



JOHN J. CARROLL INSTITUTE ON CHURCH AND SOCIAL ISSUES



ANNUAL REPORT 2009

vision

A Filipino society that upholds the dignity and nature of the human person with a special concern for improving the quality of life of the poor

mission

Guided by the Catholic Social Teaching, we catalyze critical thinking, discussion and action principally through research, advocacy and capacity building to bring about morally informed choices and effective solutions to poverty

about us

The John J. Carroll Institute on Church and Social Issues (JJCICSI) is an organization and community of professional researchers and advocates committed to faith that does justice. Working in solidarity with the Church and various sectors, JJCICSI strives to respond to the issues and concerns of the poor.

More recently, JJCICSI's efforts have focused more strategically on capacitating local actors as an added dimension to the research and advocacy work for which the Institute is known. The Institute's programs continue to undertake research-based policy advocacy but they have also ventured into developing projects that benefit the urban and rural poor, women and children, and local communities in environmentally vulnerable areas. At the same time, they are engaged in mentoring, training, providing consulting services, and the production of manuals, templates and other tools to facilitate and make more effective the development of pro-poor projects on the ground.

This new strategy is born out of the analysis that in many cases, the failure to implement good laws and policies is due to weak institutions and/or incapacity of those running these institutions to effect change. Moreover, with the decentralization of most basic services and governance responsibilities, local governments play a particularly crucial role in implementing social policies. Hence, one important thrust across the different programs has been to empower local actors, particularly local governments, in the implementation of pro-poor programs.

At the same time, work with the organizations of the poor has continued, likewise focusing more strongly on capacity building. The usual research and advocacy efforts have been complemented with a more deliberate effort at enabling these groups to participate effectively in governance processes, as well as in the implementation of policies and projects. The Institute's expertise in social research and Catholic Social Teaching is put to use in the critical study of implementation and institutional issues, in addition to policy issues. This subtle yet important shift is also in keeping with the kind of policy implementation support increasingly being needed and requested by the Institute's various coalition partners.

Contents

03	Message from the Executive Director
04	Church & Family Life
05	Urban Poverty & Governance
06	Rural Development
07	Environmental Economics & Policy
08	Special Report: The JJCICSI Silver Anniversary
11	Financial Report
13	Members of the Board, Management & Staff



Message from the Executive Director

It was a very special year for the John J. Carroll Institute on Church and Social Issues in 2009 as it commemorated twenty-five years of faith-based research and advocacy work on social issues affecting primarily the poor and marginalized sectors of Philippine society.

So many changes in the work have transpired in the past twenty-five years. Previously, JJCICSI used to link up only with people's organizations (POs) and non-government organizations (NGOs), including the Church, to increase awareness and understanding of the issues, conduct research and support advocacy efforts through writing and mentoring. Recently, it has begun to engage the government and the private sector, including funding institutions in pushing for its advocacies. Initially, the primary objective of its research and advocacy work was to push for the necessary policies and legislation, but now the Institute has involved itself more on the effective implementation of these laws, policies and programs in the past three to five years. Whereas before, the concentration of the work was in research and publication, new other forms of development work have been tried, e.g. capacity building, documentation and consulting work.

There are other changes that are worth mentioning. For one, the Institute has been rightfully named after one of its founders, Fr. John J. Carroll, S.J., back in 2007, coinciding with the launching of his outstanding book, *Engaging Society: The Sociologist in a War Zone* and the celebration of his 83rd birthday. Countless able staff members and colleagues have come and gone, often dictating the themes, issues or programs pursued by the Institute, such as agrarian reform, informal labor, women issues, the environment, migration, urban poverty and the like.

Amidst all these changes, the one thing that has stayed with and has distinguished JJCICSI from all other NGOs is the guidance it gets from the Catholic Social Teachings. Beginning with Pope Leo XIII's *Rerum Novarum* (1891) to Pope John Paul II's *Laborem Exercens* (1981) and *Centesimus Annus* (1991), the pontiffs expressed in encyclicals the many tenets that ought to guide the people of God in their social endeavors. For its part, the Institute bears in mind the dignity of the human person as foremost in all its programs and projects, as it continues to be aware with the signs of the times and the fast-changing developments in Philippine society. It is therefore fitting and fortunate for us that the last encyclical, *Caritas in Veritate* by the Most Holy Pope Benedict XVI, was issued on our silver year, 2009, where we are reminded that all is gift while being asked to extend more than what is right and just.

