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# IQS Identity and Mission

/// 2022-2023 Annual Report

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# 1. About Us and What We Do

The Chair of Ethics and Christian Thought at IQS was created in 2003 with a twofold mission: on the one hand, to research and teach in the field of Christian philosophy and the areas of applied business ethics and engineering ethics. On the other hand, to promote IQS Jesuit identity.

Twenty years later, we are continuing with this multifaceted work. Our teaching activities have expanded to cover the needs of the various IQS degrees, and our offer of identity and mission programmes and activities has grown accordingly.

We understand our work as a service to IQS and the entire world. Our mission is shared with the Society of Jesus, and our activity follows its apostolic priorities and lines of work.

In this publication we give an account of the activities that reinforce IQS's Jesuit identity, offering all university staff and students the possibility to grow personally, to build community, to project themselves in service to society, and to cultivate their spirituality, with a special emphasis on the Christian tradition.

The current members of the Department of Ethics and Christian Thought are professors Flavio Comim, Oriol Quintana, Llorenç Puig, and Xavier Casanovas, with administrative support from Ms Gabriela Leal on identity and mission tasks.



## 2. Christian Identity of IQS

### Eucharistic Celebrations and Confessions

Throughout academic year 2022-2023, the Department of Ethics and Christian Thought has provided various spiritual services to the IQS educational community, such as the celebration of Holy Mass and the opportunity for confession. During the year, we celebrated the following Masses:

#### Weekly Mass

Starting on 14 September, Father Llorenç Puig Puig, SJ, led the weekly Eucharistic celebration. A small group of students, professors, and administrative staff gathered every week to share a moment of prayer and communion.

#### Christmas Mass

On 23 December, we came together to celebrate the birth of Jesus and to share the spirit of love and solidarity with our school community and surroundings. This Eucharist was presided over by Father Enric Puig, President of the IQS Board of Trustees.

#### Ash Wednesday Mass

On 22 February, at the beginning of Lent, we congregated at the IQS chapel to reflect on the sense of renewal and inner conversion called for during this important period of the liturgical calendar. During the Mass, we were encouraged to practice charity and solidarity with others, promoting love and compassion for those who suffer the most.

#### End-of-Year Mass

On Wednesday, 21 June, we gathered for a Eucharistic celebration to express gratitude to God for everything we have learned and for the blessings received during the academic year.

Additionally, for those who wished to receive the sacrament of reconciliation, a Confession Service was offered 15 minutes before each Mass celebration.





## MAGIS Group

MAGIS is a Latin term that means “more.” It refers to the movement of young people who seek a deeper and more meaningful life in tune with Ignatian spirituality. The MAGIS movement aims to help young people explore their faith and personal growth through spiritual and service experiences.

IQS is home to a MAGIS group where our students share their opinions, concerns, doubts, dreams, and hopes regarding Christian commitment within the university and in today’s society. Some members from the Department of Ethics and Christian Thought play the role of facilitators in these weekly meetings.

## More than Science and Technology

Over recent years, the Jesuit Universities (UNIJES) and the Ignatian Pastoral Network (MAG+S) have offered a proposal for weekend meetings that seek to link professional concerns and skills with the Christian faith. From 17 to 19 February 2023, the IQS Department of Ethics and Christian Thought hosted the event “More than science and technology.” During the weekend over which it was held, students and professionals in the fields of science, technology, and research shared their concerns, skills, and projects from a perspective of Christian faith and Ignatian spirituality.



### Spiritual and Religious Accompaniment Service

Starting in academic year 2022-2023, the Department of Ethics and Christian Thought has created a space for Spiritual and Religious Accompaniment available to the entire IQS community every Thursday afternoon. During this initial year, spiritual accompaniment has been limited to IQS staff, but we will continue to offer it with a particular emphasis on our students.

### Ignatian Pilgrimage

Within the context of commemorating the 500 years since the conversion of St. Ignatius, the IQS Department of Ethics and Christian Thought took the initiative to form a group composed of students, professors, and administrative staff to undertake the Ignatian Pilgrimage. For a week each summer since 2019, pilgrims have walked the path, culminating their journey with the arrival at the Sanctuary of Manresa on 2 September 2022.



