

WITH CHRIST ON THE FRONTIERS

Pastoral Plan of the Hungarian Jesuits

2012–2020

English translation by Péter Nemeshegyi SJ

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OF THE HUNGARIAN JESUITS
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Hungarian Province of the Society of Jesus
Budapest, 2012

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WITH CREATIVE FIDELITY

Dear Friends,

I am sharing with joy the fruits of one year's reflections, which are much more abundant than we had hoped for when we started our work, following the wish of the 35th General Congregation.

Father General encourages us to put ourselves into the spiritual "space" of Saint Ignatius and of his first companions, who confronted immense needs and possibilities, although they were only a small group with much energy, freedom and spirit. *„Today we need more and more a new creation, similar to the dream of the first companions of Ignatius. For this new creation we need true depth, freedom and creativity, just as these were needed at the beginning of our Society. I think we need all these in order to prepare the Society for the future. I am sure that, if we are able to renew the Society in this way, we shall get vocations too.”*¹

We try to articulate our vision knowing that the world is rapidly changing, both around us and inside our Society. Our numbers have diminished, and we are fewer than the requests

¹ *Letter of Fr General convoking the Congregation of Procurators.*

addressed to us. Therefore, we are especially grateful to the Holy Spirit who sends us novices, scholastics and people who are interested in our charisma. While feeling this gratitude we also feel a kind of interior freedom. It is impossible simply to continue to tread the path our predecessors trod; we have to search new ways with creative fidelity.

We tried to invite as many people as possible to take part in this process of reflection: Jesuits, collaborators and members of communities following the Ignatian spirituality, in order to reach a fuller knowledge of the word of God. We went through many meetings, discussions and considerations. The result of our reflection does not deal mainly with the question, “What do we have to do?”, but rather with the question “How should we be present to the contemporary world?” We see now, that after the structural achievements of the past twenty years, we are called to personal depth, to community sharing and to fraternal cooperation.

Therefore, the present working-document is not a closed plan. It tries rather to appreciate our present situation and to show a vision for the future. Doing this, we wish to strengthen many processes which have already been started and have borne fruit. At the same time we seek such new ways for our life and service, which are elastic and can be able continually adapted to our changing world. All this touches each of us at

those places, where God is just calling us, either during our Jesuit formation, or during our apostolic works, or during our leadership, or also during the task of getting old.

I would like to thank everybody for the way we have walked together. Thanks, first of all, to God, who is leading us, surpassing all our expectations. Thanks to everybody who has supported this plan with prayers, with reflections and critique. Thanks to the consultors and to the members of the forum of superiors, to the Jesuit communities and to our friends and collaborators. May this Apostolic Plan help our further reflections, to bring true fruits for our Province and for our Church.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Fr. Tamás Gergely Forrai S.J." in a cursive style.

Fr. Tamás Gergely Forrai S.J.
Provincial

OUR MISSION

**is the service of faith
and the promotion of a just society
by the collaboration of authentic Jesuit communities
and by our friends.**

We, Hungarian Jesuits, though living in a more and more secularized world, have been given by God the vocation to offer to the people around us the experience of God, lived through Ignatian spirituality.

Our mission is built on four cornerstones:

- The proclamation of faith, serving the Hungarian Church and communities by sharing the experience of prayerful Ignatian reflection.
- The construction of a true, open society through theological reflection and in dialogue with the culture of our days, giving special attention to young people in order to help them to become well prepared Christians, living for others.
- Renewal and deepening of our religious community-life, that we might be able, to show to young people our life, following Christ, and thus motivate them to join us.
- For all this, we need the collaboration of our companions, who are called to share our common mission, are well pre-

pared for it and engage themselves in it (such as our collaborators, former alumni of our institutions, supporters, volunteers, Ignatian communities).

OUR VISION OF THE FUTURE

In our changing ecclesiastical situation lay people have a greater task and responsibility in sharing the Christian faith and transforming society through the Gospel.

We see that the spiritual imagination of people has diminished and has become shallow, and this has become a special obstacle for the new evangelization. Therefore, we think that one of our primary tasks is the awakening of this fundamental human potential. Without it, the Spiritual Exercises, one of our most important evangelizing means, do not bring sufficient fruit, because spiritual imagination plays an important role in them. To this we have to add the task of educating people to attend more to their interior life and to the development of their personality. This is the foundation of many apostolic endeavors and an indispensable part of our Jesuit pedagogy.

