

REPORT TO THE CLINTON FAMILY FOUNDATION

Jesuit Social Research Institute
College of Social Sciences
Loyola University New Orleans
March 31, 2011

This report to the *Clinton Family Foundation* focuses on key elements of the work and development of the fledgling Jesuit Social Research Institute, College of Social Sciences, at Loyola University New Orleans. The Institute, now in its fourth year, focuses on issues of race, poverty, and migration in the Gulf South through the ethical lens of Catholic Social Teaching with three core activities: research and social analysis, education, and advocacy. This report indicates developments from receipt of the \$20,000 grant in mid-March, 2010 to the present date.

Strategic Planning

For a relatively new and small institute (see Attachment A, brochure), the initiation of a comprehensive strategic planning process at the end of our third year has been critically important. We began our work on the strategic planning process in the spring of 2010. We spent much of the summer recruiting the planning team and getting all the necessary background material loaded onto *Blackboard* for ready access by the team members and the advisory board members. We had excellent meetings of the strategic planning team in October and in November, 2010. Immediately afterwards, at the November board meeting, the board took further steps on Mission, Vision, and Values, which were finalized by three board members and two staff meeting in Houston in December. Then the board approved these three by email.

Board and the task force also did the *SWOT analysis* [strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats] for JSRI and developed six strategic issues with some initial strategies and tactics. We now are enlisting four workgroups from the strategic team and others in the university and community to help us in the coming months to refine the strategic issues, strategies, and tactics. Our goal is to complete the planning process by the board's meeting in November 2011. The interim statements of Mission, Vision, and Values are appended as Attachment B.

Conference: *Post-Katrina New Orleans: A Welcoming Community?*

On Saturday, September 11, 2010 we presented our annual conference entitled, *Post-Katrina New Orleans: A Welcoming Community?* The conference direct expenses were funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York. In the morning we looked at how New Orleans had welcomed back the poor, elderly, and people of color and in the afternoon considered how we had welcomed the new migrant workers who came to help rebuild the city. A program flyer is attached. The keynote addresses from the morning session are included in a special section of our Spring 2011 *Quarterly* now at the printer (see Attachment C).

Quarterly and E-News

Our research and education work reflected in the *JustSouth Quarterly* and *JustSouth E-Newsletter* seems to improve with each edition and we receive positive comments from those on the receiving end of things. The publications continue to be demanding, but they keep us focused and productive and increase our visibility on campus and beyond. On each of our outreach visits we continue to gather more addresses of people to include within our network of

readers which has expanded for the *Quarterly* from 514 in February, 2010, to 990 in March, 2011. The *E-Newsletter* goes to all these readers plus the faculty, staff, and student body of Loyola University, a total of about 6500 recipients. The four most recent copies of the *JustSouth Quarterly* are enclosed as Attachment D (the newest being the proof for the Spring 2011 edition). Prior copies can be accessed on our website at www.loyno.edu/jsri for details.

Education

In addition to our publications, staff and associates do a number of presentations for a wide variety of participants. This is part of our increasing educational activities directed to campus audiences, community groups, scholars, the faith community, and the general public. Key presentations during the past year are described below, beginning with the most recent:

2011

- On March 14, *Fr. Fred Kammer, SJ* delivered the keynote address to the 41st Annual Assembly of the Louisiana Interchurch Conference meeting in Lafayette, Louisiana. His address was entitled, "Louisiana Children, Poverty, and the Faith Community," and can be found on our website. The following day the Assembly members adopted a resolution committing the members to work collaboratively to improve the Louisiana Kids Count ranking as the 49th worst state for children.
- On February 16, while in Washington, DC, *Fr. Fred Kammer, SJ*, was interviewed for video broadcast by Catholic News Service on the conditions in New Orleans five years after Hurricane Katrina.
- From January 15-26, fifteen first-year students—nine Jesuits and their religious and lay colleagues—from the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley visited New Orleans as part of their first year "pilgrimage." JSRI staff and associates met with them in various educational sessions during this time: *Dr. Sue Weishar* (immigration), *Fr. Fred Kammer, SJ* (social analysis and theological reflection), *Dr. Alex Mikulich* (white privilege), *Mary Boudouin* (Jesuit urban ministries), and *Fr. Ted Arroyo, SJ* (popular religiosity).
- From January 13-16, *Mary Boudouin* and *Fr. Fred Kammer, SJ*, led sixty Jesuit Volunteers through their reorientation retreat in the Texas hill country on social justice, social analysis, and theological reflection on social realities. The volunteers work among the poor and vulnerable in community agencies, parishes, and schools in El Paso, Austin, Houston, San Antonio, New Orleans, Mobile, Atlanta, and St. Francis Mission, South Dakota.
- On January 6, *Dr. Alex Mikulich* led a "Five year Post-Katrina" tour of New Orleans for eleven of his colleagues in the Society of Christian Ethics. Mikulich offered the tour in conjunction with the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Society of Christian Ethics held in New Orleans. Tour participants heard *Fr. Doug Doussan* tell the story of how St Gabriel Catholic Church rebuilt after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, visited sites of levee breaks at the 17th Street and Industrial Canals, enjoyed lunch at Cafe Reconcile, and visited the Orleans Parish Prison, the Community Bookstore in the 7th Ward, and the Common Ground Collective in the 9th Ward, where they learned how the Collective has helped to build over one hundred homes in the devastated Lower 9th Ward. The tour also visited new mixed income housing developments in Central City as well as the last standing public housing development of the 20th century in Treme.

