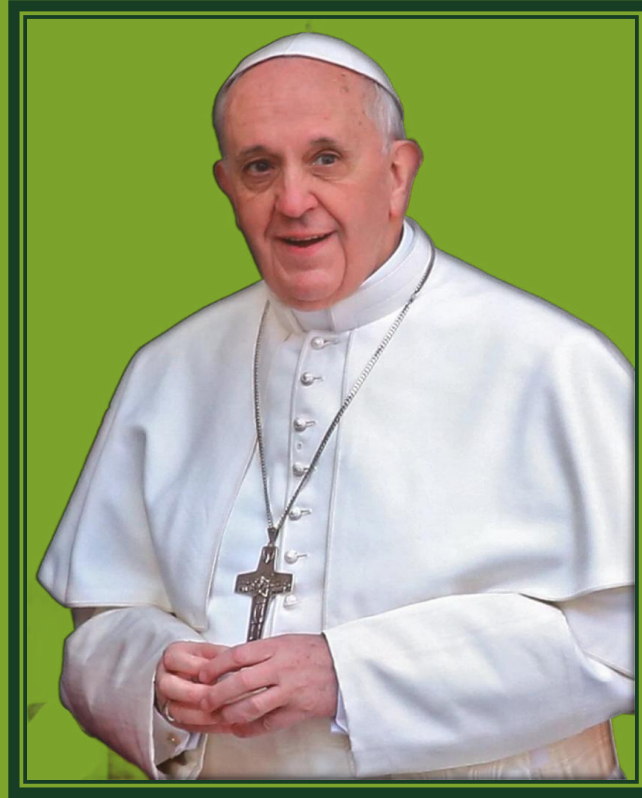


# ON ENGAGING IN ADVOCACY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Adapted from: Presentation by  
Cedric Prakash + Issac  
Gujarat



**We dedicate this to our beloved  
late POPE FRANCIS who believed  
in and took a strong stand for the  
CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME**

