



Goethals News

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Pope Francis



Papacy began : 13 March 2013

Predecessor : Benedict XVI

Orders

Ordination : 13 December 1969

Consecration : 27 June 1992

Created Cardinal : 21 February 2001 by John Paul II

Personal details

Birth name : Jorge Mario Bergoglio

Born : 17 December 1936 (age 76) Buenos Aires, Argentina

Nationality : Argentine with Vatican citizenship

Previous post :

Provincial Superior of the Society of Jesus in Argentina (1973–1979)

Auxiliary Bishop of Buenos Aires (1992–1997)

Archbishop of Buenos Aires (1998–2013)

Cardinal-Priest of San Roberto Bellarmino (2001–2013)

President of the Argentine Episcopal Conference (2005–2011)

Motto : *Miserando atque Eligendo (lowly but chosen)*



Pope Francis is the sign of our time; indeed a work of God. God has blessed the Church and the world in Pope Francis. It is all for *AD MAIOREM DEI GLORIAM (AMDG)* or “for the greater glory of God” in the spirit of *Magis*. A time of renewal and better governance. It was an historic Papal transition; A decisive moment for the 1.2 billion Catholics around the world. It was the first time in 600 years a living Pope resigned; the first time a Cardinal from the Americas was elevated to the throne; the first time a Pope was named Francis with reverence for the saint's mission for the poor and the first time the Pope was selected from the Jesuit Order known for its focus on constructive thinking.

**Holy Father Francis,
the Pope my heart desired**

Fr. George Ponodath, SJ

The Spirit seems to have finally responded to the prayers of many who looked for a person who would lead the Catholic Church in the way of the Lord. These are difficult times for the Church and therefore it needed a person at the helm who would respond to the signs of the times rather than occupy himself with the task of upholding age old traditions. It is easy and safe to keep to the traditions but the danger is that progress and relevance will be sacrificed at the altar of dead habits.

“When you become big let it be with bended head” a poet once said and that is what Pope Francis did – instead of blessing the people who gathered at St. Peter's square, the first time he appeared at the window, he asked for their prayers – that is humility. The washing of the feet of 12 persons on Maundy Thursday which included two women, one a Muslim, shell-shocked some pundits of tradition but it sent a strong message –real Christian love should break through barriers set by religion and gender. It

also was a lesson for us in humility.

Pope Francis' rejection of the red shoes, opting to stay in a moderate hostel rather than the opulent palatial residence of the Pope, his reaching out to children, his homilies that touch the core of the heart of the listeners are all indicators that he is a person who walks by the Gospel values. We need Francis as the Pope today because the world is losing its concern for the growing numbers of poor and homeless. The Church



needs a person with the mindset of Pope Francis:
"It is not in soul-searching... that we

encounter the Lord," the Pope said, "We need to go out... to the outskirts where there is suffering, bloodshed, blindness that longs for sight and prisoners in thrall to many evil masters." (BBC news – the internet)

May God keep him safe and healthy for many more years to come to make the Church relevant for today and lead it to the world of tomorrow.

This is my wish and my earnest prayer.

A "Poor" Pope

Jorge Mario Bergolio of Argentina became the first Jesuit Pope after Pope Benedict XVI announced the decision of his pontificate on 11th February, 2013. Pope Benedict has given us a much needed reminder to gracefully step down. In turn he has paved the way for the soft-spoken Argentine to become Pope Francis – a leader with a theologian's mind and a pastor's tender common touch. He has been hailed as the man to "rebuild His church".

