THE POWER OF PURPOSE

Jesuits for Social Entrepreneurship
In our Jesuit-in-Residence program, Jesuits from around the world gather to learn how to accelerate social enterprises to provide for the poor and protect the planet. Then they return to their home provinces to advance their missions. Santa Clara University is uniquely qualified to integrate the resources and expertise needed to provide such a program.

Our graduate schools, notably the Jesuit School of Theology, attract Jesuits from around the world to further their education. Miller Center for Social Entrepreneurship, drawing on its Silicon Valley acumen and two decades of work in the field of social entrepreneurship, provides training for the in-residence Jesuits. When they return to their home provinces—whether in Beijing or Benin—they in turn offer training and resources to social entrepreneurs in the field. They draw on their graduate education while partnering with Miller Center to promote a more just, humane, and sustainable world. Santa Clara University convenes this network and supports their work in communities of acute need.

These initiatives have captured my imagination, and I am sure they will capture yours as well. I invite your support.

Michael E. Engh, SJ
President, Santa Clara University
Jesuits and Entrepreneurship

Miller Center’s Global Social Benefit Institute (GSBI®) programs have accelerated more than 700 social enterprises worldwide. Silicon Valley mentors accompany social entrepreneurs through structured exercises to help them scale their impact. Collectively, GSBI social enterprises have benefited the lives of more than 250 million people in 65 countries.

Soon after their founding in 1540, the Jesuits established an expansive network of educational institutions around the world, embodying what we now call social entrepreneurship.

In his encyclical Laudato Si’, Pope Francis calls “the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development.” Social entrepreneurship is a transformative response to this call.

The Jesuit-in-Residence experience is customized to the vocation of the individual Jesuit. The program’s pioneer, Fr. Phil Cooke, SJ, organized GSBI Boost accelerator programs in Nicaragua and the Philippines. Under the leadership of Fr. Bossou Constant, SJ, we created a Jesuit Network for Social Entrepreneurship, including four provinces in Africa, one in the United States, and one in China, with 18 affiliated Jesuits.

Miller Center imagines that this network will leverage Jesuit social and educational ministries to amplify the global impact of social entrepreneurship. The vocations of the Jesuits in this booklet illustrate the power of purpose in their approach.
Dream Big

As the first Miller Center Jesuit-in-Residence in 2013, I was looking for new and creative methods to answer a nagging question: What is the best way to eradicate dire poverty around the world—without being dependent on government, grants or the deep pockets of specific individuals? I especially wanted to find an answer that worked for our Jesuit social ministries. So many have done tremendous work in creating trust and solidarity with the poor and marginalized, yet we sometimes lack the necessary skills to achieve our goals. In my fellowship at Miller Center I found two answers to my question.

First, I gained a deep appreciation for the qualities of social entrepreneurs. Social entrepreneurs tend to be risk-takers with huge imaginations and the determination to not let anything impede them. They passionately innovate solutions to complex social, economic, and environmental problems.

Second, Miller Center’s philosophy and methodology reinforced my belief that giving handouts to those in need is not a long-term solution to eradicating poverty. Authentic development requires a mutual exchange between the giver and the receiver. Every person on this Earth, no matter how rich or poor, has something to give.

I have taken this philosophy to the University of Detroit Mercy, where I launched the Center for Social Entrepreneurship at the College of Business Administration. We have already run three GSBl Boost programs. Detroiters are full of aspiration, innovation, hard work, and the belief that they can create viable solutions for their people. They have intelligence, heart, and soul—and now social entrepreneurship to address Rust Belt poverty and its associated social problems.

St. Ignatius encouraged Jesuits to dream big. I have been dreaming about a bridge between Jesuit social ministries and social entrepreneurship. Miller Center and African Jesuits are now making this connection happen. I am full of joy because I believe we have a true revolution on our hands, a new way of being.

Social entrepreneurship enables people to create their own paths of economic, social, and environmental freedom.
I have worked for and served AIDS orphans, juveniles in prison, cancer patients in hospitals, and abandoned elders in Cambodia, Taiwan, the Philippines, and China.

