

IN ALL THINGS TO LOVE AND SERVE: THE JESUIT FOOTPRINT AROUND THE WORLD



On this occasion, I want to talk about the World Union of Jesuit Alumni (WUJA). This association brings together alumni of Jesuit schools and universities from all over the world, in order to build relationships among them and contribute to the mission of the Society of Jesus: *Ad Maiorem Dei Gloriam* (For the greater glory of God), which translates into the promotion of faith and justice through service to others, education, cultural dialogue, and spiritual accompaniment.

I was educated by the Jesuits, and those values left a mark on me. They accompany me to this day in a daily endeavor that seeks, above anything else, the construction of the common good.

Every four years, WUJA calls on all alumni of Jesuit educational institutions around the world to participate in a great global gathering to reflect on their commitment to society, from the perspective of the Christian and humanist values that the Society of Jesus practices. This year the congress took place in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, and its previous 2022 edition was in Barcelona, Spain. Among its activities, the reconciliation dialogues between alumni from the African Great Lakes region, its participation in the international



The tenth congress of the World Union of Jesuit Alumni took place in Barcelona (Spain) from 13th to 17th July 2022

network of Ignatian groups, and the academic, volunteer, and professional exchanges among young alumni also stand out.

I had the opportunity to meet Francisco Guarner, its president, and I was pleasantly impressed by his passion for generating synergies among those of us who bear the hallmark of Ignatian formation, and for influencing young people like my grandson, Nicolás, who is about to head the WUJA youth group.

Today, the global mission of the Society of Jesus is articulated around four axes: showing the way to God through discernment; walking with the poor and the outcasts of the world, in a mission of reconciliation and justice; accompanying young people in the creation of a hope-filled future; and collaborating in the care of our Common Home, promoting integral ecology.

There is no exact historical record that adds up the total number of graduates over almost 500 years of history—since the opening of the first Jesuit school in Messina, Italy, in 1548—but we know there are millions. And if each of them lives the motto of "in everything love and serve," I am certain that around these people there will be a better world, more human and more conducive to building the peace we so long for.