



UNION MONDIALE DES ANCIEN(NE)S ELÈVES DE LA COMPAGNIE DE JÉSUS  
 WORLD UNION OF JESUIT ALUMNI/AE  
 UNION MUNDIAL DE LOS ANTIGUOS ALUMNOS DE LA COMPAÑÍA DE JESÚS

# ENSEMBLE TOGETHER CONCORDES

SYDNEY, NSW, AUSTRALIA

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## 7th Congress of the World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae



Bujumbura city – Burundi.



One of the Burundian rivers.



Burundian landscape 'the country with a thousand and one hills'.



Student dancing group – St Esprit High School.

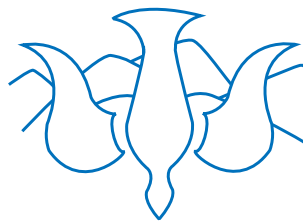
### WITNESSES TO HOPE

JESUIT ALUMNI/AE,  
 FOR A BETTER AFRICA:  
 WHAT HAVE WE DONE?  
 WHAT ARE WE DOING?  
 WHAT MUST WE DO?

From 22 to 27 July 2009

at the Lycée-Collège  
 du Saint-Esprit

Bujumbura-BURUNDI



Young Alumni/ae meet  
 from 15 to 22 July 2009

Organised by Burundi Association of Jesuit Alumni/ae  
 (ABA) with the assistance of Alumni/ae of the  
 Democratic Republic of Congo and of Rwanda



Bujumbura – location map.



Stone sculpture of school crest.



Entrance to St Esprit High School.



One of the school's courtyards.



Chapel – St Esprit High School.



## Editorial

Bienvenue

Welcome

Bienvenido



The African World Congress of the World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae (WUJA) will take place in Bujumbura, Burundi, in July next year. At that Congress a new President, Executive, and 16 Council Members will be elected to continue the work of the WUJA for the next six years.

Looking ahead, this is a time for federations, confederations and associations to plan and to seek out those they will put forward for election to become a part of the next WUJA executive and council — to carry on the ideal first put forward in 1956 by Fr Pedro Arrupe SJ, of Jesuit alumni/ae being 'men and women for others' working to make a difference for those in need.

One could follow the example of the Stanislites, the alumni/ae of St Stanislaus High School in Mumbai (p7), who really have shown the power of alumni/ae working together to make a difference in 'deeds not just words'.

I'm sure there are other alumni/ae groups performing inventive and marvellous projects — both big and small. I know that when in Miami at the end of 2006 I heard of some incredibly creative projects in operation in Latin America. I would like news of your projects to publish as others are interested.

Of major importance: Please plan ahead to attend the World Congress of Jesuit Alumni/ae in Bujumbura, Burundi, Africa, July 2008. God bless,

Robyn Treseder  
Editor – Ensemble Together Concorde  
Council Member – Oceania  
World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae  
Email: robyn.tr@bigpond.net.au

My sincere thanks go to Eric de Langsdorff for the French, and Cécile Launay for the Spanish translations and proof reading for ETC. Grateful thanks also go to proof reader Sr Josepha Clancy CSJ for English. Editor.

## President's letter

### Fellow Alumni/ae

Once again I must thank our editor, Robyn Treseder, for putting together an excellent magazine, not an easy task when trying to persuade volunteers worldwide to send her the information she needs (with me at the top of the list).

One of the main features in this issue relates to the World Union Congress to be held next July in Bujumbura, Burundi.

The committee in Bujumbura have been doing really good work since the meeting in Nairobi putting together our program for this event and I would like to thank them very much for their efforts. I had the pleasure of meeting with their president, Mr Grégoire Banyiyezako, at a meeting of the World Union Executive Committee in Paris in July to finalise a major part of the program.

In June I had the privilege of meeting with the new Superior General, Fr Adolfo Nicolás SJ. It was a good meeting and provided an opportunity to discuss with him how the World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae might continue to work with the Society and to confirm the priorities of the Society. An important outcome from our meeting was confirmation of the support of the Society of our Congress in Africa and of the intention of Fr Nicolás to attend.

The next event on my calendar is the Latin American Confederation Congress to be held in Guadalajara in November. The Confederation has invited the Bujumbura president to attend along with their Jesuit Counsellor and I have invited members of the World Union Council to join me there as well.

