The first year and a half

By Ted Arroyo, S.J.

As you know, getting anything started from “scratch” can be a daunting task. The three Jesuit fellows (Ted Arroyo, S.J., Michael Bouzigard, S.J., and Tom Greene, S.J.) came to New Orleans in August 2007 and, assisted part-time by the New Orleans Province social ministries assistant (Mary Baudouin), did just that—everything from finding offices, designing a logo, interviewing 70 regional community and church groups, and launching out into education, advocacy, research, writing, and consulting activities. The points below sketch out those activities:

- Conducted initial August 19 – 22 staff team building orientation, together with both the Jesuit provincial and the university dean.
- Spent initial weeks in establishing offices, installing furniture and telephones, networking computers, designing stationery, setting up administrative and financial systems, and building relations within the university administrative structures.
- Held an initial advisory board meeting, September 10 – 12, to begin discussions on the mission, goals, and priorities of the institute.
- Engaged in a systematic “consultation” for the first six months: establishing contacts, listening, and consulting with potential stakeholders and collaborators to more clearly delineate their “niche” as a new paradigm institute. They consulted within Loyola, with other local institutions and agencies, and also across the South and Southwest. They also attended meetings in the Gulf/Caribbean region. For this “research,” they established a consultative strategy with a common template of questions for each consultation.
- Began developing a database of other research and advocacy institutes which might be potential collaborators in their work on the issues of race, poverty, and migration.
- Held staff meetings every three weeks to report and coordinate their activities.
- The institute reached a new stage of development on November 28, 2007, in signing of the formal Memorandum of Understanding establishing JSRI as a partnership between Loyola University and the New Orleans Province, Society of Jesus.
- After a long search and several interviews, hired Shera Maiden as JSRI’s administrative assistant at the start of December 2007.
- By the end of 2007, they had consulted and listened to approximately 70 potential partners in the southern and southwestern U.S., the Gulf/Caribbean area, as well as some others of national and international scope. Formal reports of each of those consultations were made by the fellows and then organized by JSRI’s primary mission activities.
- In January 2008, the staff considered at some length one or more collaborative pilot projects on which all of the JSRI fellows would work. After consultation with an ad hoc sub-committee of the board and with advice from a consultant, decided to focus on individual projects at this time, with the hope that a common framework of analysis and reflection, based on Catholic Social Thought, would emerge.
- Along with the extensive site visits and interviews during the fall semester 2007, the JSRI fellows undertook a number of individual projects.
- On their website (www.loyno.edu/jsri) the institute staff established a monthly feature titled “JSRI in the News” discussing many of their activities, talks, publications, etc.

As you see, the first year-and-a-half for the Jesuit Social Research Institute has been intensely active, creative on a number of fronts, linked to a variety of Catholic and other organizations, and still focused on its three core issues of racism, poverty, and migration. Other parts of their activities are spelled out under separate headings in this Quarterly.
THE MISSION OF THE JESUIT SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The Jesuit Social Research Institute (JSRI) exists to promote research, social analysis, theological reflection, and practical strategies for improving the social and economic conditions in the southern United States and in select parts of the Caribbean and Latin America with a particular focus on issues of race, poverty, and migration. The institute is intended to further the mission of the Society of Jesus to promote the faith that does justice, to apply Catholic social teaching to the concrete realities of these regions, and to enhance the academic and service missions of Loyola.

A brief PowerPoint introduction to the Jesuit Social Research Institute at Loyola can be found at www.loyno.edu/jsri/ for more information.

JSRI Forums

On October 1, 2008, the Jesuit Social Research Institute collaborated with Loyola University President Kevin Wm. Wildes, S.J., Ph.D., in organizing and presenting a President’s Forum in preparation for the 2008 elections. Titled “Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility,” the forum focused on the 2007 pastoral letter of the U.S. Catholic Bishops on political responsibility (for several decades, such a letter is written the year before the national elections) and the implications for Catholic and other voters. The Keynote speaker was John Carr, director, Department of Justice, Peace & Human Development, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Panel discussants were Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, Sister Jamie Phelps, O.P., Ph.D., director of Xavier University’s Institute for Black Catholic Studies, and Loyola College of Law Dean Brian Bromberger. A video of the forum is available on the JSRI website at css.loyno.edu/jsri/forums/faithful-citizenship.html

In November 2009, JSRI will present its next forum titled “People on the Move and the Common Good: Migration, Poverty, and Racism, Converging Concerns for Our Future.” The forum, made possible by a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, will focus on three different migration experiences: migration into and across the South, Katrina-related migration and New Orleans, and international migration—all in light of the three core issues of JSRI, namely race, poverty, and migration, seen through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching.