While sharing his election experience with the 6000 journalists from 81 countries for their first meeting with him, Pope Francis explained the reasons for adopting "Francis" as his name, thinking of Francis of Assisi – a man who loved and protected creation and the poor. His great friend Archbishop emerites of Sao Paulo, Cardinal Claudis Humes had embraced him "do not forget the poor!". After

Saswati Chaudhuri
St. Xavier's College, (Autonomous)



those words. Jorge Mario Bergolio could only think of Francis of Assisi. Pope Francis affirmed a "poor Church" that identifies "with the poor" when he left set practices aside and decided to go to "Casal de Marmo", a juvenile prison in Rome to celebrate Holy Thursday's Evening Mass. He dared to do an act which no other Pope before him could ever dream of – washing the feet of 10 boys and 2 girls, one a Serbian Muslim amongst them. When he was looking at each one's eye and smiling gently, his compassion would touch anyone's heart. This informal approach sets him apart from all the previous

Popes – a person who had broken a set mould for Popes. He is trying to

become a poor and humble servant for all, "that others may become rich in God."

However, all this is nothing new for the Pope. He was always like this. He thanked his newspaper agent Daniel by calling him over phone and also enquired about the well-being of his family

members. A true Jesuit, Bergolio is a simple man leading an austere life but related to everyone. Though Vatican might be struck at this new style of the Pope, to his followers in Argentina, it is not surprising. When he was the archbishop of Buenos Aires, he took a bus to work, lived in a small apartment giving up a magnificent official residence and also prayed with former prostitutes. Thus, the clarion for change has been sounded by the new Pope. However, he cannot bring about change alone. The need of the hour is for like-minded people to join hands.

The Washing of the Feet

I asked a Christian friend “You call yourself a Roman Catholic. But you are an Indian in every sense of the word. What connection do you have with Rome?” She explained that there are three categories among Christians – Laity, Priest and Bishop. Jesus takes care of His flock, using the bishops as His Instrument. Jesus is continuing to build His church, using St. Peter as the foundation-stone. The Bishop of Rome (Called The Pope, which in Italian simply means 'Father') inherits the seat of Peter. Other bishops, along with their flocks, who acknowledge the uniqueness of the seat of St. Peter and thereby pledge allegiance to the Bishop of Rome, are called Roman Catholics.

Jesuits have a special obedience to the Pope, the Vicar of Christ on earth. A Protestant theologian wrote, “Beware of the Jesuits ... These are Pope's men at the time of crisis.” A few of the Jesuits are selected to take a special fourth vow. – that of unconditional obedience to the Vicar of Christ. Pope Francis is the first Jesuit to become a 'Bishop

Dipankar Basu

Teacher, St. Xavier's Collegiate School



of Rome', a man owing allegiance to an identity that he has received as inheritance.

In a way, each of us ought to owe unconditional alligence to his or her identity . A very basic question is “Who am I?” Talking about myself, there are multiple designations ; at St. Xavier's, I am known as a teacher. At St. Lawrence, I am an Ex-Student. My wife, teaches at Patha Bhavan – there I am known as 'Mrs. Basu's Husband'! Besides, I am 'son' to my parents, 'father' to my sons, 'brother' to my siblings, 'landlord' to my tenants and so on ... But these designations often push my true identity to the background. I keep on forgetting that objectively “The Great Master is my Father /

Mother Mary is my mother / All who are devout to the blessed Lord are my kinsmen / The entire cosmos is my homeland / No one in this world is an outsider to me. \

On Maundy Thursday, Pope Francis washed the feet of a few teenage convicts, including two girls (one of whom was a Muslim). He broke convention – his predecessors used to wash the feet of priests ONLY. By ritualistic washing the feet of convicts, the new pope asserted that every human being is a child of God. The parents feel hurt and ashamed when their children do something heinous, but that does not make them disown their own children. The Pope demonstrated the innate sacredness of the human body, mind and soul – the sacredness that every living being inherits from God, their Father.

St. Francis of Asisi was commanded to repair and renew the church of God. Jesus is asking Pope Francis to heal the wounds inflicted on His church. May the Holy Spirit continue to speak and act through our Jesuit Pope.

