



JJCISI

THE PRESENT MOMENT IS CRUCIAL
THE WORK TO BE DONE IS URGENT



ANNUAL REPORT 2015

OUR 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

OUR MISSION

Guided by Catholic Social Teaching, we catalyze critical thinking, discussion and action principally through advocacy-oriented research and capacity building to bring about ethically 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



The topic of family has been at the center of much discussion and reflection within the Catholic Church for the past two years. Pope Francis spearheaded the conduct of two Synods to tackle issues and concerns that affect today's families—the Extraordinary Synod of Bishops held in October 2014 and the Ordinary Synod of Bishops which occurred in the following year in October 2015.

The concern for the family is primordial in the programs of the John J. Carroll Institute on Church and Social Issues. For the year 2015, JJCICSI pursued projects directly or indirectly affecting the family. Under the Church and Society Program, the Institute organized and analyzed the data it gathered from interviews with Philippine bishops for the study titled “Knowledge Needs, Acquisition and Use of the Catholic Bishops in the Philippines.” The first part of the research concerns the information needs and use of the bishops. The second part of the research gathered the positions of the bishops interviewed on various family issues that were asked in the survey questionnaire sent by the Vatican for the 2014 Extraordinary Synod. To date, the report is being written but the preliminary findings of the study have already been presented to the bishops during the CBCP Assembly last January.

Continuing the work begun by Fr. John J. Carroll, SJ, the Family Life Program promotes Natural Family Planning through its network, the Responsible Parenthood-Natural Family Planning (RP-NFP). The same program is engaged in various projects promoting children's rights, specifically participation and protection.

We continue to conduct research, advocacy, and capacity building activities particularly on the housing needs of informal sector families under our Urban Poverty and Governance Program, and on increasing access to resources, specifically land, capital and credit, for the small farmers and fishers in the countryside under the Rural Development Program.

The year 2015 was our first year sans the guidance of our beloved founder and mentor, Fr. Carroll. While we miss him dearly, we hope that he is happy with the way we are continuing his legacy of supporting, strengthening and empowering the Filipino family and Philippine society as a whole.

As we celebrate the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, we thank our benefactors, supporters, and cooperators for helping JJCICSI continue in its 31st year as it endeavors to make manifest God's mercy and through the Church's presence in society.

Yours truly in the Lord of mercy,

FR. VICTOR C. DE JESUS, S.J.

CHURCH AND SOCIETY

The Church and Society Program aims to deepen the understanding of the role of the Catholic Church in Philippine society, with an emphasis on the dissemination of Catholic Social Teaching (CST). Recognizing the crucial role that the Catholic Church has played in influencing Philippine social, political, and economic issues, the program seeks to foster reflection on the interface between the Philippine Church and society.



RESEARCH

■ Knowledge Needs, Acquisition and Use Among the Catholic Bishops of the Philippines



This study, conducted jointly with the Institute of Philippine Culture (IPC), sought to assess the information needs of the bishops as well as their priority issues and their positions on these issues. A preliminary report was submitted in October 2015 to the bishops who participated as respondents in the study. Preliminary analyses of the results were presented at three fora: a symposium at the Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City, to 67 academics, students, and opinion writers in October 2015; the 112th Plenary Assembly of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippine (CBCP), to more than a hundred bishops in January 2016 in Cebu City; and a roundtable discussion of

17 moderate to progressive bishops in January 2016 in Cebu City.

■ Religion, Public Policy, and Social Transformation in Southeast Asia: Religious Change and Gender Relations in Southeast Asia



JJCICI continued its participation in a nine-country research consortium on "Religion, Public Policy, and Social Transformation in Southeast Asia." This project, headed by the Indonesian Consortium for Religious studies (ICRS) with funding from the Henry Luce Foundation, aims to investigate and enhance the role of religions in policy-making. The paper for the first year theme, "Managing diversity," was finalized and scheduled for publication in April 2016 by Globethics.net.

