

PRÉ FORUM "FE'NAMAZÔNIA"

Religious faith and struggle for life in the Amazon Region

Belém do Pará, 24-27 da January 2009

World Social Forum : January 27 – February 1, 2009

The next World Social Forum (WSF) will be held in Belém do Pará, north of Brazil, between January 27 and February the 1st, 2009. With more than two million of inhabitants Belém is the largest urban concentration in the Amazon Region.

The international commission of the WSF announced that *"the struggles, campaigns, main and questions that emerge from the local situation should be the main reference in the organization process"*. They are talking about *"to promote the discussion about worldwide problems, letting them to be linked with the Amazonian problems"*. But, that does not mean the global perspectives and problems will be absent at the WSF.

On the same path as Nairobi 2007 where, before the WSF, almost 120 Jesuits and lay collaborators met to discuss the *"African spiritual and social transformation"*, we are planning to hold a pre-forum in Belém do Pará between January 24 and 27 to talk about Religious faiths and the struggle for life, specifically in the Amazon region.

We would like to develop a fruitful discussion and also an opportunity to enhance our faith/life experiences, reflecting and sharing the living faith (in its possible diversity) as it become important in the struggle for life and dignity in the Amazon context, and how our faiths grows stronger and deeper when confronted with real life in mutual and enriching processes. Some people and groups will share with us their difficulties and successes, their challenges and doubts.

Given the importance of *"inter-institutional activities"* in the church's pastoral presence on the Amazon River and in Brazil and the global character of the WSF, we are expecting the participation of different religious orders, churches and faiths in the pre-forum.

Now we are inviting Jesuits and lay collaborators in Jesuits' works to participate in the pre-forum "Fe'namazônia" and in the WSF 2009.

This will be held at the Faith and Culture Center (CCFC - <http://www.cffc.com.br/index.php>) in Belém do Pará (Ananindeua, Br 316, km 6 – Grande Belem) , between January 24th (in the afternoon for inscriptions, some orientations and a welcoming) to January 27th in the morning. That same afternoon the WSF will begin and last till February the 1st. We are expecting a participation of 250 people in the pre-forum (130 not strictly linked with Jesuits' works).

The pre-forum organization's committee is trying to provide the best possible conditions to receive Jesuits and Jesuit's collaborators during the 9 day Pré-forum and WSF. The personal economic contribution is US 270 (\$ 410 reais); it represents approximately 40% of the total cost of individual expenses and includes: working materials, speakers and invited guests, basic transportation, board and breakfast, lunch and dinner during the Pré-forum, places for the conferences and meetings, organization and administration of the events, Pré-forum subscription and in the WSF participation at the Ignatian Day. This small cost (US 270 for 9 days) is possible due to the generous support of some international cooperation organizations to which we are already grateful.

From January 27 to February the 1st, the pré-forum's organization offers: information, board and breakfast, basic transportation (twice a day), for lunch and dinner we will provide sandwiches and cold beverages to take away.

On January 30th we will have an "Ignatian day" for Jesuits and Jesuit's collaborators. Additional information will be sent after your individual subscriptions.

Pre-forum goals:

a) Based in real experiences, to reflect together on the intimate link between faith and the struggle for life.

b) To promote and strengthen linkages between participants, be they individuals, institutions or projects, in order to strengthen their commitment to faith that makes justice, while working for a better life for all, especially in the Amazon area.

c) To prepare a significant presence at the WSF, making visible the fruitfulness of the Faith and Life relationships.

d) To strength and consolidate networks and relationships between Jesuit's popular-social education and advocacy projects around the world.

Methodology

We will have different activities during the pre-forum. General sessions with some important and well known speakers will be held twice a day: Frei Beto, Dr. Marina Silva and Fr. José Comblin. Each day, three experiences will share their failures and successes, and some thematic discussion groups will be organized. The last day of the pre-forum we will have a plenary session and the preparation for our presence at the WSF. Some of the thematic issues we will discuss are: Faith and cultures in the Amazon region; Faith and environmental issues: challenges and answers; Faith, violence, peace and reconciliation; Faith, public space and political commitment; Faith, religions, churches, new religious groups and subjects, among others.

What we are expecting as a result of the pre-forum

- (1) An apostolic instrument for the promotion and articulation of inter-institutional and ecumenical projects or actions to enhance the linkage between faith and life's struggles, and if possible, with some concrete mechanisms for follow up and evaluation.
- (2) To prepare the participation in different activities at the WSF: the two discussion sections, different celebrations, advertising and information stands, liturgies, etc.
- (3) To strengthen and enhance the different kind of networks that the participants already have at local levels, and to widen their advocacy efforts.
- (4) A Jesuit and Jesuit's collaborators statement about the Society of Jesus' commitment to struggle and fight for life for all, particularly there where life is threatened by poverty, marginalization and exclusion, injustice and exploitation; and the claim for a special commitment to the Amazon reality.

Who is organizing?

The Amazon Region of the Society of Jesus (BAM), with the support and commitment of the Social Sector of the Jesuit Provincial Conference (CPAL) and the Social Justice Secretariat (SJS) of the Society of Jesus in Rome.

IMPORTANT NOTES

Due to the limitation of housing we have only 115 places that will be used according to criteria defined by the coordinating committee; among which the order in which requests will be received and the geographic distribution of participants (by regions, provinces, institutions).

1. Some will need a VISA document to enter the country. Please make sure if this requirement applies to you; and if you need an invitation letter, provide us with all the information needed to return it: first name and family name, birth date, nationality, birth place, national registration number, passport number, actual address, travel dates, etc.
3. We have no possibility of helping with travel expenses.

INDIVIDUAL APPLICATION FORM

To be returned before September 20

1. name
2. family name.....
3. Birth date
4. Birth place.....
5. Religious faith.....
6. Institutional belonging.....
7. Are you going to attend the WSF sim não
8. Telephone number.....
9. Cel. Telefone number
10. Address.....
11. electronic address
12. Do you communicate in (marc with x)
Portugues _____ español _____ ingles_____

Please, fill out this form and sent it to

superior.regional@jesuitasamazonia.org

or by regular mail to

**Secretaria Pré – Foro Fenamazonia
Sra. Norma Monteiro da Oliveira
Av. Governador José Malcher, 1169
Belém do Pará, PA
CEP 66055-260**

We will confirm the arrival of your application form and will send back some additional information regarding this events. The payment will be made in local currency (R\$ 410 reais) or American dollars (U\$ 270) in the afternoon of January 24 before to start the preforo.