### Ignatian Bike Route

The IQS Department of Ethics and Christian Thought invited mountain biking enthusiasts to participate in the "Ignatian Bike Route," which took place from 29 to 30 April, stretching from Verdú to Manresa. Throughout this event, participants enjoyed moments of cycling along with time for camaraderie, reflection, and the opportunity to learn more about the lives of Saint Peter Claver and Saint Ignatius of Loyola. This experience was described as a sort of "itinerant retreat" that left very positive impressions.

## Contemplative Hike

The IQS Department of Ethics and Christian Thought organized a Contemplative Hike through the Collserola mountains aimed at IQS students, professors, and staff, which took place on the morning of Saturday, 26 November. It was a pleasant experience to connect with nature and the spirit.

Guided by an ecology expert, an ornithologist, and a Jesuit, the contemplative hike alternated between moments of reflection, dialogue, and contemplation, allowing participants to immerse themselves in the serenity of nature and find a deeper connection with the forest environment in the Collserola mountains.

The starting point was the FGC - Sant Cugat Station. From there, the group embarked on a rewarding tour, exploring the landscapes and wildlife of the Collserola mountains under the attentive guidance of experts. The day concluded with a shared lunch, strengthening the ties and conversations generated during the journey through the mountains.

This Contemplative Hike through the Collserola mountains was one of the highlighted events of the 2022-2023 academic year for the Department of Ethics and Christian Thought. It represented an effort by the institution to promote the connection between Ignatian spirituality, ethics, and nature.



## Montserrat-Manresa Pilgrimage

This activity has been organized by the Jesuits of Catalonia for the past 25 years, and it commemorates and brings to life the experience that Ignatius of Loyola undertook in the year 1522. The IQS Department of Ethics and Christian Thought has joined this inspiring initiative, spreading the call within our institution and fostering the participation of our entire educational community. On Friday, 24 March, the participants held a prayer vigil at Montserrat. The following morning, they hiked to Manresa where a prayer was also held at the sanctuary of the Cave of St. Ignatius.

The Montserrat-Manresa pilgrimage represents a valuable opportunity to immerse oneself in spirituality and reflection, honouring the history of Ignatius of Loyola and reaffirming our connection with the Jesuit spiritual tradition.

### IQS Community / Loyola Fridays

The IQS Community formally commenced its activities for the 2022-23 academic year in response to the call by Dr Salvador Borrós, the Director of the institution. This initiative serves as a meeting space for all staff, aimed at embracing the mission of the Society of Jesus. Facilitated through the IQS Department of Ethics and Christian Thought, it takes shape in the form of gatherings known as "Loyola Fridays" throughout the school year.

In the first "Loyola Friday," held on 30 September, Dr Mariola López RSCJ, a professor from Loyola University Andalusia, presented her lecture entitled "How to Live Ignatian Spirituality Today?". On 3 February, Mr José Ignacio García, SJ, director of Christianity and Justice, led a session with the theme "What are the Jesuits Doing in Europe?". The third "Loyola Friday" was led by Dr José María Guibert, SJ, the Rector of the University of Deusto at the time, who shared his insights on "Understanding Ignatian Pedagogy." The final "Loyola Friday" of academic year 2022-23, held on 21 April, was led by Dr Luis María Salazar, a professor from Loyola University Andalusia, who presented his talk on "Discernment and Choice."

Finally, the gathering held on 27 June had the main objective of providing a summary of Identity and Mission activities and closing the IQS Community's academic year.





# 3. IQS in Solidarity

## Solidarity Breakfast for the TV3 Marathon

After two long years marked by the COVID-19 pandemic, the IQS Department of Ethics and Christian Thought successfully resumed the charitable activity of selling cakes and cookies to support the TV3 Marathon. On this occasion, the funds raised were directed towards Cardiovascular Health research.

Under the leadership of Dr Albert Gibert and Dr Raimon Puig de la Bellacasa, both affiliated with the IQS Department of Organic and Pharmaceutical Chemistry, IQS staff and students enthusiastically joined the initiative carried out from 14 to 16 December 2022. Thanks to the collective commitment and effort, we managed to raise a total of 1,183.42 euros. This cake and cookie sales campaign in support of the 2022 TV3 Marathon is an example of IQS's solidarity and community commitment as a Jesuit educational institution. The funds raised represent our contribution to supporting scientific progress and societal wellbeing.



