, 52 route d'Esch L-2965 Luxembourg
- Account:** Association Mondiale Pedro Arrupe
- Iban number:** LU26 0141 1263 6480 0000
- Swift call:** CELLULL



In July 2008, World Youth Day will be held in Sydney, Australia. MAGiS08 is the Ignatian Program for World Youth Day.

What is MAGiS?

Magis is Latin for more. It means seeking more of what God wants for us.

Each of us is at a different place in our search for, or journey with God. The MAGiS08 programs offer a stepping-stone on your journey. MAGiS08 is about discovering and living your heart's deepest desire and God's dream for us that leads to the greater good. Discovering what MAGiS means is to discover through your life experiences what leads you to freedom, your true self and a deeper relationship with God.

MAGiS offers experiences in the tradition of St Ignatius that engage young adults who are open to explore and serve our world. St Ignatius of Loyola used the word magis to talk about our quest for the greater good, always striving for the greater glory of God. We use magis to describe, *seeking more of what God wants for us*. MAGiS accompanies young adults as they discover their identity in their work, at home, and in relationship with others.

St Ignatius of Loyola was a Spanish soldier from the 16th century whose life experiences of spiritual conversion led him to discover what we now call *Ignatian spirituality*. He gave us a way of looking at the world through the eyes of Jesus to help us make decisions about our lives and our place in the world. Ignatius used the word magis to always urge us to search, strive, love, live and struggle more.

MAGiS programs

MAGiS programs take place in many countries. The Australian MAGiS community, which includes several Jesuits and has the strong support of Australian Provincial, Fr Mark Raper SJ, is now developing its programs under the headings of *Spirituality, Companionship and Service*. MAGiS is an initiative of the Loreto Sisters (IBVM), the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ), the Sacre Coeur Sisters (RSCJ), the Sisters of Charity (RSC), and the Society of Jesus (SJ) **to connect with young adults from around the world who are beyond school and looking for more in their lives from a faith that does justice.**

MAGiS08 is the MAGiS program for World Youth Day in July 2008 that builds on previous Ignatian programs at WYDs in Paris, Rome, Toronto and Cologne (MAGiS05). This program offers a series of gatherings focused on making the World Youth Day experience more personal and yet, more for others. MAGiS08 puts an emphasis on our spirituality and life.

At the MAGiS08 office

"Here at the MAGiS office (the place that some of my friends have teasingly named 'the centre of the universe!'), we are busily preparing and planning for MAGiS08. Our daily lives consist of meetings, emails, 12:10 pm Mass, project spreadsheets and of course the famous MAGiS lunch – ham, cheese and tomato sandwiches!

Interwoven, however, in the monotony of daily living and our humble efforts to construct the frame of MAGiS08, we are often gifted with a glimpse into the mystery that is MAGiS. It is a mystery that invites us to acknowledge our efforts are but one thread, in the tapestry of God's faithfulness and desire to be in relationship with people of all generations, cultures and times.

When we are attentive to the gifts in our daily lives we come to see how God is shaping MAGiS even down to the smallest of details. I can think of many examples of this shaping: in the unexpected visitor that drops into the office and expresses a desire to be involved in the project right at the time we are in need of their particular skills; in the clarity that comes in a moment after months of struggling with a particular part of the project.

MAGiS08 is a mystery to be unraveled not a just a plan to be executed. It is becoming increasingly clear that if MAGiS08 is to be of value to young adults, the Ignatian community, the Church and in fact the world, we need more people who are willing to discover how they can contribute to unlocking the mystery of MAGiS08."

Jenni Winters

MAGiS08 Formation Director

MAGiS08 will help young people from around the world reflect on their World Youth Day experience. It will allow them to meet poor and marginalized people. We hope that as they read their own hearts and see the world in a new way, they will deepen their relationship with God. This was the way of Ignatius of Loyola.

To young people who are planning to attend World Youth Day in Sydney, Australia in July 2008:

We invite you to explore the possibilities that Ignatian spirituality offers. We hope that you will deepen your faith and commitment to justice. We hope that you will share your talents with young people from many cultures. We hope that you will read more online about the MAGiS programs.

For information on MAGiS08 and on how to sponsor a delegate to attend MAGiS08 go to: www.magis08.org



Sydney Australia