By the time you read this message, our webmaster will have introduced some improvements to the WUJA website. Many thanks to Mario Soavi who puts in many hours of work in his spare time to keep our website up to date.

Finally, a big thank-you to Fr Kolvenbach who has done so much to foster a spirit of cooperation between the Society and WUJA and who has been a source of inspiration to myself and to my predecessors.

Bernard Thompson  
President – World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae



Bernard Thompson

## First meeting of the World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae with Father Adolfo Nicolás SJ



It was on June 7, 2008 that I met with our new Father General. To tell the truth, it was not the first time that I had met Father Adolfo Nicolás. We had met in Rome in September 1987, on the occasion of a congregation of the 'Procureurs' at which he had been elected to represent the Province of Japan, while I represented the Province of France.

This first conversation provided me with the opportunity to explain to Father General the Delegate's duties to the World Union of the Jesuit Alumni/ae that Father Kolvenbach had missioned me to. Father Nicolás showed a great interest in learning that the World Union would hold its next Congress in Africa. He sees there indeed, a particular interest because of the priority that the Society of Jesus has for this continent.



Father Adolfo Nicolás SJ

Following this conversation, which continued with lunch with WUJA President Mr Bernard Thompson, **Father General confirmed to us that he planned to attend the World Congress in Bujumbura** when he will deliver a message to the participants and, through them, to the Alumni/ae of the Society of Jesus.

Pierre Salembier SJ – Father General's Delegate  
World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae – July 26, 2008

## Preparation for the World Congress in the Democratic Republic of Congo



Fr André Cnockaert SJ, Sunzu Ntigambirizwa (Burundi secretary of the organizing committee for travel in Kinshasa), Benoit Kambere and Eric Namukabisa, members of the Alumni/ae Association of Alfajiri/Bukavu.

The Jesuit Province of Central Africa covers the territory of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). It presently includes seven schools, for the most part over 50 years old. In addition, two former schools became parochial schools in 1976. Another institution is without a Jesuit community at the moment. These 10 institutions have produced over 15,000 graduates. All have their own Alumni/ae Associations. But the Jesuits also managed other schools under their missionary commitment in various dioceses during colonial times: small and big seminaries, educational and professional schools. Many alumni/ae from these schools proudly call themselves Jesuit alumni/ae.

In spite of their willingness, most of the associations have to this day remained poorly organized. There are numerous reasons for this; the Society of Jesus, the alumni/ae, social, environmental and political conditions, over these past several decades. The Central Africa Jesuit Province, which has been autonomous since 1957, has undergone some major changes in the past decades. The overseas missionaries, many of whom were educators, have died or returned to their Western countries with time passing before they can be replaced. Schools operate with minimal Jesuit personnel, who are often young and still in training. This does not favor the running of alumni/ae Associations. On the other hand, the alumni/ae are very scattered. Those who live and work in their resident country reside for the most part in Kinshasa, while their schools are often far from them and difficult to access in spite of recent developments in mobile telephony and Internet communications. This situation does not facilitate contact either between the alumni/ae and their schools or between the alumni/ae themselves.

Nevertheless, here at DRC, we are conscious of our commitment to this Congress which will take place on African soil, very close to us. The proximity of one of our schools (Alfajiri in Bukavu) with the city where the Congress is to be held, has been a concern for this school's Alumni/ae Association, the president of which, Dr Géronce Balegamire, attended the Kolkata Congress and is a member of the WUJA Council. This resulted in ongoing contacts with the steering committee in Bujumbura. But most of the Jesuit schools are historically concentrated in the Western part of the country, about 2000 kms from Bukavu, which can only be reached by plane! These school Associations also want to be involved.

In Kinshasa, Fr. André Cnockaert SJ, as the DRC Associations' advisor, has begun to gather the presidents and some members from various Associations. The first meeting took place in September 2007: it was dedicated to the report of the Nairobi meeting. Since January 2008, a monthly meeting is planned on the last Friday of every month. In spite of the not insignificant financial cost, Dr Balegamire was able to be present at some of these meetings. Once, he came directly from the airport with regrettably more than one hour of delay because of a traffic jam....