# Source of Ignatian Advocacy



## ★ Spiritual Exercises

### Meditations

- Call of the King
- Two Standards

### Contemplations

- Incarnation
- Attain the Love of God

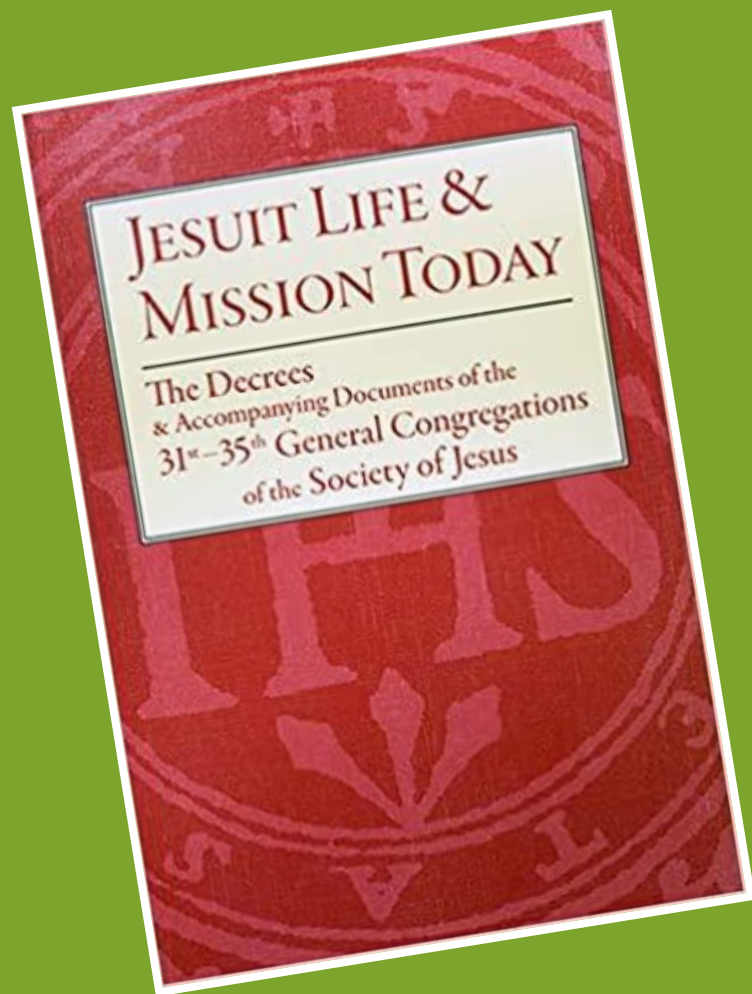
# Source of Ignatian Advocacy



**GC 32**  
**Decree 4**

***"The service of faith and the promotion of justice cannot be for us simply one ministry among others. It must be the integrating factor of all our ministries; and not only of our ministries but also of our inner life as individuals, as communities, and as a world-wide brotherhood." (#9)***

# Source of Ignatian Advocacy



## ★ GC 34 Decree 3

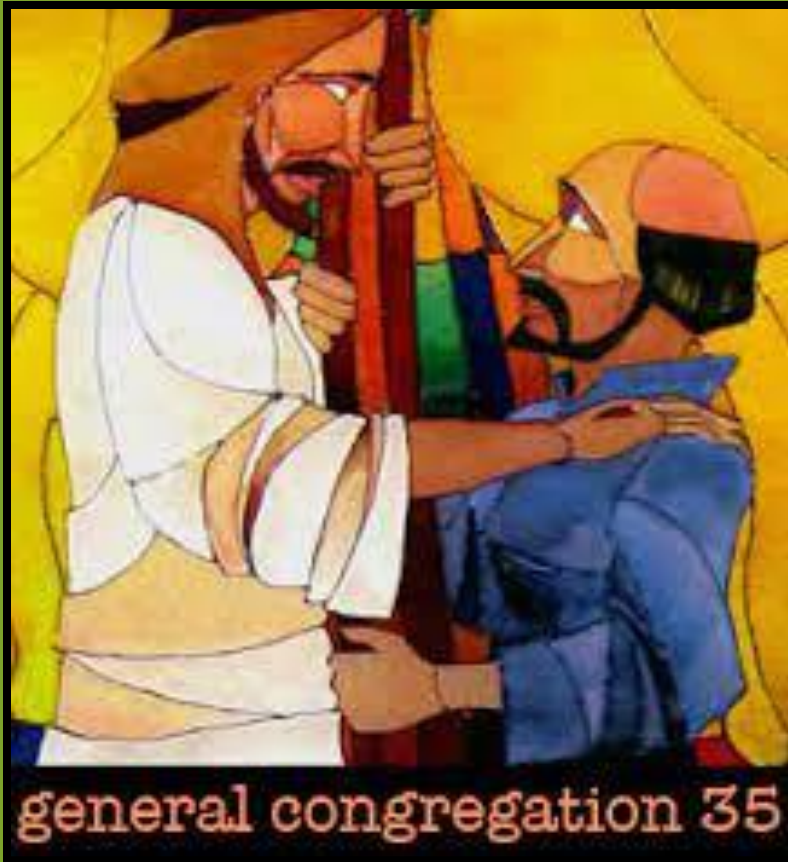
*“More recently we have become increasingly aware of other dimensions of this struggle for justice. Respect for the dignity of the human person created in the image of God underlies the growing international consciousness of the full range of human rights.” (#6)*



# Source of Ignatian Advocacy

## ★ GC 35 Decree 3

*“The complexity of the problems we face, and the richness of the opportunities offered demand that we **build bridges between the rich and poor**, establishing advocacy links of mutual support between those who hold political power and those who find it difficult to voice their interests.” (#28)*



# Global Ignatian Advocacy Network (GIAN) – 2010



Our **advocacy** should be:

- **qualified** (competent, helped by research, self-conscious);
- **relational** (centered on people, not only on issues, and practised through encounters);
- **Ignatian** (spiritual, attentive to the presence of God)

