



The Jesuits 2024

IN ASIA PACIFIC

COMPANIONS IN A MISSION OF JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

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3/F Sonolux Building, Ateneo de Manila Campus,
Loyola Heights, Quezon City, 1108 Philippines
Tel/Fax: +63 2 8426 5974
E-mail: jcapsj@jcapsj.org

Editors:
Ria S Limjap, comms@jcapsj.org
Vanessa Gorra, comms.asst@jcapsj.org


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Embracing Change and Facing the Future with Hope

In 2023, the Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific (JCAP) had its share of important changes at its level and that of the global Society of Jesus. At the level of the conference, there were leadership transitions in the Philippine Province, the Region of Timor-Leste, and the presidency of JCAP.

“All beginnings are hard,” says Chaim Potok in his book, “In the Beginning”. New leadership requires adjustments and new learnings to adequately respond to an ever-changing environment. In the Myanmar region, the fluid and volatile situation of violence and war continues to pose significant challenges in our response to the Jesuit mission there. These include responding to the situations of those caught in the armed conflict between the military government and rebel groups, internally displaced people, and forced migration. With Father General entrusting the Pakistan mission to JCAP,





the present task of accompanying the mission requires even greater support and collaboration, not only among the different units of JCAP but also in inter-conference engagements.

At the level of the global Society of Jesus, two significant moments can be pointed out. First, the 71st Congregation of Procurators was a privileged time among Jesuits for greater listening, discussion, and discernment in common on key matters raised by Father General. The delegates were able to share experiences of visiting the communities of their respective provinces or regions as part of the discerning process towards a better understanding of the state of the Society of Jesus today. Second, Father General issued the *De Statu Societatis 2023* (DSS), the fruit of the preparation and discernment process of the 71st Congregation of Procurators and the fruit of the

reflections of the worldwide Society. With this announcement, he exhorted all Jesuits and mission partners to engage in a yearlong examen using the DSS as a means for a profound spiritual renewal in its life-mission.

In the DSS, Fr General highlights the change of epoch as the context in which the Spirit is calling the Society to be agents of reconciliation. He points out that forced migration is one of the strongest signs of this epochal change, noting as well the prevalent issues of violence, war, climate change, poverty, and growing inequality. Despite these challenges, Father Sosa also sees opportunities, such as the way the digital culture has facilitated conversations in many ways and forms, creating an enormous possibility of intercultural relationships between generations of people.

Amid all these changes and challenges that the Society of Jesus and the Church face, we are invited to further deepen our faith and hope. In his opening address to the Jesuits at the 36th General Congregation, Pope Francis invited us to ask persistently for consolation. It is a consolation specific to the joy of the Resurrected Christ that we beg for through prayer, discernment in common, and concrete action. It is a joy that the world cannot give or take away. This joy allows us not to be discouraged when faced with a great measure of evil in the world or challenges to all those who desire to do good.

Jun Viray SJ
President
Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific

2023 at a Glance

We reflect on the past year with gratitude for the many graces we have received in our Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific (JCAP). Notably, we welcomed Pakistan as the newest mission territory of JCAP, alongside the appointment of a new conference president. On a global scale, the 71st assembly of the Congregation of Procurators convened in Loyola, Spain, and the long-awaited document, *De Statu Societatis 2023*, was finally unveiled, providing a comprehensive overview of the Society of Jesus, its commitments, and the challenges it faces.

1 February

MYANMAR



On the second anniversary of the military coup, the Migrants and Refugees Network in Asia Pacific calls for urgent and decisive action to end the crisis in Myanmar

27 March - 1 April

CHIANG MAI



The Brothers meet in Chiang Mai to nurture the vocation of religious brothers.

1 April

PAKISTAN



The Pakistan Mission is officially entrusted to JCAP from the Sri Lankan Province for three years, *ad experimentum*.

16-21 May

LOYOLA



The 71st Congregation of Procurators (CP) is convened in the birthplace of St Ignatius. The CP is a vital governing body of the Society of Jesus that convenes every few years.

2023 at a Glance

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19 June

MANILA



Fr Primitivo E Viray Jr SJ is named as the next JCAP President, taking over from Fr Antonio Moreno SJ.

[Read: **THE PAST AND THE FUTURE: When the spirit of synodality guides collaboration**]

22 July

LISBON



Magis 2023 officially opens at the Colégio de São João de Brito in Lisbon, Portugal.

31 July

ROME



On the feast of St Ignatius, Fr General Arturo Sosa SJ announces the official release of De Statu Societatis 2023 and invites all Jesuits and partners to engage in a yearlong examen.

7-26 August

CHIANG RAI



The Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities in Asia Pacific holds the 12th Service Learning Program centred around the theme, “River, Mountain, People: The Art of Beings (Discernment and Peace)”.

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19 August
BATTAMBANG



The first-ever Cambodian Jesuit priest, Fr Damo Martin Chour SJ, is ordained in Battambang, Cambodia by Bishop Olivier Schmitthaeusler MEP, Apostolic Vicar of the Phnom Penh Vicariate.

21-23 September
LAHORE



The Pakistan Mission holds its inaugural assembly as a mission of JCAP.

30 September
VATICAN



Bishop Stephen Chow SJ of Hong Kong is raised to the rank of cardinal by Pope Francis during a ceremony at St Peter's Square.

9 October
MANILA



Fr Xavier L Olin SJ is appointed as the next Provincial of the Philippine Province. He takes over from Fr Primitivo Viray Jr SJ.

2023 at a Glance

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13 October

TAUNGGYI



A Jesuit ordination is celebrated for the first time in the Taunggyi Archdiocese in Myanmar, which was the first to welcome Jesuits back into the country since their expulsion from it in the 1960s.

26 October

ROME



The Society of Jesus releases a statement reiterating the Jesuits' commitment to eradicating prejudiced views towards Jews, denouncing anti-Judaism and anti-Semitism, while affirming the rights of Jews in Israel and across the globe.

9 November

TIMOR-LESTE



Fr Erik John J Gerilla SJ is appointed as the next Regional Superior of Timor-Leste, succeeding Fr Joaquim Sarmiento SJ.

13-17 November

ROME



The meeting of conference socii takes place at the General Curia. This marks a historic occasion, as it is the very first to be held since the establishment of Jesuit conferences following General Congregation 31.

2023 at a Glance

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28 November
BEIJING



The Beijing Center for Chinese Studies, the only Jesuit institution in mainland China, celebrates its 25th anniversary.