Observing my strong desire to serve the marginalized, my provincial sent me to the United States to study social entrepreneurship to enhance my leadership skills in the social apostolates.

During my MBA program, I had the privilege of being a 2016 Jesuit-in-Residence at Miller Center, where I learned more about the theory and practice of social entrepreneurship. I spent five weeks in Nepal and India, working with two teams of Global Social Benefit Fellows conducting research, and I observed the GSBI accelerator-in-residence on the Santa Clara campus.

That same summer, I visited a village with persons affected by leprosy who are supported by Ricci Social Services (RSS), which is funded by the Society of Jesus in China. These persons suffer from low self-esteem and self-confidence; they cannot find decent jobs due to social discrimination. Together with some teachers and students from Fu Jen Catholic University in Taiwan, RSS organized a 20-day workshop to teach young villagers how to produce and commercialize hand-made soaps and lip protection cream using local natural products. Social entrepreneurship can help these villagers support themselves and their families and send their children to school.

I am currently working with Leping Social Entrepreneur Foundation, a partner of the Jesuit province in China, to offer a GSBI Boost and support the participating social enterprises.

In the fall I begin my doctorate in social entrepreneurship and leadership studies at Gonzaga University.
A New Generation of African Social Entrepreneurs

Sub-Saharan African countries are among the poorest on earth. The level of poverty is overwhelming. It has become a question of faith to seek social justice.

Eager to contribute to social transformation, I dream of a new generation of African social entrepreneurs who combine excellent professional skills with sound ethical values and compassionate hearts.

Meeting the staff of Miller Center and the passionate students who work with social enterprises around the world helped me understand, beyond written words, the energy and dedication needed to tackle poverty in a sustainable way. By attending a GSBI Boost in Los Angeles, I learned more about the GSBI method, as well as how to mentor entrepreneurs to develop their business models to have greater social impact.

After returning I organized a meeting with my colleagues to better discern how to apply Miller Center’s methodology to our Jesuit social center. Our newly renamed CREC for Social Innovation program will enable senior students and young graduates to develop social entrepreneurship tools, skills, and resources. Here also engineering entrepreneurs can gain hands-on technical experience and prototype their innovative devices.

We will share this vision with local pastoral agents involved in fighting poverty, hold a GSBI Boost in Cameroon, and adapt the GSBI methodology to our local context. Being part of the Jesuit Network for Social Entrepreneurship will help us benefit from Miller Center’s world-class expertise and resources and not feel alone on this journey for a sustainable and just way to alleviate poverty.

MARTIN CLAUDE DOMFANG, SJ

Home country: Cameroon
Ordained: July 7, 2006
Degree: PhD in Mechanical Engineering, Marquette University, 2013
Current: Director of Le Centre de Recherche, d’Etude et de Creativite, Benin
Through my ministries as a priest, I have witnessed the adverse effects of poverty and unemployment on both the old and the young. I have also witnessed how basic necessities such as education, water, and electricity have remained luxuries beyond the reach of many.

We will not reach solutions by remaining in an ivory tower or the comfort of a rectory or by simply dreaming about changes that could happen on the continent of Africa. We will reach solutions when we roll up our sleeves and engage in small but effective actions.

In the midst of the despair associated with Africa, I see opportunities. These opportunities demand creativity and imagination about how things could be different—in a social, sustainable way that improves the standard of living of our people and the ecosystem without relying on free aid. Social entrepreneurship and social ministries are not just two sides of a coin; they are like the two wings of a bird on which Africa can rise.

I am convinced that women’s empowerment is crucial to sustainable development. Whether in remote villages like Ikpe in Nigeria, cities like Freetown in Sierra Leone, slums like Kiberia in Kenya, or urban cities like Accra in Ghana, I am constantly astonished by women’s active and creative roles as agents of transformation.

My work with Miller Center for Social Entrepreneurship gives me a creative way to understand what other social entrepreneurs are doing and adapt their actions in my own context. The Jesuit-in-Residence program also captures the concept of new frontiers. As Pope Francis says, “Your right place is at the frontiers. This is where Jesuits belong.”

