**JCAP APOSTOLIC PLAN 2021-2025**

“The positive tension between discernment in common and apostolic planning requires, according to the Ignatian vision, a spiritual examen of what we have experienced, so that we continually grow in fidelity to the will of God ... Thus, apostolic planning born of discernment in common becomes an instrument of our apostolic effectiveness.”

*(Fr General’s letter on Discernment in Common, 2017/11)*

**Introduction**

The above words certainly resonate with our experiences of developing the JCAP apostolic plan. Over more than a year, we gathered at various levels to carry out a spiritual examen of our joint actions in the Conference and to discern God’s call for the next 5 years. The main fruits of this discernment are presented here. Key goals with some specific targets are highlighted in the main section whilst details of the context and process are found in the Annexes. Notably, these latter provide important background information on the “music” that undergird each goal and shape our resultant desires.

During the planning, the Society’s Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAPs) served as an overarching orientation whilst the ground realities of Asia Pacific, including the evolving impact of Covid-19, formed the dynamic context of mission. Understandably, the targeted outputs are at best tentative, and will be adjusted and further developed as we go onward. What is important is that these initial ideas are an invitation to greater collaboration, conversion, and discernment of God’s Spirit. This document thus serves as a humble instrument for our synodality. Platforms for monitoring and evaluation will also be established.

Both the UAPs and the context of Asia Pacific with its lights and shadows have been great graces in our planning journey. However, perhaps the greatest grace we experienced was the process of discernment in common itself, which helped forge us as one apostolic body across provincial boundaries, nationalities, apostolic works, and institutions, bringing together Jesuits and mission partners alike. We hope this grace will grow as we embark on the road ahead together.

**Our Desire**

“Seeing all things new in Christ, we want to walk in a journey of conversion and synodality as we commit ourselves to the urgent call of poverty and reconciliation with creation in Asia Pacific. We seek to collaborate especially with the youth, with the Church, with other faiths, and with those in civil society engaged in similar concerns. Ignatian Spirituality is the gift we share and the charism in which we desire to grow.”
Part I: Cura Apostolica

1. To commit ourselves in concrete ways to the call of poverty and reconciliation with creation

1.1 All levels of the Society (i.e. Conference, provinces, regions, communities, centers, institutions, networks) will carry out communal examen and undertake meaningful and concrete changes in lifestyles and structures towards our commitment to poverty, simplicity, closeness with the poor, and ecological conversion.

1.2 The works of the Society, such as parishes, basic and higher education, spirituality, youth, social apostolate, and theological centers will be animated and accompanied to discern and implement ways to address more effectively the concerns of the poorest and of the environment in their local contexts, through a holistic, integrated, and collaborative approach.

1.3 Specific international initiatives to address poverty and ecology will be creatively re-imagined, especially through programs by the social, migration, reconciliation with creation, and indigenous ministry networks. These programs can better synergize with other sectors such as youth, basic and higher education, inter-religious dialogue, parishes, and spirituality. Partnerships with organizations and movements outside the Society will also be sought.

Targeted outputs:

1a. Communal and Institutional Examen Guides are produced by July 2021, and the examen is carried out in all units by July 2023 starting in the Ignatian Year.

1b. Module on Ignatian Spirituality for social ministries is created within 1st half 2021.

1c. Ecological policy orientation is done for all Jesuit institutes and parishes especially during Ignatian Year to put principles into practice.

1d. At least 1 new Conference flagship project to address poverty and ecology is identified and adopted in 2021.

Responsible team: Intersectoral Animation Team composed of: Social Ministry, Youth Ministry, Reconciliation with Creation (RWC), Jesuit Companions in Indigenous Ministry (JCIM), Migration, Ignatian Spirituality.

2. To deepen in and share our charism of Ignatian Spirituality

2.1 There will be coordinated efforts to enable Jesuits, mission partners, and institutions to deepen their personal and communal appropriation of Ignatian Spirituality especially during the Ignatian Year. This includes having more opportunities for on-going formation, revisiting the roots, strengthening practice, undergoing personally-guided Spiritual Exercises, learning and exercising communal discernment, developing the profile of an 'Ignatian work/center', and vocation promotion. A pool of people will also be trained to facilitate
discernment in common (DIC) in the Ignatian tradition for groups within the Society and beyond.