Important challenges are facing us. We know, of course, that not everything can be planned and not all dangers can be prevented. Nevertheless we have to address the question: Which will be the especially critical questions for the following years?

– **The capacity to address people:** Shall we be able to find a language, based on the personal experience of God, proper to

the Ignatian exercises, which is suitable for the communication of our faith in our world?

– **Ignatian answers to the questions of our age:** Are we able to give suitable answers, helping the construction of a just society?

– **Authentically lived spirituality:** Are we able to deepen our spirituality and our common religious life? Is our Jesuit formation sufficient?

– **Acceptance of collaboration:** The documents of our Congregations (35th Gen.Congr., decree 6) encourage our collaboration with one another, with our lay collaborators, with members of other religious orders and with the dioceses. Are we able to find strategic partners and build up a network together? Are we able to work at the borderlines and to remain, at the same time, in connection with the center of our Church?

– **Service at the borderlines:** The Church is calling us to serve at the borderlines, but these borderlines are uncertain and dangerous. Do we have enough missionary zeal and creative courage to go to these borderlines without being washed away, based on our friendship with Jesus and on our liberty of discretion?

All these challenges can become dangers, if we do not give a suitable answer to them.

The Society of Jesus has assigned five general priorities, which have been confirmed by the 35th General Congregation. These are: the service of refugees, the intellectual apostolate, the African and Chinese mission and our institutes in Rome serving the universal Church. The European provinces have chosen in 2010 two frontiers for their services: **evangelization in a rapidly secularizing society and dialogue between religions and worldviews.**

We, Hungarian Jesuits want to serve the renewal of the Hungarian Church and society, mainly by sharing our Ignatian spirituality, which is able to help many people to reach personal reflection and engagement. We want to be present amongst people as companions of Jesus, in order to share authentically and visibly our proper Ignatian charisma with Christians, young and old, religious and lay-people alike, who are seeking and accepting engagement. Through this, we wish to contribute to the renewal of our Church.

Our aim is to make a clearly recognizable and well-explained Ignatian spirituality as a decisive support for our Church by the 2020-ies:

– During the next years, the number of Hungarian Jesuits will be stabilized probably around 60. It is hoped that they will show an attractive, visible and alternative lifestyle. Knowing

their fragility, they will let the Lord to make them spiritual oases.

– We shall be able to serve the new evangelization in our Church through the Ignatian Exercises and with our proper charisma.

– We shall be able to influence as a model of renewal our ecclesiastical and civil society in four large university-cities of Hungary.

– A stronger international Jesuit cooperation will help to widen our services, to use our resources better and to promote reconciliation in our world.

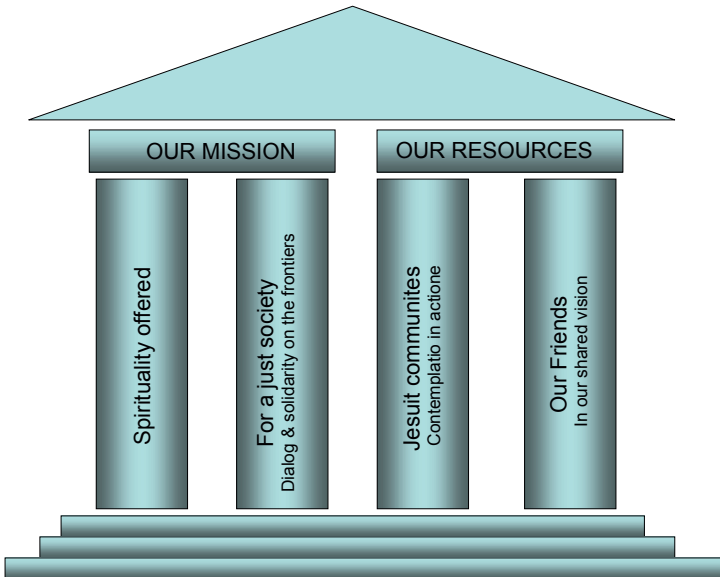
– The number of engaged lay people around us, accepting our common mission, will increase. This mission will be efficaciously supported by a well formed system of reflection and formation.

