

FORMING IGNATIAN LEADERS IN OUR COLLEGES

Joe Arun, SJ



THE NEED AND RELEVANCE

- The future of Jesuit education relies on the availability of people, Jesuits and colleagues in mission alike, who are **fully capable of leading universities and colleges** in a manner consistent with and devoted to the mission of the Society of Jesus.



TO BE IGNATIAN

- This availability depends on the ongoing intention to cultivate such mission inspired leaders and to invest in formational opportunities

characterized by an Ignatian way of proceeding, a manner that is both faithful to our nearly 500-year-old tradition while at the same time constantly discerning, creative, and evolutionary.



THE TASK FORCE - BILBAO

- While such intentions and opportunities exist currently at the local, regional, national, and international levels, **the Task Force on Ignatian Leadership proposed** that the emerging global network of Jesuit institutions of higher education presented an opportunity to leverage essential resources even more effectively and sustainably for the long-term service of the mission priorities of the apostolate of Jesuit higher education.



IGNATIAN LEADER?

- What distinguishes an *Ignatian* leader, then? Simple formulations will fall badly short, because 'Ignatian Leadership' is not a coherent theory, or a body of scholarship.
- It's **a lived experience that immerses itself in the world, a disposition deeply rooted in the Spiritual Exercises and Jesuit history.**
- Sarah Broscombe, What is Ignatian Leadership? In *Thinking Faith* (September 2017, see <https://www.thinkingfaith.org/articles/what-ignatian-leadership>)



- A Jesuit Catholic university manifests itself through five expressions or "gifts" of the Ignatian tradition: **Mission, Reflection, Discernment, Solidarity and Kinship, and Service rooted in justice and love.**



- The GIFT OF IGNATIAN COMMUNAL DISCERNMENT IS A SPIRITUAL APPROACH TO LEADERSHIP AND INSTITUTIONAL GOVERNANCE that helps us to achieve our mission: **to educate each student intellectually, morally, and spiritually for a world that is increasingly diverse, complex and interdependent and to challenge and support students as they cultivate lives of reflection, compassion and informed action.**



CHARACTERISTICS

- Familiarity with the foundational elements of Jesuit higher education, and Ignatian spirituality based on lived experience of the *Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius*
- Commitment to *cura personalis*
- Commitment to *cura apostolica*
- Commitment to *cura communis*
- Understanding of *magis*
- Commitment to collaboration and networking,



WHY IT IS DIFFERENCE

- *Responsible Leadership*
- *Capacity for a Purpose*
- *Based on Sound Values*
- *Guided by Discernment*