So, over the past few months, a group of about 20 persons has been set up (including two or three members of each Association), who have become more cohesive as a group, because, in the words of Fr Kolvenbach at the Versailles

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## IN PACE CHRISTI VINCENT DUMINUCO SJ

IT WAS WITH GREAT SADNESS THAT THE WORLD UNION OF JESUIT ALUMNI/AE RECEIVED THE NEWS OF THE DEATH OF FR VINCENT DUMINUCO SJ.



Fr Vincent Duminuco SJ

Fr Vincent Duminuco was for many years the delegate of Father General to the World Union from 1987 to 2004, at the same time as fulfilling the role of Education Secretariat at the General Curia in Rome. His enthusiasm and dedication to the role that Alumni/ae could take in supporting the work of the Society, was an inspiration to us all.

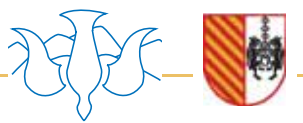
We are grateful to Fr John J O'Callaghan SJ for this comment: "Father Duminuco was born in 1934, entered the Jesuits right after high school, and served in the secondary school apostolate all his life, both as teacher and administrator in New York, and then as president of the Jesuit Secondary

Educational Association in Washington, D.C. before being called to Rome to head the Education Secretariat at the General Curia. While there, besides his work with Alumni and other ongoing initiatives, he spearheaded much-appreciated work on formulating practical principles of Ignatian Pedagogy and played an important role in re-vitalizing Jesuit education in Eastern Europe after the fall of Communism."

We would ask you all to remember him, and those who mourn for him, in your prayers.

Thank you Fr Duminuco.

May you now Rest in the Peace of the Lord.



# 7th Congress of the World Union of Jesuit Alumni/AE

## WITNESSES TO HOPE

### JESUIT ALUMNI/AE, FOR A BETTER AFRICA: WHAT HAVE WE DONE? WHAT ARE WE DOING? WHAT MUST WE DO?

From 22 to 27 July 2009. At the Lycée-Collège du Saint-Esprit Bujumbura-BURUNDI

#### Pre-Congress program for Young Alumni/AE 15 – 22 July 2009

Organised by Burundi Association of Jesuit Alumni/AE (ABAJ) with the assistance of Alumni/AE of the Democratic Republic of Congo and of Rwanda

#### Theme of the Congress

In Bujumbura, the heart of Africa, in the land of a thousand and one hills and of the Sacred Drum, neighbour of Rwanda, Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi will welcome, from 22 to 27 July 2009, ex-students of the Jesuits from all over the world. The situation in Africa, host of the Congress following Asia, is characterised by political turbulence, the depression of hunger and the AIDS pandemic. We have every hope in the up-and-coming youth educated by the Society of Jesus for an Africa accountable for its own economic and social development assuming responsibility in accordance with the aspiration of excellence envisaged by Ignatian education. The recent 35th General Congregation of the Society has particularly taken the option to prioritise Africa and the Congress christened 'Hope' will bring together people of great ability around the new Superior General, Fr Adolfo Nicolás, to create and maintain new fellowship across the world.

For a better Africa: What have we done?

What are we doing? What must we do?

The ex-students of the Jesuits will question themselves about the welcome of Africa, partner of the other continents, at this time of globalisation and world wide village. We will go beyond words and mere talk under the traditional baobab, for a better justice for all. We will break things down thanks to the written word, telecommunications and fibre-optics.

Come then to Bujumbura, following in the footsteps of Stanley and Livingstone, to discover the most southern source of the River of the Pharaohs and to taste fresh sangala, mukeke and ndagala, veritable delights particular to Lake Tanganyika. The Congress of 'Hope' in Bujumbura following that of 'Joy' in Calcutta, will bring a different flavour, for the two are of the same origin, the Alma Mater and the Society of Jesus. Above all, don't miss out.

#### Congress Program 2009 (Simultaneous translation of presentations)

Wednesday 22 July

Arrival of participants. Welcome and registration

1st day Thursday 23 July

(At the Kiriri Campus)

09.30 Opening Celebration of Mass by Mgr Evariste Ngonagoye, Archbishop of Bujumbura, assisted by the Archbishop of Bukavu and the Papal Nuncio to Burundi

11.00 Welcome to participants by Mr Grégoire Banyiyezako, President of l'ABAJ. Opening of the Congress by Mr Bernard Thompson, President of the World Union

12.30 Lunch on Campus

14.30 Organised visits to discover the real Burundi

15.00 Meeting of the outgoing World Union Council

19.00 Evening free

2nd day Friday 24 July

(At the Lycée of Saint-Esprit de Gihosha)

Theme 'For a better Africa: What have we done? What are we doing?'