Funding the Jesuit Social Research Institute

A substantial portion of JSRI’s operating funds come from an endowment being jointly raised by the Jesuits of the New Orleans Province and Loyola University, with each entity contributing half of the operating funds. The endowment also holds in trust both restricted and non-restricted funds for the benefit of the institute. The remainder of the annual budget comes from grants, contracts, stipends, income from teaching and talks, fees for service, and donations. Institute surpluses accrue to JSRI’s endowment.

You may help support the work of the institute by sending your contribution to:

Jesuit Social Research Institute
Loyola University New Orleans
Box 94
6363 St. Charles Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118
Fr. Ted Arroyo, S.J., Ph.D., sociologist and director, worked at formalizing JSRI as a university institute, requiring a considerable amount of "infrastructure" work—web page, offices, logo, hiring, and setting up a small conference room and library. Ted also began working with the Institutional Advancement Office, developing three grant proposals now pending before foundations. Ted also began working on his own research on Catholic Social Thought and on racism, making presentations on campus and elsewhere. One current topic has to do with the local and national phenomenon of “Young Black Males Left Behind.” Ted collaborates with Loyola’s sociology department and Lindy Boggs National Center for Community Literacy on this research. He also has completed a major journal article on the importance of faith-based institutions in developing new structural responses (beyond emergency care) to hurricane Katrina and its aftermath. See “Publications and Testimony,” page 6.

Fr. Michael Bouzigard, S.J., D.Phil., economist, initiated work on economic development issues, including a paper on Catholic Social Thought and economic development presented at a conference on the Compendium of Catholic Social Doctrine in Ghent, Belgium. He also began work on a micro-economic development project in Belize, in conjunction with Jesuits there. At the end of the first year of JSRI, Michael’s interests in international economic development took him to the faculty of the University of Central America in Nicaragua and involvement in teaching and development projects there.

Fr. Tom Greene, S.J., J.D., attorney, has established many relationships and commitments around New Orleans and the South, as well as around this hemisphere dealing with migration. He supervised Loyola and Tulane law students in their visits to detention centers to provide representation of detainees in the state. His zealous advocacy for immigrant rights stretches from the New Orleans Police Department—teaching police officers about immigrant rights—to the Louisiana legislature, where the coalition with which he worked successfully blocked about 6 proposed anti-immigrant (often actually anti-Latino) bills. This work was done in collaboration with the Louisiana Catholic Conference. Tom has also given written testimony in the U.S. Congress on substandard medical care in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention facilities—roughly 4,000 such beds are in Louisiana.

Dr. Alexander Mikulich, Ph.D., theologian, began work as a research fellow at JSRI in August 2008, succeeding Fr. Bouzigard. His work focuses on issues of race and Catholic Social Teaching. His collaborative book, Interrupting White Privilege: Catholic Theologians Break the Silence, recently won the “Book of the Year” award from the College Theology Society. Activities since coming to JSRI have included participation on the Pax Christi USA Anti-Racism Team, training of the national council, and working on the Racial Harmony Leadership Team of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, including two educational sessions for seminarians in conjunction with the Xavier University Institute for Black Catholic Studies (IBCS).

Ms. Mary Baudouin, M.S.W., social ministries assistant for the New Orleans Province of the Jesuits, works one day a week at the institute to help connect the work of the fellows to the apostolic ministries of the Jesuits in the South and overseas. She coordinated the work of the fellows and their presentations on racism, immigration, and social analysis for faculty from five Jesuit High Schools in the South as part of the New Orleans Province High School Colloquium held at Strake Jesuit College Prep in Houston (February 23, 2008). On March 24, 2009, the University of Scranton presented Mary its annual Pedro Arrupe, S.J., Award for Distinguished Contributions to Ignatian Mission and Ministries for her 30 years of work in a variety of social and lay ministries and charities from Washington, D.C., to flood-stricken New Orleans, where she been a leader recovery efforts following Hurricane Katrina. Mary is a Loyola graduate and co-founder of LUCAP (Loyola University Community Action Program).