The research theme for the consortium's second year (June 2014 to May 2015) was "Religious change and gender relations in Southeast Asia." The research topic chosen by the JJCICSI was on Catholic gender ideology and how this influenced the position of the Roman Catholic Church vis-à-vis Republic Act No. 9710, the Philippine Magna Carta of Women. The research hoped to illustrate how strict adherence to Catholic gender ideology can hinder the Church from supporting and constructively participating in legislative and government efforts for the improvement of women's lives. It was further hoped that this research might stimulate a more reflexive disposition among Catholics toward the Church's gender ideology, in the direction of greater affirmation of women's equality and greater acceptance of the changes in gender roles in the family which are necessary to make this equality a reality.

The research was presented at five fora, including the culminating conference held by the consortium in Washington, DC. The four fora held in the Philippines were attended by a cumulative total of nearly 200 people (including Muslim and Christian women's rights activists, parishioners, lawyers and law students, social development workers, and government workers). Discussions after the presentations were marked by a general receptivity toward changing gender roles (with some exceptions), and some willingness to engage the Church toward transforming its more restrictive views on women's roles.

For its third year (June 2015-May 2016), the consortium's theme is "Religion and the Public Sphere." The research for this year consisted of mining the data from the study on "Knowledge Needs, Acquisition and Use Among the Catholic Bishops of the Philippines" in order to get a sense of how the bishops relate to the public sphere and how this might help to advance or hinder democracy.

CAPACITY BUILDING

■ CST-based National Situationer for the Diocese of Pasig



A national situationer based on CST was conducted for about 50 clergy of the Diocese of Pasig at their annual

Clergy Updating Seminar. The national situationer included talks on poverty and economic inclusion, poverty and politics, poverty and the family, and poverty and the Church. A workshop after the talks, based on CST principles, allowed participants to reflect on how they were addressing the needs of the poor and applying CST in their own parishes and ministries, and what they might do better.

■ Sexuality, Population, and Development Education in Catholic Schools

JJCICSI organized a series of discussions on sexuality education for Catholic schools among theologians, social scientists, educators, and medical doctors. The series was intended to enable the Church to participate more constructively in the implementation of Republic Act 10354, the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act of 2012, particularly with regard to sexuality education in Catholic schools.



The discussions focused on a review of the Population and Development Education (PopDevEd) Teaching Modules for Catholic Schools created in 2009 by the University of San Carlos—Office of Population Studies Foundation. JJCICSI was able to introduce into this review the idea of Catholic social teaching as an overarching framework for education on sexual behavior and the relationship between population and development.

ADVOCACY

■ Talk on the 2015 Synod

JJCICSI gave a talk titled "What progress can we reasonably expect will be made at the 2015 Synod?" to about 80 Catholic layworkers, religious, and clergy attending the annual conference of the Asian Youth Association. The talk discussed the *Instrumentum Laboris*, or working document, for the XIV Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on the Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and the Contemporary World. It focused on what changes in the care and support of the family might be hoped for from a compassionate and pastorally oriented Church.

FAMILY LIFE

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

The program aims to influence Church and State policy on issues affecting population and family life, work with government and non-government agencies to promote juvenile justice, and assist Filipino families in poor communities through scholarships, feeding programs, and natural family planning seminars for couples.



CAPACITY BUILDING

■ Strengthening *Barangáy* Councils for the Protection of Children (BCPCs)

JJCISI assisted a total of six *barangáy* communities in Valenzuela City and members of the *Liga ng mga Barangáy* of Muntinlupa City to build the capacity of their respective BCPCs to effectively decrease the number of children in conflict with the law (CICL) in their areas.



■ Training on Positive Discipline and Restorative Justice

In partnership with various parishes and local government units, JJCISI trained parents and caregivers on how to use positive approaches to disciplining children. These activities also helped gather support for the Institute’s advocacy for the passage of the Positive Discipline Bill.

JJCISI tied up with the Philippine Action for Youth Offenders (PAYO) in conducting seminars on restorative justice for officials and guidance counselors of the Department of Education (DepEd) and for members of the Integrated Correctional Association of the Philippines (ICAP).