As we end one phase in the history of JJCICSI, for which we have been truly blessed and deeply grateful for, we begin another, renewed and challenged, full of vigor and hope, and yes, aiming for more than what we can give, particularly to those who have less in life and to whom we have committed ourselves to serve. May we remain steadfast in this mission in the next twenty-five years.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gemma'.

Gemma Rita R. Marin
Executive Director

Church & Family Life

Through research, advocacy and direct services, the Church and Family Life Program assists the Catholic Church in addressing the social and spiritual needs of Filipino families, especially those in underprivileged communities.

Specifically the program aims to:

- Influence Church and State policy on issues affecting population and family life
- Organize seminars and conferences on Catholic Social Teaching and establish and strengthen networks with other Church-related groups
- Promote research-oriented agenda that help the Church to be a Church of and for the poor
- Work with government and non-government agencies to promote research and advocacy for juvenile justice
- Assist Filipino families in poor communities through the Pag-asa ng Pamilya Program which runs three direct service programs in Payatas: the Sagip Bata Program which helps feed malnourished children; the Landas ng Pag-asa Educational Scholarship Program which helps underprivileged students pursue their education; and the TAHANAN program which helps couples make intelligent decisions on how to plan their families using natural family planning methods.



2009 Highlights & Accomplishments

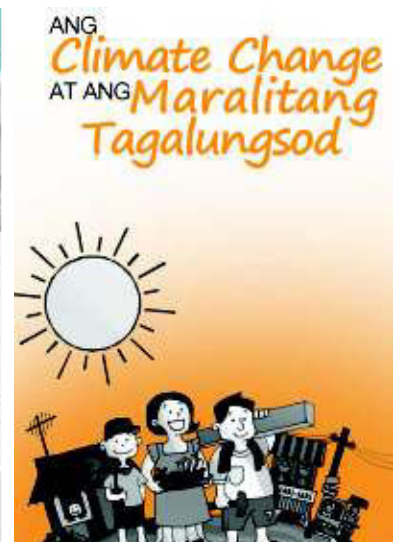
- Conduct of weekly training in Payatas and Kaingin 2 on natural family planning
- Conduct of a series of trainings for community leaders on corporal punishment, positive discipline, and children in conflict with the law
- Conduct of seminars on Catholic Social Teaching (CST) for select leaders of the Couples for Christ (CFC)
- Conduct of 12 PALM (*Pangunahing Aralin ng Liga Mangagagawa*) seminars, a leadership seminar and a general assembly for the Liga Mangagagawa
- Co-sponsorship with Jesuit Communications and Loyola School of Theology of a symposium on *Caritas in Veritate*.
- Articles in the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* and elsewhere on population issues especially as they affect the family, on the Reproductive Health Bill, on Philippine social structure and politics as they impact on the poor, on Catholic Social Doctrine and the encyclical *Caritas in Veritate*
- Attendance to the forum on the Reproductive Health Bill, research and critical evaluation of one of the papers there presented. Attendance at follow-up planning session
- Introductions to modules on population/development and on sex education for Catholic schools
- Fund-raising, support and administration of feeding program for malnourished children (five days per week for average of 30 children)

Urban Poverty & Governance

The Urban Poverty and Governance Program addresses urban poverty and its principal manifestation - the lack of access to humane and secure housing. Through research and advocacy, the program aims to alleviate urban poverty by empowering urban poor groups to work for better urban governance.

The program's main thrusts are:

- Working with government agencies and funding institutions providing official development assistance to improve resettlement policy and practice
- Collaborating with urban local governments for the development of poverty focused plans and interventions, particularly in housing
- Assisting peoples' organizations and engaging them in participatory researches such as a city-wide urban poverty profile
- Conducting studies on security of tenure and formulating alternative tenure arrangements for possible application in areas proclaimed as socialized housing sites
- Disseminating information gathered from conducted researches through lectures and published articles, and
- Networking with government institutions and other urban poor related groups to create a stronger advocacy base for urban development and housing reforms



2009 Highlights & Accomplishments

- Development of instruments for profiling urban poor communities affected by Typhoon Ondoy (Ketsana) in one barangay in Quezon City
- Conduct of workshops for the formulation of a Quezon City agenda and innovative housing schemes to be advocated by the Quezon City Urban Poor Alliance (QC UP-ALL)
- Publication of official newsletter for the project *Institutionalizing Local and National Partnerships to Address Urban Poverty and Homelessness in Quezon City*
- Assessment of government's performance in housing for the period 2005-2010 vis-à-vis the targets of the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP)
- Conduct of workshops and development of a toolkit on the adaptation of urban poor communities to climate change