**What if God was one of us?
Just a stranger on a bus?
Trying to make his way home ...
Nobody calling on his phone.
Except for the Pope may be in Rome.
-So Goes a popular song by Joan Osbourne**

The Pope, then is regarded as one blessed with a direct line to God; endowed with a superior spiritual hierarchy – a man above other men. Pope Francis is certainly that and more. Liberal and progressive, he captures the mood of his times while remaining true to the traditions and teachings of the Catholic Church. The person with highest ecclesiastical post in the world, with

The Shepherd

Partho Mukherji

St. Xavier's College, (Autonomous)

the power to sway masses, is at heart essentially a simple and humble human being. Loyal to the principles of Christianity, he leaves the pulpit and reaches out to his pupils and peoples, becoming one with them.

The foremost spiritual leader of the world does not hesitate to avail public transport, bridging the gap between the privileged and the poor, between the preacher and the preached, between the shepherd and his flock.

Pope Francis is the Chosen One, yet as the Son of God did, our Pope ensures and promotes fellowship



among his brethren – believing that there is no sinner whose soul cannot be redeemed, who cannot be led to salvation.

Pope Francis seeks happiness in his labours – “He shall follow his sheep all the day” – he articulates his praise of the Lord through his service. And “the Lord, his pasture shall prepare.”

Jesuit Commons: Higher Education at the Margins



(JC:HEM) is an initiative of the Society of Jesus that brings Jesuit higher education to those at the margins of our society. It draws on the rich and centuries long Jesuit tradition of higher education and mobilizes the resources of the Jesuit worldwide network of educational institutions.

Services:

- Bring together those who would normally be unable to access higher education, with institutions seeking a practical way to take education where it is needed most;
- Enable us to collaborate fully and freely to create global, virtual, immersive learning environments through which Jesuit higher education can be delivered in a manner that is scalable, sustainable and transferable
- Promote human dignity and gender equality with educators accompanying learners;
- Give life to the principles of Ignatian pedagogy offering higher education capable of transformational learning;
- Share the common human and spiritual values of all religions and cultures.



Displaced children come back to study in a secondary school renovated by JRS, Goma, Eastern Congo.

What does JC:HEM do?

It is currently working in collaboration with the Jesuit Refugee Service to offer online higher education courses to more than 500 refugees in Malawi, Kenya, Syria and Jordan.

How does JC:HEM Work?

Academically, JC:HEM offers a **Diploma in Liberal Studies** and several **Community Learning Service Tracks**.

Community Service Learning Tracks (CSLT)

From January 2013, Community Service Learning Tracks (CSLTs) seek to enhance local vocational education by providing on-site facilitators with on-line access to Faculty expertise and materials. CSLTs are designed jointly by the on-line Track International Faculty and the on-site CSLT Track Facilitator.

The Diploma in Liberal Studies

01 January 1900 The Diploma in Liberal Studies is studied over three years and is awarded by Regis University, Denver Colorado. It is open to all regardless of age, gender, race and faith and is delivered on-line by a Faculty of volunteers each with expert knowledge of their subject areas and an understanding of Ignatian pedagogy.



Four Jesuit Colleges in India namely St. Xavier's College, Kolkata and Mumbai, St. Joseph's, Bangalore, and Loyola, Chennai, have agreed to join this network. St. Xavier's College (SXC), Kolkata, has already signed an MOU between JRS, JC:HEM and SXC and also serves on the JC:HEM Board of Directors. Fr. Felix Raj attended the first JC:HEM's Board meeting in Rome in May 2013 during which key issues such as scalability, transferability and sustainability of the current volunteer nature of its work and universality were discussed.

SXC Partners with JC:HEM for a 'Global Virtual Jesuit University': Online Tertiary Education to Refugees and Migrants

The author is the JRS-JC:HEM's Online Education Coordinator for South Asia. He coordinates Jesuit University Colleges in India, Jesuit Refugee Service South Asia and other partners to implement JC:HEM's online tertiary programmes in South Asia beginning in Afghanistan.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world” - Nelson Mandela

