



Christian Marte SJ | Rector

February 2021

Studying at the University of Innsbruck/Austria

Dear Friends!

It is a real challenge to do our “normal tasks”, when around us we are confronted daily with new Covid-19 issues. So much uncharted territory, so many unexpected situations! However, we will not give up!

At the Jesuit College in Innsbruck we currently have a good group of Jesuits from all over the world studying here - please see their stories on the following pages.

As Jesuit College, we are happy to give full **scholarships to Jesuit students** who want to focus on their doctorate or licentiate. Currently, our men study **theology, philosophy and biology**.

How to proceed if a Jesuit intends to study in Innsbruck/Austria:

- A finished **master's degree** (e.g. in theology) is very helpful in order to go directly into doctoral studies.
- Either the Provincial or the Jesuit student himself contacts the **Rector of the Jesuit College** in Innsbruck (christian.marte@jesuiten.org): first contact, first questions and answers.
- Application for Admission to the **University of Innsbruck** (www.uibk.ac.at). This we do together in order to find the best possible way to get previous studies accepted.
- **Having to learn German** should not deter you from thinking about studying in Austria. All of our students are provided with good tutoring in German. German opens a door not only to scientific literature, but also to an important European culture. The doctoral thesis can be written in English.

It is helpful to keep in mind that it usually takes **at least one year of preparation** in order to come to Innsbruck: many small steps, but it is worthwhile starting the process. Innsbruck University offers high academic standards – and it is a great place to study!

If you are a Jesuit thinking of studying in Innsbruck, do not hesitate to contact me:
christian.marte@jesuiten.org

Joy + blessings from Austria,



Fr. Christian Marte SJ
Rector



STEPHEN EYEOWA SJ, NORTH-WEST AFRICA PROVINCE

I am Stephen Eyeowa from Nigeria. Under the exegetical guidance of Professor Georg Fischer SJ, I am writing my doctoral dissertation at the University of Innsbruck on the farewell speeches of Joshua (Jos 23-24) in relation to Nation-Building. My research focuses on the exegetical, theological and socio-political relevance of these speeches. In dialogue with exegetes and experts in the respective fields, the image of YHWH in the Joshua corpus is addressed.

The research also exposes Joshua's political prowess so that the possibility of devolution of power within the theocratic rule is palpable. And in relation to Nation-Building, I am pinpointing necessary prerequisites within Joshua's farewell speeches relevant for contemporary consideration, some of which include: pride in national identity, education, firm commitment to national course, honest dialogue, proper evaluation of violence, devolution of power, true religion(s) and fair decision-making processes.



Georg Fischer SJ



CLEMENT JESUDOSS SJ, MADURAI PROVINCE

I am Clement Jesudoss Santhanam. I pursue my PhD in Philosophy at the University of Innsbruck, a state-run University. It was founded as Gymnasium in 1562 by Peter Canisius and then became a University in 1669. The Jesuit community in Innsbruck is lively and lovely, for the Austrian Jesuits are friendly, warm-hearted, and welcoming. The title of my dissertation is "Religious Authority: An Epistemological Investigation." In today's context, where religion is politicized and politics is imbued with religious interests, we are in need of an epistemological investigation into both religious and socio-political authorities. And thus, my dissertation topic.

I am grateful to my doctoral guides, Professor Christoph Jäger and Professor Katherine Dormandy for their constant accompaniment and effective guidance.

Along with my studies, getting acclimatized to the local culture and getting to know the people here give me great joy. Thank you, Innsbruck!



Christoph Jäger Katherine Dormandy



KIRAN KUMAR SJ, KARNATAKA PROVINCE

The title of my doctoral thesis is "Social Justice: A Complementary Approach to Catholic Social Teaching and Amartya Sen's Idea of Justice. A Theological Response to India's Socio-political Context". My doctoral guide is Professor Wilhelm Guggenberger. This research is an attempt to bring Catholic Social Teaching and Amartya Sen, the Indian born economist and moral philosopher, into dialogue with each other to explore the possibility of an alliance for promoting social justice in the contemporary Indian context.