# Our Universal Apostolic Preferences

- *To show the way to God through the Spiritual Exercises;*
- *To walk with the poor, the outcasts of the world, those whose dignity has been violated, in a mission of reconciliation and justice;*
- *To accompany young people in the creation of a hope-filled future;*
- *To collaborate in the care of our Common Home.*

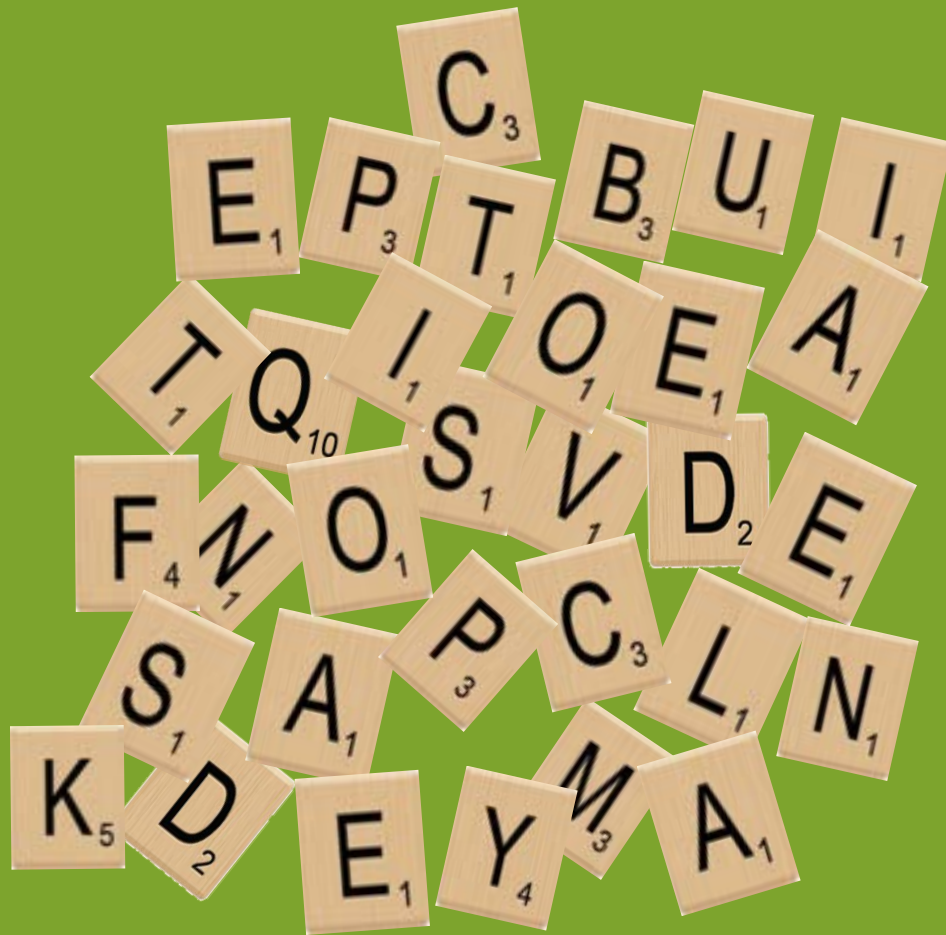
(cfr. Letter of Fr. General to the Whole Society - 19 Feb 2019)



# What is Advocacy?

- *It is the deliberate act of speaking out, supporting or taking action on behalf of a cause, community or individual to influence decisions and drive social or political change.*
- *It involves raising awareness, engaging stakeholders and pushing for policies or reforms that align with justice, equity and human rights.*
- *At it's core, Advocacy is about amplifying voices, challenging injustices and ensuring that the concerns of marginalised, vulnerable and under-represented groups are acknowledged and addressed by society, institutions and policy makers.*