08.30 Presentations by Fr Ferdinand Muhigirwa SJ and Fr Rigobert Minana SJ of the Centre of Study for Social Action (CEPAS) of Kinshasa: 'Regional stakeholders of peace and development in the Great Lakes region'

09.45 Break

10.15 Discussion in small groups

12.30 Lunch

14.00 Panel with presentations by four witnesses (including Fr Michael Czerny SJ, Co-ordinator of the Jesuit African Network against AIDs, Nairobi)

15.30 Break

16.00 Discussions in small groups

17.00 Cultural evening

During the day, an opportunity to view and enquire about the achievements of Jesuits and Ex-students in Africa

3rd day Saturday 25 July

Theme: Same as second day

08.30 Presentation by Fr Peter Henriot SJ of the OICPE. Catholic Office of Information and Institute for Europe.

09.45 Break

10.15 Discussion in small groups

11.30 Report on the pre-congress 'spiritual experiences' of the young alumni/AE

12.30 Lunch

14.00 Panel with presentations by four witnesses (including Fr Frank Turner SJ, Director of OCIPE (Office of Catholic Information and Initiative on problems in Europe))

15.00 Break

16.00 Discussion in small groups

17.30 Welcome of Fr General, Adolfo Nicolás

19.00 Evening free

4th day Sunday 26 July

Theme of the day: 'For a better Africa, What must we do?'

09.00 Message of Fr General

10.00 Break

10.30 Reflections in small groups

12.30 Lunch

16.00 Report on the summary of the groups' conclusions from the morning

17.00 Celebration of Mass presided over by Fr General

19.00 Congress Dinner

5th day Monday 27 July

Morning free or organised visits.

09.00 Statutory General Assembly of the World Union followed by a meeting of the new World Union Council

12.30 Lunch

14.30 Presentation to Congress participants of the results of the General Assembly: resolutions, location of the next Congress, new members of the Executive and the Council of the World Union

17.00 Closure of Congress, cocktail party and departure

#### Pre-congress Program for Young Alumni/AE

The Congress will be preceded by a week long program of 'spiritual experiences' for young alumni/AE. These spiritual experiences will take place in Burundi and in the region of Bukavu in the East of the Democratic Republic of Congo. They will comprise particularly activities around centres for vulnerable children (AIDs orphans) and visits to hospitals. In this way the young alumni/AE will make contact with the main challenges to be taken up in Africa.

For all information on this program, contact:

For Africa: Jocelyne Nahimana (Burundi)

Nahimana\_joce@yahoo.fr; tel. 00257 79 99 5127

For the other continents:

- Vincent De Roeck (Belgium) vincent.deroeck@yahoo.com

- Alfonso Ruiz de Eguino (Spain) eguino@gmail.com

Congress Registration

Registrations must be addressed directly to National Federations as listed on the World Union website (www.jesuitalumni.org). For all information please contact the following regional representatives:

- Africa: Salvator Sunzu Ntigambirizwa

(Congress Secretary) ntigambirizwa@yahoo.fr

tel 00257 77 73 27 89 (home); 00257 22 22 55 04 (off)

- Europe: Eric de Langsdorff

eric.delangsdorff@orange.fr; tel 0033 9 79 06 42 44

- North America: Thomas Bausch

thomas.bausch@marquette.edu; tel 001 414 288 1657

- Latin America: Alfonso Fernandez del Valle

afernandezdelv@iteso.mx

- Oceania: Robyn Treseder

robyn.tr@bigpond.net.au; tel 0061 2 99 58 23 40

- East Asia: Peter Wong

sheldav@netvigator.com; tel 00852 2 25 44 43 65

- South Asia: Conrad Gonsalves;

conrad@vsnl.com tel 0091 22 26 45 00 56

- Middle East: Nagy el Khoury

nagyelkhoury@hotmail.com; tel 00961 5 454 629

Registration fees include all documentation, participation at all working sessions, coffee breaks, lunches, communal transport throughout the Congress in addition to the congress dinner and the closing cocktail party.

Fees:

Before 31st December 2008:

US \$280 or equivalent in Euros.