2010

- On November 11, JSRI co-sponsored a presentation by Dr. Kate Crassons with the Loyola Medieval Studies Program entitled "*Poverty, Literature, and Interpretation: The Case of Piers Plowman's Half-Acre*," exploring how many claims made about poverty in the late Middle Ages continue to influence contemporary social and political views about the nature of poverty and the identity of the poor themselves.
- On November 11, Fr. Fred Kammer, SJ, did a presentation on legal services, Catholic Charities, and the challenges of representing low-income clients to the Law and Poverty class of Prof. Davida Finger at the Loyola University College of Law.
- On October 30, Fr. Ted Arroyo, SJ, presented a paper on *Faith-Based Organizations' Responses in Disaster Research* at the 2010 meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR) in Baltimore, Md. On October 29 he also chaired a session there on Religion and Social Stratification.
- On October 19, Dr. Alex Mikulich led a workshop addressing white privilege and racism with twelve students from the Creighton University Center for Service and Justice who were volunteering for a week-long service project in New Orleans.
- On October 17, November 7, and later dates, Fr. Ted Arroyo, SJ, facilitated multiple pre-and-post-immersion reflection sessions for the 50+ students, faculty and staff involved in Spring Hill's International Service Immersion Program (ISIP), this year involving five immersion trips to Belize, El Salvador, Ecuador, and Nicaragua.
- From October 7-9, Fr. Fred Kammer, SJ, participated in a public symposium at IUPUI in Indianapolis on "The Relationship of Religion and Philanthropy in Religious Philanthropic Organizations." Fr. Kammer's chapter in this collaborative book project will focus on pluralism in the work of Catholic Charities in the USA.
- On October 5, Fr. Fred Kammer, SJ, participated in an on-campus panel presentation sponsored by the Student Government Association regarding workers rights, specifically in the context of a Catholic higher education institution. He relied heavily on the recent document *Respecting the Just Rights of Workers*, a product of a multi-year negotiation between union leaders, leaders of Catholic healthcare, and U.S. bishops.
- On September 9 and 10, Fr. Fred Kammer, SJ, twice presented a workshop entitled "*Charity in Truth* and the St. Vincent DePaul Society" at the national conference of the St. Vincent DePaul Society being held in New Orleans.
- On July 17, Dr. Alex Mikulich, in his role as a member of Pax Christi USA's Anti-Racism Team, served as a co-presenter for a one day anti-racism training at Pax Christi USA's Annual Conference held in Chicago, IL. The theme of the conference and training was "Know Justice, Know Peace: Ending the Wars at Home and Abroad."
- On July 1, Fr. Fred Kammer, SJ gave two presentations as the request of Catholic Charities of Louisville, KY. In the afternoon, he conducted a workshop on preaching justice for priests and deacons of the area. In the evening, as part of their Faithful Citizenship series, he gave a talk entitled, "Doing Faithjustice: The Role of the Parish."
- From June 2-3, Dr. Alex Mikulich planned and co-facilitated a two-day training on Race, Diversity, and Pedagogy for fifteen theologians at the College Theology Society's Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon.

- On May 20, *Dr. Alex Mikulich* presented “White Privilege and the Privilege of Ministry in Gospel Perspective” to faculty and students from the University of Notre Dame Pastoral Leadership Practicum at the Duchesne Volunteer House in New Orleans.
- On May 18, *Anna Chavez* presented "The Challenges and Gifts of the New Latino Presence in New Orleans and the Gulf South" to faculty and students from the University of Notre Dame Pastoral Leadership Practicum at the Duchesne Volunteer House in New Orleans .
- From May 10-16, *Anna Chavez* accompanied Loyola's *Ignacio Volunteers* on their hands-on visit to the realities of the Texas-Mexico border in the area in and around El Paso.
- In March, *Anna Chavez* led a weekend training session through Catholic Relief Services at the Tepeyac Institute in El Paso, TX for adult youth ministers who will lead and mentor youth in peace-building initiatives along the U.S.-Mexico border.
- On March 16, as the first in a new Jesuit speaker series sponsored by Loyola's student affairs, *Fr. Fred Kammer, SJ* spoke on "Memories in Black and White: A White Jesuit Reflects on Growing up in a Racially Divided City, Country, and Church."
- On March 15-16, *Anna Chavez* helped the Justice for Immigrants committee of the Archdiocese of New Orleans to plan and present six workshops designed for clergy and laity of the Archdiocese on the scriptural and theological foundations of the Church's welcome for immigrants. *Fr. Fred Kammer, SJ* was the presenter for two of the workshops.

Grant Allocation

The Clinton Family Foundation \$20,000 grant came at a critical time for the fledgling Jesuit Social Research Institute at Loyola University New Orleans. It spanned our third and fourth years and has provided critical support after the income from our new endowment plummeted in the wake of the Great Recession of 2009. While a general support grant, we allocated it to specific costs, namely: our strategic planning (\$2,393.13); the acquisition of three refurbished computers (\$450 for three at \$150 each); the salary of our administrative assistant (\$6,000)—the position has had to be reduced from full-time to half-time for the academic years 2009-10 and 2010-11); outreach visits to Florida and to immigration detention centers in Louisiana (\$1998.32), and salaries of our three fellows (\$9,158.55).

Grant Allocations:	Strategic Planning.....	\$2,393.13
	Computers.....	450.00
	Administrative Assistant.....	6,000.00
	Outreach visits (travel).....	1,998.32
	Fellows salaries.....	9,158.55
	Total.....	\$20,000.00

Attachments:

- A. Brochure
- B. Interim statements of *Mission, Vision, and Values*
- C. *Welcoming* Conference Flyer
- D. Four editions of *JustSouth Quarterly*