



JESUIT
INSTITUTE
SOUTH
AFRICA

Monday, 16 March 2020

STATEMENT FROM THE JESUIT INSTITUTE SOUTH AFRICA

Re: Suspension/Cancellation of Activities in the wake of COVID-19

Given the prevailing uncertain and rapidly changing global situation and taking into account the measures announced by the South African president on 15 March 2020, the Jesuit Institute South Africa has decided to take the following precautionary measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. These measures are for ALL involved in Jesuit Institute activities and are in effect immediately:

- All Jesuit Institute public events will be suspended/cancelled until the 15 May 2020 after which we will re-assess the situation and decide on the way forward. This includes:
 - *Hearts on Fire* in Alexander
 - The Week of Guided Prayer in Bryanston
 - Supervision of Spiritual Directors
 - Supervision Training
 - Roundtable on gender-based violence
 - The Easter Triduum Retreat
 - Tsoseletsa at St Pius, Soweto
 - Prayer Guide Training in the East
 - Days of Prayer/Reflection
 - All meetings for course preparation

We ask that those facilitating these events/trainings/courses immediately notify all participants of their suspension or cancellation. Courses already underway, like *Hearts on Fire* in Alexander, will be resumed and completed when the current situation changes.

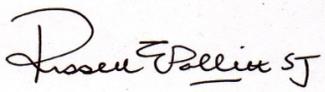
Social distancing is one of the most effective means of combating the virus.

Nobody may work with any groups under the name of the Institute at this time and until further notice.

- Person-to-person spiritual direction is to stop immediately. All spiritual direction, for now, must be done through electronic means only.
- Where possible meetings should be conducted electronically.
- Anyone visiting the Institute will be asked to wash their hands before entering the offices. There is a dedicated basin and soap at the bottom of the stairs.
- We request that everyone upholds all other measures that have been put in place by health officials and government: keep distances, no touching when greeting, do not use unventilated rooms, cough into elbows, regularly clean surfaces, no unnecessary travel etc.
- The probability of the situation being extended is high. Therefore, the Jesuit Institute will begin to work on transitioning all major trainings into online courses.
- We will offer a Triduum Retreat online.

- We have responsibility for our own health but also those around us. Some groups are more vulnerable than others.

I thank you for your cooperation and for your vigilance in this regard. These are extraordinary times and therefore require extraordinary responses.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Russell Pollitt SJ". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R' and 'P'.

Russell Pollitt SJ
Director

EXPANDING THE HORIZONS OF HOPE

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