The **manpower necessary for the attainment of our aims** will be provided, not so much by giving up some of our works, but rather by deepening our life and our services. Between 2010 and 2020 we should not try to increase the number of our works, but rather to **deepen our spirituality and to cooperate with others**. We do not want to increase the number of our present institutions. On the contrary, we shall consider to hand over to others some of our works, if the diminution of our numbers or new missions should make this necessary. Our present services have been determined by former

decisions: for instance the starting of our mission in Transylvania and the renewal of our House of Dialogue in the Downtown of Budapest. These two works unite some already existing services. In the future, we hope to strengthen these works and to build up a network. This will be achieved through common formation, through assuring resources and through increasing our presence in the media. If the number of young Jesuits increase, they will serve at those places, where formerly our Jesuits worked (for instance, in Rome), or where there is a necessity of connecting in a systematic and gradual way our service of giving Spiritual Exercises, and where we can help the advancement of the Roma-population in Hungary.

OUR MISSION AND OUR AIMS

The mission of the Hungarian Jesuit Province consists in **the service of faith and the promotion of a just society by authentic Jesuit communities, and by the collaboration with our friends**. Our Province achieves this mission, building on four corner-stones.



1. OUR IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY:

Strengthen the Ignatian identity that our institutions might become visible and authentic signs of the Gospel.

2. DIALOGUE AND SOLIDARITY AT THE BORDERLINES:

Construct models for renewal, which can be multiplied in order to start positive social developments.

3. DEEPENING OF OUR RELIGIOUS LIFE:

Renew our religious life and our communities, in order to increase our interior freedom in love and gratuity.

4. SHARING OUR CHARISM:

Share our charisma with our friends, supporters and other Ignatian communities, who wish to share our common mission.

GENERAL AIMS FOR THE FOUR CORNERSTONES

1. Deepening Ignatian spirituality

1.1. Spread the spirit of the Exercises and increase their fruitfulness.

1.2. Our pastoral service should be more Ignatian and should serve as a model. It should be integrated better into the local churches in order to serve better the new evangelization.

2. Dialogue and solidarity at the borderlines

2.1. Spread the Ignatian reflection and dialogue in the general intellectual atmosphere.

2.2. Seekers in the Church and on its border might find support for their faith and culture.

2.3. Participate in the education of Christian intellectuals.

2.4. Our social models should start positive developments in our society.

3. Deepening of our religious life

3.1. Increase our care promoting vocations.

3.2. Jesuit communities should become more authentic.

3.3. Strengthen our structures and our international cooperation.

4. Sharing our charism

4.1. Empower companions.

We have expressed these aims and their order, based on the answers given to our apprehensions and to our hopes, critically analyzing our situation, our strong points and weak points, the possibilities and dangers, present in the surrounding society. We have tried to point out, through workshops, those areas where we want to deepen our activity.

The next chapter of our Apostolic Plan presents those actions which we want to realize by 2020, based on the four

cornerstones mentioned above. Those activities, which have been already started are written in *italic letters*.

1. DEEPEN OUR IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY

“The Society of Jesus has been founded chiefly for this purpose: to strive especially for the defense and propagation of the faith and for the progress of souls in Christian life and doctrine, by means of public preaching, lectures, and any other ministration whatsoever of the word of God, and further by means of the Spiritual Exercises, the education of children and unlettered persons in Christianity, and the spiritual consolation of Christ’s faithful through hearing confessions and administering the other sacraments.

Moreover, the Society should show itself ready to reconcile the estranged, compassionately assist and serve those who are in prisons or hospitals, and indeed to perform any other works of charity, according to what will seem expedient for the glory of God and the common good.” (Formula Instituti, 1.)

1.1. The Spiritual Exercises

The fundamental service of the Society of Jesus is the accompaniment of the Ignatian spiritual exercises.

Our aim is to spread the culture of the Spiritual Exercises in Hungary and to make them more fruitful.

- We help our **Center for Ignatian Spirituality** to become a spiritual workshop and coordinator for Spiritual Exercises.
- For this we shall seek international cooperation in order that this center should become a fountain of knowledge of the Exercises.
 - *We shall publish in Hungarian translation the basic documents of Ignatian spirituality.*
 - *We form Jesuits and members of Ignatian communities to give Exercises.*
 - We shall form able Masters of the Exercises; provide them a good formation and offer supervision.

We shall help the formation of seminarians by giving Exercises to them and by providing spiritual direction.

