



UNIVERSAL APOSTOLIC PREFERENCES



JEASA Secretariat, New Delhi 110 003

Universal Apostolic Preferences are the fruit of a process of discernment lasting almost two years. All Jesuits were invited to take part and in addition our mission partners. It concluded with a confirmation from Pope Francis in a special meeting with Fr General Arturo Sosa

The Preferences give a horizon, a point of reference to the whole Society of Jesus. They capture our imaginations and awaken our desires. They unite us in our mission. **The new Preferences are four areas vital for our world today.** The Society of Jesus will pay special attention to them in the next ten years. We in South Asia invite you to learn more and take action with us! We want to make a Gospel difference.

UNIVERSAL APOSTOLIC PREFERENCES (UAP)

DISCERNMENT AND THE “SPIRITUAL EXERCISES”

Helping people find Jesus Christ and
follow Him

Reality - how things stand

We are constantly being bombarded with images and options and there is almost no space to find our true self or to let God find us. We often don't know or drown out our own desires, our passions and a sense of our true vocation. Without the wisdom of the Spirit we can easily have a sense that we are not in charge of our own destiny, puppets at the mercy of the moment.

- Global Terrorism, Exiling people from their own home land, Refugee crisis, religious fanaticism and fundamentalism,
- In our country: Poverty, unemployment, ecological crisis, growing violence and rape, corporate agenda, individualism, money as everything attitude, marginalisation, extreme nationalism, jingoism, domination, oppression, caste discrimination....

- In the Context of all these we do not have time and opportunity to think critically, and look in to ourselves to see what is going on with in. People in general and our students in particular have not been able to be in touch with their own self, reflecting and discerning what is good and right!

A photograph of Pope Francis, seen from behind, wearing his white cassock and zucchetto, standing at a podium and speaking into a microphone. He is in the vast, ornate interior of St. Peter's Basilica, with its high vaulted ceiling and classical columns visible. A large crowd of people is gathered in the foreground, listening to his address. The scene is illuminated by bright spotlights.

PROMOTING DISCERNMENT AND THE SPIRITUAL EXERCISES



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Discernment

We get in touch with our deepest self, the space where God speaks to us, through discernment. Discernment is not only necessary when serious problems have to be solved, it is an instrument of struggle to follow the Lord better day by day and hour by hour.

- *Today we need to learn the art of discernment.*
- *(JEASA has prepared discernment tools for schools through Atma Manthan (Examen) programme for our schools).*

- “When wisdom comes into your heart and knowledge is a delight to you, then prudence will be there to watch over you, and discernment be your guardian.”

Proverbs 2:10-11

Our Response

- In the next ten years, we want to share with others this most fundamental discovery of our own lives: Jesus Christ.
- Ignatian Values
- Ignatian Discernment
- Jesuit Legacy

- **We want to help people find Him and to live His values.**
- **We want to accompany our students and staff as they discern complex choices** in the social, economic, cultural and political spheres. We will help to create environments that favour free personal processes, independent of social or ethnic pressure.
- **We want to promote in depth study of the Spiritual Exercises.** We want to give the Exercises in places of social exclusion so that people will know they are part of one family in solidarity with one another and with the Creator.
- **We want to offer a deeper alternative to secularism.** A mature secular society will allow a greater and better exercise of religious freedom, recognising the complex dimensions of human freedom.

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Take Action

- In my school, in my area of work How Can I work for making Discernment a way of life for all my stake holders?
- In the midst of all the demands of Academic stress how am I going to make my children reflect on the beyond...end result of life?
- What are the immediate measure I am going to make in this regard in my school/ Province/Zone/ JEA?

I will do.....

- Listen to God calling through daily prayer.
- Learn more about Ignatian Spirituality and Jesuit Legacy. *(JEA is organising sustained training for Jesuits and lay collaborators on Jesuit Legacy)*
- Keep in touch through our social media, websites, and newsletters.
- Take part in a Jesuit Retreat and organise such retreats to our students and staff.
- Pray using the resources shared in our website www.educatemagis.org and social media platforms. apps.
- Inspire others by sharing this site with your friends.



WALKING WITH THE EXCLUDED



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WALKING WITH THE EXCLUDED

- Walk alongside the poor, vulnerable, the excluded and those whom society considers worthless, in a mission of reconciliation and justice.
- In our context, the weaker sections: the Dalits, Tribals, Women, the Refugees and the needy.

- Reality around us terrifying.....
- We see the gap between rich and poor widen across the world, and in our countries in SA specially, and we hear weekly reports of hundreds perishing as they try to reach a new home.

Political leaders have kindled hatred and erected walls between rich and poor, young and old, those at home and those who have to migrate. The reality of children who have been abused, physically or sexually, is also painfully and personally present to us.

DISERNMENT

- Jesus suffers and is crucified in and with His people, especially the little ones. He takes the hands of the excluded, abused and vulnerable. He says to them “Come, inherit the Kingdom”. We are all God’s children.
- “Blessed are those who mourn: they shall be comforted. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for uprightness: they shall have their fill. Blessed are the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them. Blessed are the pure in heart: they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers: they shall be recognised as children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted in the cause of uprightness: the kingdom of Heaven is theirs. Blessed are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you falsely on my account.”
Mt 5:4.6-11
- Jesus in the synagogue at Capernaum: “...to bring Good new to the poor, liberty to the captives and to the blind new sight”.
Luke 4:18

Our Response

- We desire, first and foremost, a conversion in our own hearts, that makes us alive and sensitive to the suffering Christ in our midst. Our communities desire to be more hospitable and open, learning how to live more deeply in the Spirit of Jesus, a Spirit that welcomes. Let our schools be a place for all to grow as Humans.