## Gran Recapte/Food Collection

Coordinated by the Department of Ethics and Christian Thought, the educational community at IQS joined the charitable initiative of the Food Bank, "the Great Food Collection (Gran Recapte)." During 23, 24, and 25 November, a group of volunteers collected food in the lobby of our campus. In 2022, at the explicit request of the shelter and homeless individuals we support, a call was made for contributions exclusively of the following products: canned fish, tomato sauce, and chicken and/or vegetable broth. On 29 November, we delivered the collected contributions: 75 kilograms of food to the Assisi Association - Shelter Centre in the Sarriá neighbourhood of Barcelona.



## Food Collection for the Assis Shelter

On 11 and 12 July, IQS carried out a charitable initiative to collect food to support the Assis Shelter, which provides assistance to homeless individuals and is an institution that IQS regularly collaborates with.

The Department of Ethics and Christian Thought, in coordination with the Service-Learning Department, issued a call to IQS teaching and administrative staff to contribute with milk cartons, olive oil, ground coffee, and cans of sardines – essential food items for the functioning of the Assis Shelter, which offers dining services to homeless individuals.

Solidarity is a core value at IQS, and this campaign provided an opportunity to showcase our commitment to the community and make a positive difference in the lives of the most vulnerable individuals.



## Other Donations

As in previous years, the Department of Ethics and Christian Thought at IQS has been responsible for managing the donation of surplus folders that URL provides to all our students at the beginning of each academic year. On this occasion, these folders have been delivered to the Lestonnac School in Badalona and will be given to students in the middle and upper levels. Similarly, the Department of Ethics and Christian Thought has coordinated the transportation of a large number of cleaning products to the Cottolengo Centre in Barcelona and facilitated the delivery of computer equipment to the Assis Shelter Centre.



# 4. Activities for Students

## Debate Club

Academic Debate is a discipline that has been engaged in for countless years at universities around the world. This academic year, the Department of Ethics and Christian Thought and the Student Life Office are promoting student participation in a "Debate Club," which began on 8 November 2022. This club is enabling us to prepare and monitor our progress for future participation in different forums. One of these forums was the XVI UNIJES Academic Debate League in Deusto, held from 9 to 11 February, addressing the central issue of the digitalization of public administrations.

During the month of April, the 1st edition of the "San Ignacio Academic Debate League" was held, organized by ESADE on the 21st and 22nd. During this event, the debate focused on the question: Should the artist be separated from his work?

## Book Club

During the 2022-2023 academic year, the IQS Department of Ethics and Christian Thought encouraged the creation of a reading group at IQS. Some of the works discussed have been "The Prince" by Niccolò Machiavelli, "The Dispossessed" by Ursula K. Le Guin, and "The Stranger" by Albert Camus.

## Volunteering Opportunities

During the past academic year, we actively collaborated with six social organizations to offer volunteering opportunities for IQS students throughout the entire year. On 22 September 2022, we presented our students with various service options available at each of the following entities: "Fundació MigraStudium," "Centre Cabestany - Pont Jove - Fundació Servei Solidari," "Projecte Rossinyol - Mentoria Juvenil - Fundació Servei Solidari," and "Fundació La Vinya."



### IQS Student's Forum

In coordination with the Student Life Office, we have carried out a variety of activities within the framework of the "Student's Forum." This space provides students with the opportunity to freely share their ideas, challenges, and concerns. On 3 November 2022, a meeting was held to discuss the challenges that arise from daily contact with different cultures, both on the university campus and in work environments, entitled "How International Am I?".

Furthermore, on "International Women's Day on 2 March 2023," we organized a dialogue about "the glass ceilings faced by women in engineering, sciences, and leadership positions." This event received an enthusiastic response from our students.



### Identity Module

IQS wants its students to understand the history and character of our centre. For this reason, the identity and mission team along with collaboration from a wide array of university professionals (IQS employees and professors), is offering a workshop on these issues during the welcome sessions for newly admitted students. By doing so, our students learn how and when IQS was founded, who Saint Ignatius of Loyola was, and who the Jesuits are. Likewise, we explain what the main values of Jesuit higher education are. At the same time, students are offered information about the non-academic activities through which these values are also put into action: faith groups (Magis group), other religious activities, university volunteering, and more.



## Talent Week

During *Talent Week*, our students had the opportunity to participate in a variety of workshops aimed at equipping them with essential power skills that are crucial for their job search and career development. Additionally, they gained valuable insights into career planning and maximizing the abilities they have cultivated during their time at IQS.