[Read: [25 Years of Cultural Bridge-Building](#)]

5-8 December
ROME



The Society of Jesus holds the inaugural Apostolic Planning and Renewal for Transformation Conference with more than 120 Jesuits, religious, and lay partners in mission from across the world.

6 December
ROME



JCAP Planning Consultant Dr Christina Kheng launches her book, “Welcoming the Spirit: A Communal Approach to Pastoral Planning”. The book integrates planning and communal discernment, offering a practical guide for communities and organisations to become more effective collaborators in God’s mission.

20 December
SEVENHILL



Sevenhill, a town in the Clare Valley of South Australia and the birthplace of the Jesuits in the country, celebrates 175 years since the first Jesuits arrived in 1848. The Sevenhill Cellars and vineyard is known as the oldest winery in South Australia’s Clare Valley.

[Read: [Hollowed Turf](#)]



Fr Tony Moreno passes on the JCAP leadership to Fr Jun Viray with a high five, a JCAP tradition, while Fr General Arturo Sosa looks on

economically, and religiously diverse. “The great religions are here—Islam, Buddhism, Christianity,” Fr Moreno once noted. There are also many different cultures and political systems across the region. Living out of the faith that does justice in such a diverse, multicultural, multi-religious context is a big challenge, but it also means that the Asia Pacific region has a unique contribution to make to the discernment process. When talking about leadership, Fr Moreno always tied it to discernment.

Discerning leadership, as Fr Moreno put it, is inspired by Ignatian Spirituality, in which “self-awareness and

The Past & The Future

WHEN THE SPIRIT OF SYNODALITY GUIDES COLLABORATION

Six years ago, in 2017, after nine and a half years, Fr Mark Raper SJ stepped down as President of the Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific (JCAP), handing over the guidance to Fr Tony Moreno SJ. Fr Moreno acknowledged that he was stepping on new ground but said, “This is all about mission.” Indeed, in the last six years, he often repeated the expression, *missio dei*.

Geographically, our Asia Pacific Conference covers a huge area, but it boasts the fewest number of Jesuits among the six conferences globally. The reality of our working environment is culturally, politically,

Fr Moreno presides over the Thanksgiving Mass, marking the end of his term, with Fr Viray concelebrating





Fr Viray honours Fr Moreno during the Thanksgiving dinner at Arrupe International Residence in Manila

responsiveness to inner movements of the Spirit provide the interior compass of Ignatius’s decision-making and execution of leadership tasks”. Collaboration and networks have become prominent themes, requiring immediate action or attention. The leader “discerns and collaborates with others” and leads “by bridging with others”. For example, he noted, there is much to learn from the Jesuit-lay collaboration in the Australian experience.

The newly created Ignatian Spirituality Network (ISN) has conducted workshops for discernment in common and spiritual conversations. The dialogue networks (with Islam and Buddhism), many times linked with Ignatian Spirituality, have deepened their research and publication output. In the last six years, several new networks have been formed in addition

to ISN: Development Officers, Safety in Ministry, Deans of Theological and Philosophical Centers, and Archivists.

The 2020-2022 pandemic reshaped our life-mission. Despite its challenges, it ushered in a new epoch of great confidence, unity, imagination, and flexibility. The works in the conference were augmented by various efforts to mainstream the implementation of the Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAPs). With the celebration of the Ignatian Year, the examen on the vow of poverty, challenges and prospects, and the De Statu Societatis Iesu (DSS) examen, significant progress has been made in moving forward as a conference. In addition, as Fr Moreno indicated, “There is renewed interest in the situation in Myanmar, as well as in China, Laos, and Pakistan.”

Fr General Arturo Sosa SJ has on many occasions encouraged the conference presidents to engage in the

discernment and planning for the Society of Jesus. General Congregation 36 requested the six conferences to commence a study on their way of proceeding considering the president’s decision-making authority in relation to the co-responsibility of the major superiors, his involvement in the apostolic planning of provinces and regions, and in facilitating the preparation of Jesuits for international apostolates (GC 36, Decree 2, No 20).

In his years as president, Fr Moreno has advocated tirelessly for collaboration. “What you see in the conference now is the fruit of collaboration, not of a few persons,” he is quick to stress. “There is greater collaboration and solidarity for the small and struggling units like Myanmar, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Cambodia. There is the inclusion of Laos and Pakistan.

The JCAP Major Superiors and mission partners in Sydney in 2018



More networks and sectors have stepped up and promoted intersectoral collaboration: migrants and refugees, basic and higher education, and reconciliation with creation.”

Collaboration is inherent in the DNA of the Society of Jesus. General Congregation 35, Decrees 5 (2008) gave conferences a more pro-active role in promoting the Society’s universal mission. Collaboration and networking across provinces and apostolates have been increasingly acknowledged as the essential way of proceeding.

Now, with Synodality coming to the fore, the practice of collaboration and networking has taken on a new dimension. While we are re-imagining leadership, we may ask, What does synodal leadership mean in the universal Society? It is promoting a new culture, which requires getting used to prayerful discernment, collaboration, patience, and confidence building. It is about a willingness to be led by the Spirit, about walking together, and about listening to each other.



JCAP Major Superiors with Fr General Arturo Sosa SJ in the gardens of St Peter Canisius House in Pymble, Sydney, January, 2024

Fr Jun Viray was appointed to take over from Fr Moreno by a decree issued by Fr General Sosa on 13 June 2023. Fr Viray is tasked with putting into practice what Fr Sosa addressed in his January 2024 participation in the Major Superiors Assembly in Australia. The focal point of his speech was the importance of remaining open to change, both within the Society and in the Church, as adaptability in heeding the Spirit’s guidance is crucial in today’s era.

Father General underscored the need for a thorough examination of how the UAPs are implemented. He emphasised the significance of collaboration among all members—Jesuits and partners alike—in pursuit of a shared mission. He urged us to foster a vision of a more cohesive apostolic community, increasingly inclined towards collaboration.

And so, with a new president, we continue our journey with faith, hope, and courage despite the absence of immediate solutions. As a synodal body, we persevere in our willingness to listen and learn from one another, prepared to embrace surprises in our mission, eager to discern God’s will, and committed to allowing the Spirit to guide us towards a life of fullness and freedom.

