

**Annual Report  
Jesuit Social Research Institute  
College of Social Sciences  
Loyola University New Orleans  
2010-11**

## **1. Executive Summary**

The Jesuit Social Research Institute (JSRI) of Loyola University was formally established as a collaborative undertaking of the New Orleans Province of the Society of Jesus and Loyola University of New Orleans through a Memorandum of Understanding signed on November 28, 2007. JSRI exists to promote research, social analysis, theological reflection, and practical strategies for improving the social and economic conditions in the Gulf South with a particular focus on the issues of race, poverty, and migration. The Institute is intended to further the mission of the Society of Jesus to promote the faith that does justice, to apply Catholic social teaching to the concrete realities of these regions, and to enhance the academic and service missions of Loyola.

## **2. Unit Identification**

### **2.1 Jesuit Social Research Institute [JSRI]**

#### **2.2 General Statement**

From a tradition based upon the principles of Catholic social teaching, the research institute offers research, social analysis, theological reflection and practical strategies for improving the social and economic conditions in the five states of the Gulf South, with a particular focus on issues of poverty, race, and migration. Through fostering close collaboration with faculty, staff, and students of Loyola University—within a network of Jesuit social centers in the United States and partnering countries and links with other universities—the Jesuit Social Research Institute combines academic research, education, and social action in a new paradigm based on the union of faith and justice, the integrating factor of all works of the Society of Jesus.

**2.2.1 Staffing**—JSRI has a full-time director and two full-time research fellows and a half-time administrative assistant. During the fall and spring semesters, it has also had the service of a work-study student.

**2.2.2**—The director and the two research fellows are full-time extraordinary faculty. JSRI also has two unsalaried part-time “associates.”

**2.2.3-2.2.6**—JSRI has no undergraduate or graduate students

### 3. Assessment

**3.1 General.** Assessment within JSRI is conducted in a variety of ways. Some events are assessed using feedback forms with participants. For example, in our Fall 2009 conference there were completed evaluations by 130 participants in various events of the conference.

Our research projects are assessed by the Board of Advisors of JSRI, who meet twice a year. Project proposals are submitted to the board in writing and project updates are presented at each board meeting to solicit board input and advice. Monthly staff meetings also contain assessment pieces in that work and events are discussed regularly by the members at a three-hour monthly meeting.

Assessment of our *JustSouth E-Newsletter* includes a review of the number of recipients who open the newsletter, click through it, and what items they review. We have also received reports from IT on the number of “hits” on our website.

**3.2 Program Goals.** Now in its fourth year, JSRI has recruited a task force of Loyola and community representatives in a current strategic planning process—to be completed by the November 2011 board meeting. Mission, Vision, and Values are complete.

#### MISSION STATEMENT

The Jesuit Social Research Institute works to transform the Gulf South through action research, analysis, education, and advocacy on the core issues of poverty, race, and migration. The Institute is a collaboration of Loyola University New Orleans and the Society of Jesus rooted in *the faith that does justice*.

#### VISION STATEMENT

The Jesuit Social Research Institute will be nationally recognized for:

- our innovative research, analysis, and education methods;
- our application of Catholic Social Teaching to poverty, race, migration, and their interface as affected by regional, national, and global forces; and
- our prophetic call in Gospel solidarity to transform life in the Gulf South.

#### VALUES STATEMENT

*Faith* that leads to *justice*.  
*Prophetic vision* that leads to *transformation*.  
*Love of neighbor* that leads to *solidarity*.  
*Scholarship* that leads to *action*.

The six draft strategic directions are as follows:

**Strategic Issue 1:** KEY RELATIONSHIPS: JSRI MUST IDENTIFY ITS KEY RELATIONSHIPS AND HOW BEST TO DEVELOP AND SUPPORT THEM.