2.2 Adaptations will be made to content, format, and language so that Ignatian Spirituality, including the ministry of the Spiritual Exercises, can be more readily entered into and appropriated by various groups, including the youth, indigenous communities and ethnic groups, people of other faiths, people with no religion, business communities, ‘marginal’ Catholics, etc.

Targeted outputs:

2a. Strengthening spiritual direction and research
- A structure/syllabus for formation of Spiritual Directors (SDs) is established by end-2021 and resources for formation of SDs are pooled together.
- A network for trainers is established from 2022, and local centers are supported to start localized training.
- A supervisors’ formation program is studied and developed from 2023.
- Feasibility of annual journal on Ignatian Spirituality in JCAP to build up culture of intellectual sharing among Ignatian Spirituality Network (ISN) members is explored during the Ignatian Year. Targeted publication in 2024/5 if feasible, in collaboration with theological centers.

2b. Staff and lay collaborators
- Online training on Ignatian Spirituality in staff formation in Jesuit institutions is done in 2021.
- Ignatian formation programs are conducted over the next 5 years for lay collaborators as part of long-term plans for the Society’s mission.

2c. Institutions
- A Mission Examen (Examen of Jesuit Apostolic Ministry) Guide is produced by mid-2021 for all units’ use.

2d. Discernment in Common and Apostolic Planning (DICAP)
- DIC workshop for trainers/facilitators is completed by Jan 2021. Network of DICAP facilitators is established by mid-2021, together with core DICAP team in the Conference. All units are encouraged and supported to roll out DIC over the next 5 years.
- Training on apostolic planning is done in 2022/23.

2e. Promoting Ignatian Spirituality to wider audience
- A special Ignatian Spirituality Promotion Team comprising ISN, Christian Life Community (CLC), Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network (PWPN) (Asia Pacific) and province communications is created within 1st Half 2021.
- Units are encouraged to share Ignatian Spirituality events/projects and open to others especially during the Ignatian Year, e.g. Journal in Ignatian Spirituality and Spiritual Direction in HK, Virtual Camino in Australia, etc.
- An inter-sectoral team to adapt Ignatian Spirituality to youth, other faiths (esp. Buddhists, Muslims), indigenous communities, people with no religion, etc is formed. Studies on how to adapt Ignatian terminology/language to non-Christian cultures are carried out from mid-2021.
• **Writings on “The Ignatian Spirituality and Islamic Teachings/Muslim Communities: Asian Context”** are produced in collaboration with Jesuits Among Muslims in Asia (JAMIA) from 2021.

*Responsible team: ISN in collaboration with other circles and networks (especially Interreligious Dialogue (IRD), JCIM, Youth, Basic Education), provinces and regions; training for apostolic planning could be spearheaded by the JCAP leadership development committee.*

3. **To collaborate with the youth**

3.1 We will walk more closely with the youth, listening to and learning from them, paying particular attention to their search for spirituality and meaning, their concern with civic and global issues, their use of new media and technology, their creativity and activism, and their thirst for holistic formation and education. Animating vocational discernment, including religious vocation with the Society, will be an integral part of this. In collaboration with others, we will seek to respond to the worsening poverty, unemployment, and mental health stresses created by the Covid-19 pandemic especially for the most vulnerable youth. We will also seek to build bridges of reconciliation amidst a growing trend of social polarization and division. Our outreach will include not only youth and young adults in the Catholic Church but also those in other faith traditions, indigenous communities, and secular society.

**Targeted outputs:**

3a. **Accompaniment and support** are provided for youth in relation to their increasing engagement in civic and global movements. Formation rooted in values and spirituality can be strengthened.

3b. A **collaborative study on the youth** is done in 2021-2023 to listen to the concerns and hopes of young people across Asia Pacific and discern how we can better accompany them.

3c. **Communal discernment of all different ministries** on how we accompany the youth is done during the Ignatian Year (what graces to celebrate, challenges, where the Spirit is leading us to).

3d. A thorough **evaluation of MAGIS formation program across Asia Pacific** (what have been gained, lights and shadows, best practices, what to improve, how to strengthen) is done during the Ignatian Year. The potential to further develop other initiatives such as the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network is explored.