- *We shall address the seminaries, where we have accepted to serve.*
- *We shall assure again the presence of a Hungarian Jesuit spiritual director in the Collegium Germanicum-Hungaricum in Rome.*
- We give priority to the spiritual service of the diocesan clergy.
- We prepare diocesan priests for the service of accompanying Spiritual Exercises.

We continue our service of giving Spiritual Exercises, with special attention to their quality, knowing that this service has a multiplication effect.

– We continue to give “exercises in daily life” in our churches and give a good formation for their leaders and helpers.

– We assure sufficient, continuing manpower for the giving of the Exercises. This will be the principal work of three Jesuits, while others will give the Exercises occasionally.

– We shall foster the formation of all Jesuits for the service of giving the Spiritual Exercises, and all Jesuits should occasionally accompany the Exercises.

– Two Jesuits will be trained and set free to serve young peoples’ apostolate.

– *We continue to develop our Retreathouse in Dobogókő.*

– We shall continue to develop smaller retreathouse near Pécs, in collaboration with the local diocese.

– In Budapest, we consider the possibility of adding to the program of our House of Dialogue in Budapest and other spiritual center in Buda.

– *We provide an opportunity for our lay collaborators to make the Spiritual Exercises.*

– *We offer the Spiritual Exercises in the program of our university halls.*

1.2. Our pastoral services

We perform our pastoral services in our church of the Sacred Heart in Pest, in the church of the Word of God in Miskolc, Avas-South, in the church of Saint Joseph in Szeged, in the church of Saint George in Törökkanizsa/Banat in Serbia, in the church of Saint Antony in Marosvásárhely/Targu Mures in Rumania, in the church of Saint Elisabeth in Toronto/Canada, and in many occasional places.

Our aim is to make our pastoral service more Ignatian, which might serve as a model. Our aim is also to integrate our service better into the local Church, in order to serve more efficaciously the task of evangelization.

The service at our churches should have an Ignatian character in order to enrich the local Church.

- *We shall continue to shape the Ignatian character of our service.*
- *We search for the creative renewal of the traditional tasks, committed to our Society, as the apostleship of prayer and the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.*
- We shall try to integrate better our Jesuit service into the work of the local Church.

– Continuing the tradition of popular missions, we seek new forms of occasional pastoral service in the towns and village.

We shall give priority to our work with young people, showing them the Ignatian values and helping them to make decisions according to spiritual discretion.

– We shall accompany young people in their interior growth.

– *We give our support the youth-movements, called Glowworms and Regnum Marianum.*

– We support the MAGIS program, which is helping young people to deepen their spirituality and to create international connections.

We offer to **share our experiences and our collaboration** with other religious congregations and ecclesiastical communities.

– *We continue our cooperation with communities, following Ignatian spirituality.*

We share our reflections and our care for religious vocations with others.

– We give much importance to the creation of collaboration in the fields of education, new evangelization empowering the Roma-population.

2. STRENGTHEN THE CULTURE OF DIALOGUE AND SOLIDARITY

“Not so much oceans or great distances hinder and challenge the preachers of the Gospel, but rather lines of separation created by false or superficial views about God and men, which separate faith from human knowledge, faith from modern science and faith from the striving for a more just society.” (Message of Pope Benedict XVI to the members of the 35. General Congregation.)

We are sent to the social and cultural frontiers. The search for justice, peace and unity in our world and the discovery and showing of God’s work in everyday events help the propagation of our faith. We do all our service for human society with the humble knowledge, that in our days the experience of God in the life of many people seems to be less evident, and this causes an increasing uncertainty in them. Nevertheless, we are persuaded that “uncertainty is a new opportunity, rather than a problem.”²

² Guidelines for Jesuit Formation Centers in Europe.

2.1. Intellectual apostolate

The Second Vatican Council emphasizes the importance of the evangelization of cultures. The receptivity for cultural and spiritual values is a preparation for the acceptance of religious truth. As Jesuits we would like to be both critical of the mentality of our age and to offer proposals for the future.

Our aim is to insert Ignatian reflection and dialogue into the spiritual atmosphere of Hungary.

We shall help with publications the progress of theology written in Hungarian, and to treat some social and cultural questions in order to be able to give **good answers to the actual social problems**. We shall try to be present amongst the teachers of some universities.

- *We give for special importance to the Gregorian University in Rome by offering a Hungarian Jesuit as professor.*
- *We support the Sapientia Theological College in Budapest by sending there our men as professors and by helping them to form international connections.*
- *We give three young Jesuits the destination for intellectual and scientific work.*

– We shall create a unified on-line catalogue of our local libraries in order to improve their scientific use.

