

Patna, February 12, 2023

Closing Speech  
10<sup>th</sup> JAAI Congress  
Patna, India  
February 10-12, 2023  
**Andres Ballerino, WUJA Secretary**

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, friends from the board of directors, good friends from India and all over the world.

Pope Francis and father general Arturo Sosa remind us of the importance of gratitude and the fact of being reciprocal with everything received as a gift. Earlier today we also reflected on it in the discernment in the council of WUJA, guided by Father William Muller, S.J., our Spiritual Counsellor.

As WUJA members, it has been a real pleasure to spend the last few days with you. I would first start by thanking God for being so well received and for being in this very historical, cultural, and fascinating land, full of customs, traditions, a lot of spirituality and delicious and very tasty dishes.

We thank each and every one of you who have provided us your affection and hospitality, with generosity and joy, they are clear signs of the love that Christ has given us.

Friends of JAAI: Cheentil, Neel, Father Peter, Father John, Naresh, Pradeep, Devendra (WUJA council members), Ronald (past treasurer and honorary member), Shilpi (new WUJA youth member), also Father Luke and Paul who encouraged us and guided us on tours in Patna and its surroundings, to our host in the hotel (Abhay), a Mohit, the dancers too, good classes last night! Thank you from the heart for so much effort and passion in the service of others and in leading the organization of this magnificent event. To the entire JAAI team, St Xavier and St Michael school, the authorities, sponsors, kitchen staff, speakers, logistics, cleaning, security, artists, students, teachers, everyone... May this extent of friendliness and unity be increasingly shared.

Father Arrupe in Valencia, Spain, 50 years ago, emphasized to us the importance of being *men and women for others and with others*, and we might as well just say that we need each other to fulfill our missions.

At WUJA, we strive to unite more and more alumni from around the world. We came to Patna from 7 different countries on 5 continents. Just like you have had this special union demonstration, we invite you to join more and more your local associations, then national and international associations, to be more involved and connected, because together we have more strength, we are numerous and we can be more supportive and support others, particularly those most in need of God, of justice, of solidarity. Also, to enjoy all our meetings and enjoy the inner wealth of each one.

We are all WUJA!! Let's make our movement a Global Movement where we benefit of all the assets received by our creator, technology (as it has been said lately), and above all the formation received in our Jesuit institutions, to turn this world into a more divine and human place.

Pope Francis invites us, in his encyclical, *to live in love "Amores Laetitia"*, with God, with each other's and with the creation, and to show the tremendous importance of care for our common home in

“Laudato Si”. And as a good Jesuit that he is, he challenges us by asking us if the Jesuit *virus* is still in us and if that is the case, what are we waiting for to reactivate it and infect others.

Father general, in his last speech to the alumni in Barcelona 2022, follows this path and invites us to reconciliation and to work for justice and to work hard from our field of action to complete it with the Jesuits and their works as they walk with the poor, accompanying young people, showing the way to God and caring for our common home, ultimately, working on the 4 universal apostolic preferences.

As we can see, we have work to do, and we can't stay apart.

Let's not panic, Mahatma Gandhi said, "*believing in something and not living for it is dishonest*" and Mother Teresa of Calcutta told us "*At the end of our lives we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have earned, or how many great things we have done. We will be judged for "I was hungry, and you fed me, I was nude, and you dressed me, I had no home, and you gave me one."*

In this new world in which we live with changing social and political systems, with much liberality, post-corona, wars for private interests, let us follow the deep examples of those who left a wonderful mark, let us keep looking for synergies between us, formed in a common home, with the same principles and values, let us look for coincidences in the differences, and let us keep having these encounters as well as other kinds : cultural, sports, social, spiritual, etc.

As WUJA council we can share them so quickly, that in 2023 we will have 2 gatherings at the international level, and we are all invited. First in Valencia, Spain, on May 27, celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the famous and challenging speech of Father Arrupe in the same place where he addressed the alumni. And on June 7 to 9, the Latin American meeting of former students will be held in Guatemala. We will share this information through your delegates and leaders.

This way we can have further face-to-face and on-line meetings pursuing the timeline of what has been said over the last days to promote and strengthen our union.

There are no excuses since we are all WUJA!! And with the help of Saint Ignatius, Saint Francisco Xavier, Saint Michael, and our family we will be able to achieve, little by little, our small and great dreams and that of everyone, which is to achieve the common good and live in a world increasingly just and united, all on behalf of gratitude!

Thank you again and see you soon! Namaste!!