

# Universal Apostolic Preferences of the Society of Jesus 2019-2029



## Showing the way to God

Show the way to God through the Spiritual Exercises and discernment



## Journeying with Youth

Accompany young people in the creation of a hope-filled future



## Walking with the Excluded

Walk with the poor, the outcasts of the world, those whose dignity has been violated, in a mission of reconciliation and justice



## Caring for our Common Home

Collaborate, with Gospel depth, for the protection and renewal of God's Creation

# GO FORTH!

Midwest Jesuits Apostolic Plan: **2023-2026**

## Founding Principle

The Midwest Province recognizes that our ministry is carried out through encounter and relationship with diverse constituencies: fellow Catholic believers who regularly practice their faith, as well as baptized Catholics who no longer practice their faith regularly and other Christians; people of diverse faith traditions, and people who struggle to find their pathway to God. **We desire to lead others to Jesus Christ and the Sacraments in and through welcoming and inclusive church communities of hope. We are passionate about sharing the Gospel in the service of faith and the promotion of justice.** Pope Francis has written in *Evangelii Gaudium*, "The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, emptiness and loneliness. With Christ, joy is constantly born anew."

## Message from the Provincial

Fr. General Arturo Sosa, SJ, was clear that the Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAP's) are a culmination of an attempt to "find the best way to collaborate in the Lord's mission, the best way to serve the Church at this time, the best contribution we can make with what we are and have." What follows is what I see as an "implementation plan". These eight priorities do not replace the UAP's; rather, they are a suggestion for how we might follow God's grace in our own time, and live the actions of the UAP's: to show, to walk with, to accompany, to collaborate. They give direction for what we will be about. These priorities show commitment to being transformed; they provide inspiration for the way that I, and my staff, want to engage in conversation with you. This implementation plan is a tool for us to regularly use in living out the UAP's in our Midwest Province.



V. Rev. Karl J. Kiser, SJ  
Provincial  
USA Midwest Jesuits

## Project Summary & Rationale

Our Midwest Province included many of you in a series of important discernment sessions that informed Fr. General Arturo Sosa in the creation of the Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAPs). Our province, like all Jesuit Provinces, was then asked to continue listening to the Spirit and create a province plan for how we might respond to these UAPs. I am grateful to my predecessor, Rev. Brian Paulson, S.J. and all who helped breathe life into Go Forth!, our province apostolic plan. I feel the time is right to renew the energy of this plan as we move forward as a province.



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FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [JESUITSMIDWEST.ORG/GOFORTH](https://jesuitsmidwest.org/goforth)

# Priorities of the Midwest Jesuits

1

## Spiritual Formation & Ignatian Leadership

The Midwest Province commits to spiritual formation and Ignatian leadership formation to advance the spiritual and religious vitality of our sponsored works

2

## Discernment for Mission

The Midwest Province commits to forming regional Communities for Mission, comprising Jesuits and lay partners, to discern how to provide new, creative energy to better meet the needs of our Church today

3

## Thriving Apostolic Works

The Midwest Province commits to ensuring the ongoing Catholic and Jesuit identity of our works by assigning Jesuits where the need is greatest, by working more closely with our Directors of Works to focus on mission and identity, and by invigorating and renewing our cooperation agreements

4

## Deepening Solidarity with the Universal Society of Jesus

The Midwest Province supports the universal mission of the Church by continuing our mutually enriching relationships with provinces, Jesuits, and lay colleagues from across the globe

5

## Affirm the Catholic Intellectual Tradition Engaging the World

The Midwest Province affirms the importance of intellectual depth as a defining characteristic of all Jesuit ministry, and strives to deepen this aspect through all our apostolates

6

## Promotion of Jesuit Vocations

The Midwest Province commits to the vigorous promotion of vocations in the Church, with renewed efforts to encourage the vocation of Jesuit brothers and priests

7

## Reconciliation with God, others and creation

The Midwest Province, drawing from the hope and light we receive from Christ, resolves to be a beacon of hope by caring for our common home, and committing ourselves to the reconciliation and healing needed to respond to the deep divisions in our Church and society

8

## Animated Jesuit Networks and Communities

The Midwest Province encourages Jesuit communities and lay partners to foster relationships, expand networks and deepen connections that will multiply the Ignatian charism

# Implementation Guidance

1

The Midwest Province is committed to supporting an increase in local, regional and conference-wide initiatives in our Catholic Ignatian formation within and across apostolic sectors. The Provincial asks our sponsored works to increase their commitment of human and financial resources to these efforts

The Provincial invites our larger and better resourced works to help support and include our smaller works in these efforts

2

Gather leaders to support and discern how to best serve the Jesuit mission across the region  
Create structures of spiritual conversation and discernment within works and communities

3

Update and renew cooperation agreements to ensure works are thriving in mission  
Ensure the Universal Apostolic Preferences are foundational and directional for sponsored ministries

4

Update and renew mutually beneficial partnership relationships with global provinces, especially those of the Global South  
Support international missions for Midwest Province Jesuits, and welcome international Jesuits

5

Encourage Midwest Province works to use the gifts of the Catholic Intellectual Tradition and a spirit of academic inquiry as a foundation for meeting the challenges of today  
Seek new ways to promote religious and spiritual vitality  
Encourage gatherings that support professional development for mission

6

Encourage the Midwest Province apostolates to embrace its shared responsibility in vocation promotion  
Vocation promotion is understood as an integral part of partnership with the Midwest Province and communities

7

Collaborate on initiatives to address injustices and inequalities experienced by marginalized peoples in our province  
Empower women and other under-represented groups in the life of our Church and our Jesuit works  
Deepen our conversion to the vision of *Laudato Si*

8

Embrace an emerging vision for Jesuit missions that may serve regional and multi-apostolic needs, and increase the Ignatian footprint in the province  
Promote solidarity among Jesuit communities and lay directors of works

*...it is vitally important for the Church today to go forth and preach the Gospel to all: to all places, on all occasions, without hesitation, reluctance or fear. The joy of the Gospel is for all people: no one can be excluded.*

— Pope Francis, #23, *Evangelii Gaudium*