Greg Soetomo SJ
Socius, Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific



The interior of the old church dedicated to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. On the wall are the two patrons of Mission: St Francis Xavier and St Teresinha do Menino Jesus

SOIBADA: Remembering the Roots of the Jesuit Mission in Timor-Leste

The Jesuits in Timor-Leste celebrate this year 125 years of Jesuit mission in the country. Three Jesuits, under the command of the energetic missionary, Fr Sebastião Aparício da Silva, started the mission in the remote area of Soibada in 1899.

In 1875, the district of Timor was put under the administrative jurisdiction of Macau, and for the next 70 years, the destiny of Timor was closely tied up with affairs in Macau. Fr da Silva, who was from Cernache in Portugal, first arrived in Timor in 1877 as a diocesan priest from Macau. Recalled to Macau, he returned to Portugal, and there he joined the Jesuits. He was in the first group of Jesuit missionaries to arrive in Soibada in 1899, when Bishop José Manuel de Carvalho entrusted the Vicariate of the southern coast to the Jesuits, while the diocesan clergy retained responsibility over the Vicariate of the northern coast. Fr da Silva, the superior of the Jesuits, was named Vicar-General for the southern coast, with its centre in Soibada and covering the areas of Barique, Fehuc Rin, Viqueque, Luca, Alas, Raimean, Suro, Atsabe, Batugade, and Balibo.

The statue dedicated to the first superior and founder of the mission, Fr Sebastião Aparício da Silva SJ





Ruins of the old mission

The evangelization effort focused on typical frequent visits to the villages, catechesis, and baptisms but, most importantly, education. Faith, knowledge, and practical skills were the focus of their education at the time. Under the leadership of Fr da Silva, the Jesuits set up two colégios, or boarding schools, for boys and girls, built a church and a residence, and invited the Canossian sisters to take care of the girls' boarding school. He also opened two vocational schools for carpenters and bricklayers, produced soap (for use and sale), developed agriculture, including rice fields in Clacuc, and others.

All of this was meant to sustain the two colégios as Soibada was so far from anywhere and difficult to reach. Fr da Silva even published books such as "Catecismo da Doutrina Cristã em Tetum" and "Dicionário Tetum-Português". Fr Manuel Fernandes Ferreira, who was in the first group with him, also wrote "Catecismo Badak no Orasaun ba Lorldoron". Fr Ferreira, in 1903, directed a musical orchestra in the boys' school with instruments such as rebec, cornet, horn, baritone, and bagpipes.

In 1909, there were six Jesuits in Soibada: three priests, Sebastiao Maria Aparicio, Manuel Fernandes, and Jose Marques Atalaia, and three lay brothers, Antonio Amaral,

View of the old mission from the National Shrine of Our Lady of Aitara





A part of the dormitory for girls

Antonio Claudino, and Julio de Sousa. The following year, with the proclamation of the republic in Portugal, the Jesuits were expelled from the colonies, including Timor, and the Jesuits left Soibada. This was the first period of Jesuit mission in Timor-Leste that lasted for only 10 years. But it was such a flourishing mission that historians noted: "In this short period of mission, the sons of Saint Ignatius of Loyola gave the best of their apostolic abilities." The mission was taken over by diocesan priests, but the Jesuits had marked the mentality, style, spirit, formation, and quality of education that would eventually turn out to be so decisive in the history and the church of the country.

After their expulsion, the Jesuits were absent from Timor-Leste for almost half a century. The Second World War destroyed much of what was in Soibada and elsewhere in the country, including the minor seminary established in Soibada in 1936. The second period of the Jesuit mission was marked by the return of the Jesuits in 1958, when Bishop Jaime Garcia Goulart reopened the seminary and invited the Jesuits to take charge of it. Since then, an international group of Jesuits have come to serve in the seminary, including Jesuits we know from our Jesuit Conference, such as Fr Ismael Zuloaga, Fr Andrés Dias de