- **Our universities and schools, working together and with others, want to develop the capacity to engage in a profound study of the world's economic and social problems.**
- **Our work in education at all levels will make people aware of the burning need for reconciliation**, of the many who are estranged, vulnerable, alienated. We want those who are part of our educational mission to dream of and to build, step by step, a new culture based on Gospel values. (Form Peace Clubs in our schools. JEASA has urged all our schools and guided all in this direction)
- **We commit to promoting a healthy and safe environment for children and young people** and to stand against abuse of all kinds. (No abuse at all allowed in our schools)
- **In all our work, we want to unite people where they are separated, to heal them where they are wounded.** We want to work collaboratively in this field hospital of our world, witnessing to a faith that promotes reconciliation based on justice. We want to bring hope to our world, to imagine new roads and to walk these roads to the end.

Take Action

- Look around you. Is there anyone in you could support in your school, neighbourhood, parish or family?
- Vote for politicians, who represent pro-humanitarian and human rights agenda.
- Donate pro-humanitarian and human rights organizations, for example JRS.
- Organise exposure programmes for your students to experience the realities of the world and reflect with them affectively.

CARING FOR OUR COMMON HOME



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CARING FOR OUR COMMON HOME

- Work, with Gospel depth, for the protection and renewal of God's Creation (Laudato Si)



Reality - how things stand

- Creation today is crying out as never before, labouring to be set free (Romans 8). Today's environmental crisis is impacting in a particular way on the poor and vulnerable. Action is needed urgently by all of us, all people of good will. Whole nations and peoples need an ecological conversion if we are to be honest custodians of this wonderful planet. We can still change the course of history.

DISCERNMENT

- Our faith is one that wants creation to be cherished and renewed. A whole new way of living opens up as a consequence of a personal and passionate relationship with Jesus. We get the grace to transcend ourselves (*Laudato Si'*, 208). We get new strength to care for others and for creation (LS, 217). We can live with a new horizon, embracing Jesus' vision of the Kingdom of God, of a renewed and transformed world and ecosystem where we are all brothers and sisters, responsible to each other.
- “God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning-the sixth day.”
Genesis 1:31

Our Response

- At this vital time in our world's history, the Society of Jesus commits itself to answer this call of our Creator over the next ten years. In particular;
- **Our centres of higher learning want to identify areas where they can make a difference and contribute to a change of mind and heart.**
- **Our Schools can make sure that new generations are made aware** and can integrate this issue with their faith.
- Implementation of Eco-Policy made by the JEASA must be seriously done in all our schools.
- Conduct seminars for staff and students on Ecological issues and make them sensitive to the nature.
- Make all our schools plastic free...Green Campuses.
- Form a resource team to take these forward.

- Take responsibility – recycle trash, don't waste energy and water, buy eco-friendly products.
- Support pro-ecological agenda.
- Learn more about ecological issues at [EcoJesuits](#)., Tarumitra, LEAF (Gujarat) etc.
- Inspire others by sharing these with your friends.
- If possible start one Eco-Centre (in the model of Tarumitra) in your Province.

A large crowd of children and adults is gathered outdoors in a sunny, open area. In the foreground, a woman wearing a dark dress and a patterned headscarf is holding a small cup aloft with her right hand. She is surrounded by many children, some of whom are looking towards the camera. The children are dressed in casual clothing, including jackets, sweaters, and jeans. In the background, there are some buildings and trees. The overall atmosphere is one of a community gathering or celebration.

JOURNEYING WITH YOUTH



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JOURNEYING WITH YOUTH

- Accompany young people in the creation of a hopeful future



Situation of the Youth Today

Youth is a time for fundamental decisions and the beginning of fulfilling our dreams. And yet, young people today face enormous challenges: the uncertainty of relationship in a digital era, diminishing opportunities for work, the growth of political violence, discrimination, degradation of the environment. All of this makes it difficult for them to find a road where they can build supportive personal and family relations based on solid spiritual and financial foundations.

Give Fullness of Life

- Meeting Jesus, young people can find the path to deepest fulfilment. “I have come that you may have life and have it to the full”. (*John 10:10*) The 2018 Synod on Youth and Vocational discernment recognizes the importance of the perspectives of the young. We stand at their side. We glimpse the future with them. We walk with them in order to perceive and discern where the Spirit is leading our world and our Church.
- “I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. (...) Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen”. Ephesians 3:16.20-21 (NIV)
- *“The culture of encounter is a call inviting us to dare to keep alive a shared dream. Yes, a great dream, a dream that has a place for everyone.”
Pope Francis to WYD 2019 participants in Panama*

Our Response

- Young people have so many possibilities in this digital age which unites them as never before. We want to walk with them, discerning these possibilities and finding God in the depths of reality. Accompanying young people puts us on the path of conversion; it requires a new way of living in Jesuit community, a way that is more coherent, more personal, more open, more of a role model. ***It calls us to walk from Administration to Animation.***

- **We want our apostolic works and houses to be spaces open to youthful creativity** in which the encounter with the God of life, revealed by Jesus and the deepening of the Christian faith are fostered.
- **We commit to promoting a healthy and safe environment for children and young people** so that they can develop their full potential as human beings. (follow the policy on safe environment for all)
- **We want to help young people to know spirituality in depth and to feel themselves loved, saved and forgiven.**
- **We ask our schools, our universities and those who work in parishes to help in the faith development** of young people and creatively adapt the *Spiritual Exercises* so that young people can personally know Jesus in ever deeper ways and follow Him more closely.
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Take Action

- Reflect on the relationship of you/ Teachers with your children. Think how could it be better. Try to implement the conclusions.
- Support responsible sex-education agenda.
- Learn more about the youth-related problems, challenges and reality.
- Inspire others by instilling critical thinking in them.

THANK YOU