Goal 1: Priority Partners (two main funders of JSRI): Loyola faculty, staff, and students; and Jesuits and Jesuit works in the New Orleans Province

Goal 2: Strategic partners:

- Catholic (State Catholic Conferences; Social services and advocacy leaders; Educators and pastoral leaders;)
- Media and press (including new media); Civil and ecumenical advocates
- People who are poor and marginalized (action-research)

Goal 3: Key audiences (want things to get to this group possibly through others):

- Policy and opinion makers
- Students
- Elders
- Catholic faithful and other people of good will

**Strategic Issue 2:** JSRI MUST CONTINUE TO DEVELOP ACTION-ORIENTED, FAITH-INFORMED, INNOVATIVE RESEARCH, ANALYSIS, AND EDUCATION THAT WILL CHANGE POLICIES (GRASSTOPS) AND MINDS AND HEARTS (GRASSROOTS).

Goal 1: JSRI will engage in action-oriented, faith informed, innovative research and analysis on race, poverty, and migration and their intersection.

Goal 2: JSRI will engage in action-oriented, faith informed, innovative education on race, poverty, and migration and their intersection, using:

Goal 3: JSRI will engage in action-oriented, faith informed, innovative advocacy on race, poverty, and migration at the local, state and national level by: [alone and in coalition]

**Strategic Issue 3:** JSRI MUST DEVELOP STRATEGIES TO BECOME KNOWN AS THE LEADING REGIONAL VOICE ON THE APPLICATION OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING TO THE ISSUES OF RACE, POVERTY, AND MIGRATION AND THEIR INTERFACE.

Goals:

- 1) JSRI continually gathers and updates information and analyzes current realities of race, poverty, and migration in the Gulf South region.
- 2) JSRI identifies and actively collaborates with key strategic partners to accomplish our mission in the Gulf South region.
- 3) JSRI effectively communicates to diverse constituencies the Catholic social perspective about the issues of race, poverty and migration
- 4) JSRI actively contributes to public dialogue in the Gulf South region on race, poverty, and migration.
- 5) JSRI produces original research that informs faith doing justice.
- 6) Develop a public relations Plan.

**Strategic Issue 4:** JSRI MUST WORK TOWARD BECOMING AN ORGANIZATION THAT REFLECTS ITS MULTICULTURAL, ANTI-RACIST, AND ANTI-POVERTY COMMITMENT.

**Goals:**

- 1) JSRI will conduct a regular examination of its own multicultural, anti-racist, anti-poverty commitments and of its involvement in the relation between privilege and oppression.
- 2) JSRI will develop an action plan in response to this examination.

**Strategic Issue 5 :** TESTING TRANSFORMATIONAL METHODS

**Goals:**

- 1) JSRI will research, design, and test alternative methods for transforming hearts and minds for social action and solidarity on the three focal issues of race, poverty, and migration.

**Strategic Issue 6:** FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY AND GROWTH: JSRI MUST DEVELOP ADEQUATE FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO SUSTAIN AND GROW ITS CORE STAFF, INCREASE ITS ENDOWMENT, AND ATTRACT NEW FUNDING FOR PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS.

**3.3 Student Learning Outcomes:** Not applicable.

**3.4 Assessment Activities:** Assessment activities tied to the goals, strategies, and tactics being developed in our strategic plan are being developed in the summer and fall of 2011.

**3.5 Community based learning.** Not applicable.

**3.6 Results:** Various evaluations of our three annual conferences have been incorporated into the planning for each of the following conferences. Our current strategic planning process includes use of various listening groups and workgroups to assess aspects of our programs and recommend changes (e.g. communications and public relations group; young Jesuit technology group; fundraising group).

## 4. Summary of Achievements

### 4.1 Unit as a Whole.

**Core Publications.** In their second year of publication, staff and fellows produced four more editions of the *JustSouth Quarterly* and seven editions of the *JustSouth E-Newsletter* as concrete “deliverables” on their efforts at research, analysis, education, and advocacy focused on the five states of the Gulf South. The publications are demanding but help to keep staff focused and productive and increase JSRI visibility on campus and beyond. Our website is updated at least monthly, but often more frequently.