3e. There will be greater integration between **vocation promotion** and the youth ministry, and all Provinces will establish their vocation promotion teams and plans by end-2021.
4. To walk with the Church

4.1 Heeding the call of Pope Francis, we will accompany the local church to pursue the mission of evangelization and promote synodality and discernment. We will also contribute towards building a culture of safeguarding of minors and vulnerable adults.

Targeted outputs:

4a. "Schools of synodality" are piloted in selected Jesuit-run parishes in 2024-2025. Clergy and laity will be accompanied to experience collaboration, communal discernment, pastoral leadership, and psycho-spiritual integral development.

4b. Several batches of senior pastoral leaders in Asia Pacific undergo formation in the Discerning Leadership Program in 2022-2025.

4c. The role of East Asian Pastoral Institute (EAPI) in capacity building for the Church is enhanced, including residential, online programs, extension programs and research activities. EAPI will also need to innovate towards a new platform of Sabbatical Programs.

4d. Safeguarding:

- Basic Orientation Workshop (BOWS) in Sep 2021 to promote Culture of Safeguarding in all Jesuit Houses and Missions
- Incorporation of Culture of Safeguarding into Stages of Formation of Jesuits Brothers and Scholastics as well as in lay partners' formation
- Training of Safeguarding Administrative Staff (Leaders/ Officers/ Directors of Work for every Jesuit Apostolate/Mission) in 2023-2025, and establishing structures (safeguarding desks) in Jesuit Apostolates/ Missions
- Connecting Safeguarding Culture with Spiritual life (Ignatian Spirituality) and Accountability plus Psycho-spiritual Growth in regular accompaniment of Dioceses by Ignatian Spirituality Centers in 2022-2024, extending beyond safety towards spirituality, as a strategy to prevent abuse. The need to adapt to cultures and contexts in Asia Pacific will be borne in mind.

5. To strengthen our mission with regard to serving the Chinese people:

5.1 Serving the Chinese people is an apostolic priority of the Conference. We will assist in the discernment and articulation of the service to the Chinese people. We will strengthen our accompaniment of the Chinese people abroad, collaborate with other
Conferences for The Beijing Center, and undertake other initiatives to support the mission of serving the Chinese people.

Targeted outputs:

5a. 5-year program to accompany overseas Chinese students studying at AJCU-AP member universities is developed in 2021.

5b. A plan for serving the Chinese people is discerned by an ad hoc Discernment Group with JCAP and incorporated into Chinese Province Apostolic Plan over 2021-2023.

5c. The Conference’s support for and strengthening of The Beijing Center with human and financial resources is continued over 2021-2025.

Responsible team: Delegate for China in collaboration with AJCU-AP and other units.

Part II: Cura Personalis and Governance

6. To strengthen the governance of developing regions:

6.1 Myanmar and the Philippines will increasingly explore greater collaboration in governance and thus accompany the former to become a dependent region of the latter while deepening its identity and self-determination.

6.2 The existing governance relationships between Indonesia and Malaysia-Singapore, and Indonesia and Thailand are to be reviewed and future restructuring be carefully studied and explored. The statutes are to be determined and reviewed. If there are none, the statutes of relationship should be written to define more clearly the structure of governance and submitted to Fr General for approval, after determining the most appropriate governance structures for these regions.

6.3 The governance of East Timor Region and Cambodia Mission will be strengthened.

Targeted outputs:

6a. Statutes for MYN-PHI is established in 2021. (Major Superior (MS) of MYN, PHI)

6b. MAS: Possibility of independent region status is explored by Apr 2022. (MS of MAS)

6c. TAI: Various possibilities of relationship with IDO are explored and new status formalized through statutes by Jul 2021. (MS of IDO, TAI)

6d. KAM: Governance structure is reviewed through discernment in common and finalized by Apr 2021. Apostolic plan is evaluated by Jul 2021 and the next steps will be discerned. (MS of KAM, KOR)
6e. **ETR**: Role of the ETR Consortium is reviewed in 2021 and apostolic plan is evaluated and recalibrated over the next 2 years. *(MS of ETR, Consortium)*

7. **To discern new governance configurations and collaborations**, especially in light of the demands of mission in Asia Pacific and our changing demographics.