Following the hallmark of Jesuit mission to form 'men and women for others', Jesuit Higher Education sets no physical boundaries and barriers to anyone who aspires to be educated and to be leaders in their social and personal lives. A novel means recently used to achieve this goal is the harnessing of digital technology to provide access to quality higher education to those who live at the margins like refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), and to those who are isolated in inaccessible and volatile regions. It is a conscientious Jesuit option to reach out to the most neglected people who are subject to ethnic, religious, social and political violence. According to the UNHCR Global Trend Report 2011, there are as many as 42.5 million people uprooted by war and violence in the world, of which 15.2 million are refugees, 26 million are IDPs and 1.3 million in stateless situations. Two-third of these marginalised people originate from six territories including African countries (Somalia, Congo, Sudan, Mali etc.), the Middle East (Palestine, Iraq, Jordan, Syria), South Asia (Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Bhutan), and Latin America (Columbia), to name a few. Three-

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Students participating in online discussion forums and submitting their assignments online at Dzaleka Camp, Malawi
Courtesy: Jesuit Commons at Dzaleka

fourths of them have been living for a protracted period of 15 to 20 years in harsh, hostile and rugged environments. 46 per cent of the refugees are under 18 years old. As many as 20 million refugees and IDPs are denied access to Secondary and Post-Secondary education.

The Jesuit initiative to serve such marginalized groups, is known as “Jesuit Commons: Higher Education at the Margins” (JC:HEM). It is a worldwide network of Jesuit Universities and Colleges. It draws on the rich and long tradition of Jesuit education integrated with Ignatian pedagogical methods and digital tools. It mobilises resources from the global higher education institutions to offer online tertiary education to refugees and IDPs in different parts of the world, especially in Africa and the Middle East. Currently the majority of higher education institutions of this

global network are from the USA and a couple of University Colleges in India. St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, among others, joins this global Jesuit Higher Education network to reach out to those at the margins in countries like Afghanistan, and in the future to Sri Lanka and India.

The origin of JC:HEM traces back to the international higher education conference on “Shaping The Future: Networking Jesuit Higher Education For A globalizing World” held in Mexico in April 2010. At the conference, together with Rev. Fr. Adolf Nicolas, S.J., the Superior General of the

Society of Jesus. Presidents of a large number of Jesuit Higher Education Institutions across the globe, reflected on the challenges to Jesuit Higher education today in the globalised world of inequalities in wealth as well as knowledge. They especially focussed on these key questions:

Who benefits from the knowledge produced in our institutions and who does not?

Who needs the knowledge we can share, and how can we share it more effectively with those for whom that knowledge can truly make a difference, especially the poor and excluded?

With some 180 higher education institutions in roughly 50 countries, the Society of Jesus has an incomparable network of Colleges and Universities inspired by the Ignatian spirit, charism and universal nature of the Society of Jesus as spelt in the 35th General Congregation.

Responding to the above mentioned issues, the delegates at the Mexican Conference decided to establish a network of global Jesuit Higher

Education institutions termed JC:HEM. The vision of JC:HEM is “to empower those at the very edges of our societies – be it through poverty, location, opportunity or circumstance – through access to Jesuit Higher Education, so that they can contribute their knowledge and wisdom to our global community of learners and that together we foster hope to create a more peaceful and humane world.” Being imbued by the spirit of the Society of Jesus, its mission involves bringing Higher Education to those at the margins of our society, drawing on the rich and centuries long Jesuit tradition of Higher Education and on the resources of the Jesuit worldwide network of educational institutions. It offers a 45 Credit Diploma in Liberal Studies program on-line coupled with onsite support, and certificate level offerings of 4 to 6 months for specific skills like Community Development, Special Needs, Community Health Provider, Community Counselling, English as a Foreign Language, and Media and Journalism. Participants of these courses are trained to serve their community utilising skills they have gained. Accordingly, these courses are listed as Community Service Learning Tracks (CSLT). The Diploma requires three years

for completion, with a scope for a specialization either in Business Commerce or Education. Regis University, Denver, USA, is the awarding University for the Diploma program. Several Universities award CSLT certificates.