We shall help our House of Dialogue in the downtown of Budapest to become a well known workshop for the dialogue of faith and culture.

– We continue to improve our House of Dialogue in order to give a suitable place for our institutions and for our partners. We shall strengthen the characteristically Ignatian mission of this House, which will be able to integrate and strengthen the various groups attached to it. The artistic, cultural and spiritual programs, realized in this House, will serve suitably the new evangelization. We shall make efforts to increase the number of people visiting this House; we shall try to gather new visitors and to organize more workshops.

– We shall strengthen our Faber community in order that it might become the spiritual moving force of the House of Dialogue.

– We shall help the work of the religious congregations nearby, especially the family-apostolate of the Society of the Sacred Heart and the work of the Congregatio Jesu.

2.2. Media apostolate

Our aim is to give people, living in the Church or at the border of the Church, a support in their faith and culture.

We take part in the new evangelization with our Ignatian charism and in a creative and positive way.

– We shall staff and coordinate our work in the media through a lay professional.

– *We shall continue the renewal of our monthly periodical “A Szív” in order to make it an authentic and attractive voice of our Province. We shall strengthen its work with manpower and with financial means.*

– *We shall strengthen our publications attending to their Jesuit character, to their purpose and through marketing. We collaborate with a professional editorial house. Our publications will be also available on-line and in the bookshop of the House of Dialogue.*

– *We shall strengthen the Faludi Ferenc Academy and the Jesuit Media Studio, in order to reach better those people who are searching for faith.*

– We shall use the new web2 media in a creative way.

– We shall support the Hungarian section of the Vatican Radio. We hope to be able later to send one Hungarian Jesuit there.

2.3. Strengthening Christian intellectuals

Our aim is to take part in the education of Hungarian intellectuals. We shall contribute to the renewal of Christian education system.

– *We shall help our Jesuit High School at Miskolc, which is already a well recognized pedagogic workshop, serving other high schools, and the Ignatian Pedagogic Workshop to become an active agent for Christian education in Hungary.*

– We support the spreading of Ignatian pedagogy, especially in the schools of the Congregatio Jesu.

– We shall explore the possibility to start a program of Jesuit secondary education in Budapest too.

We shall strengthen **our presence in university education by forming a network of our university halls and chaplaincies.**

– We shall help our university halls and our university chaplaincies to have a visible Ignatian character and to form a network.

– We shall help our Saint Ignatius Hall to fulfill a role of modell.

– We assure again the Jesuit identity of our university hall at Leuven, Belgium. We shall enlarge our postgraduate programs with the help of the Leuven and of the Renaissance Hall in Budapest.

2.4. Social apostolate

Our aim is to create social models, that give impetus to positive social movements.

With the collaboration of other Christian denominations, we offer an attractive and realistic **program for the integration of the Roma-population** by strengthening the Hungarian-Roma identity through the education.

– We continue to build up the Jesuit Roma University Hall, in order that it might become an integrative spiritual workshop, together with the Roma Pastoral Workshop.

– At our high school in Miskolc we shall build up a model for helping the integration of talented Roma students over the whole Christian school system.

We shall make efforts to **spread the knowledge of the social teaching of the Church amongst Christian politicians and businessmen.**

- We shall make clear pronouncements regarding burning social issues.
- *With the help of the Faludi Ferenc Academy and OCIPE-Hungary we shall spread the knowledge of the social teaching of the Church.*
- *In our institutions we make voluntary social service a part of the formation and we spread this idea amongst other institutions.*
- *We address businessmen through programs like the one called “Management by Jesus”.*
- We shall form one Jesuit in social sciences.
- *We give our support to the formation of Christian youth-leaders.*

We shall make efforts in order that our work might also serve the ethnic Hungarians living in neighboring countries and we shall try to help the reconciliation between Hungary and these countries.

- *Hungarian and Rumanian Jesuits will work together at our center at Marosvásárhely/Targu Mures in Rumania.*
- We shall transform our service at Toronto according to the changes in the situation of emigrated Hungarians.
- We shall strengthen our mission in the Bánát-region of Serbia, by connecting our mission station there with our residence at Szeged.

- We shall take part in the collaboration of Central-European Jesuits for the reconciliation between our nations.
- We shall accept more tasks in the European mission of our Society.