From 1st January 2009:

US \$300 or equivalent in Euros

World Union of Jesuit Alumni/AE

Since its foundation in Bilbao in 1956,

the World Union has organised six Congresses:

Bilbao (1956, the Founding Congress),

Rome (1967),

Versailles (1986),

Bilbao-Loyola (1991),

Sydney (1997),

Calcutta (2003).

The Congress of Bujumbura is therefore the seventh.

The World Union brings together approximately

450 Associations.

The Burundi Association of Jesuit Alumni/AE (ABAJ)

The Collège du Saint Esprit (College of the Holy Spirit)

was founded by the Jesuits in 1952 on the site of

Kiriri. The first cohort graduated in 1958 with

18 Rhetoricians. It was transferred to Gihosha in

1983 and became the Lycée du Saint Esprit retaining

its original name. In 2007, there were 846 students

of which 54 per cent were girls. Since its creation,

there have been more than 3400 graduates.

The Association was founded in 1991 and became

a legal entity in 2001.

These photographs and those on the front page, of St Esprit High School and of Burundi, were supplied courtesy of Fr Denis Joassart SJ and Eric de Langsdorff. Editor.

#### NEW: WORLD UNION OF JESUIT ALUMNI/AE WEBSITE www.jesuitalumni.org

Alumni/AE worldwide are invited to visit and interact with this new website.

Mario Soavi, the WUJA webmaster, has created a site that is absolutely up to date. It works as a WordPress blog, which means that anybody, with authorization, could manage the site. Also, it has automatic news retrieval tools, capable of fetching news items from all Jesuit Alumni/AE websites and re-publishing these items on the WUJA site.

IT NEEDS YOUR INVOLVEMENT - PLEASE VISIT TODAY AND REGULARLY: www.jesuitalumni.org





## JESUIT SECONDARY EDUCATION A TRADITION WITH A FUTURE

ANTWERP, BELGIUM – MAY 24, 2008

On Saturday May 24, 2008 about 200 people gathered in a hall of Antwerp University for a congress on *Jesuit Secondary Education – A Tradition with a Future*. This afternoon of study and discussion was organized by the Federation of the former pupils associations of the Flemish Jesuit Colleges (college' applying to an institute for primary and secondary education) in collaboration with UCSIA, the University Centre Saint Ignatius Antwerp. It was a successful meeting with four presentations and a panel discussion.

Keynote speaker was Dominique Salin SJ, professor at the Centre Sèvres in Paris, a Jesuit faculty for theology. He gave a historical exposition of Jesuit secondary education from the origins up to the present day throughout the world. He demonstrated more particularly how *Ignatian Spirituality* and Jesuit pedagogy link up seamlessly with each other and how the spirituality of the *Exercises* urged the Jesuits who had no teaching ambitions whatever, to become teachers themselves.

The next speaker was Paul Yperman, the president of the Flemish and of the 'European umbrella organization' of Jesuit schools. He examined the challenges that Flemish and European Jesuit education face with the decline of the effective Jesuit forces and with the great social changes that are taking place. He examined themes such as educating towards freedom within the confined framework of a school that must provide security and openness. He pleaded the maintenance of a high intellectual training, but also stimulating creative, social and emotional development of the youngsters. He finally examined the importance of reflection as the centre and the hinges of the Ignatian pedagogical paradigm (context – experience – reflection – action – evaluation).

Nikolaas Sintobin SJ was the third speaker. Very familiar with the Ignatian spirituality and pedagogy he tackled the Ignatian idea of excellence: is that a touchy and tainted item of our inheritance or is it a crucial challenge? The Ignatian excellence really means

something else other than to be 'the best for the best'. Nikolaas Sintobin approached this idea of excellence from the point of view of the *Spiritual Exercises* and he pointed out that starting from high-level intellectual formation one is invited to personal critical reflection in order to achieve a

concrete engagement in today's society. For the immediate future he saw two realistic challenges: the need to establish a very concrete and well thought out integrated social engagement for the pupils and at the same time a very distinctive program of *Ignatian Spirituality* both being spread out over the six years of secondary school.

The fourth speaker Johan Verschuereen SJ, general director of the Xaverius College in Borgerhout gave a very practice-based account of the specific challenges of a present day Jesuit school. Borgerhout is experiencing major demographic changes, particularly the growing presence of Moroccan pupils. He pointed out how the realisation of an explicit multicultural vision brought calm and confidence. He also pointed out what it can mean within this changing context to choose persistently a Christian identity and how excellence appears to be a crucial challenge with regard to this new category of youngsters.