Rural Development

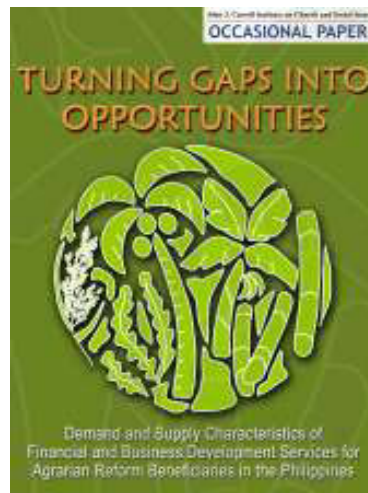
The Rural Development Program of the Institute recognizes that the majority of the Filipino poor live in rural areas. It also sees that the lack of access to land and other productive resources hinders the rural poor from participating in economic activities to improve their incomes.

In the face of formidable structures that perpetuate poverty in the countryside, the Rural Development Program sets its sight on alternatives, substitutes or options that would address the issue of access, along with control and management of resources. Primary areas and topics of concern for research and advocacy include:

- Access to land - agrarian reform, alternative and secure tenure arrangements, land use policy and mining
- Access to capital and credit - microfinance services and schemes, and other sustainable financing approaches towards savings and capital build-up
- Access to technology - diversification through intercropping and processing of value-added products, and promotion of sustainable technologies
- Access to market - alternative trading and marketing, and fair trade

2009 Highlights & Accomplishments

- Conduct of roundtable discussions at local and national levels for the study on the *Demand and Supply Characteristics of Financial and Business Development Services for Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries in the Philippines*, and the publication of an occasional paper for the said study
- Continuous networking and participation in the activities of AR Now! And People's ALARM
- Collaboration with the Environmental Economics and Policy Program for the study on small rice farmers' adaptation to climate change (see next page)
- Collaboration with EEP and UPG for the conduct of pilot and actual workshops with partners on their adaptation to climate change, and for the publication of a tool kit that will sensitize the same partners on the effects of climate change on their assets, properties and lives, and guide them in their planning for more responsive adaptation strategies



Environmental Economics & Policy

The Environmental Economics Program uses the tools of economics to understand and help solve the many environmental problems facing people today, especially the poor. The Program recognizes that one of the biggest environmental problems that threaten humanity is climate change. Thus, the Program's research and advocacy center on solutions which reduce the risks climate change presents. Special focus is given to the Clean Development Mechanism, a market-based instrument that allows for additional investments that will make possible climate-friendly and environmentally-sound projects. These projects contribute to a reduction in greenhouse gases, the main cause of climate change, and help promote sustainable development.

The Program also seeks to analyze the impacts of various environmental problems on the poor and to find ways of dealing effectively with poverty without jeopardizing the environment. The research and advocacy agenda include:

- Cost-benefit evaluation and cost effectiveness of various carbon sequestration and carbon reduction projects
- Analyses of the different carbon markets
- Economic valuation of environmental problems (e.g. air and water pollution, forest degradation)
- Economic instruments to provide clean water and other environmental services to the poor
- Financial sustainability of community-based natural resource management

2009 Highlights & Accomplishments

- Conduct of research on small rice farmers' adaptation to climate change in Iloilo (Salngan Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Multi-Purpose Cooperative) and Nueva Ecija (Kalikasan-NE)
- Conduct of Dialogue Forum on Adaptation to Climate Change in the Philippines, 22 to 24 September 2009, Antipolo City



Sent to the Frontiers

The JJCICSI Silver Anniversary

The 35th General Congregation of the Society of Jesus (GC 35) speaks of discovering new horizons and reaching “new social, cultural and religious frontiers” in the context of a globalized world that “is sustained by interrelated... structures that affect the core of our mission of faith [and] justice.”

As a Jesuit social apostolate, we at the John J. Carroll Institute on Church and Social Issues (JJCICSI) have been sent to these frontiers, and we continue to believe that the “present moment is crucial, and the work to be done is urgent.”

For 25 years, research-based advocacy has been our tool in building bridges to make the concerns of the powerless comprehensible to the powerful. In carrying out this mission, we are enlightened by Catholic Social Teaching as we participate in the Church’s work of integral evangelization. It is this faith that does justice that distinguishes JJCICSI from other non-government organizations.

This 2009, JJCICSI rekindled the fire for social justice, remembered friendships, and renewed its commitment to respond to the call to the frontiers. It is in this spirit that JJCICSI celebrated its silver anniversary, reaffirming our mission to promote a Filipino society that upholds the dignity of the human person, especially of the poor.