7.1 Long-term plans for aging provinces such as Japan, the Chinese province, Australia and the Philippines need to be made.

7.2 Laos as an emerging mission needs to be strengthened and supported.

7.3 New governance configurations and synergies will be explored.

Targeted outputs:

7a. **Aging provinces**: Apostolic plans are developed or reviewed to address the reality of aging and diminishment. Ignatian formation programs are conducted for lay collaborators (see 4ii) *(MS of ageing provinces)*

7b. **Laos**: Apostolic plan (2018-2020) is evaluated and new 10-year plan is made in 2021, together with VIE’s 10-year apostolic plan. Collaboration with JCAP is enhanced, and new collaborations explored with TAI and KAM. Possibility of legal status is explored over the next 3-5 years. *(MS of VIE)*

7c. **New governance configurations**: Lessons from historical experiences in Asia Pacific are studied in 2021 and past experiences in other parts of the world are studied over the next 2 years. *(JCAP President, Renzo de Luca)*

8. **To strengthening leadership, planning, and synodality** including discernment in common within and across Provinces, Regions, Apostolates, and Networks. Leadership capacity of Jesuits and mission partners in key roles will be enhanced. Joint planning and discernment at the inter-unit level also increasingly needs to be developed. The UAPs, Conference plan, and contextual realities including the impact of Covid-19 serve as important reference points. Further ways to share personnel as well as financial, information, communication, research, and other resources will be pro-actively explored.

Targeted outputs:

8a. The current **Leadership Development Program (LDP)** is completed by Mar 2021 and the next steps proposed after an evaluation.

8b. An online **workshop for Consultants** is done in May and Sep 2021.

8c. A **baseline study** on leadership is done in JCAP to identify leadership development strategies by end-2021. **Leadership development of Jesuits at various levels** (scholastics, post-tertianship, mid-level leadership, senior leadership) and of **lay collaborators** are reviewed and enhanced through appropriate means over 2022-2025.
8d. **All units (provinces, regions, secretariats, circles)** are animated over the next 2 years to develop or review their **apostolic plans** based on the Conference plan and with more **inter-unit, inter-sectoral and cluster-based collaboration and discernment**. As far as possible, existing meeting platforms and planning cycles of the units will be leveraged upon.

8e. Research and reflections on the **Covid-19 pandemic** done by universities and other institutions in JCAP will be consolidated and shared at appropriate platforms.

8f. Review of JCAP statutes in line with GC 36 (Decree 2, no.20a) and approval by Fr General by 1st quarter 2022.

*Responsible teams: JCAP leadership development team, JCAP main office, AJCU-AP, Development offices, and other relevant units.*

9. **To strengthen formation of Jesuits and mission partners.** This includes updating the **“Profile of a Formed Jesuit”** in line with GC 36, the UAPs, and the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, and reviewing the formation and **cura personalis** of the various age groups of Ours accordingly. Improvements will be made where needed, especially for **young men in formation, Jesuits post-tertianship, and elderly Jesuits.** International collaboration for Jesuits in formation, such as through an international / multi-cultural novitiate and other formation programs will be developed. Similarly, collaboration for formation of **mission partners** will be enhanced. This includes developing **“Characteristics of an Ignatian Mission Partner”** and implementing more systematic ways to foster their formation.

**Targeted outputs:**

9a. The **“Profile (or “Characteristics”) of a Formed Jesuit”** is re-developed by end-2022. A team is formed in Jan 2021 for this project (to include: one member of the original team; a Brother, a lay partner, an expert in the process) The existing profile and formation programs are examined by May 2021. Reflection on the relevant documents, contexts, and consultations are done by early 2022 and the new profile pilot tested by July 2022.

9b. The **“Characteristics of an Ignatian Mission Partner”** is developed by end-2022 (similar to above steps) and formation opportunities are identified.