The afternoon concluded with a panel discussion in which four old boys from the Jesuit colleges were engaged in a conversation with four members, field workers in the schools. It became an animated conversation with sweet memories, sharp critical remarks, dreams and reality. The Flemish Radio and Television journalist, Bruno Huyghebaert, summed it all up in a professional way allowing the assembly ample opportunity to take part.



The Congress – Antwerp Belgium.

some kind to disadvantaged persons. With regard to this initiative, we hope to give a PowerPoint presentation of their work at the Congress and to hope that some of them can be present as witnesses.

At the meeting last June, the Father Counsellor presented a brochure which he produced to help the various Associations with the preparation of the Congress. A first run of 150 copies was printed at little cost, in a small printing office founded by an alumnus in a popular district of the city. The brochure will be also posted on the Internet. It is entitled: *Jesuits, Alumni, World Union* and is divided into the following three parts:

1. An historic outline explaining how the desire for Alumni/ae to help build a better, more just and brotherly world was born and developed in the 20th century;
2. A presentation of the World Union and the six world Congresses which have already taken place; and
3. Practical information which should allow the Associations, their schools and the Central Africa Province to prepare actively and effectively for the Congress.

Thus, we hope this WUJA 2009 opportunity will give new momentum to the School Associations in DRC.

Kinshasa – July 10, 2008

## ST STANISLAUS HIGH SCHOOL RUN BY THE SOCIETY OF JESUS, IS AN ALL-BOYS SCHOOL LOCATED IN BANDRA, MUMBAI, INDIA.

ITS MOTTO IS *NATUS AD MAJORA* 'BORN FOR GREATER THINGS'.

The school, founded in 1863 by the Society of Jesus, started as an orphanage and later became a school for both day scholars as well as boarders. What started out as a school for approximately 40 orphans, now has a student body of 2,300.

The St Stanislaus Ex-students Association is part of The Federation of Jesuit Alumni/ae Associations of India (JAAI), which in turn is part of the World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae (WUJA).

St Stanislaus Ex-students Association

**An Alumni/ae Healthcare Initiative: *Teachers We Care***  
**St Stanislaus Alumni from the world over come together for their School Teachers.**

February 2007, Joe Maumkel, a man who served St Stanislaus High School, Mumbai, India for 60 years languished in a hospital. The news of his hospitalization spread across the alumni/ae community via the internet prompting ex-students based in the USA, Canada, Australia, Singapore, UAE and India, to raise funds for Joe, through their alumni website [www.stanislates.org](http://www.stanislates.org)

Joe's illness gave birth to The Stanislaus Healthcare Initiative; a project of St Stanislaus ex-Students Association – an organization that represents the thousands of St Stanislaus High School alumni (Stanislates) who have graduated in its long and illustrious history. The initiative has successfully provided a healthcare policy for each of the 100 existing and retired teachers of the school. The policy gives cashless hospitalization, including a pre-existing illness cover, to all teachers. In addition to the Bajaj Allianz Healthcare Policy, the healthcare team has also secured a comprehensive accident policy for non-teaching staff members. The healthcare initiative also includes on-site health camps for teachers, to be conducted by alumni doctors.

St Stanislaus High School in Mumbai has produced many illustrious alumni: Cardinal Ivan Dias currently serving at the Vatican, Dinesh D'Souza (former policy advisor to US President Ronald Reagan), Joaquim Carvalho (Hockey), Salman Khan (Actor), Shaan-Shantanu Mukherjee (Musician), Major General (Retired) Eustace D'Souza, Lt General (Retired), Francis Dias and Viren Rasquinha (Hockey).

The healthcare initiative brought together a unique blend of technology, passion, business innovation and a huge dose of a sense of social responsibility. The team utilized collaborative technologies to shape this project across time zones, online payment technologies for transparent fund-raising, and social-networking, to network with Stanislates who could help, but more importantly, this is a story of passion for wanting to 'give back'.

