

# Conversations on Jesuit Higher Education

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Volume 49 *Jesuit Higher Education in a Global Context*

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Article 30

September 2016

## Items from Rome

Editorial Board

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### Recommended Citation

Editorial Board (2016) "Items from Rome," *Conversations on Jesuit Higher Education*: Vol. 49 , Article 30.  
Available at: <http://epublications.marquette.edu/conversations/vol49/iss1/30>

## ITEMS FROM ROME

### A Major Jesuit Meeting

**Beginning on October 2,** Jesuit representatives from all over the world will meet in Rome for General Congregation 36. Their major agenda item will be to accept the resignation of Fr. Adolfo Nicolás, the Superior General, and then to elect his successor. Father Nicolás officially convoked this meeting on Dec. 8, 2014.

A general congregation is rare in the Society of Jesus. If the superior general dies in office, one must be convoked to elect his successor. If the superior general wants to retire, the congregation must give its approval.

After the election of a new general, the delegates consider “matters of greater moment” in the life of the order. A committee will have met to compose a document describing



The view of the dome of St. Peter's from the Jesuit Curia's roof.

the state of the Society of Jesus today. Other groups will propose topics for consideration.

Throughout its history, the order has considered education to be a crucial ministry, and the schools have drawn attention from general congregations. They would

be more concerned with global issues rather than with specifics. And they would generally support the great work being done in so many academic settings.

More information is available at [www.jesuits.org](http://www.jesuits.org).

### An Invitation to Make a Difference

**Fr. Adolfo Nicolás,** the Superior General of the Jesuits, wrote a letter in April introducing a new document prepared by a group of economists and theologians from all over the world; overseeing the work were Michael Garanzini, S.J., and Patxi Álvarez, S.J., the Jesuit secretaries for higher education and for social justice and ecology respectively.

The document reflects the close connection between ecological concerns and other issues of economic and social justice. The purpose is meant to spur discus-

sion, research, and advocacy. It is meant not only for Jesuits but also for individual colleagues in ministry, concerned groups, and institutions as a whole.

Father Nicolás's letter invites Jesuit institutions to develop a methodology to work on the document with a special focus on local situations, bringing intellectual and spiritual light to these concerns. He urges all to examine closely the personal, communal, and institutional responses we are capable of and to avoid the temptation to believe that

this is beyond us, that we are insignificant players, “too small or weak to make a difference.”

As this issue of *Conversations* shows, colleges and universities are capable of finding solutions to problems that beset our world; working together we can do much more.

The full text of the document is available at <http://www.sjweb.info/sjs/PJ/index.cfm?PubTextId=15696>. Or a search using the terms “promotio iustitiae 121” will also access the document.