As I look toward the future, I find my heart drawn to the area of social ministries, with their emphasis on the love of and preference for the poor. The courses I take at Santa Clara University School of Business, as well as my collaboration with Miller Center, will prepare me for this mission.
Driven by the idea to serve, I have always dreamed of having a positive impact on the world. That is what propelled me to pursue engineering, become a Jesuit, and more recently promote social entrepreneurship.

Before I joined the Jesuits, I went to an engineering school in Benin and graduated with a BS in Mechanical Engineering. As a college student, I learned about the Jesuits and thought I could do more, in terms of service, than just be an engineer. Right after college I joined the Society of Jesus and was ordained to the priesthood three years ago.

I then came to SCU for a master’s degree in Computer Engineering. At SCU I was amazed by Miller Center’s work and decided to learn social entrepreneurship and make some contributions. Today social entrepreneurship and engineering are my means to unravel the problem of poverty in the world.

Sponsored by Miller Center and the School of Engineering, I have advised and worked with two groups of SCU senior students in electrical engineering to install solar microgrids in rural villages that previously had no access to electricity, last year in Benin and this year in Togo. I hope to lead more such projects in the future.

I plan to continue working actively with Miller Center to help more Jesuits get trained in social entrepreneurship, which will add an important tool to their pursuits of social justice. Although every Jesuit potentially loves social justice and wants people to live better lives, only a few understand that social entrepreneurship is a sustainable means to achieving social justice and eradicating poverty. Implementing working engineering models to diminish poverty in the developing world—and voicing my belief in social entrepreneurship and social justice—will likely be part of every mission I will carry out in the Society of Jesus.

BOSSOU CONSTANT, SJ

Home country: Benin
Ordained: August 9, 2014
Degrees: MDiv, Hekima College, Kenya; MS in Computer Engineering, Santa Clara University, 2017
Current: Doctoral studies in Computer Engineering at University of California Santa Cruz
Reflecting on the recent achievements of Miller Center’s Jesuit Network for Social Entrepreneurship initiative, I believe we are witnessing a phenomenon that seven years ago was completely unanticipated and now, potentially, could be one of the most significant programs to spearhead Miller Center’s mission to accelerate entrepreneurship to end global poverty and protect the planet.

When my friend and former Affymetrix colleague Thane Kreiner asked me to join Miller Center’s Advisory Board, I immediately accepted his invitation for three simple reasons. First, I wanted to give back to my alma mater; second, I believed in Thane’s leadership and passion; and third, I felt that, because of its access to the global Jesuit network, Santa Clara University, through Miller Center, is uniquely positioned to successfully serve the forgotten poor around the world and have a positive impact on their lives.

Annie and I remain committed to Miller Center’s values of heroic ambition, accompaniment, excellence, and authenticity. The initiatives described here afford an opportunity to exponentially expand the GSBI idea through involvement of the Jesuits. We are proud of Miller Center for initiating the Jesuit Network for Social Entrepreneurship and encourage others to recognize and support its critical work. In the words of Chicago Archbishop Blase Joseph Cupich, the world today “needs the hope of those who know and are inspired by the givenness of life.”

Onward and upward!

Vern and Annie Norviel
The Jesuit Network for Social Entrepreneurship

A Theological and Ethical vision: 
*Laudato Si’ and Social Ministries*

Upon his election Pope Francis made it clear that the poor will be at the center of attention during his papacy. In his encyclical *Laudato Si’*, Pope Francis notes the “intimate relationship between the poor and the fragility of the planet” and teaches that “authentic human development… presumes full respect for the human person, but it must also be concerned for the world around us.”

Although Catholic ministries have done much to address the immediate needs of the poor in the world, their primary methodology has been dependent on charity, which compromises individual dignity.

**Jesuit Leadership and Social Justice**

Jesuits believe that Christian faith demands a commitment to justice, confronting the structures of our world that perpetuate poverty and injustice. Social entrepreneurship is a powerful tool to address the inextricably linked problems of poverty and climate change but its tenets have not yet grown deep roots in Catholic ministries. The Society of Jesus can lead the way, leveraging the validated methodologies of Miller Center for Social Entrepreneurship.

