



Australian Province of the Society of Jesus

February 2019 Announcement of Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAPs) - FAQs:

1. What is an Apostolic Preference?

The Society of Jesus' common discernment has highlighted certain movements of the Holy Spirit that demand our attention and our resources. These areas of focus and attention are what are known as "Universal Apostolic Preferences".

2. The Apostolic Preferences were referred to Pope Francis before being returned to Father General Arturo Sosa. What is the significance of this? What does this mean?

Availability to the call of the Pope is the fourth vow that Professed Jesuits take with respect to the universal mission of the Society. By making the Preferences his mission for the Society, Pope Francis mandates the Preferences as the focus of the Society for the next ten years.

3. Has the Society of Jesus previously undertaken this type of endeavour? If so, when?

In 2003, the then Father General, Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, released "Universal Apostolic Preferences". In that document he prioritized ministries in China, Africa, the intellectual apostolate, the international Roman houses, and among migrants and refugees.

4. What do the Universal Apostolic Preferences mean for current ministries and missions in our Provinces?

Father General Arturo Sosa, the head of the Society of Jesus, is asking Jesuits and partners in mission to focus on how our current and future ministries can integrate the Universal Apostolic Preferences to address the real-world issues that they contain.

5. What happens in 10 years? Where do we want the Society of Jesus to be?

The letter from Father General Arturo Sosa released today is a first step. The journey towards implementation now starts. Each Jesuit, each community, each province and conference of provincials will discern how to implement these Preferences and take action based on that discernment.

6. Will the UAPs have a big impact on the mission of the Society of Jesus?

The Universal Apostolic Preferences invite ALL Jesuits and partners in mission to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit and inspire them to take action.