One workshop worth highlighting was led by the Mission and Identity Team and focused on Ignatian Discernment. Discernment serves as a potent tool through which individuals can discover their true aspirations in life, cultivate Ignatian indifference, and learn to attune themselves to the various influences that can impact their decision-making process. These principles of discernment are drawn from St. Ignatius's renowned work, "The Spiritual Exercises," penned in the 16th century during his time in Manresa and further refined throughout his lifetime. This rich heritage, embraced by Ignatian organizations, seamlessly aligns with the core themes and objectives of *Talent Week*.



## Scientific Thinking Seminar

The Scientific Thinking Seminar was launched in academic year 22-23. It is aimed at first-year students in the IQS School of Engineering. There have been three sessions in which topics such as science, its evolution, and the specific characteristics of scientific thinking have been addressed. In addition, the possibilities and limits of scientific thinking were analysed. Finally, in the last session, we reflected on the need to see how scientific thinking seeks to make the world visible, accessible, manageable, and useful, while many of the deep human realities remain unavailable.

# 5. Activities for Staff

## UNIJES Courses

### Zero Course

The “Zero Course” or “Introduction to the Identity and Mission of Jesuit Universities” is a training session aimed at new IQS employees and those who, for various reasons, have not been able to complete it previously. On 27 October, a group of 20 participants travelled to the spirituality centre at the Sanctuary of the Cave in Manresa. Each year, the course is taught by Father Enric Puig Jofra, SJ, Dr Oriol Quintana, and Father Llorenç Puig, SJ.



### Basic Training I in Loyola

The primary objective of the meeting is to explore Ignatius’s pilgrimage and the way he oriented it. The purpose of Jesuit universities, as well as the meaning and relationships of those who work in them - laypeople and Jesuits - constitute the second objective. All of this is achieved by creating the necessary spaces and atmosphere for participants to, in the light of what is presented in different lectures and roundtable discussions, share the experiences they have lived in the institutions and universities they form part of. This activity, conducted individually and in groups, is a key aspect of the meeting as it brings to life everything that has been heard and shared. For the training that took place from 26 to 30 June, IQS sent four participants from its administrative and teaching staff.

### Basic Training II in Salamanca

Under the motto “Sharing the mission,” a total of thirty-one individuals from various UNIJES centres - three of them from IQS staff - participated in the Basic Training course (the first phase of the Province’s Training Plan), which was held at the Jesuit Spiritual Centre in Salamanca from 13 to 17 February. The guiding theme of this course was the four dimensions of the Ledesma-Kolvenbach paradigm. Through lectures and study materials proposed by each speaker, the participants in the event shared and exchanged their views concerning HUMANITAS, IUSTITIA, FIDES, and UTILITAS. The guided cultural visit to the city of Salamanca was preceded by a lecture entitled “Ignatius as a Student,” given by José Ramón Busto, SJ.

## Directors Course

The course programme aims to provide leadership and management training to individuals with managerial responsibilities at UNIJES university centres, with a particular focus on aspects related to the “way of proceeding” and an expanded vision of the shared mission.

On 9 June, the third module of the UNIJES directors training course concluded in Salamanca. This third edition of the course welcomed 22 participants from the universities of Deusto, Comillas, and Loyola, as well as representatives from IQS and ESADE. The overall assessment of this training experience has been very positive.



## Identity and Mission Course

The training plan on Identity and Mission aims to create spaces for gatherings, shared life, and prayer. It's a journey towards an apostolic community that wishes to fulfil the Mission received from the Ignatian charism. This training is offered to those involved in the Society's mission with a minimum of 5 years' experience in one of its institutions and a basic understanding of the Society and its spirituality. "It's intended for individuals who value and desire to take a step further, a commitment to this mission."

## Ignatian Leadership Training

Designed for individuals in leadership roles within institutions, its main objective is to position institutional leadership within an Ignatian framework, thereby strengthening our way of proceeding in our work. It also aims to facilitate continued growth in the cross-sector planning of the province. During academic year 2022-23, two members of the IQS Executive Board participated in various sessions held at the Loyola Spiritual Centre and the San Ignacio Retreat House (Pedreña - Cantabria).