**Outreach.** Staff continued “liaison” visits to Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida to develop ongoing relationships with advocates, service providers, and researchers working on the issues of race, poverty, and migration. On each of the outreach visits staff gather more people to include within the JSRI network of readers.

### **Post Karina New Orleans: A welcoming community? Conference**

Between forty and fifty folks, including just a few students, attended our Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup> conference. 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 rebuild the city. A special section of our Spring 2011 *Quarterly* featured the morning keynote presentations.

**Advocacy.** Advocacy efforts included drafting a letter of religious leaders of Mississippi in opposing anti-immigrant legislation in that state [the bill failed], testifying in the Alabama legislature on its anti-immigrant legislation [it was passed and signed by the governor], and testifying three times in the Louisiana legislature on a range of anti-immigrant bills [one e-verify bill passed; other worse bills failed]. Staff continued work on a briefing paper and coalition-building on payday loans and a multi-year strategy to address the death penalty in Louisiana.

### **Responsible stockholder initiative targeting immigrant detention prisons**

The New Orleans Jesuit Province has purchased stock in Corrections Corporation of America [CCA] and GEO (the first and second largest private prison corporations) in support of human rights stockholder resolutions filed by the BVM and Ursuline Sisters. Most of GEO’s and CCA’s detention centers are in Louisiana, Texas, Florida and Arizona, and their headquarters are in Florida and Tennessee, both within the province boundaries. JSRI is providing research on human rights abuses in detention centers, and participating with the province in dialogues which have now begun with the companies.

### **Educational Presentations**

Staff participated in a number of educational presentations on campus, regionally, and nationally. See JSRI in the News: <http://www.loyno.edu/jsri/news.html>

4.2 to 4.5 included above or not appropriate.

## **5. Budget for previous year and upcoming year's goals:**

### **5.1 FY 2009-2010 salary, operating, and total budgets [actual expenditures]:**

Salary budget:	\$186,950.08
Operating budget:	270,403.36
Total budget:	270,403.36

#### **5.1.1 FY 2009-2010 narrative**

The onset of the “great recession” induced the two endowment partners to reduce their earlier commitments to JSRI. The result was the determination to reduce staff by a half-position (administrative assistant) and employ other belt-tightening.

### **5.2 FY 2010-2011 salary, operating, and total budgets:**

Salary budget:	\$203,289.00
Operating budget:	312,020.98
Total budget:	312,020.98

#### **5.2.1 FY 2010-2011 narrative**

The two endowment partners increased their endowment income to JSRI as the stock market began its recovery. An increase in salaries reflected some slight inflation increase and hiring a new migration specialist. JSRI continued to work with only a half-time administrative assistant due to budget constraints. Some fundraising continued and some carry-over funding from the first two years provided the balance of income.

## 6. Planning and goals for the upcoming year

### 6.1 General Statement:

In the spring of 2010, JSRI designed its first strategic planning process with a goal of developing a three-year strategic plan. After getting the overall process set out, staff and associates spent much of the summer recruiting the team and getting all the necessary background material loaded onto *Blackboard* for ready access by the team members and the board members. The full strategic team met in October 2010 and January 2011; the advisory board also worked on the strategic plan at its Fall 2010 and Spring 2011 meetings. Four workgroups are now fleshing out the details of goals, strategies and tactics under each of six draft strategic directions.

Planning is now underway for an October 13-14 conference on immigrant detention in the South entitled *Imprisoned, Forgotten, and Deported* together with the Institute for Immigration, Religion, and Social Change at the University of Florida, the Loyola University School of Law, and Roger Thayer Stone Center Stone Center for Latin American Studies at Tulane University.