Ms. Shera Maiden, M.A., administrative assistant, is responsible for administrative and clerical support for the director and fellows, website maintenance, supervision of work-study student, communications within the university and with outside vendors, purchasing, billing and invoices, database management, advisory board communications and meeting arrangements and minutes, and receptionist duties for the institute.
The Jesuit Social Research Institute engages in five major activities:

**RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS:** The institute conducts, gathers, and publishes research on social and economic conditions of the poor, migrant, and ethnic communities in the South and in collaborating countries. This research is focused through the lens of Catholic Social Thought and core Jesuit values—the service of faith, promotion of justice, and dialogue with world religions and cultures.

- social analysis and theological reflection on the transit, settlement, detention, and assimilation of migrants within cities and communities of the southern United States in conjunction with Jesuit Refugee Service: USA and JRS: International;
- study of multiple factors surrounding racism, for example, the enduring exclusion of people of color and white privilege;
- study of the socioeconomic effects of push and pull factors within migration, including an analysis of effective methods in facilitating the transfer of remittances by migrants; and
- research on the availability of social and educational services for migrants and the poor in the South.

**EDUCATION:** Institute staff and collaborators disseminate this research and analysis through a variety of means:

- publications such as web pages, workbooks, monographs, pamphlets, articles in popular and academic journals, op-ed pieces, newsletters, testimonies before civil authorities, presentations at conferences, etc.;
- workshops, classes, and seminars offered through Loyola University, as well as regional, national, and international conferences and symposia; and
- retreats and days of reflection for high school and university faculty as well as Catholic and other faith-based workers, leaders, clergy, religious, and community organizers focusing on developing skills for social analysis and theological reflection, using the research and analysis of the institute as models.

**ADVOCACY:** Institute staff, collaborators, and stakeholders engage in advocacy on social and economic issues through providing testimony to legislative bodies, meeting with legislators and staff members of the region, and conducting public events such as hearings and press conferences. JSRI offers assistance to other advocates by providing background research for testimony and undertaking campaigns promoting values such as the common good and the preferential option for the poor, and by integrating public ethics into the fostering of public policy.

- working with the national Jesuit Conference office of social and international ministries on immigration-related advocacy and, where appropriate, with Jesuit Refugee Service/USA and Jesuit Refugee Service International and the Social Secretariat of the Jesuit Curia; and
- coordinating efforts with state Catholic conferences, Catholic charities, interfaith coalitions, and social justice advocates on the local, state, and national levels.

**FACILITATION:** Institute staff and collaborators offer facilitation services aimed at building the capacity of church and community-based organizations for social analysis, theological reflection, advocacy, and effective planning on issues that they are working to address in their own communities and regions.

- collaboration with Jesuit Migration Service of Mexico and of Central America and JRS-Panama in understanding and assisting persons on the move and in detention; and
- working with the educational and pastoral institutions of the New Orleans Province of the Jesuits to promote education for justice and advocacy for justice and peace and to connect them with Loyola University personnel and resources.

**IMMERSION—ANALYSIS AND REFLECTION:**

The institute facilitates service, research, and learning immersions for students and others with social centers, educational institutions, and grassroots communities in partnering countries and in the South.

- staff offer social analysis and theological reflection opportunities for volunteers coming to the New Orleans area as part of the continuing post-Katrina rebuilding; and
- JSRI welcomes scholars and interns from other institutions and countries to examine the conditions of the marginalized within this region, evaluate the operation of democratic institutions, and explore the development of civil society structures to address issues of migration, poverty, and racism.
Understanding CST

What is Catholic Social Teaching (CST)?

by Fred Kammer, S.J.

The mission of JSRI reflects the intention of the founders that the institute would "apply Catholic social teaching to the concrete realities of these regions..." Rooted in the Scriptures and the teaching of the Catholic Church, Catholic Social Teaching represents a developing tradition which includes organic and systematic reflection on social realities, ethical principles, and application of those principles to current circumstances. The foundation and primary object are the dignity of the human person with its inalienable rights, which form the nucleus of the truth about the human person. It involves a three-fold task imposed upon the church: announcing the truth about human dignity and rights; denouncing unjust situations in society; and contributing to positive changes in society and real human progress.