Ruins of the old mission





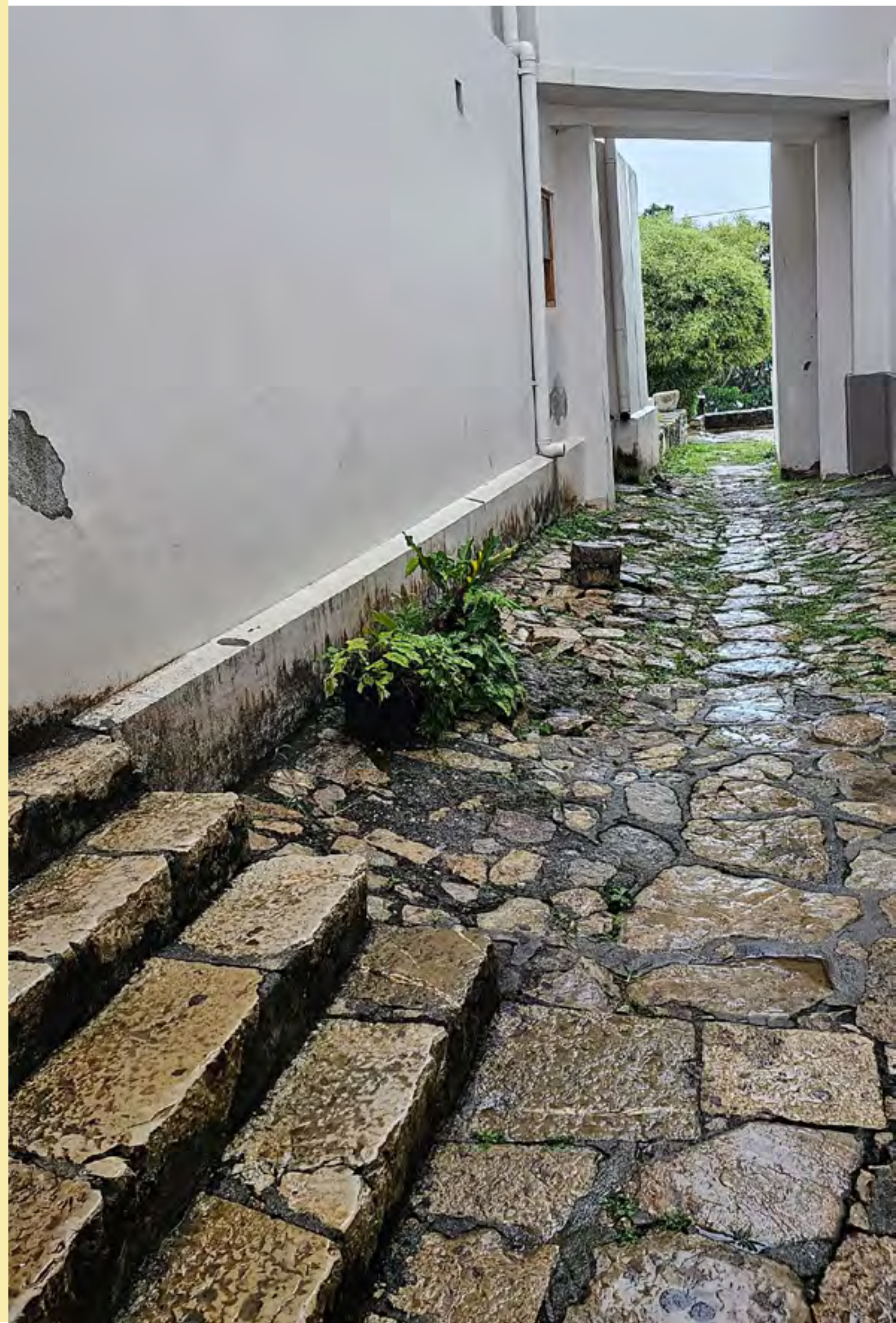
Ruins of the old mission

Rabago, and Fr João Felgueiras, who is now approaching 103 years old and is still with us in Timor. (Fr João Felgueiras serves as our “memória histórica”—a living witness to our history. As a novice in 1940, he knew and served Fr da Silva in his old age. Fr Felgueiras was the last Jesuit sent to Soibada in 1987.)

In 1967, the Jesuit community of then-Portuguese Timor was put under the care of the Portuguese Province. A Portuguese colonial outpost initially run by Dominican missionaries, and then successively by merchants and soldiers from 1550 onwards, Timor was thrown into the whirlwind of global politics in 1975. Through the seminary, the Jesuits were able to form the Timorese intellectual, religious, and political elite during this challenging time. They educated laypersons active in society. Bishops, priests, civil servants, politicians, diplomats, university professors, and military leaders of today came out of their ranks.

The Indonesian military invasion in December 1975 marked a new era for the Jesuits. At the time, most religious groups left the country in trouble. The old and wise Fr Bernard Marie Gouen, before his death in 1975, told the other Jesuits: “In this kind of situation, the Jesuits are

Ruins of the old mission





Details of the ruins of the old mission

the last to leave.” So, three Portuguese Jesuits remained with the people and the church of Timor. The Jesuit community then passed to the care of the Indonesian Province, and many Jesuits came from Indonesia. During this period, apart from continuing our service to the diocesan seminary, the bishop entrusted to the Jesuits the management of Colégio de São Jose, which became the favourite school to form leaders. Offering agricultural training, a credit union, and the Jesuit Refugee Service, the Jesuits were able to penetrate the grassroots of Timor society and not stay only on the intellectual level.

These 125 years of the Jesuit Mission in the country have been marked by expulsion, conflict, or violence, but the Jesuits have always opted to walk with the people of their time. Our history has been ornated by the crown of martyrdom of our two brothers, Fr Albrecht Karim and Fr Tarcisius Dewanto, in September 1999, during the East Timorese crisis.

Today, Timor-Leste is an Independent Jesuit Region, with a major superior who receives the accounts of conscience of his members and gives them their mission. Our mission has been mostly in the service of missão or the local church institutions, except during the Indonesian

Details of the ruins of the old mission





A miniature of the whole original compound

occupation, when we ran an agricultural training centre. Soibada is now only the ruins of the old mission, but on 3 April 2023, the parish dedicated a monument with the statue of Fr Sebastião Aparício da Silva next to the centenary church.

Despite the challenges in human and financial resources, the Timor-Leste Jesuit Region is flourishing with the support of so many friends around the world, especially in the Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific. With the enthusiasm of a good number of young priests, assisted by experienced and generous brothers from other Jesuit provinces, we are slowly growing. We have our own institutions in media, social and health services, education, Jesuit and pastoral formation, youth formation, and Ignatian Spirituality. Father General visits us every 10 years (Fr Kolvenbach in 2004, Fr Nicolas in 2014, and Fr Sosa in 2024). Even though we are small and far, we are well assisted.

Joaquim Sarmento SJ is the first Jesuit to be born in Soibada. He was ordained in 1999, exactly 100 years after the start of the first Jesuit mission in his hometown.

A group of Jesuits posing at a landmark erected in honour of the first missionaries



25 Years of Cultural Bridge-Building



TBC students with ethnic minorities in Yunnan province



Hong Kong Diocese Group in TBC's ChinaContact programme

Established in 1998, The Beijing Center for Chinese Studies (TBC) stands as a Jesuit institution dedicated to higher education and research. As the only Jesuit institution in mainland China, TBC serves as a bridge for East-West dialogue and cultural exchange. Rooted in the legacy of Matteo Ricci, TBC is committed to fostering mutual understanding between China and the global community through comprehensive education, research, and cultural initiatives.

To mark its 25th anniversary, TBC launched a year-long celebration beginning in 2023. Alumni and friends gathered to reflect on the past and embrace the promising future ahead. From its humble beginnings with seven pioneering students in the inaugural class of 1998, TBC has evolved into a vast network comprising thousands of alumni and friends. They have played an indispensable role in fostering engagement, dialogue, and global transformation through educational exchange. During the 25th anniversary kickoff party, Fr Tony Moreno SJ, former Chairman of the Board of Directors, emphasised the enduring values of courage and creativity that will propel TBC's mission of East-West friendship into the future.



The Anton Library of Chinese Studies

Over the past 25 years, TBC's academic programmes have been deeply rooted in Ignatian pedagogy, providing undergraduate students from Europe and the Americas with various opportunities to immerse themselves in China's rich culture. From humanities and social studies to visual and martial arts, TBC's curriculum prioritises active participation, reflective learning, and contextual understanding. To date, over 2,500 students have enriched their academic journeys through TBC's semester, summer, and yearlong study programmes.



The Kunming Liya Center, TBC's first satellite site on mainland China



The Anton Library of Chinese Studies

The Anton Library of Chinese Studies, established in tribute to founder Fr Ron Anton SJ for his notable contributions to international education, has undergone a remarkable transformation. Starting with a modest collection of 1,500 books left behind by departing students, it has evolved into the most extensive English-language library in mainland China, with a focus on China, now housing over 27,000 volumes. Within its comprehensive collection lie numerous rare and inaugural editions, making the Anton Library a renowned global hub for scholars and researchers alike.

