# Living Hospitality Hopefully and Boldly

Discussion with John Dardis SJ President of European Jesuit Provincials





2

**OUR CONTEXT AS WE MEET** 



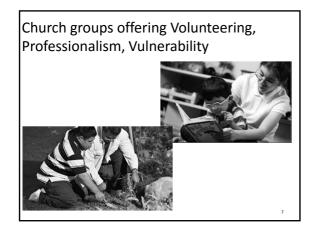


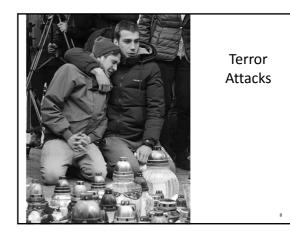


# Migration- the system not working



Dead migrants on a beach in Italy





# Pope Francis – A papacy of Hope



#### Outline

- A. The Jesuit mission in Europe ...and structures for it
- B. Interprovincial communities
- C. Networks energy from the ground up
- D. Leadership capacity building

A. Jesuit mission Finding a powerful and flexible structure to make it happen

- The mission comes first
  - Finding God and helping others do the same
  - Serving the poorest and those on the margins. Making the Gospel credible
  - Dialogue and respect





14

#### Structures

Where do we want to end up?

- Provinces with resources for planning and acting
- · International vision and action
- Energised communities
- Young Jesuits supported
- ...
- ....

15



# Where do we NOT want to end up!

- Trapped in our nationalities
- Having to take 'crisis' decisions with no time to discern



# **Emerging Principles for change**

- More universal apostolic perspective
- Called to overcome historical wounds and divisions
- Restructuring can be a 'motor' for reconciliation.



# Facts and Figures

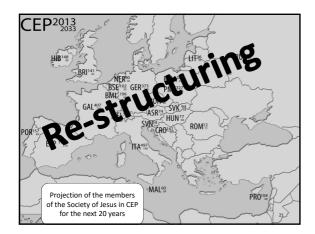
- 4,000 European Jesuits
- Many over 75
- 20,000 partners
  - Employees
  - Volunteers
  - Friends
  - advisors

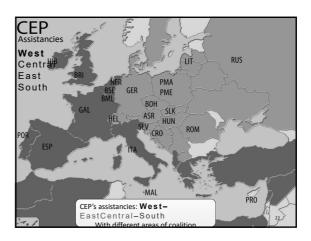
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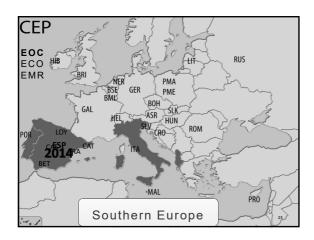
#### **Needs and Dreams**

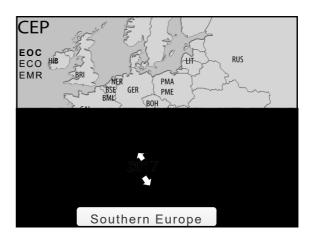
- Jesuit vocations and Jesuit formation
- Lay partnership
  - selection....empowerment...training
- Liberating structures
- ....how can we nurture passion?

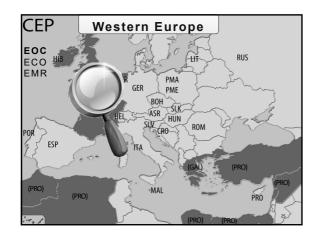


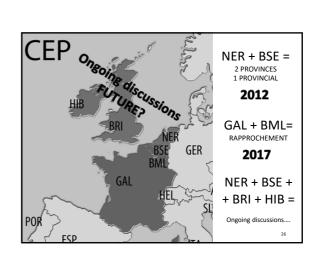


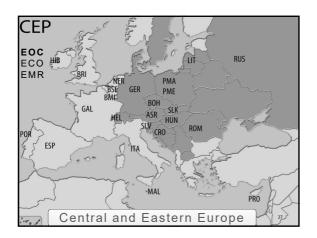


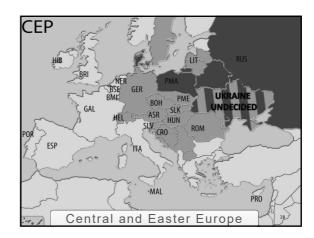


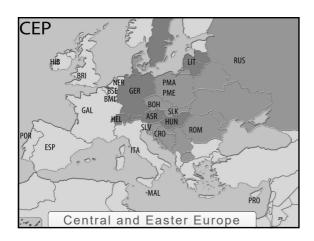














## Governance in the new structures

- "Platformas" Spain
- Geographical Delegates
  - Albania
- Delegates for men over 75
- Vice provincials (France and Italy)
- One provincial for Two provinces (Flanders and Netherlands)

# Las Plataformas Apostólicas Regionales PARs

- Son espacios de discernimiento y colaboración entre jesuitas, laicos y laicas y otras congregaciones, que comparten una misma misión.
- Un modo de organizarnos, formarnos y proceder.
- · Son espacios para revisar y redimensionar nuestras prácticas en función de los desafios y necesidades actuales de cada una de las regiones.
- Para generar una nueva mirada sobre la realidad, definiendo las fronteras y la misión común en cada región.
- Interactúan con las redes existentes.