What is called "modern Catholic Social Teaching" begins with the social encyclical of Pope Leo XIII titled Rerum Novarum in 1891 and stretches to Pope Benedict XVI's encyclical Deus Caritas Est in 2005. A number of encyclicals, synodal, and conciliar documents comprise the highlights of this tradition, along with statements of many of the conferences of bishops across the world, such as The Challenge of Peace (1983) and Economic Justice for All (1986) by the U.S. bishops. The most important and authoritative of the documents in this 115-year-old tradition is the document Gaudium Et Spes (The Church in the Modern World) of the Second Vatican Council in 1965.

The most recent Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace (2005) attempts to synthesize all of Catholic Social Teaching around core four principles:

1) **The principle of human dignity:** A just society can become a reality only when it is based on respect of the transcendent dignity of the human person. Hence, the social order and its development must invariably work to the benefit of the human person, since the order of things is to be subordinate to the order of persons, not the other way around.

2) **The principle of common good:** According to its primary and broadly accepted sense, the common good indicates "the sum total of social conditions which allow people, either as groups or as individuals, to reach their fulfillment more fully and more easily."

3) **The principle of subsidiarity:** The principle of subsidiarity protects people from abuses by higher-level social authority and calls on these same authorities to help individuals and intermediate groups (families, cultural, recreational, and professional associations, unions, political bodies, neighborhood groups) to fulfill their duties. This principle is imperative because every person, family and intermediate group has something original to offer to the community.

4) **The principle of solidarity:** Solidarity highlights in a particular way the intrinsic social nature of the human person, the equality of all in dignity and rights and the common path of individuals and peoples towards an ever more committed unity...there persist in every part of the world stark inequalities between developed and developing countries, inequalities stoked also by various forms of exploitation, oppression and corruption...The acceleration of interdependence between persons and peoples needs to be accompanied by equally intense efforts on the ethical-social plane, in order to avoid the dangerous consequences of perpetrating injustice on a global scale.

Rather than easy answers to difficult problems, the contribution of Catholic Social Teaching is the development of this body of thought in a "dynamic inductive-deductive process" which utilizes a three-step approach well known to Catholics steeped in the social tradition: see, judge, and act. Use of this framework for all JSRI activities will be part of our way of proceeding.

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2 Ibid., No. 4.
3 Ibid.
5 Ibid., No. 164, quoting Gaudium et Spes, no. 26.
6 Ibid., Nos. 185-187.
7 Ibid., No. 192.
PRESENTATIONS TO UNIVERSITY AUDIENCES

Fellows have given a number of presentations to Loyola audiences, at nearby universities, and to students from other universities and high schools visiting New Orleans, often as part of post-Katrina volunteer efforts.

1. “Disposable People,” Loyola University, Jesuit Identity Week (October 2, 2007). It is available on the JSRI website.


5. “Grace and Immigration,” Loyola University (February 29, 2008).


10. “Christian Social Responsibility in a Post-Katrina City,” in Loyola’s Nunemaker Auditorium to 140 visiting Catholic high school student volunteers. The PowerPoint version of this presentation can be downloaded from the JSRI website (March 28, 2008).


14. “Immigration and Catholic Social Thought,” Social Thought Class, Loyola University (February 27, 2009).

15. “Migration: A Global Perspective, Louisiana State University, School of Law, Immigration Law Clinic (March 27, 2009).

Publications and Testimony

The education and advocacy activities of the institute include scholarly and popular publications and testimony on their core issues. Under these headings during this initial period, the fellows produced the following:

Fr. Tom Greene, S.J., presented written testimony about the decline in medical care for detainees to a hearing of the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security and International Law. (October 4, 2007). His testimony can be found on the JSRI website at www.loyno.edu/jsri/advocacy1.htm


Fr. Tom Greene, S.J., presented testimony before the Louisiana House Committee on Criminal Justice Bills 24, 25, and 26 on the impact of anti-immigrant legislation on “Good Samaritans” (April 24, 2008).

Fr. Tom Greene, S.J., presented testimony before the Louisiana House Criminal Justice Committee on House Bill 1157, which would make it a crime to provide housing to undocumented immigrants (May 7, 2008).

Dr. Alex Mikulich wrote a “point of view” article for The Times-Picayune titled “For white Americans, a chance to atone.” (November 15, 2008).