**The Emerging Network**

In spring 2017 a group of eight African Jesuits met for three days at Miller Center for a seminar to study social entrepreneurship theory and practice, develop outreach and educational materials to promote social entrepreneurship education and training in Africa, and craft a three-year road map. The Jesuit Network for Social Entrepreneurship emerged from this seminar. It will leverage the intersection of social entrepreneurship and social ministries to create a foundation for more GSBI programs in Africa.

**Service for Africa and Beyond**

Our ambition is to build on and expand this initiative globally. Jesuits who are finishing their graduate degrees from the Jesuit School of Theology will receive hands-on training in social entrepreneurship that they can deploy in their home provinces. They will learn the GSBI methodology and collaboratively present GSBI Boost programs. A set of institutional nodes will provide ongoing support to pastoral agents eager to incorporate entrepreneurial approaches into their social ministries and social entrepreneurs in their communities.

Supporting women’s economic empowerment sets a direct path toward gender equality, poverty eradication, and climate resilience.
ETAMESOR OSHORIAMHE PATRICK, SJ
Home country: Nigeria
Degree: STL, SCU Jesuit School of Theology, 2016
Current: Hosting a GSBI Boost in Liberia

CHRISTOPHERE NGOLELE, SJ
Home country: Republic of the Congo
Degree: STL and ThM from SCU Jesuit School of Theology, 2016
Current: Assistant to the Vice-Dean of the Social Sciences and Management School at Catholic University of Central Africa in Yaoundé, Cameroon

CYRANO DIMENI, SJ
Home country: Republic of the Congo
Degree: STL and ThM from JST Berkeley, anticipated 2018
Current: Pursuing an MTS, SCU Jesuit School of Theology

AUGUSTINE EKENO, SJ
Home country: Kenya
Degree: STL and ThM from SCU Jesuit School of Theology, 2017
Current: Project director of Multi-Educational and Agricultural Jesuit Institute of South Sudan

ISHAMAËL MATAMBURA, SJ
Home country: Democratic Republic of the Congo
Degree: STL and ThM from SCU Jesuit School of Theology, 2017
Current: Director of Centre Mayisha in Kisangani, Democratic Republic of the Congo

VICTOR SETIBO, SJ
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Degree: STL and ThM from SCU Jesuit School of Theology, 2017
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The Power of Purpose: Jesuits for Social Entrepreneurship
Accompany Miller Center as we accelerate entrepreneurship to end global poverty and protect the planet. Our work depends on your generosity.

**Miller Center**
Miller Center is the largest and most successful university-based social enterprise accelerator in the world. Founded in 1997, Miller Center is one of three Centers of Distinction at Santa Clara University, located in the heart of Silicon Valley. We leverage the entrepreneurial spirit and innovative ethos of Silicon Valley and underpin it with the Jesuit heritage of service to the poor and protection of the planet.

**Santa Clara University**
Located in the heart of Silicon Valley, Santa Clara University blends high-tech innovation with a social consciousness grounded in the Jesuit educational tradition. Founded in 1851, Santa Clara University is the oldest operating institution of higher learning in California and has remained in its original location for 165 years. We are committed to leaving the world a better place. We pursue new technology, encourage creativity, engage with our communities, and share an entrepreneurial mind-set. Our goal is to help shape the next generation of leaders and global thinkers.

**Jesuit School of Theology**
Located in Berkeley, California, the Jesuit School of Theology (JST) is an international center for the study of theology and ministry. JST is both a graduate school of Santa Clara University and a member of the Graduate Theological Union, a vibrant consortium encompassing eight graduate schools of theology from different religious traditions in the San Francisco Bay Area.

JST commits itself to contextual theology, which means pursuing theology in dialogue with the communities we serve and listening to their aspirations and needs. In this way we keep alive the Jesuits’ long-standing commitment to a faith that does justice.

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