3. DEEPEN OUR RELIGIOUS LIFE AS JESUITS

“For the attainment of the objective the Society seeks [...], the means which unite the human instrument to God and so dispose it that it may be wielded well by his divine hand are more effective than those which equip it in relation to human beings.”

(Constitutions, 813)

3.1. The care for vocations and the formation of Jesuits

In our present world we have to support more vigorously young people that they might discover and follow the call of Jesus. Our whole work with young people consists of sowing seeds, but the care for vocations for the priesthood and for religious life needs special attention. The care for vocations helps young people to search and to understand the vocation by which God calls them.

The speciality of our Jesuit formation is the unity of outstanding studies and personal integration (that is, the unity of the spiritual, communitarian and apostolic dimensions), because in our very complicated world we must be able to give more and more complex answers. The Jesuit formation of Hungarian Jesuits is done in foreign countries with the exception of the novitiate and the magisterium. Therefore, it

is increasingly important to prepare the Jesuits in formation for the special challenges of the situation in Hungary. If we wish to give good answers to the problems of the continually changing world, then not only intellectual preparation is required but also a continual renewal of our life and of our outlook. It is necessary to grow interiorly, to acquire new professional knowledge and to renew our reflections.

Our aim is to support vigorously the care for vocations and the formation of Jesuits.

We consider the care for vocations a priority.

- *We support programs for those who search for their vocation.*
- *We continue to support the community for young people searching for their vocation.*
- *We strengthen our care for vocations by appointing one full time promoter for vocations and another person to assist him.*
- *We encourage our communities to realize regular programs for young people searching for their vocation.*

We adapt the framework of Jesuit formation to the situation in Hungary.

- *We assure that the Committee for Formation should help the Jesuits efficaciously in formation.*

– *In choosing the places for formation, we give priority to the Jesuit formation.*

– We shall renew our programs of the novitiate and of the later stages of formation.

– We maintain life-long formation notwithstanding the excessive burden of everyday service.

3.2. Authentic communities

Fraternal community life is a difficult part of our Jesuit life, but it is very attractive for young people. Community life in itself is already a mission. The awakening and growth of faith needs the experience of belonging to a living, concrete community of faith. The experience of a community is essential for evangelization, because “The Jesuit community does not only serve our mission, but is in itself a mission.” The 35th General Congregation has used this expression,³ adding that “the identity, the community and the mission are a kind of triptych, which gives us the best understanding of our life as Jesuits.”⁴ The Society of Jesus considers today the community as a part of our mission, which connects this mission and our identity. Thus our community life will be attractive for

³ Decree 3, 41.

⁴ Decree 2, 19.

others, and will become a „**societas amoris**”, using the words of Saint Francis Xavier.

Our aim is to make our communities more authentic and supporting, through the deepening of our Jesuit life.

We promote the deepening of our engagement through personal prayer, according to the Jesuit ideal: „contemplativus in actione.”

– We give priority to the deepening of our spiritual life, which makes us capable to give content to our everyday community-life and to our works.

– *Local superiors will be helped to improve community life and health-care.*

– *We shall continue our reflections to make our mission more conscious.*

– *We shall make it possible for elderly Jesuits to remain members of their apostolic communities as long as possible.*

– The Provincial will evaluate their disposition with every Jesuit every year.

– We shall promote more team-work in our Province.

– In order to avoid burn-out, we shall renew our culture of rest and recreation.

– We shall conserve our Jesuit traditions:

- *We continue to research our traditions, to publish books about them and to conserve our memories.*
- *We offer scholarships for young researchers.*
- *By our feast-day celebrations we shall deepen our identity and share it with others.*

3.3. Synergy in our Jesuit structures

Our vocation presupposes the conscientious and responsible participation of each Jesuit and each community in our common mission. Therefore, our special task is the strengthening of the different levels, according to the principle of subsidiarity. This will be particularly helped in the following years by the transparency, provided by the stream of interiority, by the right experience of local responsibility and self-determination and by the experience of common work.

Our aim is to renew our Jesuit structures and cooperation.

We shall renew our **Jesuit structures** to assure our continual service.

- *We continue to extend the common financial basis (Arca) to every Jesuit work.*
- *We strengthen the visibility of our Province.*

- We strengthen subsidiary through better planning, clear delegation and control.
- We use our resources in a responsible way in order to assure a sustainability of our works.