Although Catholic Social Teaching and Amartya emerge from two very different ideological backgrounds, they do have a lot of similarities in their understanding of justice, freedom, and authentic human development. Therefore, it seems promising to explore the converging points between them and attempt to find a complementary approach that would enable a mutual theoretical contribution especially to their understanding of social justice.



Wilhelm Guggenberger

EUROPE

*** Europa Centralis**



BACK HOME

HERNÁN ROJAS SJ, CHILEAN PROVINCE

I am a Jesuit brother from Chile. From 2015 to 2020, I lived in the Jesuit College in Innsbruck where I wrote my Master's thesis and finished a doctorate in Theology. My doctoral thesis is titled "Where do you wish to take me, Lord? A theology of vocation in dialogue with Karl Rahner". In the thesis, I am searching for a theological/systematic understanding of the phenomenon of vocation through the works of the Jesuit Karl Rahner. I was interested in looking at vocation as an experience concerning everyone as well as a fundamental category for our Christian faith. God's love for every human being is shown in a very personal way through all kinds of events in our lives. This love is also his calling to us. This loving relationship between God and the individual forms the most profound identity of each human being.

With his deep knowledge of Rahner and Theology in general, his sincere and astute way of giving me orientation and the trust he put in me and my work, I found great support in my doctoral guide Professor Roman Siebenrock.



Roman Siebenrock

LUMNESH KUMAR SJ, KARNATAKA PROVINCE

I just arrived at the Jesuit College Innsbruck from Karnataka, India, in December 2020, that makes me a new entrant into the Innsbruck Jesuit community. The welcome rendered by the community was so warm and hearty that I failed to experience the winter cold.

I will be pursuing a Doctorate in Ecology (PhD) from the department of Biology at the University of Innsbruck. Being one of the first students of Science, I receive all the necessary support and accompaniment from the Jesuit house to do my research. I am doubly happy to have received one of the best scientists in Austria, Professor Michael Bahn, as my supervisor. He is the Principal Investigator (PI), Site PI and workpackage leader of various national and international projects. I will be working on the interactive effects of climate drivers on the phenology of mountain grassland. ClimGrass project site, which is at the agricultural research institute HBLFA Raumberg-Gumpenstein, would be the experimental site. I look forward to an enriching experience.



Michael Bahn

GEORGE NJERI SJ, EASTERN AFRICA PROVINCE

Since December 2016, I have been studying at the Department of Biblical Studies of the University of Innsbruck. After completing a licentiate here, I am now doing Doctoral Studies on "The Passion and Resurrection of Jesus in Matthew." My doctoral guide is Professor Boris Repschinski SJ. The University of Innsbruck, founded 350 years ago, is a public university with sixteen faculties. The Faculty of Theology offers the latest material in biblical research. The diversity of students and staff is an eye-opener.

A great advantage in Innsbruck is that the professors are generally multilingual. It is possible to write theses in German, English, French or Spanish, depending on the availability of a supervisor. In biblical studies, one is expected – in addition to learning German, the teaching language – to have a good grasp of biblical languages, especially Greek and Hebrew. I love Innsbruck due to its location in the Alps, diversity of sports, imperial and modern architecture and exciting culture – a must see for all.



Boris Repschinski SJ

STANLEY TIRKEY SJ, DUMKA-RAIGANJ PROVINCE

I am a Jesuit from India, pursuing my doctorate in Ecclesiology. Before coming to Innsbruck in 2019, I taught Ecclesiology at Jnana-Deepa Vidyapeeth in Pune, India. My doctoral guide is Professor Nikolaus Wandinger. Unitatis Redintegratio says that the division within the Church openly contradicts the 'will of Christ' and that it is a stumbling block to the Church's mission. The central idea of the ecclesiology of Vatican II is that the Church is a communion.

The aspect of communion can be realized in different ways: Church as Mystery, Church as the Sacrament of the Kingdom of God, Church as the People of God, Papacy, Episcopacy, Collegiality, Synods, place and role of the laity, women and the Church etc. The Universal Church is a communion of the different individual churches. The new religious, ecclesial, doctrinal, and theological pluralism offers a new concept of unity in plurality and invites different churches and religions to common fellowship. My research will focus on the different ways in which this communion with other churches, religions and cultures can be possible.