## After-lunch

After-Lunch is an activity open to all IQS staff and students. It consists of an informal space where a member of the Administrative and Service Staff (PAS) or the Teaching and Research Staff (PDI) shares their professional journey, personal vocation, and life philosophy. The session held on 24 November 2022, featured the participation of Dr Rafael González Olmos, a professor with the IQS School of Engineering and researcher in the Environmental Processes Engineering and Simulation Group (GESPA), as well as the Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science. In the second session of this academic year's After-lunch, we had the pleasure of hosting Dr Pepa Blanco, the director of the Quality Unit and a professor in the IQS School of Engineering. On both occasions, a sense of closeness and camaraderie was fostered between the guest and the attendees.



### Wellness Program

Work, creativity, and innovation are fundamental characteristics at IQS. In order to foster their development within the framework of excellence, the organization aims to promote a healthy work environment that enables individuals to work autonomously and achieve the Ignatian mission of the organization.

For this reason, from 24 January to 22 June, the IQS Human Resources Department has provided all employees with the “Wellness Programme,” a space where tools and activities are shared to help incorporate new self-care and self-management habits in the workplace. Additionally, the program aims to enhance interpersonal relationships, communication, and teamwork. The program is structured as follows:

Block 1: Wellbeing and Body Awareness

Block 2: Personal Development and Relational Wellbeing

Block 3: Healthy Nutrition and Mindful Eating

Block 4: Spirituality in Everyday Life

To lead Block 4, “Spirituality in Everyday Life,” the Department of Ethics and Christian Thought proposed Father David Guindulain, SJ. In this module, topics such as practices for spiritual growth, Ignatian spirituality, mindfulness, and awareness were explored. All of this is done with the purpose of developing a transcendent perspective on everyday life, using a methodology based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius.







## IQS Symposium

On Wednesday, 11 January 2023, the XXIV IQS Symposium took place, with the theme "Meaning and Transcendence in the 21st Century: Challenges of a Post-Christian Society." The event brought together distinguished experts and academics to explore the challenges and proposals of meaning in an increasingly secularized contemporary society.

Organized by the Department of Ethics and Christian Thought at IQS, the symposium focused on the ongoing process of identity choice that individuals face in the 21st century, encompassing aspects such as gender, political, and religious identity. Additionally, discussions revolved around how accelerated social changes and the lack of continuity between generations impact our understanding of meaning and transcendence in everyday life.

The event featured prominent speakers who shared their insights and engaged in dialogue with the attending audience. Dr Mar Griera addressed the topic "Secularization in Catalan Society and New Meaning Proposals," while Mr Xavier Casanovas offered his perspective on "Progress and Transcendence." Dr Ignacio Sepúlveda del Río, on the other hand, reflected on "Spirituality, Transcendence, and the Construction of Common Horizons."

The symposium also included moments of dialogue and a lunch break, during which attendees had the opportunity to exchange ideas and engage in discussions about the presented topics.

The XXIV IQS Symposium provided a valuable space for reflection and analysis on the challenges and proposals of meaning in a post-Christian society in the 21st century. The Department of Ethics and Christian Thought at IQS continues to promote such gatherings to encourage dialogue and reflection on topics of social and cultural relevance.

## Technoethics Seminars

Since 2020, the Department of Ethics and Christian Thought at IQS has organized a Technoethics Seminar aimed primarily at professors from the IQS School of Engineering, while also extending its reach to professors from other faculties and universities. Occasionally, professionals from the business sector have also participated.



## 5. Activities for Staff

The Technoethics Seminar consists of four annual sessions held during the second semester of the year. In these sessions, philosophers from the Department of Ethics and Christian Thought at IQS lead discussions around the ethical issues raised by technological advancements. Additionally, renowned philosophers are sometimes invited to discuss their works and enrich the exchange of ideas. During academic year 2022-23, the sessions took place on 23 February, 23 March, 27 April, and 13 June.



### ChatGPT Discussion

On 9 February, the Department of Ethics and Christian Thought invited all IQS staff for a brief, yet significant gathering: an emergency discussion that addressed the challenges posed by ChatGPT in the field of education. The activity, accompanied by a light lunch, brought together various experts in the field with the aim of exchanging ideas on how technologies like ChatGPT are transforming the teaching process.

The discussion included participation by several IQS specialists, including Dr Jordi Cuadros, who presented teaching challenges; Dr Cristina Montañola, who analysed computational challenges; and Mr Xavier Casanovas, who addressed ethical challenges. These presentations laid the groundwork for an open and participatory debate, which served as preparation for future activities related to the same topic. With this collaborative approach, it is expected that the educational community will be able to develop effective strategies to make the most of the opportunities offered by technologies like ChatGPT, promoting both a more enriching education in line with the needs of the 21st century and a critical mind towards the use of technology.