Jesuit Social Research Institute names new director

Loyola University New Orleans President Kevin Wm. Wildes, S.J., Ph.D., and Jesuit Provincial the Very Rev. Mark A. Lewis, S.J., announce the appointment of the Rev. Fred Kammer, S.J., J.D., as director of the Jesuit Social Research Institute.

Kammer succeeds sociologist the Rev. Edward B. Arroyo, S.J., Ph.D., the founding director of JSRI. Arroyo has been called to be the next rector of the Jesuit Community at Spring Hill College, in Mobile, Ala. Kammer began his work with JSRI March 1.

Kammer, who is an attorney, author, and activist, has more than 25 years of experience working in legal and social services fields. From 2002 to 2008, Kammer served as provincial of the New Orleans Province of the Society of Jesus, leading 220 Jesuits working in 10 states in the South and in six foreign countries. He is a former visiting scholar at Woodstock Theological Center at Georgetown University and was the founding chairman of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps: South.

From 1992 to 2001, Kammer was president and CEO of Catholic Charities USA, the largest network of voluntary human services agencies in the nation. In 1998 to 2000, Kammer was named to the Nonprofit Times’ Power and Influence Top 50 list.

Kammer also served as policy adviser for health and welfare issues in the Department of Social Development and World Peace at the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops; executive director of Catholic Community Services of Baton Rouge, La.; director of the Senior Citizens Law Project of the Atlanta Legal Aid Society; and director of social ministries for the New Orleans Province.

Kammer is the author of two books, Doing Faithjustice: An Introduction to Catholic Social Thought and Salted With Fire: Spirituality for the Faithjustice Journey, and a number of articles on social concerns, the nonprofit sector, social policy, and theological reflection.

College of Social Sciences Dean Luis Mirón said Kammer’s experience will benefit the college as it works to fulfill its Jesuit social justice mission. “The College of Social Sciences welcomes Fr. Kammer and believes that he will help provide leadership in translating research into social policy,” Mirón said.

The New Orleans native received a bachelor of arts degree from Spring Hill College, a juris doctor degree from Yale University, and a master’s degree in divinity from the Jesuit School of Theology at Loyola University of Chicago. He holds honorary doctorates from Fairfield University, Gonzaga University, Creighton University, Spring Hill College, and the University of San Francisco.

Advisory Board Members

The Jesuit Social Research Institute’s governance structure includes an active advisory board—half of its members appointed by the Jesuit provincial of the New Orleans Province and half appointed by the president of Loyola University. In addition to members from both the New Orleans Province and Loyola University, this board is comprised of respected academics from other universities, non-academic experts, members of grassroots organizations, and foundation representatives. The board oversees, advises, and appraises institute work; assists in fund development for the institute; and participates in the annual evaluation of the institute’s operation.

LUIS MIRON, PH.D., Board Chair, Dean and Professor, College of Social Sciences, Loyola University New Orleans
TOD DZIAK, S.J., Vice-President for Mission and Ministry, Loyola University
MOON LANDRIEU, Former Mayor of New Orleans, Former Secretary of HUD, Retired Judge
ROBERT H. ETNYRE, JR., Attorney, Royston, Rayzor, Vickery & Williams, L.L.P., Houston, Texas
ELIZABETH M. IGLESIAS, Professor of Law, Director of The Center for Hispanic and Caribbean Legal Studies, University of Miami School of Law
KATHLEEN MAAS-WEIGERT, Ph.D., Executive Director, Center for Social Justice Research, Teaching and Service, Georgetown University
DANIEL PACKER, M.B.A., President and CEO, Entergy New Orleans, Inc., Member, Bring New Orleans Back Commission
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ANDY RIVAS, Executive Director, Texas Catholic Conference, Austin, Texas
IRWIN F. SENTILLES, III, Partner, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, L.L.P., Dallas, Texas
MARY KELLER ZERVIGON, Community Activist, Former Chair, Louisiana Tax Commission, Former Staff, Office of Two Mayors of New Orleans
Many Thanks

to all those who shared their wisdom, treasure, concern, support, patience, skills, advice, knowledge, passion, and time in helping us set up our offices, begin our work, serve the poor and vulnerable, advocate for justice, and launch the Jesuit Social Research Institute at Loyola University New Orleans.

TED ARROYO, S.J., AND THE STAFF OF JSRI