

Spiritual Profile of Jesuit Ministries

INTRODUCTION

“Our life is a journey, and when we stop moving, things go wrong.”

Pope Francis, Homily, March 14, 2013

Ignatian Trans-formation

Far from just ticking boxes and completing retreats and seminars, the ‘Ignatian transformation’ journey can offer us three invaluable gifts. The first is **the gift of familiarisation with the big story of St. Ignatius Loyola**, which gives orientation and direction for our mission; the second helps us **to appropriate and learn to make our own a user-friendly Ignatian spirituality** to fuel our ministry; and thirdly, it provides a pathway by which we can **seek to integrate our ministry** with our personal life journey.

Cardinal Newman: “To grow is to change, and to become perfect is to have changed many times.”

Our previous Father General, Adolfo Nicolás, has reminded us that “we need to develop the eye of the heart, the third eye, the inner eye.” Ignatian spirituality certainly helps us to do just that. Of course, there is no end point to Ignatian trans-formation. Far from being a linear progression, it is a circular experience in which we keep returning to those moments of challenge in our lives where we can grow in spiritual depth and freedom.

“Collaboration with others is the only way the Society of Jesus can fulfill the mission entrusted to her. This partnership in mission includes those with whom we share Christian faith, those who belong to different religions, and women and men of good will, who, like us, desire to collaborate with Christ’s reconciling work. In the words of Father General Arturo Sosa, Jesuits are “called to the mission of Jesus Christ, that does not belong to us exclusively, but that we share with so many men and women consecrated to the service of others.”

(Document of GC 36, Decree 1, para 36)

(Excerpts above taken from “an early Draft of a work in progress to which several amendments are pending.” Ignatian Formation Advisory Committee, Australian Province.)

PROFILE

What makes a Jesuit apostolate Jesuit? Below are a number of criteria that should apply in any ministry that calls itself “Jesuit” or “Ignatian.” They might be used to identify priorities, to inspire creativity, and/or to evaluate current practices.

The three main guiding Domains for these criteria are: *Formation, Apostolic Endeavour* and *Our Way of Proceeding*.

Formation

1. The leadership of Executive and Middle tier people is evaluated in terms of their capacity to integrate ministry with Ignatian spirituality (and pedagogy).
2. Promoting Ignatian values and spirituality amongst the people we encounter is a priority.
3. Ongoing annual formation through Ignatian retreats is essential for all Jesuits and lay partners.

Apostolic Endeavour

1. Within any Christian and non-Christian context, the invitation is extended to all to ‘*find God in all things*’.
2. All ministries are guided by generous hospitality and by (where appropriate) a desire to promote the atmosphere of silence and prayer.
3. All ministries are characterized by a willingness to foster the mission of reconciliation and justice in the service of the poor.

Our Way of Proceeding

1. Praying the Examen as an integral part of the ministries schedule (daily time table).
2. Promoting a culture and spirituality of collaboration and discernment in common, which flows from the nurturing of companionship in community.
3. The ongoing practice of personal prayerful discernment.
4. A capacity to reflect deeply and make sound judgments in the making of decisions.
5. Openness among leaders to be engaged in ongoing performance appraisal, which involves both self-evaluation and independent external assessment.
6. Disposition sensitive to respecting local culture and context – including humility and language facility.
7. Grounding in Ignatian values as promoted in the Spiritual Exercises – indifference, magnanimity and openness.

8. Preparedness to work with limited Province resources but willingness also to work diligently toward self-subsistence.
9. Capacity to work effectively in and with a team.
10. Ongoing formation in the light of the '*Rules for Thinking with the Church*'.
11. Promoting the Society's call for a universality of vision and collaboration in ministry that transcends narrow concerns, always with an eye to promoting the 'universal good' and to evaluation.

Lord, give me the grace to labor with you, without seeking myself – to live the Kingdom in its full reality.

John Futrell, SJ

*Contributed by JCAP-ISON Team – * Chris Gleeson, SJ, * Fortunatus Parwoto, SJ,
* Saichon Khanyulai, SJ and * Ms Celina Lin.*

Revised 06 July 2018