Currently there are partners from both the academic sector as well as social sector supporting this digital movement worldwide. While Jesuit Refugee Service serves as the lead partner, there are 36 academic Universities and Colleges striving to achieve the vision and mission of JC:HEM. Its first pilot project is being implemented in Africa and the Middle East for those most excluded from our society, particularly victims of war and ethnic violence like refugees and internally displaced people. In September 2010, the first cohort of online tertiary education was enrolled in the Kakuma Camp, Kenya, and the Dzaleka Camp, Malawi. It has now spread to other regions like Aleppo in Syria, and Amman in Jordan. Students from 13 countries avail of various



The Watershed Programs help to restore the land and break the cycle of poverty in drought-prone areas by holding back rain water and allowing it to percolate into the ground instead just flowing to the rivers.

from 36 partners of Higher Education Institutions across the world. There are 15 dedicated tutors based in the camps as well as online. The Jesuit University Colleges in India, like St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai, Loyola College, Chennai and St. Joseph's College, Bangalore, have joined this global network. St. Xavier's College (SXC), Kolkata, takes the lead in South Asia and Fr. Felix Raj, Principal, is a member of the JC:HEM Board of Directors. In January 2013, St. Xavier's has signed a tripartite MOU between JRS, JC:HEM, and SXC. Accordingly, SXC has planned to serve the JC:HEM in the following manner:

- Catering to the Higher Education needs of refugees and IDPs particularly in Afghanistan and Sri Lanka
- Donating courses which are already available in its current Career Oriented programmes (COP)
- Donating necessary text books / study materials to JC:HEM students
- Framing new curricula as required for select courses which will be offered online by SXC
- Providing faculty volunteers to teach students in groups of 12 to 15,

programmes offered by JC:HEM, of which 250 students are in the diploma programme, 450 students in CSLT programmes, taught by 160 faculty members



Superior General Visits JC:HEM in Dzaleka

online in an 8-week course.

- Credentialing courses so as to enable JC:HEM students to complete a diploma and/or a bachelor degree
- Donating current digital technology tools, software, computers compatible to both online and onsite programme needs
- Joining efforts to solve energy needs through solar and other renewable resources

St. Xavier's with JRS will support the first CSLT on English as Foreign Language (EFL) which will be officially launched in the Herat Technical Institute, Herat, Afghanistan, in September 2013. For this CSLT track, while the curriculum and content are designed by Georgetown University, USA, St. Xavier's together with St. Joseph's College, Bangalore, will provide volunteer faculty for online facilitation and evaluation. Being a member of the Governing Body of JC:HEM, Rev. Fr. Felix Raj, S.J., participated in the first international board meeting

