

Fr. Arturo Sosa, S.I.
Campion Hall-Regina: Remarks on Higher Education
May 28, 2018

It is a great pleasure for me to be here with you at Campion College, the only Jesuit undergraduate college in Canada, and federated with the University of Regina. And congratulations on your 100th anniversary!

On behalf of the Society of Jesus, I thank you for being part of our mission in higher education and for daring to be on these important frontiers, all of which are both crises and opportunities.

- The frontier of young people learning to make decisions that will shape their lives and their contributions to the world;
- the frontier of the importance of the liberal arts for forming good citizens who are not only people of competence but also people of conscience and compassion;
- the frontier of bringing intellectual depth, rigour and openness to the Church and its people in southern Saskatchewan;
- the frontier of touching the very deep and very old national wound of the gap between Indigenous People and Settlers in Canada, indeed in North America and everywhere that colonization has left harmful legacies.

Thank you too for hosting the gathering of representatives of Jesuit Indigenous ministries from the US and Canada, who I met this morning. These things could not happen without your commitment to living out the Ignatian identity and Jesuit mission of the College.

Let me share with you some thoughts about the Society of Jesus commitment with the University apostolate.

1. How to understand Jesuit Higher Education as part of becoming companions on a mission of reconciliation and justice
 - Make ours the point of view that offers the Incarnation of Jesus *poor among the poor*, a victim of injustice and a prophet of life.
 - Try to understand what is going on in the world today from that point of view. How the poor, marginalized and indigenous people, is affected by:
 - Inequality that continues to grow all over the world between the nations and within the nations
 - Violence also is present everywhere and in different forms
 - The crisis of democracy and Human Rights.
 - The grow of different kinds of populism, authoritarianism,
 - Racism has shown the face again.
 - Religious and ideological fundamentalisms.
 - The struggle of migrants force to leave their homeland searching a better life.
 - Promote the study and practice of reconciliation through programs that build bridges and teach critical skills as a contribution for peace in the world.
2. Deep the sense of urgency for an **integrated economic and environmental justice** through education and advocacy in all our schools--secondary and tertiary.

- Through the research in Jesuit institutions collaborate in the creation of and propose alternative economic models that can assure social justice and care of our common house.
 - Introduce this way of thinking in the curricula of our schools
 - Participate in the social and political advocacy that promote this kind of social changes.
3. Promote programs of **FORMATION OF CIVIC AND POLITICAL** leaders to better serve the common good, stressing the responsibility of the political class to build sustainable, humane and just societies, using Catholic Social Teaching as our “curriculum.”
 4. Promote **INTERFAITH DIALOGUE** through the sharing of resources and best practices in order to increase tolerance, understanding and collaboration between and among religious traditions.
 5. The most complex mandate given by the CG 36 to the apostolic body of the Society of Jesus is to promote **a culture of Safeguarding** of vulnerable people
 - Provoke a cultural change of this magnitude is a long term objective that has to be reflect deeply and discern what we can do from our charism and capacities looking to do it in a *magis* attitude.
 - It is a point that goes further of the protocols to face abuses and the programs for avoid them. Touches the structures of injustice of human societies, is one main point of the struggle for justice and for the observance of the Human Rights.
 - The contribution of the Jesuits Universities to this apostolic challenge can be specially qualified and original
 6. Expand our efforts to **BRING HIGHER EDUCATION TO THE MARGINALIZED AND THE DISADVANTAGED** through access to our institutions and through collaboration with groups such as JRS that seek to bring quality education and degree programs to those who are displaced and without access to quality education.
 7. Increase our efforts to better preserve and develop the Ignatian character of our schools through the **FORMATION OF LAY AND JESUIT LEADERSHIP**.
 8. Grow in networking within the Universities and among them can gives the Society’s contribution for justice and reconciliation an important upgrade. We have the means and the willing... let us do it.

These remarks are the main themes to be address in the III worldwide meeting of Higher Education Institutions entrusted to the Society of Jesus to be held in Bilbao, Spain, next July. Your president, Fr. John Meehan, is going to participate in this gathering to share your experience of the role of Jesuit higher education in the very important mission of reconciliation. It is my hope that all Jesuit Universities and Colleges can converged in a common effort trough networking efficiently on these common objectives linked to the mission we have received.