# Dimensions of Advocacy

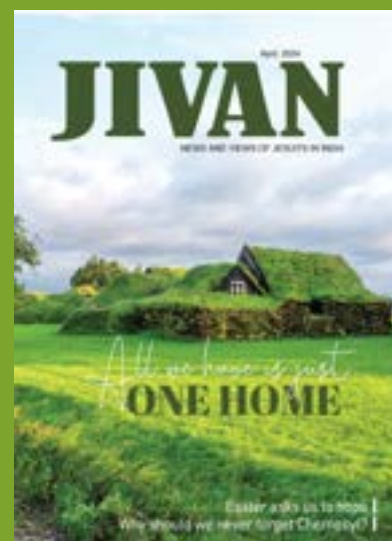
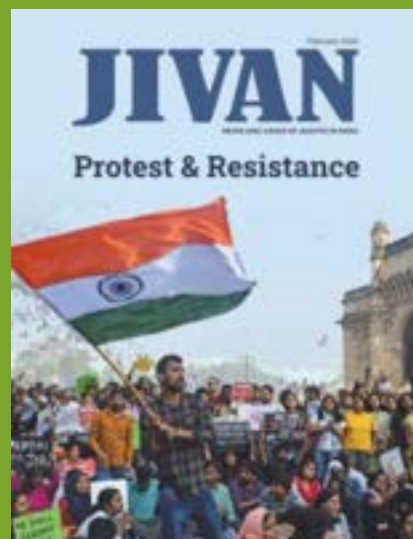
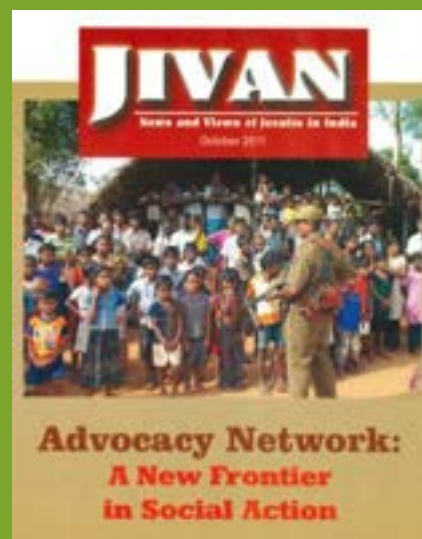
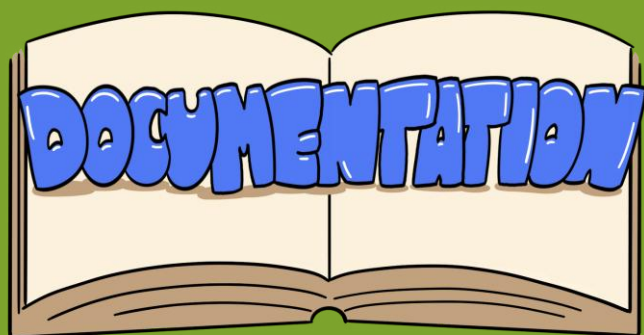


# AWARENESS



SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT











# OWNERSHIP



# Communication



## Conscientization



Process of becoming aware of the contradictions existing within oneself and in society and of gradually being able to bring about personal and social transformation.