The signature ChinaContact programme offers an immersive educational experience designed to deepen



TBC Executive Director Simon Koo (right) with Cardinal Stephen Chow



TBC students with staff



Chinese Provincial and new TBC Board Chairman Fr Stephen Tong SJ (left) with his predecessor and JCAP President Fr Tony Moreno SJ



25th Anniversary Kickoff Dinner



2018 Summer GLIP Calligraphy Class Students



TBC students in Taichi class

understanding of China's rich cultural tapestry and contemporary dynamics. This unique programme facilitates direct engagement with Chinese society, allowing participants to gain firsthand insights into the country's history, traditions, and modern developments. Through a blend of academic coursework, cultural excursions, and interactive experiences, ChinaContact empowers students, scholars, and professionals to build meaningful connections and acquire a nuanced perspective of China.

In 2022, TBC expanded its reach by opening its first satellite site on mainland China, The Kunming Liya Center, located in Kunming, the capital of Yunnan province. Given China's vastness as a classroom, exploring the country has been an integral aspect of the TBC experience since its inception. Students embark on explorations in Kunming as part of the Yunnan Excursion Trip, making the selection of Kunming as the inaugural satellite site for TBC a natural choice. To date, the centre has served as a classroom for students participating in the Yunnan Excursion Trip, facilitated the 2023 CHINA Town Hall discussion, and hosted events and activities for other educational organisations and the local community.



TBC students with staff

In this significant 25th anniversary year, TBC will offer unique opportunities to engage with China through additional anniversary gatherings, special dialogues, and forums. It also heralds a new era with Fr Stephen Tong SJ, being selected as the new Chair of the Board of Directors. Fr Tong also serves as the Provincial Superior of the Chinese Jesuit Province.

"The magic of TBC is that in learning about other cultures, you come face-to-face with a greater understanding of your own," said Dr Simon Koo TBC's Executive Director. "No matter where you're from, engaging with TBC brings you closer to yourself. And in that process, it also brings you closer to the friends you make along the way, whether they be from your own culture or not. We're so excited to celebrate 25 years of this magic and look forward to the uncertain future of more friendship and exchange with Fr Tong at the helm."

In gratitude for the contributions of alumni, faculty, visitors, and friends to TBC's success, TBC looks forward to another 25 years of excellence and beyond, continuing to serve as a bridge between China and the world.

Rachel Yuqing Liu
TBC Digital Media Associate



Mgr Robertus Rubiyatmoko and Fr Benny Hari Juliawan SJ, together with five other priests, lead the Eucharist of Kanisius' centenary anniversary.

100 Years of Colouring the Indonesian Church and Nation

It is true that loyalty knows no bounds, and a journey undertaken faithfully, no matter how long or difficult, unfolds without monotony or weariness. This narrative depicts Kanisius' century-long journey in printing and publishing—a pilgrimage marked by the love and loyalty of many people from generation to generation.

On 26 January 2022, Kanisius Publishing and Printing celebrated its centenary, tracing its origins to Fr J Hoeberechts SJ, as part of the mission work in Java to print books for Catholic worship and textbooks for native schools. At that time, Fr Hoeberechts asked the FIC congregation leaders to run the mission. Starting in a small iron warehouse in Yogyakarta, Kanisius evolved into a distinctive partnership between the Jesuits, FIC brothers, and lay people.

In 1947, at the 50th anniversary of Kanisius Printing and Publishing, Monsignor A Soegijapranata SJ, the first indigenous archbishop of Semarang, expressed his appreciation for the contributions of lay people. He was amazed by the excellent collaboration between the priests/brothers/scholastics and the lay employees.

Fr Azismardopo SJ, Kanisius Director, shows a print sample to the Indonesian Provincial during his visit to Kanisius.



Young employees deliver books to Sancta Maria orphanage in Boro, a small village in the western part of Yogyakarta.



Kanisius played a crucial role in the “Indonesianization” process, publishing books in the Indonesian language for schools and printing the country’s first legal currency, Oeang Repoeblik Indonesia (ORI). Through the years, Kanisius evolved into PT Kanisius, embracing modern management while staying rooted in Catholic (Ignatian) spirituality.

The centennial celebration in January 2022 showcased diverse activities aligned with the Society of Jesus’ Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAP), centred on the theme, “Colouring Indonesia with Aspirations and Good Works”. It highlighted Kanisius’ contribution to the church and the Indonesian nation these last 100 years.

The UAP’s first focus, Showing the Way to God, involved providing opportunities for employees to experience the Spiritual Exercises and connecting their personal vocation with the organisation’s vocation. To this end, Kanisius has an intensive formation programme to help employees relate the Spiritual Exercises to their work experiences.

The second focus, Walking with the Youth, included webinars organised by the young employees intended for young audiences. In one of them, a young woman shared her conversion story after encountering Ignatian Spirituality. Another webinar talked about how diversity can propel the country to greater heights, as part of Kanisius’ effort to

support nation-building and encourage national discourse among young Indonesians.

Encouraged by its management board, Kanisius produced a web series, “Cinta dalam Seutas Tali Sepatu” (Love in a Shoelace), under the auspices of Jesuit filmmaker Fr Murti Hadi Wijayanto SJ, in collaboration with Sanata Dharma University. The series tells the love story of an idealistic young female editor who works at an old publishing and printing company. It received thousands of likes on YouTube.

The UAP’s third focus, Walking with the Marginalised, saw collaborations with Soegijapranata Foundation,

Kanisius' 100-year logo is released at the peak anniversary feast that took place at the Sahid Jaya Hotel and Convention Centre, Yogyakarta, Indonesia.



a Jesuit non-profit that provides learning assistance to students in Pingit, a village located in the city centre of Yogyakarta, and books for libraries at orphanages.

The fourth focus, Caring for the Earth, Our Common Home, was carried out in collaboration with Tani Garden Agricultural Course (KPTT), which is managed by the Jesuits. Kanisius provided free seeds to customers at their bookstore to promote tree conservation.

The peak of the celebration of Kanisius' 100 years included a Eucharist celebrated by Msgr Robertus Rubiyatmoko, Archbishop of Semarang

Archdiocese, and six concelebrant priests, including Indonesian Provincial Fr Benny Hari Juliawan SJ, and an anniversary feast attended by Governor Sri Sultan Hamengku Buwono X.