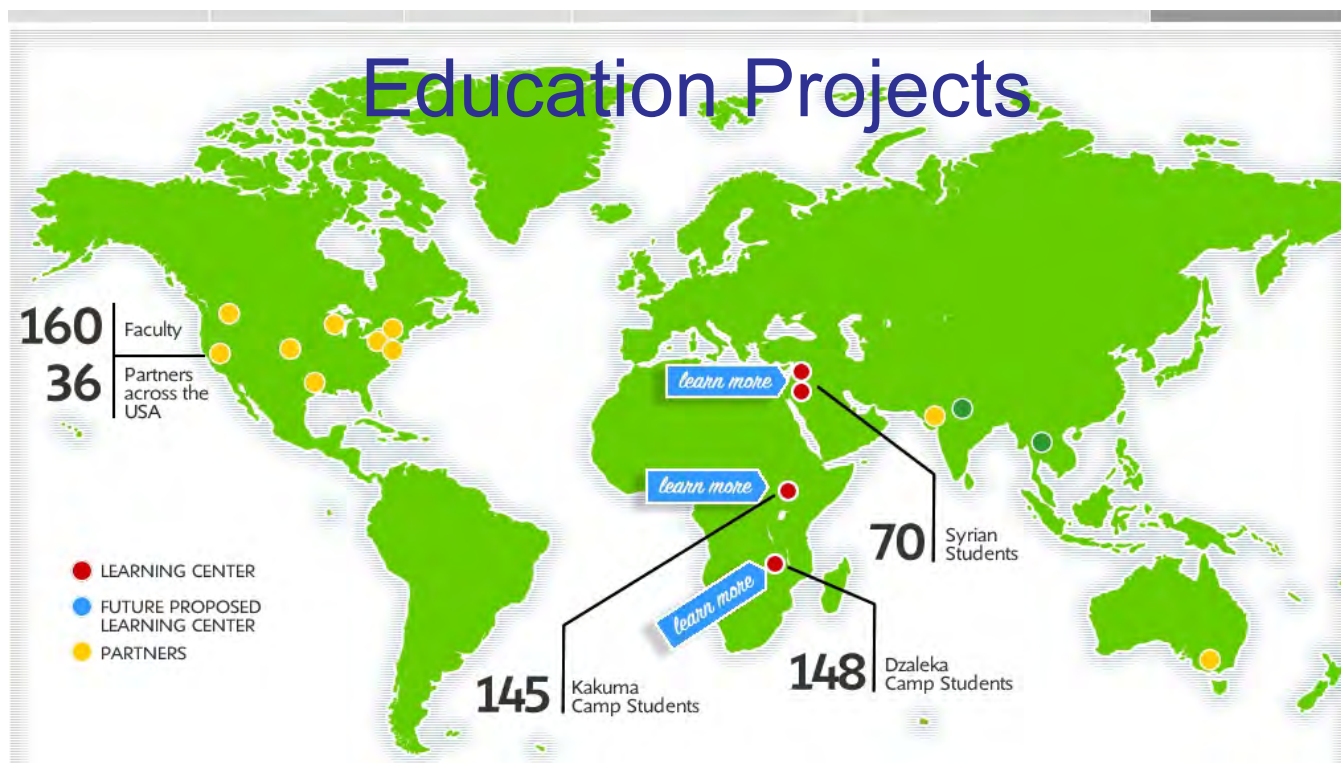
in Rome in May 2013. Some of the key issues discussed in the meeting included transferability, scalability and sustainability of JC:HEM broadening its scope to serve those in extreme difficulty and adverse situations, to whom providing access to knowledge will make a tremendous impact.

From the impact of the JC:HEM programmes in Africa and the Middle East, one can boldly state that this initiative has definitely

opened up a new vista of opportunities for refugees who are confined to rugged and hostile conditions for a protracted period. St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, has pledged to contribute to this noble calling of the Society of Jesus in all possible ways to make it a truly global Jesuit enterprise, enlivening the motto of JC:HEM - "Transform Thinking and Transform the World".



Promoting Higher Education for women in Dzaleka Refugee Camp





Researchers at Goethals

Anitya Ajmani on Paintings, Jharkhand.
Bilash Mal on Activities in Sundarbans by the Missionaries, West Bengal.
Dorothy McMenamin on Colonial History especially on Anglo-Indian & Multicultural Societies, New Zealand.
Falisse Philiffe on Belgo-Tagorian Relations, Belgium.
Fr. Sergio Targa SX on West Bengal Mission, Bangladesh.
Fr. Zdravko Knezevic S.J on Jesuit Missionary in West Bengal, Kolkata.

Jyotirmoy Sarkar on Ancient History, West Bengal.
Kishan Barchha on Paintings, Jharkhand.
Madona Mullick on History of Missionary, Kolkata.
Mou Baneerjee on Brahmabandhav Upadhyay, Kolkata
Radha Kapuria on History of Music in Punjab, New Delhi.
Sekhar Kumar Das on Early Indian Cinema & St. Xavier's College, Kolkata.
Suniti Kumar Chatterji on Finance & Law, PHD Programme, Kolkata.

MAILS & EMAILS



- Excellent. I would love to spend more time here in the future. - **Mrs. Dorothy McMenamin**, New Zealand.
- Commendable preservation and a rare collection. - **Radha Kapuria**, New Delhi.
- Rich choice of resources – **Fr. Zdravko Knezevic, S.J.**, West Bengal

A Message of Peace by Hadrat Mirza Gulam Ahmad, N. N. Ishaat, Punjab, 2007.

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New Arrivals

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