■ Technical Assistance for Children’s Rights Organizations

JJCISI’s work with PAYO included technical assistance to the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council (JJWC) for its development of advocacy materials (such as flowcharts showing the processes involved in the implementation of

the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act (JJWA). A position paper against the lowering of the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 15 to 13 years old in the Philippines' Criminal Code was also drafted with the network, which was submitted to the Department of Justice (DOJ).

■ **Review of the Population and Development Education Modules for Catholic Schools**

With support from the Philippine Center for Population and Development (PCPD), JJCICSI facilitated the review of the PopDevEd (Population and Development Education) Modules for Catholic Schools developed by the University of San Carlos. In October 2015, the Institute gathered moral theologians, members of the academe, and social scientists to discuss the content of the modules and to come up with a list of proposed revisions. JJCICSI also took part in the organizing of focus group discussions with teachers and guidance counselors in the member-schools of the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP) on the teaching of human sexuality and population development in Catholic schools. The results of these discussions would be used to inform the development of a resource book on population development and human sexuality for reference of teachers.

ADVOCACY

■ **Promotion of Children's Rights**

JJCICSI continued to be an active member of major networks: (1) PAYO, for the promotion and protection of the rights of children at risk and CICL; JJCICSI is the current president of this network; (2) NGO Coalition on the UNCRC, for the monitoring of the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in the Philippines; and (3) Child Rights Network (CRN), for lobbying activities to enact child related laws. Membership to these networks and undertaking joint projects not only increased JJCICSI's awareness of developments in the advocacy for children's rights, but also provided a credible platform for the Institute to influence policymakers and decision-makers.

The Institute was among the major contributors to the "alternative reports" of the NGO Coalition on the UNCRC to local and international agencies and bodies. It also helped draft position papers and other publications that sought to monitor the safeguarding of the rights of the child.

■ **Promotion of Responsible Parenthood and Natural Family Planning**

JJCICSI took an active role in the Responsible Parenthood-All Natural Family Planning (RP-ANFP) Network, a group of public and private institutions as well as members of communities and parishes promoting NFP. It provided technical assistance to the network through trainings (sponsored by the Department of Health or DOH), and gave talks on NFP and teenage pregnancy addressed to a wide range of audiences from different schools and communities.

To render the advocacy greater media mileage, JJCICSI guested on "Pamilya Ko, Pamilya Mo", a family-oriented program which airs daily over at Radio Veritas (DZRV 846), the AM radio station of the Catholic Church in the Philippines.



RESEARCH

■ **Quick Facts on Poverty and the Filipino Family**

The second issue of the *Intersect Quick Facts* focused on the situation of poor families. The publication, released in December 2015, provided information to JJCICSI's partner organizations and institutions, including local government units, specifically the *barangáys* that it worked with for developing programs for the youth and children.



URBAN POVERTY AND 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.



RESEARCH

■ [Developing and Piloting Applicable Models for Post-Occupation Management and Monitoring of Affordable Housing Estates: A Study of Post-Occupation Management Practices, Institutional Arrangements and Capacities](#)



This World Bank-supported research which forms part of a technical assistance of the Bank to the Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC) identified best practices of estate management especially for multistory buildings, and developed a set of recommendations on: (1) setting up institutional arrangements for estate management; (2)

mobilizing financial resources to support estate management requirements; (3) accessing basic and social services; (4) ensuring safety and security within the community; and (5) protecting the immediate environment. It served as a primary input to and reference for the development of a capacity-building program to be implemented by the SHFC for its beneficiary community associations, comprising almost 8,000 families, living or preparing to live in such housing projects.

■ [External Monitoring and Evaluation of the Pasig-Marikina River Channel Improvement Project Phase III \(PMRCIP III\) Resettlement Action Plan](#)

The two monitoring reports (April-June 2015 and September-November 2015) sought to document changes in the situation of 27 out of the 54 relocated families in three resettlement sites outside Metro Manila. After more than one year of living in these housing projects of the National Housing Authority (NHA), most of these families have become worse off in terms of income, access to stable work or gainful livelihood, and access to a regular supply of electricity and potable water. Data from the field, albeit gathered from a limited sample of respondents, indicated failure in minimizing negative impacts of distant resettlement, despite a menu of compensation and

assistance required in a foreign-assisted infrastructure project. These reports were submitted to the project implementer (CTII), the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). At the same time, they provided useful and credible data to JJCICSI in its continuing advocacy against off-city resettlement such as in the discussions that took place in the National Summit on Housing and Urban Development.