In his speech, Msgr Rubiyatmoko conveyed his deep pride in PT Kanisius, situated within the Archdiocese of Semarang, acknowledging its pivotal role in the birth and development of the Church in the Archdiocese. Meanwhile, Fr Juliawan congratulated all employees for sustaining Kanisius' enduring presence. He underscored the organisation's distinctiveness as a company with a vision and mission that diverge from a profit-centric approach, emphasising its dedication to serving both the

Fr. Azismardopo SJ presents a book entitled "Creative Fidelity, Reflection on a Century Journey of Kanisius" to the representative of the governor and the Archbishop of Semarang Archdiocese.



church and the nation. Maintaining this apostolic spirit across generations is an arduous yet essential task.

In his written address, Governor Sri Sultan Hamengku Buwono X emphasised that reaching a century marked an opportune moment for the company to step back, reflect, contemplate, evaluate its existence, and be mindful of the invaluable experiences gained throughout its long journey (*historia magistra vitae est*). The governor acknowledged Kanisius for its significant role in the country's independence, notably by printing Indonesia's inaugural currency during the early days of nationhood. He commended Kanisius for its ongoing commitment



Kanisius employees who are the stars and crew behind the web series "Cinta dalam Seutas Tali Sepatu" happily launch the film.

to colour Indonesia through aspirations and good works, manifested in the production and distribution of high-quality books all across the nation and beyond.

The Indonesian Minister of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology, Nadiem Makarim, in a recorded speech, echoed his appreciation for Kanisius' unwavering dedication to contributing to the Indonesian nation. He especially lauded the company's role in fostering innovation among the younger generation through the publication of books and literacy initiatives.

In expressing his aspirations, Fr E Azismardopo Subroto SJ, Director of PT Kanisius, expressed hope for Kanisius to enhance its capability in responding to epochal demands by continually exploring breakthroughs and upholding the spirit of creative fidelity. As a symbolic representation of Kanisius' significance for the Indonesian church and nation, he presented both the governor and the bishop with a book titled "Creative Fidelity: Reflection on a Century Journey of Kanisius".

Embracing the age of 102 in 2024, Kanisius reflects on the uniqueness and challenges of rejuvenation

at a century-old milestone. This moment not only signifies a wealth of experiences accumulated over a long journey, but also opens doors to new opportunities. Kanisius recognises that the essence of a journey lies not in the possessions amassed but in the intrinsic value they embody. It is not about having, but being. In this spirit, Kanisius looks forward to the coming years with hope that its aspirations and good works will persist in colouring both the Indonesian church and the nation.

Mg Sulistyorini and Paulus Widianoro

A Place for the Birds to Perch

“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.”—MATTHEW 13:31-32

On 8 December 1963, the Jesuits planted a mustard seed that blossomed into the Tien Educational Center in Taipei, Taiwan. Fr Paul O’Brien, a Jesuit recently expelled from Mainland China by the Communist government, cooperated with a fellow California Jesuit, Fr Edward Murphy, to secure funding for the construction of a four-story building. They named the building in honour of Cardinal Thomas Tien, the former Archbishop of Beijing and the first Cardinal born in China.

Since only about one percent of Taiwan’s population is Catholic, the centre aimed to be an inclusive place, welcoming all people and fostering connections among Catholics, people of other religions, and those with no religious beliefs. Strategically located between two national universities, the centre established two ministries in the 1960s that intentionally avoided explicit Catholic focus, aiming to welcome people from all walks of life.

The Young Writers’ Club, one of the ministries, helped local students learn about and practice the craft of writing in relation to literature, journalism, and drama. The Mountain Service Project, the first of its kind in Taiwan, organised trips of friendship, service, and cooperation involving Chinese Taiwanese from urban areas and Indigenous Taiwanese in the mountain regions. From 1949 to 1987, when Taiwan was under martial law, the Tien Center was instrumental in introducing Western culture to local young people and providing solid faith formation for Catholic students during this time of limited contact with the outside world.



Celebrations at Tien Center for their 60th anniversary



Today, the unique architecture of the Tien Center still stands distinctly at a bustling intersection in Taipei, directly facing a busy subway station. Over the decades, the apostolates initiated at the centre have flourished and expanded. Presently, the centre is home to several ministries run by the Jesuits and our close collaborators. These include the Tien Center Cultural Foundation, the Ricci Institute of Taipei, the Magis Youth Center, Sacred Heart Parish, the Taipei Ignatian Spirituality Center, the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, the Jesuit Office for the Protection of Minors and Professional Standards, the Jesuit Chinese Province Communications Office, and the Province Development Office. The Tien Center also hosts other organisations, supported by but not directly run by the Jesuits, such as the Christian Life Community Office of Taiwan (CLC) and various university Catholic student groups. Each week, hundreds of people come to the Tien Center to attend class, participate in workshops, pray at Mass, or simply spend time with others. It has become a vibrant and well-recognised venue, even familiar to the city's taxi drivers.

On 16 December 2023, the Tien Center celebrated its 60th anniversary with a series of celebratory events, beginning with a special Mass at 9 am. The centre's director, Fr Matthew Hsu SJ, explained in his homily how the Tien Center has witnessed to the Gospel and contributed to society in Taiwan throughout its six decades. Like Mary and Elizabeth experiencing a moment of grace



Magis Youth performance for the anniversary

at the Visitation, the Tien Center has become a special place of encounter for many people.

After the Mass, the celebrations moved to the newly renovated Main Hall. Fr Stephen Tong SJ, the Chinese Provincial, extended a warm welcome to the guests. (As an interesting side note, Fr Tong shares a special connection with the Tien Center. Although originally from Macau, he pursued engineering studies at Taiwan National University as a youth in the 1980s and attended Mass at the Tien Center each week before becoming a Jesuit.)

Fr Bosco Lu, a long-time coordinator of the Writers' Club; Fr Yves Camus, the former director of the Ricci Institute; Mr John Hei of Kuangchi Studio; and other VIP speakers shared captivating vignettes from the past, elucidating why the centre has become so meaningful in their lives. These talks were followed by performances from several apostolates, including a musical recital by the Tien Center Foundation and a play by the Magis Youth Center. The Ignatian Spirituality Center staff then invited the participants to prayerfully look back on their experiences at the Tien Center, to listen to Jesus' voice, and to articulate their desires for the future.