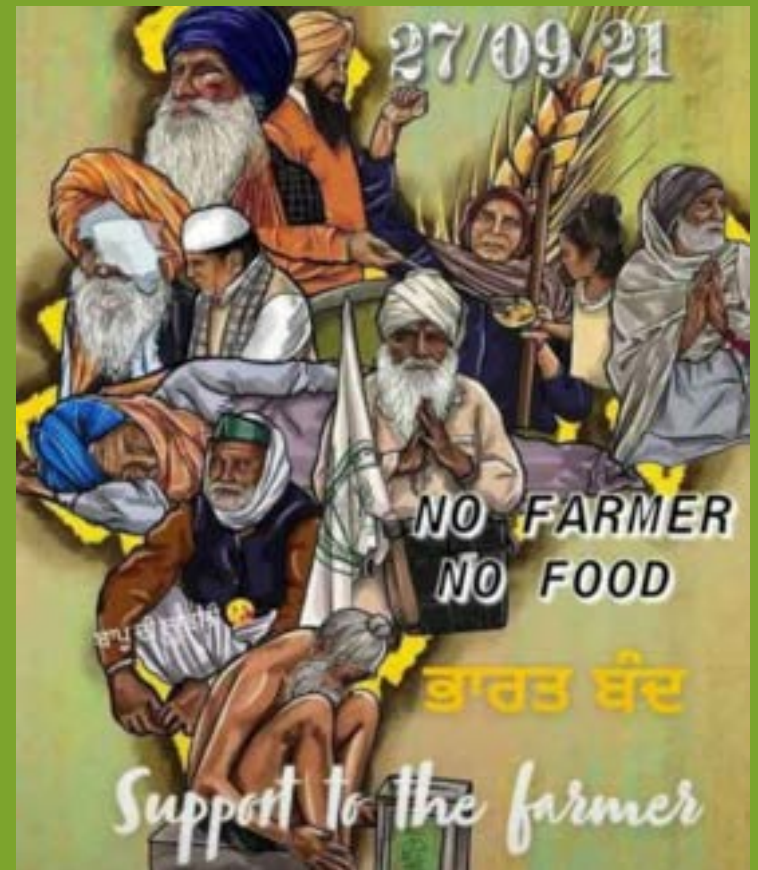


# ACTION





# Collaboration





**Need for  
Evaluation/ Review**





AWARENESS

DOCUMENTATION

V-FACTOR

OWNERSHIP

COMMUNICATION

ACTION

COLLABORATION

YARDSTICK



- **Incarnational** (the here and now in terms of contextualisation)
- **Involvement** (in every sphere including activism)
- **Ignatian**

# Challenges/Risks We Face

- the challenge of not being understood or accepted by one's own
- the challenge of being at the receiving end of inimical and hostile elements (both internal and external)
- the challenge of becoming vulnerable
- the challenge of collaborating with others
- the challenge of not feeling an “emotional high”
- the challenge of “giving in” to fatigue
- the challenge to always be “in the know”
- the challenge of being visible and vocal
- the challenge of losing one's FCRA



The greatest challenge in engaging in **Advocacy** is having the **prophetic courage** to take risks, to fear no one and to remain committed at all times

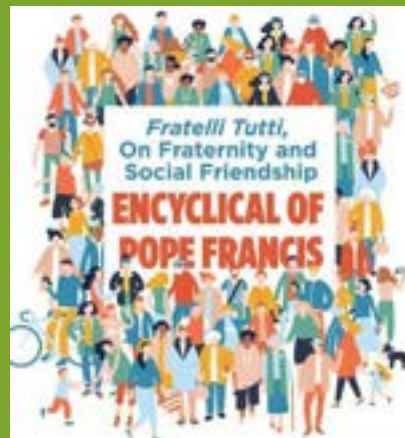


Our hero, mentor, guide, should be **JESUS** himself who through the **GOSPEL WITHOUT COMPROMISE** has taught us (and teaches us) the key elements of **ADVOCACY**





**POPE FRANCIS** had consistently been highlighting the need and importance of **ENGAGING IN ADVOCACY** in every possible way



# Other Jesuit Beacons of Advocacy

We have classic examples of great Jesuits who have done excellent advocacy work over the years.



# Other Jesuit Beacons of Advocacy

**Can we forget the great work in this regard done by Fr Stan Swamy?**

## **A caged bird can still sing**

First of all, I deeply appreciate the overwhelming solidarity expressed by many during these past 100 days behind the bars. At times, news of such solidarity has given me immense strength and courage especially when the only thing certain in prison is uncertainty. Life here is on a day-to-day basis.

Another strength during these past hundred days, has been in observing the plight of the undertrials. A majority of them come from economically & socially weaker communities. Many of such poor undertrials don't know what charges have been put on them, have not seen their charge sheet and just remain in prison for years without any legal or other assistance. Overall, almost all undertrials are compelled to live to a bare minimum, whether rich or poor. This brings in a sense of brotherhood & communitarianism where reaching out to each other is possible even in this adversity.