9c. **Ongoing going review** of formation programs is carried out with attention given to the creation of programs for **post-tertianship** and **elderly Jesuits.**

9d. **Ongoing periodic conversation among formators** in different stages of formation (e.g. Novitiate, First Studies, Regency, etc.) is arranged to **align** goals, values, and to discuss issues such as dynamics of lay partnership. **Resources** in each stage of formation such as Ignatian and Jesuit Spirituality are **shared**, including possible Psycho-Spiritual Sessions/Workshop in the novitiates.
9e. Major Superiors are encouraged to **send formands** (e.g. regency time), as part of their formation, outside their home Province/Region; to address the tendency towards "provincialism". (This is case-by-case, as it depends on the balance between a healthy rootedness in local culture and the Jesuit value and experience of international exposure and collaboration. In the case of prolonged travel restriction due to Covid-19, alternatives will be explored.)

**Responsible team:** JCAP Formation Committee in collaboration with formators and Major Superiors.

10. **To consolidate and reimagine the theological centers** to ensure greater sharing of resources; more collaboration and networking among the schools; exploration of online opportunities; deeper sustainability of the institutions over the long haul; and strengthening of the Asian Theological Program (ATP) at Loyola School of Theology (LST) as a regional center for theology.

**Targeted outputs:**

10a. **Consolidation:**

- The mission of each theology or philosophy program is examined with deans, school councils, local church leaders, and provincial consults over 2021-2015 to discern whether there is sufficient reason to continue institutionally (at least through 2030) or plan for consolidation.

10b. **Networking and collaboration:**

- Regular meetings among Deans of theological and philosophical centers are held to facilitate communication, collaboration, cooperation & networking (in-person once a year, online twice a year).

- A database of Asia Pacific Jesuit Theology & Philosophy online coursework is established and possibilities of accepting students from other member schools are explored during 2022-2023.

- A framework for theology programs to accept cross-registration from students at other institutions; and recognize credits for students who study at other schools is initiated from 2021.

- Arrangements for visiting professors and exchange of professors among the centers (and beyond JCAP) is enhanced over 2022-2024.

- Cooperative research projects or conferences are organized from 2024.

10c. **ATP at LST:**

- The full-time professor (IDO) is maintained and additional faculty are missioned (MAS, etc). Potential future personnel are identified and sent for doctoral studies by 2025 (esp. VIE, MYN, KOR).

**Responsible team:** JCAP Network of Deans of Theological and Philosophical Centers in collaboration with other units and sectors. Review of theological centers (10a) will be led by a team involving Major Superiors.
Context and Guiding Principles

Asia Pacific is home to many of the world’s poorest as well as much of the world’s ecological destruction and natural disasters. Hence, our Conference resonates with the emphasis on the poor and ecology in the Society’s Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAPs). The Covid-19 pandemic has further exacerbated existing vulnerabilities and inequalities in the world. In fact, it has widened the gap and marginalized the poor even more, and economic interests are being placed above ecological interests in the recovery efforts of many countries. Thus over the next 5 years, we see an urgent need to discern the most vulnerable peoples in our locality and find ways of engaging with them, listening to them, learning from them, accompanying them more closely, advocating with them, and witnessing to a more inclusive world. We also need to strengthen our efforts in promoting care for creation. At the same time, an increasing trend of polarization and division in many societies calls for greater effort to build bridges of fraternity.

In these endeavors, collaboration and networking will be our way of proceeding. We will join our efforts to existing movements and organizations in the Church and wider society who are working on similar agendas. We will also seek greater collaboration with other religious traditions. Additionally, the youth will be our key partner, champion, and advocate in view of their talents, creativity, and potential. In particular, we note their growing engagement with socio-political and ecological issues, and we seek to learn from them, to listen to them, and to walk with them.

Poverty, justice, ecological, and indigenous issues are all inter-connected and need to be addressed in a holistic way. We also see the need for an integrated approach which responds to practical needs, improves social systems through research and policy advocacy, and addresses root causes especially in terms of values, paradigms, and spirituality.

At the same time, we realize our own vulnerability and distance from the poor and the earth, and feel called to live our conversion in poverty and integral ecology more fully. All our works, institutions, and communities, as well as our lifestyle and the formation of Jesuits and mission partners will be evaluated and re-oriented accordingly especially during the Ignatian Year. We will also strengthen inter-sectoral and inter-provincial synergy.

