

Jesuit Global Activism Summit 2022



connor mulligan '23
viewpoints editor

For the first time in my age, I used Zoom after installing two years' worth of updates. This Zoom call was much different than all the other ones I have been on, though. Thanks to Mrs. Bower, our Global Perspectives teacher, Aaron Peters, Adam Peters, Aidan Sherer, Andrew Scheve, and I attended the second Jesuit Global Activism Summit this summer. Led by Robert Chura, the director of global education at Saint Louis University High School, this event comprised over

90 students from around the globe to work together on several issues the world today.

After randomly being assigned to groups of 7 or 8, each group began with a cultural exercise. Each person put up two pictures to represent their country's culture. I went with two classics: a football game and a picture of Glacier National Park. My group consisted of students from Colombia, Poland, Mexico, Brazil, and the United States. Impressively, they all spoke English exceptionally well and nearly eliminated any language barriers. Our group began to bond with each other talking about how different things are in different countries. After this, each group was assigned a Universal Apostolic Preference (UAP). The four universal apostolic preferences from

the Society of Jesus are showing the way to God, walking with the excluded, journeying with our youth, and caring for our common home. Then began our project work.

Being assigned to UAP 1, we decided to focus on how responsible production and consumption could help different countries grow closer to God. To show this, we created a presentation describing the main consumption and production issues facing our world today. Of these issues, we especially focused on the level of food and plastic waste that is generated across many countries. We offered solutions and actions, both big and small, that people can take to work towards more sustainable consumption and production.

Aidan Sherer, a fellow senior, was in the third

UAP: journeying with the youth. Collaborating with students from six other countries, they worked on a project involving the issues of accessibility to quality education around the globe. Reflecting on the experience, Aidan said that "It is great to see the similarities in students across the globe rather than our differences."

Aaron Peters, also a senior, worked on an action plan to increase access to quality education in Zimbabwe for the UAP of journeying with the youth. One of Aaron's group members lived in South Africa, so they wanted to spread awareness about education near where she lives. After the summit, Aaron reflected, "I had an impactful experience collaborating alongside students my age that live all around the world. I

think being a part of the Jesuit Global Activism Leadership Summit showed me how similar all of us students around the globe are, especially in identifying issues and wanting to take part in making the world a better place."

I, along with my classmates on this summit,

am thankful for the opportunity to participate in a transformative experience like this one. It is not every day that I get to talk and work with students from other countries. Working with people from different places on issues in the world is what will bring positive change, one idea at a time.

What is being done?



NGO's

Some NGOs such as UNICEF and the GPI involved too on improving education in Zimbabwe, decentralizing the educational system, funding schools and providing a response to the covid-19 pandemic.

courtesy of Connor Mulligan '23