

# Compassion

Faith doing justice in the Central and Southern Province...and beyond

June 2019

## Learn More about the Social Realities of your Community

The Jesuit Social Research Institute (JSRI), a joint ministry of the UCS Province and Loyola University New Orleans, recently released reports summarizing the socio-economic conditions of nine communities in the UCS Province. The reports provide valuable background information about how our apostolates can address – either separately or together – some of the larger issues in a region, particularly those related to the recently announced Universal Apostolic Preferences of walking with the excluded and caring for creation. They can also serve as valuable tools for teachers, community service coordinators, or parish social ministries.

The project stemmed from a recommendation of the UCS Province’s Social Ministries Commission as a means of helping Jesuits, apostolates and colleagues make informed apostolic decisions. The reports focus on economic, social, political, cultural, religious and environmental realities and trends and serve as a “composition of place” for select cities where the province has ministries.

Researchers relied upon data available from the U.S. Census Bureau, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the FBI, among others.

Several JSRI staff and associates contributed to the research and preparation of the reports, including Economic Policy Specialist Dennis Kalob; Research Assistant Millicent Eib; Administrative Assistant Kelsey McLaughlin; and former JSRI Fellow Ali Bustamante. Father Fred Kammer, SJ, director of JSRI, oversaw the project. William McCormick, SJ, and Fr. Ted Arroyo, SJ, helped determine the scope and design of the reports.

The social analysis reports are available as pdfs by clicking on the links below:

- |                             |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <a href="#">Dallas</a>      | <a href="#">Mobile</a>      |
| <a href="#">Denver</a>      | <a href="#">New Orleans</a> |
| <a href="#">El Paso</a>     | <a href="#">St. Louis</a>   |
| <a href="#">Houston</a>     | <a href="#">Tampa</a>       |
| <a href="#">Kansas City</a> |                             |

## Learn More about the New Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAPs):

This [new website](#) includes a variety of resources for appropriating the new UAPs for the Society of Jesus, including instructive letters and streamable videos. A helpful section on “Praying with the Preferences” is also available on the website: <https://jesuits.global/en/uap/praying-with-the-preferences>.



**World Refugee Day** is when we honor the courage and resilience of refugees, recognizing the hardships they have faced, the new lives they have created and the positive impact they have on our communities. Historically, the United States has been a leader in protecting and resettling refugees. However, with global need at its highest, the Trump administration has reversed our nation’s traditional role in welcoming people seeking freedom, safety and refuge.

The Catholic Church has for decades taken seriously the plight of these vulnerable refugees and through advocacy, education efforts and service provision sought to provide increased protections for them. These efforts take place on the international level through the hard work of Catholic organizations like Catholic Relief Services and Jesuit Refugee Services

(JRS), which provide support in camps and communities across the world to refugees.

In a recent letter to the Society of Jesus and partners in mission, Fr. General Arturo Sosa cited that “JRS now serves 640,000 people in 53 countries; 1 in every 100 forcibly displaced person in the world today is directly supported or served by JRS.”

In that same letter, Fr. General said that “In the face of attitudes hostile to these displaced persons, our faith invites the Society to promote everywhere a more generous culture of hospitality... [Through] the promulgation of the Universal Apostolic Preferences, among which is our commitment to care for migrants, displaced persons, refugees, and victims of wars and human trafficking the

Society has accepted as a mission of the Church through the Holy Father to continue to help create conditions of hospitality, to accompany all these people in their process of integration into society, and to promote the defense of their rights.”

The USCCB has created a [World Refugee Day Toolkit](#) that provides good resources to help your community, school or parish learn about, pray for and advocate for refugees worldwide. It includes a prayer (included below), prayer intentions, FAQ sheet, sample letters to the editor, and ideas for community engagement. We encourage you to use these resources as a way of holding refugees in your hearts, minds, prayers, and actions on June 20 and beyond.

## A Moment of Grace: A Prayer for Refugees

God of our Wandering Ancestors,  
Long have we known  
That your heart is with the refugee:  
That you were born into time  
In a family of refugees  
Fleeing violence in their homeland,  
Who then gathered up their hungry child  
And fled into alien country.  
Their cry, your cry, resounds through the ages:  
“Will you let me in?”

Give us hearts that break open  
When our brothers and sisters turn to us with  
that same cry.  
Then surely all these things will follow:  
Ears will no longer turn deaf to their voices.  
Eyes will see a moment for grace instead of a  
threat.  
Tongues will not be silenced but will instead  
advocate.  
And hands will reach out—  
working for peace in their homeland,  
working for justice in the lands where they seek  
safe haven.  
Lord, protect all refugees in their travels.  
May they find a friend in me  
And so make me worthy  
Of the refuge I have found in you. AMEN

*Courtesy of Catholic Relief Services*