ADVOCACY/ CAPACITY BUILDING

■ **National Summit on Housing and Urban Development**

Through their participation in the National Summit on Housing and Urban Development, which ran from May to December 2015) and initiated by the House of Representatives and the Senate, urban poor groups and NGOs (including JJCICSI) that are part of the Urban Poor Alliance (UP-ALL) successfully pushed for the adoption of an in-city housing and resettlement through a participatory approach (called “People’s Planning”) as a more effective mode of housing informal settlers compared to off-city or distant relocation.



JJCICSI drafted the “Policy Paper on Participatory Governance” which put forward policy recommendations coming out of the series of discussions that were part of the Housing Summit process. The draft policy paper was circulated to the government shelter agencies (e.g., Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, NHA, SHFC), other government agencies (e.g., National Economic and Development Authority, Department of Interior and Local Government, Presidential Commission on the Urban Poor), private developers, NGOs, and people’s

organization before it will be finalized and adopted as an official document of the Housing Summit in May 2016.

■ **Developing and Piloting Applicable Models for Post-Occupation Management and Monitoring of Affordable Housing Estates**

JJCICSI led the development of a capacity building program of SHFC on estate management for 23 community associations (homeowners associations and housing cooperatives) implementing in-city housing projects under the agency’s High Density Housing Program. Actual training activities were conducted in November and December 2015.



■ **Other Advocacy Work**

JJCICSI facilitated a Congressional forum initiated by the PCUP to gather evidence on and assess the situation of resettled urban informal settlers from danger areas in Metro Manila, as an input into the National Housing Summit.



It also participated in meetings and activities organized by the NCR Urban Cluster and its Special Working Group on Urban Livability of the Philippine-MISEREOR Partnership, Inc. (PMPI).

As a member of the Partnership of Philippine Support Service Agencies (PHILSSA), JJCICSI represented the network in meetings with the SHFC as part of a budget partnership agreement (BPA), in which civil society organizations monitor the preparation and utilization of the shelter agency’s budget.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Rural Development Program 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 program sets its sight on alternatives, substitutes or options that would address the issue of access, along with control and management of resources.



RESEARCH

■ Land Use Planning for Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change Now!



Following the research conducted on the National Land Use Act (NLUA) and how it benefits all, including the business sector, JJCICSI conducted a follow-up study on NLUA, this time relating land use to climate change and its effects. The paper sought to inquire into how the use of land in the Philippines could have contributed to climate change, and in

turn, how the latter's effects might have impacted on the country's land and other resources, the lives and properties of ordinary people. The policy paper aimed to get various civil society sectors to appreciate and understand the consequences of the lack of a national land use policy

amidst the effects of climate change on cities, communities and the country as a whole. The results of the policy paper were presented in July 2015 in a conference organized by the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice and attended by civil society organizations.

■ Tenure vs. Agrarian Reform: Lessons from Philippines' Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program from Commonwealth to Contemporary Periods

In September 2015, JJCICSI started a study that aims to conduct a historical review and analysis of agrarian reform laws in the Philippines, specifically from the promulgation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL) of 1988 to the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program with Extension and Reforms (CARPER) of 2009, and how these were translated into operational strategies and institutional developments to implement the laws. The study is part of a bigger research which aims to trace the history of agrarian reform laws and their implementation from the Spanish period to the present time and conduct an assessment of the viability of continuing the program after CARPER and up to the end of the Aquino administration. The study aims to inform the next administration of the achievements and continuing gaps in implementing the agrarian reform

program. Begun in November 2015, the research is ongoing and is expected to be completed in mid-2016.

■ Advisory for Application of Affordable Housing in Guiuan, Eastern Samar (Supply Side)

With regard to access to credit, JJCICSI conducted a study in October 2015 on the availability of financial products and services that could respond to the housing needs of poor households in Guiuan, Eastern Samar affected by super typhoon Haiyan (local name: Yolanda) in November 2013.

