The First Year [2007 - 2008]

On May 29, 2008, Fr. Tom Greene, SJ made a presentation for the Heartland Center and the Diocese of Gary. The talk centered around the need for comprehensive immigration reform and the plight of undocumented immigrants in New Orleans.

On May 7, 2008, Fr. Tom Greene, SJ presented testimony before the Louisiana House Criminal Justice Committee on House Bill 1157, which would make it a crime to provide housing to undocumented ("illegal") immigrants. The Times Picayune coverage of the bill and Fr. Greene's testimony can be accessed from the above hyperlink.

April 23, 2008 JSRI fellows advocate for immigrants. Frs. Tom Greene, SJ and Ted Arroyo, SJ were part of a coalition lobbying against proposed Louisiana legislation that would criminalize certain ways of caring for immigrants. See the story »

April 16, 2008 Rev. Michael Bouzigard, S.J. presented a paper entitled "Globalisation and International Migration: Catholic Social Teaching Principles and Socio-economic Development Through Remittances from the United States of America to Mexico" at the Academic Workshop on the Social Doctrine of the Church in the Social and Economic Field (Sponsored by University Centre Saint-Ignatius Antwerp and International Institute CanonTriest, Ghen, Belgium). Read the paper's abstract »

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"Christian Social Responsibility in a Post-Katrina City" was the title of a presentation facilitated by Fr. Ted Arroyo, SJ, JSRI director, on Thursday, March 28, 2008 in Loyola University's Nunemaker Hall. Approximately 140 visiting high school students and their mentors came together to reflect on their service and immersion experiences in post-Katrina New Orleans. These groups came from 9 Catholic High Schools from all over the United States. The PowerPoint version of this presentation is available at the above link.

March 8, 2008 Fr. Tom Greene, SJ delivered a talk entitled "Comprehensive Immigration Reform" at the Ignatian Solidarity Network Teach-in on immigration. The event was held at Loyola High School in Los Angeles and included over five hundred participants from more than thirty Jesuit high schools and universities.

"Racism" was the topic discussed by faculty from 5 Jesuit High Schools in the south on Saturday, February 23, 2008 as part of the New Orleans Province High School Colloquium held at Strake Jesuit in Houston. JSRI director Fr. Ted Arroyo, S.J. facilitated their reflection.

January 21, 2008 Fr. Tom Greene, SJ participated in the Dillard-Xavier-Loyola-Tulane Interfaith Prayer Service, where he recognized the life of Martin L. King, Jr. in a Reflection speech. Read speech »

January 4, 2008 Fr. Tom Greene, SJ presented a paper on "Immigration, Family, and the Social Order" at the Society of Christian Ethics Annual Conference.

Fr. Tom Greene, SJ, JSRI research fellow, is working with the Archdiocese of New Orleans Hispanic Apostolate, Catholic Charities, and Puentes, Inc. to design and implement cultural sensitivity training aimed at improving public safety and communication between the New Orleans Police Department and the immigrant community.

December 19, 2007 Fr. Tom Greene, SJ was a guest on Radio Station KGLA, 1540 "Radio Tropical" New Orleans where he discussed the work that Jesuits do on behalf of migrants and refugees. In particular, he focused on the work of the Jesuit Refugee Service and the Jesuit Migration Service of Latin America (Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes.)
December 10, 2007 Times Picayune editor John Pope brings attention to the Jesuit Social Research Institute in the article entitled Loyola, Jesuits team up for social service project.

December 8, 2007 Archdiocesan paper focuses on JSRI in New Jesuit institute to focus on social issues by Peter Finney, Jr. Read article »

November 29 to December 6, 2007, Fr. Tom Greene, SJ participated as a consultant during the national meetings of the Jesuit Refugee Service of Panama, which works on behalf of Colombian refugees living in Panama. Fr. Greene was invited to participate by JRS Latin America Director, Alfredo Infante, SJ and was asked to provide input surrounding human rights investigations and micro-finance projects undertaken by JRS-Panama. Fr. Greene also visited the field projects on the Colombian border where he made a presentation on JSRI's advocacy efforts on behalf of immigrants and refugees.


Frs. Wildes and Kammer sign the memorandum of understanding while Fr. Arroyo looks on.

November 12-16, 2007 Frs. Edward Arroyo, SJ, Michael Bouzigard, SJ, and Thomas Greene, SJ, fellows of Loyola's Jesuit Social Research Institute, participated in the International Congress on Migration at the Universidad Iberoamericana in Leon, Mexico, November 12-15. The theme of the Congress dealt with the relationship between migration and development. They also participated in the 6th annual meeting of the Jesuit Migration Service of North and Central America which followed the Congress.

November 5, 2007 JSRI mentioned in French Notice. Read publication »

October 24, 2007 Fr. Edward Arroyo, SJ, JSRI director, was interviewed on the Sirius Satellite Radio Network's JustLove program about his work on Ethics in Public Policy: the book The Ethics of Lobbying: Organized Interests, Political Power and the Common Good. Download the complete text of his book »

October 23, 2007 Fr. Tom Greene, SJ, research fellow was a panelist and presenter at the University of New Orleans forum on immigration. Fr. Greene addressed the issue of the social effects on immigration.

October 8-15, 2007 Fr. Tom Greene, SJ and the JSRI partnered with two Jesuit universities in Central America, Universidad Centroamericana (UCA) in El Salvador and Universidad Rafael Landivar (Guatemala), to develop a pilot project that assists in the family reunification of deported minors. Fr. Greene also worked with Gilma Perez, director of the human rights institute of the UCA to resolve cases of Salvadorans detained by immigration authorities in the U.S.

October 4, 2007 Fr. Tom Greene, SJ, presented testimony about the decline in medical care for detainees to a hearing of the U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security and International Law.

October 2, 2007 Fr. Tom Greene, SJ, made a presentation on Disposable People as part of Loyola Week. His talk will be published in Blueprint for Social Justice and is available on the JSRI site.

In August, 2007 the Jesuit Social Research Institute (JSRI) opened its doors on the third floor of Mercy Hall on the Loyola University main campus. Headed by Fr. Edward B. "Ted" Arroyo, SJ, its first director, JSRI's initial staff consisted of Fr. Tom Greene, SJ, JD, and Fr. Michael Bouzigard, SJ, D.Phil. Begun as a joint collaborative between the New Orleans Province of the Society of Jesus and Loyola University, JSRI's mission is to focus on the issues of race, poverty, and migration in the Gulf South and in parts of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Fr. Ted Arroyo, SJ, Ph.D., First JSRI Director