



JESUITS[®]
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February 19, 2019

Dear Brothers and Friends,

I am writing with gratitude to share Father General's letter announcing the Society's Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAP), which are being promulgated today around the world.

The UAP are the result of a 16-month discernment, what Fr. General calls, "a demanding process of spiritual and apostolic renewal," that involved the entire Society of Jesus. Presented to Pope Francis, the Holy Father validated the UAP, saying in his confirmation letter earlier this month that the Society's proposed preferences are in agreement with the current priorities of the Church.

In announcing the UAP today, Father General also credits former Superior General Peter-Hans Kolvenbach for the preferences (Africa and China; interprovincial works in Rome; the intellectual apostolate; and our service to refugees and migrants) that have guided the Society for more than fifteen years. Certainly, those preferences will continue to endure as we add four new apostolic preferences that will shape our work. Fr. General reminds us that these are not "our" preferences. Rather, in this process we have followed the Holy Spirit, who has guided and inspired us. They have been confirmed by the Pope, whom we trust has the best vision of the needs of the world and of the Church.

It is also important to bear in mind Fr. General's reminder early in the process, that these preferences do not replace local planning and province priorities. Rather, they are "*points of reference* for the whole Society, that inspire its discernment in common and apostolic planning at all levels of our life-mission" (2017/13). May we see how these preferences resonate with our own Jesuits West *Vision, Mission, and Values* document, and may these preferences always be close at hand as our province works continue with their own apostolic planning.

I want to thank each of you for participating in this process, both in your Jesuit communities and in the various apostolic sector meetings. Fr. General's letter speaks of the grace that animated this long discernment; that grace is magnified today as we look ahead to this newly-articulated horizon for our continued collaboration in the Lord's mission and service of the Church.

To read more about the UAP, please visit <https://jesuits.global/en/uap>.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Scott Santarosa, S.J.
Provincial