The virtual team is headed by Gerry Mascarenhas (class of 1977) a businessman in Mumbai and Vikram Moorjani (1985) a consultant based in Southern California who lends his expertise in the business analysis domain and whose brainchild this is. The team was joined recently by Mahavir Chopra (1996) co-founder at Bonsai Insurance Broking, India's first neutral Insurance portal [www.InsuranceMall.in](http://www.InsuranceMall.in) who played a key role in negotiating the best insurance product for the healthcare initiative.

The healthcare cashless cards of the insurance company were presented to the teachers, retired teachers and staff, in presence of the school and media, in the school museum at St Stanislaus High School on November 28, 2007.

The St Stanislaus Ex-students Association also financially supports part of the running costs of a new English medium school for Adivasis (Adivasi literally means 'original citizens' or 'first nation' indigenous people) at Uplat, the Jesuit mission in Talasari, a rural part of Maharashtra, India. The children of the village are also offered education in English, to prepare them for opportunities in a global environment.

The Association was also instrumental in setting up a solar electrification system for the computers of the Uplat school. This was done in collaboration with Jesuit alumnus, Tommy Fernandes (1966, St Mary's School, Mumbai), a solar-business entrepreneur based in Norway who financed the project. This environmentally-friendly electrification system was the first step in creating a self-sustaining solar environment in this rural part of India.

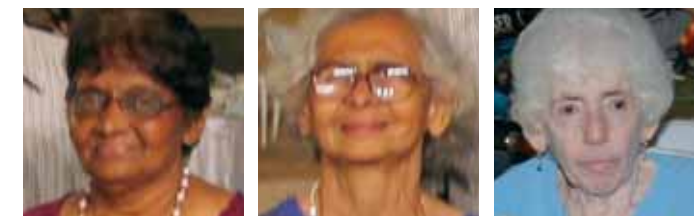
The St Stanislaus Ex-students Association is now planning a special program called *Teach the Teacher Program* which will provide returning alumni with an opportunity to conduct one-day workshops in fields including leadership, personal finance, technology and arts. Stanislates next program of giving back.

The following paragraphs came in an email to me from Gerry Mascarenhas during correspondence regarding this article. They speak for themselves of the possibilities for good works by Jesuit alumni/ae worldwide.

Editor

*I hope this article will inspire other Jesuit alumni/ae to work across age groups and distances. In today's connected world, distance is no longer a barrier to collaborate and successfully implement such projects. I feel strongly that there is an urgent need for Jesuit alumni/ae worldwide to move beyond conferences, workshops and social networking and to mobilize in order to leverage the power of Jesuit alumni/ae.*

*I am astonished that our alumni organization could achieve so much when we act collectively. Our teachers live quiet and dignified lives and have never complained about how little they have received for a lifetime of service. I am really thrilled that a small alumni effort has so deeply impacted on the lives of our teachers.*



Pictured from left to right

Alice Flannagin had complex eye surgery thanks to Healthcare coverage.

Cynthia Pereira received Healthcare for a pre-existing ailment in the first year.

Rose D'sa served St Stanislaus for 24 years; at 81 she received healthcare coverage. In India the last date of entry for Healthcare coverage is 70 years.

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Congress, 'they have begun making something together'. During the first half of 2008, we had two conferences intended to help our reflection on the themes to be tackled at the Congress. One of them dealt with the issues around building peace in Africa: it was delivered by Fr Rigobert Minani SJ, an alumnus who is the Christian ONG coordinator involved in the fight for peace and justice. The second was given by Mr Séraphin Baharanyi, an alumnus who is an expert at the Central Bank: he presented a document prepared for the government, proposing a *Strategy of Growth and Reduction of Poverty*.

According to a wish expressed by the organizing committee, we have very carefully prepared a worksheet presenting each of the schools and its Association. This resulted in the Associations increasing their contacts with their schools or the Provincial Archives Office in order to establish the historical data about their establishments and to find photographs. Photos will be used to present the schools and their activities in a slide show. Furthermore, we began contacting alumni/ae, whose professional commitments demonstrate how they have answered Fr Kolvenbach's appeal inviting the alumni/ae 'to successfully translate the training they received in school into their daily lives', that is through service of

# OVERVIEW OF THE DECREES FROM GENERAL CONGREGATION 35

## WHAT DO THE DECREES SAY?

The work of General Congregation 35 did not finish with the election of a new Superior General and a team to work with him. The General Congregation went on to consider a wide variety of issues and themes including: the Jesuit identity and charism; new challenges for mission; obedience and community life in the Society; matters of governance; collaboration with others; youth ministry; people on the move; religious fundamentalism; communications; formation; ecology; and indigenous peoples.