In all these endeavors, Ignatian Spirituality remains our foundation as well as the unique gift we share with the world. The need to deepen in these roots was recognized in GC 36 and further emphasized in the UAPs. This coincides with the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has prompted a thirst among people for spiritual nourishment, discernment, life purpose and direction, and finding God in all situations especially in suffering. Hence deepening in and sharing Ignatian Spirituality with a wider variety of constituents will be a key priority in the coming years.

To support these apostolic endeavors, we will continue our efforts to improve governance in the Society. The restructuring of governance is at the service of the Missio Dei. Hence we will seek structures that can better respond to the needs of mission, facilitate synodality, promote universality, strengthen units that are in greater need, and suited to each unit’s circumstances. Meanwhile we will foster more
interaction between members across units so as to facilitate greater openness towards new partnership possibilities.

Along with governance, formation also needs to be improved, especially in the light of GC 36, the UAPs, and the present calls and conversions highlighted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Particular areas of emphasis include Ignatian Spirituality and discernment, poverty, ecological conversion, collaboration, leadership, creativity, flexibility, multiculturality, inter-religious dialogue, accompaniment of the youth, digital literacy, and universality. For Jesuit scholastics in particular, it should be ensured that holistic human formation occurs throughout all stages even after the novitiate. Attention should also be given to on-going formation of Jesuits after tertianship. Additionally, formation for mission partners, especially in Ignatian Spirituality, has been uneven and needs to be better developed. In these efforts, we can be mindful that formation can happen both within and outside formal formation programs.

Finally, in our communal discernment for the Conference plan, we recognize the need to continue listening, learning, being open to uncertainty, remaining flexible, and proceeding in a synodal way. We can take small steps forward with courage and hope, as long as we walk closely with God and one another.
Our Journey of Communal Discernment

1. Examen of JCAP plan 2014-2019
   - Major Superiors’ Assembly
     July 2018, Nagasaki
   - Extended Consult
     Nov 2018, Manila

   Fruits of the meetings:
   - Gratitude for our growth as One Body
   - Tangible progress as a Conference
   - Need to deepen collaboration and inter-unit planning, to widen consultation and participation
   - Need for regular monitoring and evaluation
   - Process is important. Spiritual conversation is key
   - God's Spirit is indeed leading us

2. Global discernment for UAPs; Meeting in Tokyo; Promulgation and Assimilation
   Mid-2018 to Mid-2019

   Fruits of the process:
   - Global experience of communal discernment
   - Identification of the 4 UAPs
   - ‘Missioning’ from Pope
   - New energy

3. Gathering of inputs from units for JCAP plan 2020-2024 based on UAPs (Mid-2019)

4. Communal discernment for JCAP plan
   - Expanded assembly of Major Superiors, Secretaries, and Coordinators
     July 2019, Hong Kong

   Fruits of the meeting:
   - Desire for conversion
   - To listen, learn, be led by others
   - To get out of the box
   - To not rush but take time to discern

Enlarged Consult
Oct 2019, Sacred Heart Center, Manila

Fruits of the meeting: Discernment resulting in draft list of proposed priorities; Growing sense of being One Apostolic Body; Inter-sectoral dialogue
5. Major Superiors’ retreat and discernment of Enlarged Consult’s proposals

Major Superiors’ Assembly
Feb 2020, Baguio

Fruits of the meeting:
- Growing as One Body
- Draft of JCAP plan

6. Feedback from units by email

7. Re-examination in light of Covid

Major Superiors’ Assembly
July 2020, Zoom

Fruits of the meeting:
- Recognizing our vulnerability, need to be with the poor, need to listen, need to be flexible
- JCAP plan timeline changed to 2021-5

8. Discerning impact of Covid in depth

JCAP Conference on Covid and UAPs
Aug 2020, Zoom

Fruits of the meeting:
- Consolation in solidarity
- Urgency of UAPs
- Our way of proceeding

9. Identifying Conference priorities

Extended Consult and Consult
Oct 2020, Zoom

Fruits of the meeting:
- Identification of overall focus
- Clarity of key priorities
- Inter-sectoral collaboration

10. Fine-tuning the proposals

Major Superiors’ Assembly
Jan 2021, Zoom

Fruits of the meeting:
- Concrete goals and action plans
- Greater sense of collaboration

Entering the Ignatian Year and walking a new journey together