Silver Café

Since its establishment in 1984, JJCICSI has involved itself in areas like urban poverty, women and children, migration, agriculture and agrarian reform, to name a few - areas delving into policy issues which we consider as frontiers. As the years progressed, our research and advocacy activities ventured into other frontiers such as population and development, and the environment.

We invited former and current researchers of JJCICSI to our month-long series of talks dubbed as *Silver Café* to relive their experiences in investigating these issues and share where their advocacies have led and will lead to.



“It is good to look back to help us understand who and what we are as an institute.”

— Fr. John J. Carroll, SJ

Day 1

As part of JJCICSI’s 25th anniversary celebration, the first in a series of four Silver Café talks was held last August 6, 2009 at JJCICSI Conference Room A in the Ateneo de Manila campus, Quezon City. It was attended by some 18 participants (past and present staff members, board members, Jesuits and NGO colleagues/partners). Fr. Robert Rivera, SJ, JJCICSI Associate Director, introduced the talk and the speakers for each topic and emceed the program. Fr. John J. Carroll, SJ, current senior research associate, discussed the founding of ICSI in 1984 while Fr. Silvino “Junjun” L. Borres, SJ, a Jesuit priest assigned to ICSI during his seminary years shared his experiences with JJCICSI as a social apostolate organization of the Philippine Province of the Society of Jesus.



“In advocacy work, one cannot just listen to emotions; it must be grounded on facts and studies.”

— Fr. Silvino L. Borres Jr., SJ

Day 2

The second installment of the Silver Café was held last August 13, 2009 at the Conference Room A of JJCICSI. Executive Director Gemma Rita Marin served as the moderator of the activity. Two former staff members of the Institute, Atty. Carlos P. Medina Jr. and Ruth Esquillo-Ignacio, were the speakers. The former discussed *Philippine Elections* and the latter presented on the topic *Of Forests and Frontiers*. The event was attended by representatives from JJCICSI's NGO partners, visitors from Myanmar and the Institute's past and present staff.



“There’s a need to educate people about the election. Let’s do something in order to hold the election cheaters accountable.”

— Atty. Carlos P. Medina Jr.



“Let us develop our consciousness for the environment; let’s work together to achieve something.”

— Ruth Esquillo-Ignacio



Day 3

The Conference Room A of JJCICSI was filled with around fifty people to witness the third installment of the Silver Café on August 20, 2009. The session was facilitated by JJCICSI's Project Officer Melanie Ramos-Llana. The Institute was fortunate to once again have Fr. John J. Carroll, SJ, one of the Institute's founding members and the head of the Church and Family Life Program to deliver a talk entitled, *Addressing Demographic Realities: A Complementary Perspective*. For the second talk of the afternoon, JJCICSI was pleased to welcome back Fr. Pedro Walpole who spoke of his past battles, current engagements and challenges in the field of environmental advocacy.



“We’ve written the language and words of the environment in our daily life... We’ve gone green... People are now aware.”

— Fr. Pedro Walpole, SJ



Tribute to Founders

Also on the third day, the Institute’s founders, Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, Bishop Francisco Claver, and Fr. John J. Carroll, were given Plaques of Appreciation from the JJCICSI’s senior staff members. Fr. Robert Rivera, S.J. accepted the award on behalf of Bishop Claver who could not make it to the event because of another commitment. Fr. Nebres gave a short message on the founding days of JJCICSI and challenged the Institute to engage further in the current social development efforts of the [Ateneo de Manila] University.

“The context of the establishment of ICSI, in 1984 is the period of transition from Ninoy’s assassination and eventually EDSA [People Power]. We were very deeply involved in those transitions and a lot of the challenge that faced us at that time was how to have both a continuing reflection and writing that would guide us, as well as the challenge to actually do something.”

—Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, SJ

Day 4

Students of the Ateneo de Manila University, affiliated NGOs and Peoples Organizations, friends, and past and present JJCICSI staff were present during the fourth and last installment of the JJCICSI Silver Café facilitated by Associate Director Anna Marie A. Karaos. Resource speakers for said event held on August 27, 2009 were Marlene Gatpatan-Bedia and Percival Chavez, who spoke about their professional and personal struggles in the advocacy for urban land reform, and Jeremaiah Opiniano, who spoke on the issue of migration.



“The urban poor sector should forge partnerships with businesses and government, and to reach out and do advocacy with other groups.”

— Marlene Gatpatan-Bedia

“Working for the urban poor is the happiest and most fulfilling job for me as I saw many faces mostly of ordinary people doing extraordinary work”.

— Percival Chavez

“It’s our turn to return the love that overseas Filipinos have been continually remitting us, and to sow hope into a land they would like to go back home to, soon.”

— Jeremaiah Opiniano



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