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JustSouth Monthly

JSRI Perspectives on FAITH DOING JUSTICE

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Reconciling with Creation Ecology and the Jesuit Mission

by Ted Arroyo, S.J.

JSRI Future Activities

June 12

Fr. Fred Kammer will provide a post-Katrina New Orleans social analysis to students visiting from Gonzaga College High School in D.C.

June 20

Fr. Kammer will present a workshop on using the Pastoral Circle reflection process at the Jesuit Province Reconciliation Conference in Denver.

JSRI Recent Activities

May 22

Fr. Kammer participated in the Dallas meeting of the Christus Health Mission Committee.

May 17-18

Dr. Sue Weishar participated in a meeting of the Jesuit Migration Network in the U.S. and Canada in Washington, D.C. On May 18, the meeting participants advocated for more just and compassionate immigration laws with senate staff.

May 17

Fr. Kammer participated in the JVC CEO search committee meeting in NYC.

May 15

Since JSRI's founding in 2007, our mission has focused on research, education, and advocacy in the three social justice-related areas of poverty, migration, and racism, especially in the Gulf South region of the United States.



Participants of Loyola's FaithActs Summer Youth Theology Institute learned about *Laudato Si* and environmental justice here in the Gulf South.

As Jesuits continue our ongoing international mission planning, in the past 25 years three Jesuit General Congregations (34, 35 and 36) have shown a heightened concern about environmental issues and our mission. Citing Pope Francis, the most recent of these general congregations (GC36) calls us to integrate a mission of "reconciliation with creation" as "[Companions in a Mission of Reconciliation and Justice](#)," relating ecological issues as they impact the poor. Especially relevant for JSRI's mission is the mandate that "experts should contribute to the rigorous analysis of the roots of and solutions to the (environmental) crisis."

Dr. Weishar helped organize a Jewish Teach-In on Immigration at Shir Chadash Conservative Congregation in Metairie, which was led by Loyola professors Dr. Daniel Mintz and Davida Finger.

May 12

Fr. Kammer celebrated the Baccalaureate Mass for the Loyola Institute for Ministry.

May 9

The Advocate published a [letter](#) from Fr. Kammer and Loyola College of Law Dean Madeleine Landrieu acknowledging NOPD reforms.

May 3

Dr. Ali Bustamante and Fr. Kammer presented the results of the new [JustSouth Index 2017](#) at a congressional staff briefing in Washington, D.C.

April 29- May 1

Fr. Kammer led a seminar on Jesuit justice for the second-year novices of the UCS Province in New Orleans.

April 27

JSRI associate Mary Baudouin, Dr. Weishar, and seven Jesuit novices participated in a day-long retreat at Angola State Penitentiary, led by Angola's Catholic lay chaplain, Gerald Jackson.

April 19-20

Dr. Weishar participated in the first National Police Peer Intervention Executive Leadership and Training conference at Loyola's College of Law. Dr. Weishar was on the steering committee that organized the conference.

We gather together and annotate here some Jesuit resources for your use in moving along research, education, and advocacy concerning reconciliation with creation.

1. Pope Francis' encyclical [Laudato Si](#) follows Catholic social thought's basic pattern of see, judge, and act in treating environmental issues.
2. The *International Jesuit Ecology Project* provides an excellent online textbook, [Healing Earth](#), with chapters on topics of biodiversity, natural resources, energy, water, food, and global climate change by over 30 international scholars.
3. Loyola University Chicago's [Institute of Environmental Sustainability](#) sponsors annual conferences whose papers and presentations are available on its website.
4. Georgetown University's [Climate Center](#) seeks to advance effective climate and energy policies in the United States and serves as a resource to state and local communities that are working to cut carbon pollution and prepare for climate change. Its website provides a [State Energy Analysis Tool](#) and an [Adaptation Clearing House](#) to help communities adapt to climate change. Its [Environmental Law Policy Program](#) provides expertise in fields of environment, natural resources, land use, energy, and food law.
5. The [Ignatian Solidarity Network](#) provides multiple resources for prayer, analysis, and action in response to *Laudato Si*.

In addition to these Jesuit-sponsored resources, here are some online resources to check on how your local area measures up on various environmental indicators:

1. The [Carbon Disclosure Project](#) provides resources for investors, companies, and cities to build sustainable economies by measuring and understanding their environmental impact. Its [Open Data Portal](#) analyzes data from [533 cities](#) showing the emerging case for collaborative climate action between and among cities, regions, businesses, and investors.
2. The U.S Environmental Protection Agency's [Environmental Justice Screen](#) provides information on demographics (e.g., poverty) and environmental exposures (e.g., lead in housing) organized by zip codes. See also the EPA [carbon footprint calculator](#).
3. [Global Footprint Network](#) offers your own calculator to discover your personal ecological footprint.
4. [Earth Overshoot Day](#) provides background research and concrete steps (e.g., recipes, bicycle-riding, reducing food waste, etc.) to move back the projected date when humanity's resource consumption will exceed the earth's capacity to regenerate those resources that year.
5. The [Southern Environmental Law Center](#) combines region-wide perspective and strategy with local presence and place-based action on environmental issues.

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