The Netherlands-based Catholic Organisation for Relief and Development Aid (CORDAID) commissioned the study mainly to help it determine the feasibility of expanding its Resilient Recovery Program in the said municipality.



ADVOCACY

■ Orientation on NLUA

The policy paper on NLUA and climate change was published and disseminated by the network Campaign for Land Use Policy Now! (CLUP Now!) to serve as advocacy material. Once again, it intended to inform not only small farmers and fishers, but other stakeholders such as senators and their staff members as well as civil society organizations about the need for a law on national land use policies for a safer, secure, and sustainable future.



Along with the *Kaisahan tungo sa Kaunlaran ng Kanayunan at Repormang Pansakahan* (KAISAHAN) as the secretariat of CLUP Now!, JJCICSI was also tapped by the Philippine-MISEREOR Partnership to provide an orientation on NLUA during one of the learning sessions of its NCR-Urban Cluster. The talk helped the members of the cluster appreciate the advocacy of having a national land use policy passed for a rational and just use of land.

INSTITUTE-WIDE ACTIVITIES



■ Publication of the Second Issue of *Intersect Quick Facts*

The publication of *Intersect Quick Facts* was begun in 2014 in an effort to provide a snapshot of pressing social issues, particularly for the Catholic bishops of the Philippines, strategic Church personnel, and JJCICSI's partners. The first issue, published in December 2014, focused on the inclusiveness of the economic growth reported by the Philippine government.

The Institute published the second issue in December 2015. It dealt with poverty and the Filipino family, touching on the issues tackled during the two Synods of Bishops held in October 2014 and 2015, as mentioned earlier in this report. Copies were distributed to the bishops of the Catholic Church in January 2016 at the 112th General Assembly of the CBCP.

■ Staff Development Sessions

Staff development sessions were held to widen the knowledge of the technical and administrative staff members on legislative measures—proposed as well as being implemented—that JJCICSI has been engaged in. The sessions helped to make the staff members appreciate each program's work and contributions to fulfill the

Institute's objectives. Also known as "brown bag sessions" in which inputs are delivered in a semi-formal way, topics or themes shared during the review period included pertinent provisions of the Urban Development and Housing Act (UDHA), Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act (JJWA), and the Magna Carta of Women, and the bills on a national land use policy and positive discipline. JJCICSI also held a discernment session on the roadmap of the Philippine Province of the Society of Jesus.

■ Commentaries

JJCICSI made its voice heard by contributing opinion articles to the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, the most widely circulated national broadsheet in the country. Within the period in review, thirteen (13) editorial pieces written by the technical staff were published on print and online.

The Institute's promotion of Catholic social teaching as lens to understand current issues found concrete expression in five-minute editorials aired twice a day over at Radio Veritas (DZRV 846), the AM radio station of the Roman Catholic Church in the Philippines. The articles, read by the station's president, Fr. Anton C. T. Pascual, reach a mainly Catholic audience. JJCICSI contributes three articles every week, or a total of 93 articles from July 2015 to February 2016.

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Gemma Rita R. Marin

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Head, Family Life Program

Gerald M. Nicolas

Project Officer

Marilou T. Abejar

Project Assistant, Family Life Program

Anna Marie V. Alhambra

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Research Assistants

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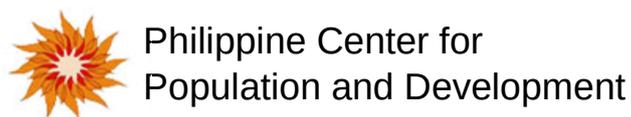
Marien M. Torres

Administrative Officer

Sonny C. Cestina

Maintenance and Messenger

HUGE THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS IN 2015



www.jjcicsi.org.ph

2/F Benigno Mayo Hall (ISO Building)
Social Development Complex
Ateneo de Manila University
Loyola Heights, Quezon City
Philippines

P.O. Box 250, U.P. Post Office
1144 Quezon City
Philippines

E-mail jjcicsi@gmail.com

Telephone (632) 426.6001 to 30
 local 4655 to 4668

Fax (632) 426.6070