### 6.2 How JSRI supports the mission and strategic goals of the university

Within the College of Social Sciences, the Jesuit Social Research Institute (JSRI) was founded in 2007 to promote research, social analysis, theological reflection, and practical strategies for improving the social and economic conditions in the five Gulf South states with a particular focus on issues of race, poverty, and migration. The Institute aims to further the mission of the Society of Jesus to promote the faith that does justice, to apply Catholic social teaching to the concrete realities of this region, and to enhance the academic and service missions of Loyola.

*Loyola's Vision Statement: As a Catholic, Jesuit University, Loyola University New Orleans is an academic community dedicated to the education of the whole person. By thinking critically, acting justly students are to embody the Ignatian ideals of faith, truth, justice, and service. To meet these goals, the University will strive to become an increasingly selective university with outstanding liberal arts and sciences, professional, and graduate programs grounded in intellectual rigor and reflecting the more than 450 year Ignatian tradition.*

To further the university vision, JSRI focuses its research, education, and advocacy activities to apply Catholic social principles to transforming New Orleans and the Gulf South region. In its new publications—the *JustSouth Quarterly* and the *JustSouth E-newsletter*—and by the work of its fellows and associates, JSRI connects Loyola students, faculty, and staff, Jesuit ministries in the South, and Catholic and other regional advocates with the latest research on migration, poverty, and racism in order to foster more informed and committed action. By linking Loyola University to the network of Jesuit and other religious social centers and advocates in the United States and abroad and to other universities and research centers, JSRI strives to become a unique regional

resource that combines academic research, education, and social action in a new paradigm based on the union of faith and justice, of critical thinking and just action.

The values spelled out in Loyola's 2009 Strategic Plan emphasize *intellectual rigor, an appreciation for diversity, engagement with the world, and promotion of critical thinking and just action by students, faculty, and staff*. The Plan underscores overarching strategies that *enhance Jesuit values and enhance reputation and stature of the university*.

- Specifically, the Plan urges attention to *programs that are distinctive in subject matter and that are cross-disciplinary*—reflected in the distinct focus of JSRI on poverty, race, and migration and its method combining social analysis and theological reflection with practical responses.
- Further, the Plan stresses Loyola's *location in New Orleans, the South, and our proximity to Latin America*. JSRI's new five-state strategy and its existing connections to Jesuit networks in the Caribbean, Mexico, and Central America will further Loyola's stature in New Orleans, the South, and with wider publics. As the Plan notes, *The University has been studying such opportunities for years, and it is time to move on some opportunities. Throughout the southern region of the U.S., ours is the only Jesuit University, serving the Catholic community's higher education needs*.

### **6.3 Program Goals for the upcoming year**

To become a unique regional resource, JSRI has begun critical steps towards building its capacity and credibility *at the intersection of church, civil society, and the Gulf South*:

1. Continuation of the *JustSouth Quarterly* and expansion of its readership from the current 1000 leaders in church and charities ministries, Jesuit educational and other works, advocacy centers, academic institutions, and in the Loyola community.
2. Continuation of the *JustSouth E-Newsletter*, which is sent to 7,000 recipients, including *Quarterly* recipients and all of the faculty, staff, and students of Loyola University.
3. The fall 2011 conference on immigration detention in the South.
4. Deepening JSRI's new five-state Gulf South strategy which enlists each of the staff in a specific liaison responsibility to organizations and individuals in a state
5. Presentations and training provided by staff to diverse regional groups from the faith-community and the civic community
6. More intensive engagement of faculty in other departments and colleges by use of a variety of means recommended in the ongoing planning processes.

### **6.7 Assessment plan**

JSRI will utilize assessments of goals, strategies, and tactics that are to be recommended in the strategic plan to be completed by November 2011.

**7. Appendices**

7.1-7.2 Linkages to *JustSouth Quarterly* and *JustSouth E-Newsletter* for 2010-2011:  
<http://www.loyno.edu/publications.html>

7.1 Link for the past year's activities: <http://www.loyno.edu/jsri/news.html>

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