Following the enriching events of the morning, a delectable lunch was served, providing a delightful opportunity for guests



Tien Center today



to catch up with old friends and forge new connections. The convivial atmosphere continued into the open house, where each apostolate opened its door, described its services, and offered entertainment. Participants were handed a Tien Center passport, enabling them to collect unique stamps from each apostolate they visited. In the afternoon, there was a draw for prizes, and festivities concluded with a final blessing.

In the same weekend, the Tien Center received a prestigious accolade from the Taiwan Ministry of Education—the Social Education Contribution Award, which recognised the centre’s longstanding commitment to service and care, especially in assisting women and people with visual impairments in the field of writing. The award also acknowledged the Tien Center’s efforts in promoting multicultural exchanges. Notably, the centre has played a vital role in fostering greater interaction and mutual understanding between the local people and the foreign workers in Taiwan.

Any mission worth living out is not without its share of challenges. The Tien Center and its staff are no exception. One notable challenge is the significant decrease in the number of Jesuits compared to 30 years ago. In response to this shift, lay leaders are stepping into more prominent roles as they explore and respond to Christ’s call in new and meaningful ways. This ongoing transition brings with it a sense of uncertainty about the future.



Tien Center today



However, amid the challenges, there is profound trust among the Tien Center community—in each other and in God. Both Jesuits and laypeople navigate this path with attentiveness to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, seeking wisdom, and creativity to live out the universal apostolic preferences together. It is evident that we each have different gifts, yet we all serve the same Lord and are united by his mission.

The present mission statement of the Tien Center is to use the love exemplified by Jesus in the Gospels to form people in body, mind, and spirit, to serve as a bridge stretching beyond the Church, to be a prophetic voice in today's diverse society, and to be a platform where dialogue, sharing, and communion can take place. The Tien Center maintains its sensitivity towards people of other religions, but it is also not shy about living out its Catholic faith. Over the course of 60 years, the mustard seed has grown into a tree that provides a welcoming space where women and men, the elderly and youth, people of faith or no faith, and local and international guests can perch, be nourished, and grow. God chooses to be present in the centre, and people feel a sense of belonging.

In the years to come, may Jesus guide all who are part of this community to live out his mission, fostering a space of inclusivity, love, and spiritual growth for all who encounter it.

Elton Fernandes SJ
Director, Taipei Ignatian Spirituality Center



ELISABETH UNIVERSITY OF MUSIC: Treasuring the Past, Moving Forward with the Spirit

In 1945, Belgian Jesuit missionary Fr Ernest Goossens SJ sought to convey a message of peace and inner healing for survivors of the atomic bomb through music. He opened a small music class next to the church in Hiroshima where he worked. Later, in April 1948, the music class received official recognition and became the Hiroshima School of Music. Following academic revisions and under the patronage of Queen Elisabeth of Belgium, who graciously lent her name in 1951, it was elevated to a junior college in 1952.

In answer to a widely felt need, the school gained recognition from the Ministry of Education as a four-year college in April 1963, becoming the present Elisabeth University of Music. Subsequent developments included



the creation of a Department of Sacred Music in 1967 and the establishment of the Graduate Division in 1990. In 1993, the Graduate Division received government approval to open a doctoral course, the first such programme in music among Japan's private universities. With a full complement of artistic and scholarly programmes at every level of university education, the school continues to pursue its vision of contributing to human understanding and cultural exchange through music.

In 2023, Elisabeth University of Music marked its 75th year. On 23 November, the core event to commemorate the diamond jubilee began with a solemn Mass at the World Peace Memorial Cathedral in Hiroshima. Bishop Alexis Mitsuru Shirahama served as the main celebrant, and the Provincial of Japan Province, Fr Tsutomu Sakuma SJ, delivered the homily. Among the notable activities was a concert accompanied by the Hiroshima Symphony Orchestra at the school's Cecilia Concert Hall. The celebration

Newest building on campus



was graced by the presence of the Mayor of Hiroshima, the Mayor of Higashi Hiroshima, the Representative of the Belgium Embassy in Japan, and other prominent delegates from various institutions.

As part of the 75th anniversary celebrations, Elisabeth University held charity concerts in collaboration with two Jesuit institutions in Indonesia, namely Sanata Dharma University (USD) in Yogyakarta and Canisius College in Jakarta. The first charity concert was held on 23 February at the Driyarkara Auditorium of Sanata Dharma, focusing on Japanese animation songs to raise funds for the scholarships of underprivileged students at USD. The second charity concert on 25 February at the Multi-purpose Hall of Canisius College was dedicated to education and community building projects in Ketapang Province, Kalimantan Island.

The university's involvement in these charity concerts reflects its commitment to realising the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 1: No Poverty, Goal 4: Quality Education, and Goal 17: Partnerships with Other Institutions. This commitment aligns with *Laudato sí*, which all Jesuit educational institutions are asked urgently to implement. As Pope Francis

emphasised: "We are all brothers and sisters living in the same house, namely the earth. Everything is connected; nothing is separate."

Elisabeth University, located in the heart of Hiroshima, the city of peace, is fully equipped to provide the best education for its students. The campus features a library, a large concert hall with a pipe organ, a small concert hall ideally suited for chamber music, and many rehearsal rooms. The university offers professional education in music at the undergraduate and graduate levels, with around 300 students, 31 full-time faculty members and 142 adjunct faculty members. Notably, 117 faculty members teach in the Graduate Division, where enrollment is limited to about 49 students. All programmes, both undergraduate and graduate, are co-educational. A major characteristic of the university, not seen elsewhere, is guidance and research in Gregorian chant, polyphony, and contemporary religious music, alongside other musical genres.

(Left) First building on campus, and a more recent one (right)



Reflecting the principles of Jesuit Catholic education, the university fosters close relationships between students and teachers through intimate, small classes. Its staff includes internationally renowned performers and very accomplished teachers, most of whom have studied abroad and are therefore more than able to understand the feelings and concerns of our foreign students.