A number of these matters are treated in the six Decrees issued by the GC 35, while others became the subject of suggestions or recommendations provided to Father General for the ordinary governance of the Society.

Following is a brief overview of the key content of the six Decrees. Emphasis is given to Decree Six as this is of special interest to Jesuit Alumni/ae. The complete document of GC35 Decrees may be viewed on [www.sjweb.info](http://www.sjweb.info)

**DECREE ONE, WITH RENEWED VIGOUR AND ZEAL**, presents the response of the General Congregation to Benedict XVI's letter to outgoing General, Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, and his Allocution to the Congregation.

Benedict XVI confirmed the mission of the service of faith and the promotion of justice, which must always be united, and he emphasized the Christological basis of the Jesuits' preferential option for the poor.

In response, the General Congregation affirmed the Society's full adherence to the faith and teaching of the Church, and its availability to the Pope for mission.

**DECREE TWO, A FIRE THAT KINDLES OTHER FIRES**, reflects on the Ignatian charism and what it is to be a Jesuit. This poetic and readable Decree shows how Ignatian spirituality leads inexorably to the service of faith and the promotion of justice.

**DECREE THREE, CHALLENGES TO OUR MISSION TODAY, Sent to the Frontiers**, reaffirms the last three General Congregations' expression of our mission as the service of faith and the promotion of justice, in which inculturation and dialogue are essential elements. Globalisation and increasingly urgent ecological issues are seen as important new dimensions of the context of mission today.

**DECREE FOUR, OBEDIENCE IN THE LIFE OF THE SOCIETY OF JESUS**, may at first seem relevant to Jesuits only, but it provides insights into Ignatian values of freedom, indifference, humility and availability for service, which are equally relevant to others.

**DECREE FIVE, GOVERNANCE AT THE SERVICE OF UNIVERSAL MISSION**, establishes principles to guide questions of governance within the Society, and it proposes some concrete directions for different levels of governance. It emphasizes the greater universality and collaboration that are demanded by globalisation, and expresses a desire for more streamlined, modernized and flexible structures, where possible.

**DECREE SIX, COLLABORATION AT THE HEART OF MISSION**, restates that General Congregation 34 approved a decree that both affirmed and encouraged apostolic collaboration, calling on Jesuits to cooperate with others in their projects. General Congregation 35, reviewing our Jesuit life and service to the Church, and noting how the seeds which



have been scattered through the inspiration of GC34 are yielding a harvest 'thirty, sixty, and even a hundredfold' renews our commitment to apostolic collaboration and to a profound sharing of labour for the life of the Church and the transformation of the world.

We are humbled and grateful that so many—inspired as we have been by the vocation of Ignatius and the tradition of the Society—have chosen both to work with us and to share our sense of mission and our passion to reach out to the men and women of our broken but lovable world. We are enriched by members of our own faith, but also by people from other religious traditions, those women and men of good will from all nations and cultures, with whom we labour in seeking a more just world. Rich is the harvest. In many countries, important Jesuit works depend largely on the generous, loyal and skilled collaboration of women and men of diverse religious and humanistic convictions. When the Holy Father affirms our ministry and vocation and says to us, 'The Church needs you', we must in turn look to our collaborators in mission and say, with gratitude and deep affection, that the call we have received is a call shared by us together. 'God has called us together to sow new fields, and we are committed, with you, to this labour.'

The formation of Jesuits for collaboration, however, must be accompanied by a parallel formation of those with whom we minister, so that they might deepen their understanding of the mission they share.

We note with a great sense of gratitude and joy the many autonomous associations with whom we share a spiritual bond, the fruit of which is greater and more effective service to the mission of Christ in the world. Among these, the Christian Life Community has roots that are deep in the charism and history of the Society. We wish to continue to support CLC in its journey towards ever greater apostolic effectiveness and collaboration with the Society. Likewise, other Ignatian groups, including Jesuit alumni/ae associations, various Jesuit Volunteer organizations, the Apostleship of Prayer and the Eucharistic Youth Movement, and many others, deserve our continued spiritual accompaniment, as well as our support for their apostolic service.

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*Additional development of Decree Six by the Editor – ETC.*