TO: The Gonzaga Community  
FROM: Frank E. Case, S.J.  
SUBJ: Moment for Mission  
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Social Justice: “Men and Women for Others”

Father General Pedro Arrupe (1907-1991) first spoke of “men and women for others” with an intent to help the modern world understand the Jesuit commitment to social justice. Let us reflect upon the term and its application in our lives.

Many of us are caught up with the routine of our daily lives. Often it is when we pick up the paper with our morning coffee or turn on the evening news that we are reminded of the world beyond our front door and the needs of those whose concerns are less about finishing a project than about finding adequate food and water.

Social justice is about relationships. What we do in our everyday lives needs to promote a common good, a worldwide community where a man in the middle east is neighbor to a woman in America and a little girl in Africa has her needs met just the same as a little boy in France, it requires us to work toward a better life for those who lack the basic securities we can so easily take for granted. Social justice in Jesuit notions of mission is not only recognizing injustice and oppression, but also working to surmount the obstacles to achievement of the full potential God intended for every creature.

Our work at an educational apostolate uniquely positions each of us to give in a way that will promote the common good. Through education we are allowing access to those that currently have none and we are creating leaders for tomorrow that will understand the call of God and rise to the occasion. Even as we are becoming, we are creating “men and women for others.”

Fr. Pedro Arrupe offered this prayer;

Nothing is more practical than finding God, than falling in Love in a quite absolute, final way. What you are in love with, what seize your imagination, will affect everything. It will decide

what will get you out of bed in the morning, what you do with your evenings, how you spend your weekends, what you read, whom you know, what breaks your heart, and what amazes you with joy and gratitude. Fall in Love, stay in love, and it will decide everything.