We utilize synergy between our various fields of action in order to use better our resources.

- *We shall organize professional meetings to share our experiences.*
- *We shall continue to present in common our applications for EU grants.*
- *With professional help we shall improve Jesuit communication.*

We shall strengthen **international cooperation between Jesuit institutions**. This will help peace and reconciliation with neighboring countries and will improve our service.

- *We shall participate actively in European Jesuit meetings and co-operations.*
- *We strengthen our cooperation with the Rumanian Jesuits (Szatmárnémeti/Satu Mare, Kolozsvár/Cluj).*
- We shall cooperate with the Jesuit Province of Slovakia in the service of the Roma-minority and in the MAGIS movement etc.

- We shall strengthen the cooperation with the Jesuit Provinces of Central Europe.
- We shall prepare a strategic decision for the direction to be taken by for a stronger cooperation with other Jesuit Provinces.

4. SHARE OUR CHARISM AND OUR MISSION

Since the 34th General Congregation it is clear for us, that lay people are not so much cooperating with us, but we are cooperating with lay-people. This means a reappraisal of the role of the laity in the Church. Lay people are not only cooperators, helpers or payee employees, but active members of the people of God, who share in the priestly, prophetic and kingly office of Christ. "Lay people are called to become saints, to take responsibilities for the faith, for justice and for the poor and to evangelize the structures of society. The Society of Jesus wishes to serve this mission of the laity, by offering what we are and have received, namely our spiritual and apostolic heritage, our possibilities for education and our friendship. We offer them Ignatian spirituality as a special gift animating the service of the laity."⁵

The modern individualistic world, built on contest, appreciates only those who have realized good results by their own forces. We know that cooperation is a great challenge and necessitates abnegation and new capacities, but at the same time, cooperation in itself is already a sign of the Gospel. (35. Gen.Congr.)

⁵ 34. General Congregation, decree 8, 6-7.

4.1. Empowering companions

Our aim is to call well-trained and engaged companions to share our common mission.

We shall prepare and help cooperators for our common work.

- In our institutions we shall help cooperators to know better the Ignatian charisma and to deepen their personal vocation.
- *We shall give to our employee's existential security over the national average.*
- We shall give greater importance to the professional education of our lay cooperators.

We shall cooperate with the communities of Ignatian spirituality.

- *We shall strengthen the cooperation in our works with the religious communities of Sisters.*
- We shall support the formation of Christian Life Communities (CLC) around our institutions.
- *We shall support the youth movement „Szentjánosbogar” in spreading the Ignatian spirituality.*

We shall call engaged **companions to share our common mission**, building an apostolic network amongst the groups of Ignatian spirituality.

– We shall create various forms of engagement for those people who are seeking their path in life. We shall invite them to share our common mission really. Thus, they will become not only our friends, but also our active companions.

– *We continue the transformation of our fund-raising program into a friend-raising one in order to improve our network. We shall renew our periodical publication and our homepage to address our readers better. We shall create for our institutions a common digital list of addresses.*

– We shall organize the accompaniment of our volunteer helpers.

– *We shall continue to build volunteers' communities.*

We shall encourage the students of our institutions and their families to join the network of our friends.

– We shall strengthen our *Alumni* movement in order to help their life encourage their activities.

WE LIVE WITH THE HOPE OF OUR VOCATION

The 35th General Congregation gave us a good opportunity to live, notwithstanding our fragility, “*with new energy and fervor that vocation, for which the Spirit wanted our Society to exist in the Church.*” Knowing our responsibility, we wish to love the Church more and more and to make it loved by others, because the Church leads the world to the humble and poor Jesus, and proclaims to everybody that “God is love.” We cannot separate our love for Christ from our love for the Church. This love leads us to insert our whole Society, with energy and creativity, into the life of the Church that we might experience in ourselves its mystery.

Our common decision is to reach *with Christ on the frontiers*, and to testify to our faith authentically. We think that with common effort these aims can be realized, and that they will make our apostolic mission more fruitful in the second decade of the new century. This Apostolic Plan expresses our decision to continue the work we started and to reflect in community from time to time on it.

*“Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty,
my memory, my understanding and my entire will,
all that I have and call my own.*

You have given it all to me.

To you, Lord, I return it.

Everything is Yours;

Do with it what You will.

Give me only your love and your grace.

That is enough for me.”

(Exercises 234)

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