KEY DIMENSIONS IN THE FORMATION OF IGNATIAN LEADERS

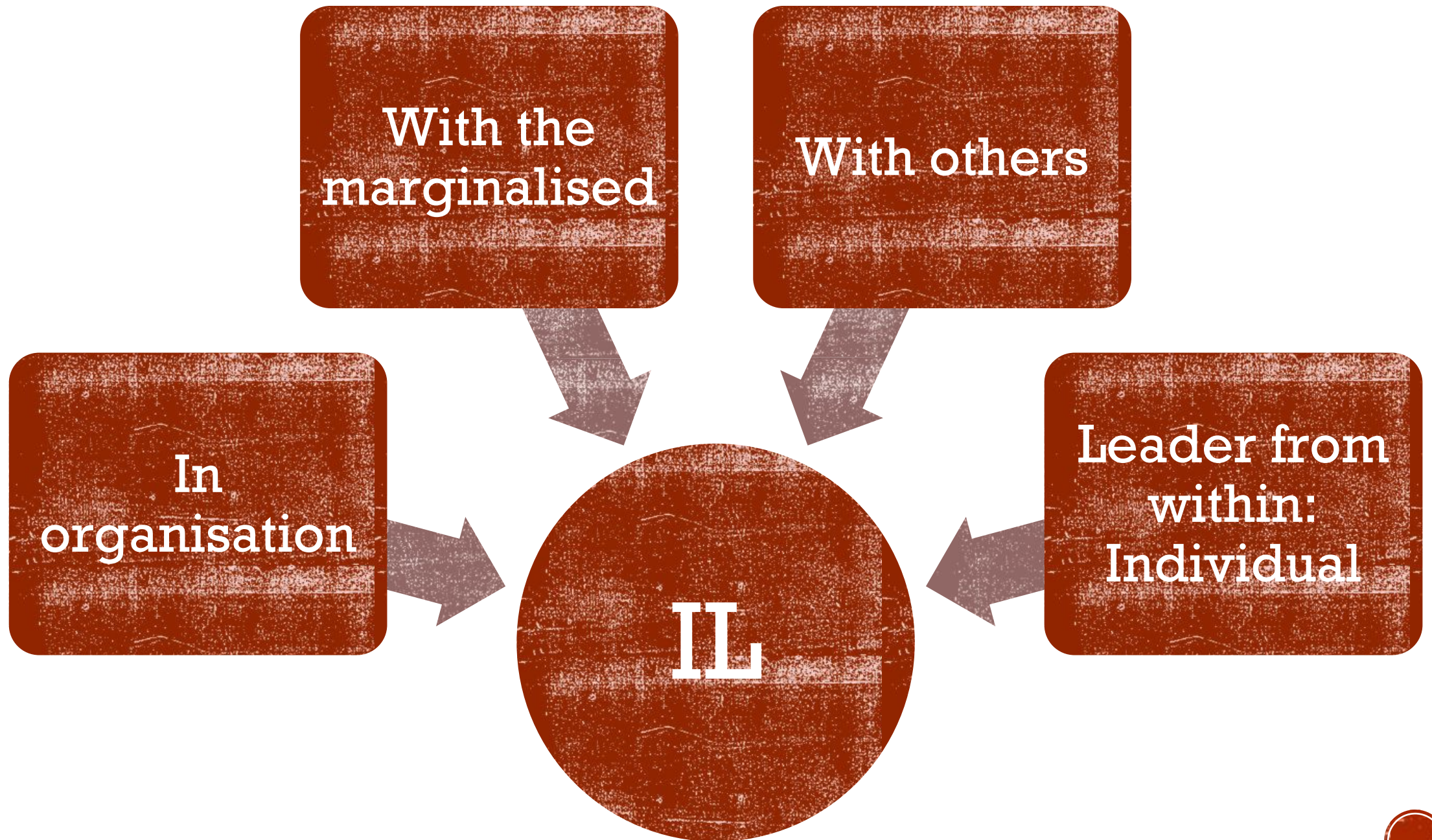
- **KNOWING:** *Theories / Models / Frameworks / Mindsets. What we know and most importantly “how we know” and make meaning*
- **DOING:** *Skills / Competencies / Techniques. Focusing on necessary practical elements we need to fulfil the mission*
- **BEING:** *Transformation / Values / Beliefs. Developing integrity, values, character, and authenticity*



KEY MODULES

1. Called to leadership : *dealing with individual*
2. Leadership for and with others:
dealing with others
3. Called to live in organisations:
organisational culture
4. Leadership at the peripheries:
commitment to the Marginalised





POSSIBLE PROGRAMMES

1. Three day programme: Orientation
2. One month: After the recruitment of faculty, before placing them in departments
3. One year programme, spread out through the academic year, Sat/Sun: for all the faculty, non-teaching staff
4. Week long programme: young Jesuits
5. Boot camp/retreat/workshop...



HOW WE CAN

- Form a team that consists of Jesuits and lay in each Zone, make it a zonal programme (being faithful to networking-collaboration)
- Adapt the modules given by Office of Discernment and Apostolic Planning to suit to our context
- where ever possible arrange to give a certificate or diploma
- Make it mandatory for academic leadership such Deans, Vice-Principals...



- In April 1-4, 2019, there is a training programme organised by the Office of Discernment and Apostolic Planning in Rome on Ignatian Leadership that would probably give sufficient resources and modules