Through its history, Elisabeth University has remained constant in its commitment to professional education in the spirit of Christian humanism. The integral formation of the person and the university's international dimension as a meeting place of Eastern and Western culture constitute the core of its identity and tradition. Faculty members hail from Japan, Canada, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Korea, and Ukraine. The student body, too, is international, coming from Europe and North America, as well as Asia. Maximum artistic development and human fulfillment are sought in community

Cecilia Hall, the concert hall of Elisabeth University of Music



through the experience of contributing to the lives and happiness of others. Elisabeth University's ultimate goal is for music to become a life path, leading along the ways of the spirit to God. Thus, the university places great emphasis on the formation of each individual through the arts, especially through music. Through devoted guidance and research in the theory and practice of the musical arts, it aims at imparting broad knowledge and forming musicians of good sense.

Moving forward, Elisabeth University seeks to collaborate with other Jesuit institutions on projects such as charity concerts and culture exchange programmes. It invites institutions with students interested in studying music professionally to consider joining its community in Hiroshima, offering scholarships for international students as needed.

Fransiskus Purhastanto SJ
Director of Campus Ministry and
Lecturer of Islamic Christian Anthropology
(Humanism)
Elisabeth University

A man with white hair, wearing a green shirt and dark pants, is sitting on a white plastic chair in a lush green park. He is looking down at a book or tablet in his lap. The background is filled with large, mature trees, including a prominent one with a thick trunk and dense green foliage. The ground is a well-maintained green lawn. A paved path is visible in the foreground. The overall scene is peaceful and serene.

10,000 MILES

FROM ROME

Exploring Jesuit Superior General Fr Arturo Sosa's two-week apostolic journey to Australia, one of the largest countries in the world, and Timor-Leste, the youngest country in Asia.



“Fr Sosa’s visit will bring encouragement, hope, and words of wisdom to our Province.”

~Fr Quyen Vu SJ



Fr Sosa joins the major superiors of the Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific during their biannual assembly. He invites them to reflect on the process of change and challenges them to listen closely to the Spirit in effectively facing the complex realities of today’s world.



Jesuit Mission Australia welcomes Fr General Sosa amid an intimate evening of gratitude and friendship, gathering loyal supporters from Sydney, Broken Bay, Parramatta, Melbourne, and Adelaide.



CEO Helen Forde accompanies Fr General Sosa

“You are part of the family of the Society of Jesus. Not because of what you give, but because of who you are. Because what you are giving is your own life, your own heart.” ~ Fr General Arturo Sosa SJ



The Cardoner Network offers programmes that aim to build the faith and offer volunteer service opportunities to young Australians. Fr General talks with Harry, who recently returned from volunteering in Thailand, teaching English to children in a rural area.



The parish of St Canice, well-known for its soup kitchen, has become a frequent point of welcome and friendship, right in the heart of Sydney.



Young volunteers of St Canice's Kitchen presents Fr Magadia with a packet of the iconic Australian chocolate biscuit, Tim Tam.



Among the flagship projects in Australia is Jesuit Social Services in Melbourne. A few of its programmes include Justice and Reconciliation, which helps former inmates integrate back into community, and the Men's Project, which helps men and boys live respectful, accountable, and fulfilling lives free from violence and other harmful behaviours.



Fr Sosa presides over the Mass at Saint Ignatius' College, Riverview, a school that dates back to 1880.



Fr General Sosa celebrates Mass and blesses the newly built Kostka Hall of Xavier College for 7th and 8th grade students. The hall includes a chapel with high quality stained glass windows.

“We pray for the grace of a stronger faith, so that we might not fear to move forward in service to all.”

~Fr General Sosa SJ in his homily at the Mass after the blessing of the new Kostka building



In Sevenhill, the cradle of the Jesuit presence in Australia going back 175 years, the Jesuits run a vineyard and produce some of the best altar and table wines. Each year, between 35,000 and 50,000 people visit the winery, the church, and shrines on the property. Sevenhill is also the main centre for the delivery of the full Spiritual Exercises, and the place for the Australian tertianship retreat.



Father General autographs some bottles and tastes the wine.



On 2 February, Fr Sosa flies northwest of Australia to visit the Independent Jesuit Region of Timor-Leste. The Australian Jesuits have a special companionship with the Jesuits in Timor.

“We believe that his visit will inspire our young Timorese Jesuits to give themselves more dynamically to the mission.”

~ Fr Erik John Gerilla SJ, Superior of the Timor-Leste Jesuit Region



Archbishop Virgílio do Carmo da Silva SDB extends a warm welcome to Fr Sosa at the Archbishop’s Palace in Dili.





Prime Minister Xanana Gusmão, an alumnus of Jesuit education, hosts Fr General Sosa and his delegation.



Railaco, a mountainous village located southwest of the capital Dili, is an important mission area of the Jesuits, where they run a parish, health and feeding programmes, and a parochial school. Fr General Sosa meets not only the Jesuit community there, but also the parishioners and the communities supported by the Jesuits.

Fr Sosa with Fr Bong Abad Santos, who for years has operated a mobile clinic and feeding programme in Railaco



From a struggling school community, Nossa Senhora de Fatima, the parish school of Railaco, has blossomed into a model parochial school with a thriving and growing student population. In the school's garden, Fr Sosa plants a seedling beside the grotto of Our Lady.



Traveling to Kasait, a rural village about 18 kilometres from Dili, Father General visits the Jesuit Education Project comprising two institutions: Colégio de Santo Inácio de Loiola, a secondary school, and Instituto São João de Brito, a teacher education institute. He celebrates the Baccalaureate Mass of Instituto São João de Brito and delivers an inspirational message to all the graduates.

Regional Superior Fr Erik John Gerilla SJ with Fr General Sosa wearing the traditional Timorese attire



Father General visits the Jesuit community and offices in Taibessi. He paid his respects to the departed Jesuits buried in the gardens of the community.



Fr Sosa meets Jesuit centenarian Fr João Felgueiras during lunch in the community. Fr Felgueiras is 102 years old and the only remaining Portuguese Jesuit missionary in Timor-Leste.



Fr Sosa is presented with tais, a traditional Timorese handwoven textile



Fr Sosa shares a convivial dinner with friends, supporters, and collaborators. He challenges the entire region to intensify collaboration in all their ministries and strengthen the formation of not only their own men, but also their mission partners and collaborators.



On the morning of 4 February, before his departure for Rome, Fr General engages in reflective dialogue with candidates, novices, and youth groups. He encourages the young people to deepen their relationship with Jesus in order to attain freedom and creativity in confronting life's challenges.

“The one who knows Christ is free and creative.”

~ Fr General Arturo Sosa SJ

Photos from David McMahan of the Australian Province, Jesuit Social Services, Timor-Leste Region, and the Society of Jesus