Nikolaus Wandinger

PETER CANISIUS, FOUNDER OF THE JESUIT PRESENCE IN INNSBRUCK



Peter Canisius altar in the Jesuit Church Innsbruck

Be honest: How much do you know about Saint Peter Canisius? Did you know that it is largely owed to him that in the 16th century, the Catholic Church in the German-speaking world didn't perish altogether? Or that he was in contact with pretty much all of the great leaders of his time, such as popes, emperors, kings and scholars? Or that his catechism is probably the most successful catholic book, at least of the last 500 years (1.200 editions so far)? Even in Innsbruck, it is a little-known fact that Peter Canisius' has been patron saint of the diocese for more than fifty years.

Peter Canisius' lack of prominence might be due to the fact that the 16th century is largely associated with the great Reformers (Luther, Calvin, ...), making us forget that he was one of the key figures in the revival of the Catholic Church north of the Alps. At the time of his death in 1597, this was very different. Throughout his extraordinary life, he had almost become a sort of "catholic celebrity". While studying law, he came in contact with the newly-founded Jesuit order (1540) and felt the calling to join. On his 22nd birthday on 8 May 1543, he took his vows, making him a member of an order striving to go out into the world and help shape it. He dedicated his entire life to this Jesuit calling. In 1549, he went north to be part of the renewal of the Catholic Church in the German-speaking world that had drawn



Peter Canisius' shoes in Nijmegen, Netherlands

back in light of the strong Reformation movement. From the 1550s, Peter Canisius founded numerous Jesuit schools which would become the source of the spiritual rebirth of Catholicism in German-speaking countries. In 1562, he founded a Jesuit college in Innsbruck which, in 1669, developed into the University of Innsbruck.

On the occasion of the 500th anniversary of Peter Canisius' birth, the diocese celebrates 2021 as commemorative year with a number of events, hoping to spread the word about this extraordinary life of purpose.



DDr. Mathias Moosbrugger, Faculty of Catholic Theology, University of Innsbruck

FR. BERNHARD BÜRGLER SJ, NEW ECE-PROVINCIAL

Fr. Bernhard Bürgler SJ was born in 1960 in Tyrol, Austria. He entered the Society in 1991 and was ordained in 1997. He is a trained psychoanalyst. Bernhard Bürgler worked as director of a retreat house in Germany and started the retreat project „Silence in Vienna“.

On 31 July 2014 he became Austrian provincial. On 27 April 2021, the feast of St Peter Canisius, he will take over the new post of provincial of the new province Europa Centralis (ECE).



Bernhard Bürgler SJ

WE DO NOT ENTER A PROVINCE. WE JOIN THE SOCIETY OF JESUS!

We all know these words from our novitiate time onwards. And it is true: our vocation cannot be reduced to the geographic area of a province. We want to think bigger!

However, our provinces are a proven and useful instrument in organising our global tasks. Think global, act local. Given the many changes around us, and given the challenges in our pastoral work, it is worth thinking of bringing resources together and considering an update of our internal structures. Structures are there to help our work, they are no aim in itself.

Three years ago, the provincials of Austria, Germany, Lithuania and Switzerland started a process to found a new province: the province Europa Centralis (ECE). We are over 400 Jesuits in 35 communities. Many works are run by the Society: retreat houses, parishes, rectorate churches, youth centres, schools, university faculties, adult education centres, Jesuit mission offices, and many more.

From 27 April 2021, the new provincialate of ECE will be in Munich. There will be small administrative offices in Munich, Vienna, Vilnius and Zürich. Delegates for spirituality, education and social/ecological issues will support the provincial, other delegates will work on vocation promotion, formation,

communities and elderly Jesuits.

An important step in founding the new province was to find a good legal structure, as the new province extends over several countries and different legal systems. We also had an external audit in order to see where the economic challenges for the new province lie. It is good to be honest and clear in this regard.

For our Jesuits who live and work in their communities and works, there should be no immediate major changes. The province is there to help and make our pastoral work possible. In the long run, we hope to be better able to respond to the needs of the people we are sent to.

Fr. Bernhard Bürgler SJ