On the other hand, we sixteen co-accused have not been able to meet each other, as we are lodged in different jails or different 'circles' within the same jail. But we will still sing in chorus. A caged bird can still sing.

*Fr. Stan Swamy*





# RELIVING THE STAN MOMENT: A CLARION CALL



Like Stan to engage in advocacy, in the context of what is happening in the country today, particularly for the *Jal, Jungle, Jameen* of the Adivasis

**ADVOCACY** is an ongoing process aimed at changing attitudes, actions, policies and laws by influencing people in power, systems and structures at different levels for the betterment of those affected by the issues

It entails at all times a very high degree of:

**Contemplation**

**Compassion**

**Collaboration**

**Courage**

**Commitment**





Like our Jesuit brothers, are we prepared to engage in **ADVOCACY** regarding the **ENVIRONMENT** here in the **WESTERN REGION**?

# Opportunities for Environmental Advocacy

- *Advocacy on Climate Change and Renewal Energy – Fossil Fuel Treaty – **REN** network*
- *Advocacy on Organic Farming through Research Applications – **ANRM + CARE** Networks*
- *Advocacy for Eco-Liberation-Spirituality and Education – **SEAL** Network*

# **Advocacy for Climate Change and RE**

## **1. *Reliable Information Collection and Dissemination***

- *Information about the increasing fossil fuel extraction, import from Australia and Indonesia and their use in India*
- *Information about the fast decreasing forest cover in India*
- *Organise workshops to educate citizens on climate change and fossil fuels – the need to keep to 1.5 degree increase in temp*

## **2. *Policy and Legal Engagement***

- *Lobby government representatives for stronger climate regulations and the commitment to the Paris Agreement.*
- *Work with policymakers on ecological preservation strategies including land and forest conservation.*

# **Advocacy for Climate Change and RE**

## **3. *Public Awareness Campaigns***

- *Use storytelling, documentaries and visual media to highlight Renewable Energy Solutions*
- *Develop social media campaigns (#ActforClimate, #EcoJustice) to engage digital audiences in advocacy.*

## **4. *Corporate Accountability and Ethical Business Practices***

- *Advocate for businesses to adopt eco-friendly policies such as carbon neutrality and sustainable sourcing.*
- *Hold corporations accountable for environmental harm such as pollution or deforestation, through legal pressure and public awareness.*



# Advocacy for Climate Change and Renewal Energy

## 5. *Collaboration and Alliance Building*

- *Partner with NGOs, research institutes and social movements working on climate resilience.*
- *Support international climate advocacy networks to amplify local efforts.*
- *Engage indigenous communities, whose ecological knowledge is crucial for sustainability.*

# Advocacy for Organic Farming

## Benefits:

- *Soil health*
- *Biodiversity*
- *Chemical-free food production*

## Challenges:

- *Policy barriers*
- *Commercial farming influence*
- *Affordability*

## Strategies:

- *Supporting small-scale farmers and cooperatives*
- *Promoting organic certification and fair trade*
- *Public awareness campaigns on food sustainability*



# Advocacy for Solar Energy

Importance of transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy

## Benefits:

- *Reduced carbon footprint*
- *Decentralisation of energy*

## Challenges:

- *Initial costs*
- *Policy resistance*
- *Infrastructure limitations*

## Strategies:

- *Policy lobbying for subsidies and incentives*
- *Community solar programs and decentralised grids*
- *Promoting the adoption of solar technology in households*



