



JESUITS®

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### **Statement of the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the U.S.**

*Following is the statement of the Jesuits of Canada and the U.S. in response to violent protests in Nicaragua, which have claimed the lives of more than two dozen people, including Álvaro Manuel Conrado Davila, a 15-year-old student at the Jesuit high school in Managua, who was peacefully protesting recent government social security reforms.*

(Washington, D.C., April 23, 2018) -- The Jesuits of Canada and the United States stand in solidarity with our brother Jesuits, their lay collaborators and all the people they serve in Nicaragua. We pray for peace in the country and hope that all sides will engage in truthful dialogue. We pray for calm between all of the parties, and we remind government leaders of their responsibility to protect those who have lawfully gathered to seek redress from their government.

Catholic Social Teaching reminds us that government is an instrument to promote human dignity, promote human rights and develop the common good. Fifty years after the Encyclical *Populorum Progressio* was promulgated we are reminded of the three major duties it articulates: “mutual solidarity; social justice; and universal charity.”

We encourage everyone to read the statements from the Jesuits in Central America and from the Conference of Latin American Provincials. Please pray for a peaceful resolution to this conflict and the building of a true democracy.

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### **About the Society of Jesus in Canada and the United States**

Founded in 1540 by Saint Ignatius Loyola, the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) is the largest order of priests and brothers in the Roman Catholic Church. Jesuit priests and brothers are involved in educational, pastoral and spiritual ministries around the world, practicing a faith that promotes justice. In Canada and the United States, there are 30 Jesuit colleges and 80 pre-secondary and secondary schools with a shared goal of developing competent, compassionate and committed leaders in the service of the Church and society. Jesuits minister in parishes and at retreat houses and serve as chaplains at prisons, hospitals, nursing homes and in the military. The Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States, headquartered in Washington, D.C., represents all Jesuits in Canada and the U.S. For more information on the Society of Jesus, visit [www.jesuits.org](http://www.jesuits.org).