## **B: INTERPROVINCIAL COMMUNITIES**

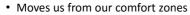






# **Good points**

- Different cultures and traditions
- · A sense of shared mission
- High commitment
- · Guests and hospitality
- Daily eucharist and meal
- · Monthly meetings and sh



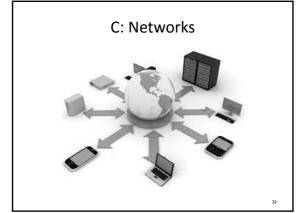
REAL universality

37

## More difficult

- Many travels and absences & Inter-culturality
- Each person's support base is in their home province
- Usual community tensions!

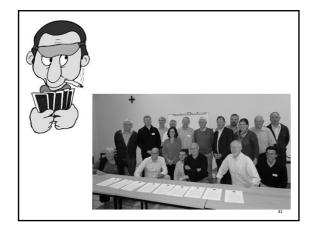
38



# Some examples...

- Schools
- Higher Education
- Social Centres
- Formation
- Young Jesuits
- Refugee outreach (JRS)
- University Chaplains
- Treasurers (!)
- Mission offices

40



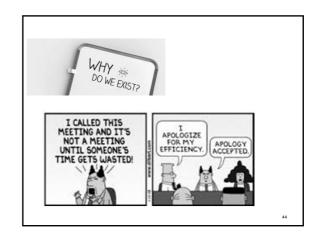
#### What works well...

- Energy from the ground up
- Share best practice
- Common projects



#### What works not so well...

- · Is there a strong enough sense of mission, of WHY the network exists?
- Meetings...for the same of meetings...
- Takes people away from work at the coal face
- Weak ability of President to intervene, make a correction in the way things are going
- Double networking e.g. Regionally AND at Europe level



# Positive example



- **Higher Education Network**
- Identify themes: islam, secularisation
- Get 3 or 4 institutions to embrace one theme
- Appoint a lead centre
- Get funding
- Do research, communicate, advocate
- Get social change



D: LEADERSHIP

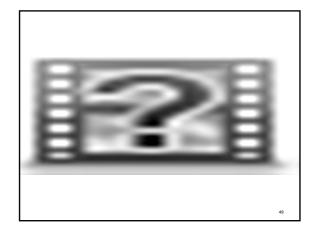
#### The issue

- How to get great leaders
- Skilled in corporate methods
- · But with an integrated spirituality



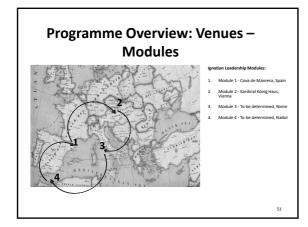


Why? TO TRANSFORMING ORGANIZATIONS

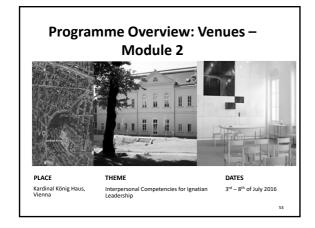


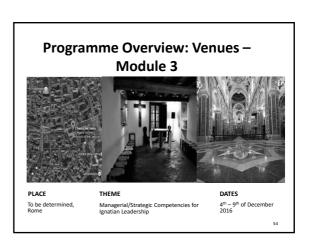
## 4 modules

- 1. Self vulnerability and strengths
- 2. Building a team: successes and failures
- 3. Organisational structures
- 4. "Where you would rather not go" (John 21): Leadership at the frontiers











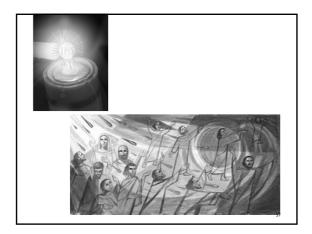
# Conclusion

- **Exciting times** 
  - A new energy in the church
  - Lay partners want to share with us
- Many challenges

  Falling vocation numbers

  Finance

  - Complexity
- We need structures that are flexible, dynamic, open
- We need experts to help us with planning, strategy, money.
- Above all...we need vision...
- and we need to be good at articulating that vision.
- So that others can be inspired, carry the flame forward



# Final Prayer

"May Jesus Christ save and keep all your company and all whom God wishes and orders to be saved" 2D2



# The Patrons of Europe