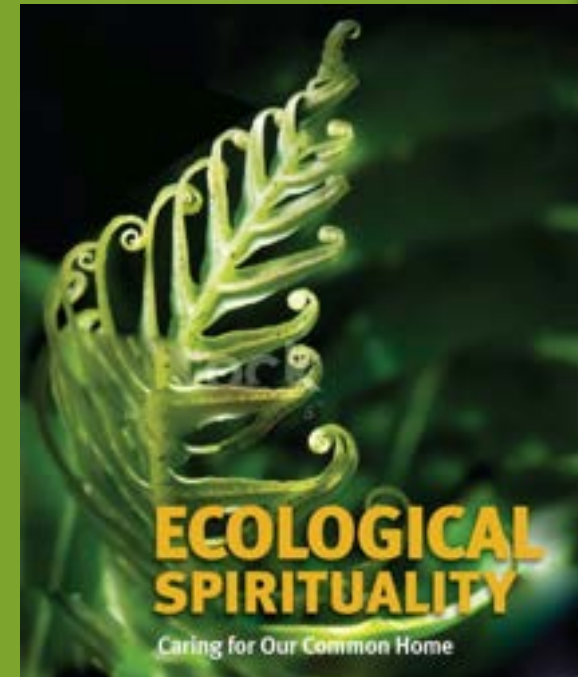
# Advocacy for Eco-Liberation-Spirituality

## Understanding Eco-Spirituality and Liberation Theology:

- *Connecting faith and nature*
- *Indigenous wisdom and ecological stewardship*
- *Cultivating eco-awareness through education and mindfulness*

## Strategies:

- *Integrating sustainability into spiritual practices*
- *Using storytelling and cultural narratives to promote conservation*
- *Organising community dialogues on environmental ethics*





Because of the **RISKS** involved, the one question we need to ask ourselves is:

**Are we willing?**

- **TO STICK OUR NECKS OUT**
- **TO BE VISIBLE and VOCAL**
- **TO ENGAGE IN ECOLOGICAL ADVOCACY**

# We Are Sent To Collaborate In The Reconciliation Of All Things In Christ



## Regarding the Care of Our Common Home, Father General says.....



*'In practically all the Provinces/Regions it is recognized that we have not found the way forward or changed our life-mission to collaborate in the care of our Common Home in a new and effective manner. The call of the Pope in his encyclicals and interventions is far ahead of our actions. Often, our actions are more cosmetic than genuine ecological conversion that requires profound changes in our lifestyle and work, which we consciously and unconsciously resist. Deepening our intellectual contribution in this field must be accompanied by the promotion of public policies that ensure the fulfilment of the commitments to measures agreed upon to reverse the deterioration of the environment worldwide, including plans to replace fossil fuels as the main source of energy'*

## And further.....



*'We are entering a second phase of assimilation and implementation of the UAPs that demands a deeper reflection on their interconnectedness and their grounding in our charism and identity, especially with regard to the "foundational" nature of the first preference. It is a phase that requires courage to name the resistances we encounter, to return to our charismatic sources for inspiration, and to find the spiritual strength to make practical decisions that definitively open the space for the Lord's action in our life-mission.'*



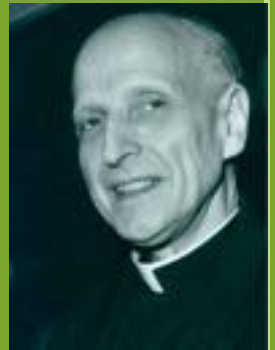
# Our Way of Proceeding – Fr. Pedro Arrupe

*"Lord, meditating on 'our way of proceeding,' I have discovered that the ideal of our way of acting is your way of acting.*

*Give me that sensus Christi that I may feel with your feelings, with the sentiments of your heart, which basically are love for your Father and love for all men and women.*

*Teach me how to be compassionate to the suffering, to the poor, the blind, the lame and the lepers.*

*Teach us your way so that it becomes our way today, so that we may come closer to the great ideal of Saint Ignatius: to be companions of Jesus, collaborators in the work of redemption"*





AD  
MAJOREM  
DEI  
GLORIAM

**We are never content with the status quo, the known, the tried, the already existing. We are constantly driven to discover, redefine, and reach out for the magis. For us, frontiers and boundaries are not obstacles or ends, but new challenges to be faced, new opportunities to be welcomed. Indeed, ours is a holy boldness, a certain apostolic aggressivity, typical of our way of proceeding.**

**GC 34, 561**