



All Things Ignatian



CCSJ Ignatian Advocacy Team

How the Creighton Center for Service and Justice Strives to Live out the Call to Ignatian Advocacy

In response to the larger movements in the Society of Jesus, the Creighton Center for Service and Justice formed an Ignatian Advocacy Team in August of 2009. It quickly became a vehicle for students to live out the mission of being for and with the poor and marginalized whom they often encountered through their service experiences. Advocacy is a key aspect of how we live “a faith that does justice”. We hope to inspire students to **analyze, engage, and challenge** the structural systems that often perpetuate injustice in our local, national, and international communities.

Background

Since 1975, beginning with Superior General Fr. Pedro Arrupe, the Jesuits have emphasized **“a faith that does justice”** (*GC 32* : Dec. 4) as integral to the Jesuit mission. One important way of living this out is through advocacy. The 35th General Congregation in 2008 explicitly talked about the importance of advocacy work in the mission of the Society of Jesus.

What is ‘advocacy’?

One way the Jesuit Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat defines advocacy is “actions that aim to **change a present situation** of injustice and inequality that have a negative effect on the weak and marginalized” (*Introducing the LAN*, Jan. 2010, p. 72).

What makes Ignatian’ Advocacy unique?

Ignatian Advocacy aims to be done **in solidarity with the poorest and most marginalized**, in proper discernment, and **in community**. It engages the world through a careful analysis of the context, in dialogue with experience, evaluated through reflection, seeking right decision for the sake of action with openness to evaluation.



The CCSJ Ignatian Advocacy Team met with Sen. Jeremy Nordquist (CU'04) to talk about issues of immigration and economic justice in Nebraska.



Creighton students attended the Unity Rally in Lincoln, NE supporting Nebraskan communities and opposing an Arizona-style immigration law in Nebraska.

Four Priorities

- Migration, Peace, Economic Justice, and Sustainability.
- based on national and international Jesuit Priorities, our experiences and relationships with people who are poor and marginalized, reading the ‘signs of the times’ and discernment.

Trusted Partners

- the CCSJ relies on the research, expertise, and experience of trusted partners including:
 - Global Ignatian Advocacy Network (GIAN)
 - US Conference of Catholic Bishops
 - Catholic Relief Services
 - Jesuit Refugee Services
 - the Wisconsin Province of the Society of Jesus
 - NETWORK
 - Center for Concern
 - Justice for Immigrants

The Whole Person

As the former Superior General of the Society of Jesus Rev. Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, S.J. said, we need to **“educate the whole person of solidarity for the real world”**. Students should “learn to perceive, think, judge, choose and act for the rights of others, especially the disadvantaged and the oppressed.”

How We Engage in Ignatian Advocacy

- weekly CCSJ Ignatian Advocacy Alerts
- Advocacy Trainings with Catholic Relief Services
- Legislative visits with local and national elected officials
- Ignatian Advocacy Break-Out Presentation at the Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice in November 2011
- Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice Advocacy Day (9 Creighton visits on Capitol Hill)
- Integrating Ignatian Advocacy into all CCSJ programs
- Ignatian Advocacy Groups on Migration, Economic Justice and Sustainability

CCSJ Ignatian Advocacy Groups

Based on interest from other students to be involved in Ignatian Advocacy, in October 2011 the CCSJ Ignatian Advocacy Team held the first meeting for the Ignatian Advocacy Groups. After an introduction and a brief training on how to engage in advocacy work, 18 students broke up into three groups based on their own interests: **Economic Justice, Migration, and Environment**. These groups are based on the Ignatian Advocacy Team priorities and facilitated by CCSJ Ignatian Advocacy Team members. Group members will be educating themselves, staying informed, and acting on their priority issue on a local, national, and international level.



CU students reflected at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial in Washington D.C. before legislative visits on Capitol Hill, as part of IFTJ 2011.

Sponsored by the Creighton University Jesuit Community, in association with the Deglman Center for Ignatian Spirituality.