### Corporate Volunteering

For some time now, IQS has established ongoing collaboration with the Assis Shelter Centre.

This entity located in the Sarrià neighbourhood of Barcelona works to have an impact on and give more visibility to the task of improving the quality of life for homeless individuals. At IQS, we collaborate with this centre through various actions, such as occasional food and clothing donations, but above all, through our Corporate Volunteering. Through this programme, our school's employees dedicate two hours per month of their working hours to performing auxiliary tasks at this centre.

# 6. Our Networks

## Service-Learning

The IQS Mission emphasizes that our institution aims to train students to promote balanced human, social, and ecological development. The IQS ApS project has been launched to promote and encourage this aspect. Service-Learning is an educational methodology where all participants learn by working on the real needs of the territory in order to improve it. Skills can be put at the service of exclusive personal gain or at the service of pure and hard economic growth, but this is a development model that, while it has generated wealth, has not served to distribute it and has proven incapable to overcome basic problems that threaten humanity.

The IQS ApS project aims to highlight social commitment and the common good in the learning process of all our students. As Father Arrupe said in his famous speech at the *10th European Congress of Jesuit Alumni Associations*, we want to "Train women and men for others."



### Training for social workers and volunteers

Since 2022, the IQS Department of Ethics and Christian Thought has offered courses for social workers and volunteers. It entails a knowledge transfer activity, which brings some elements of the European philosophical and literary tradition to a direct application in working with vulnerable people. The two courses are six hours each, with the following contents:

*On Down and Out in Paris and London.* The Orwellian journey to homelessness. This six-hour course is dedicated to reviewing outstanding passages from *Down and Out in Paris and London*, a book of memoirs by George Orwell. Published in 1933, it compiles the experiences of this author in the period of his life in which he embraced destitution voluntarily. Throughout the sessions, the initial experiences of becoming destitute will be reviewed. Also, we study the concepts of affliction according to the French philosopher Simone Weil, aporophobia, the social function of poverty, and the survival of hierarchies in contemporary societies. The course also aims to open a space for reflection and exchanging experiences.

*Between Grace and Resonance.* Service and its motivations. This six-hour course is dedicated to reviewing some selected concepts from humanity's spiritual traditions that can offer motivational tools and meaning for the work of volunteers and social workers. It is especially aimed at veteran workers and volunteers who have seen an internal evolution throughout their years of dedication or may find themselves in a moment of internal change. The course combines texts from traditional and modern works from the field of philosophy and religion in the broadest sense. In addition to presenting concepts and reading passages, the course offers a space for personal reflection and dialogue. The course offers a critical look at concepts such as self-realization and progress, opposing them to other traditional concepts such as humility and other more current ones in contemporary philosophy, such as resonance.

### Participation in the J-HERD

The Department of Ethics and Christian Thought, responsible for IQS identity and mission activities, has participated in the sessions of the "Jesuit Higher Education and Religious Diversity" working group. This group, which belongs to the International Association of Jesuit Universities, has organized a series of meetings with members from universities across four continents to discuss how each one faces the challenges of managing religious diversity and secularization on our campuses. After participating in the conference organized by ESADE in 2022, during the current academic year we have explained our work on identity and mission within IQS, together with the current Catalan sociological context. Our audience was surprised to learn about the secularized social reality of our environment, as well as discovering the diversity of activities we offer to open spaces for community life, which is the basis of true spirituality.



## Symposium: “Challenges for Religion and Spirituality in the Post-secular Era. Symposium of the UNIJES Secularization Group”

On 15 and 16 June, the 2nd Symposium of the UNIJES secularity group was held, entitled “Challenges for Religion and Spirituality in the Post-secular Era. Democracy – Identities – Society.” The meeting was hosted by the IQS Department of Ethics and Christian Thought. The symposium brought together professors from the areas of humanities, ethics, and sociology from different Jesuit universities (Deusto, Comillas, ESADE, IQS, and Loyola University).

During the first day, the symposium featured an opening roundtable chaired by Dr Salvador Borrós, Director of IQS, Dr Enrique López Viguria, executive secretary of UNIJES, and Dr Ignacio Sepúlveda, coordinator of the Secularity group. Next, Dr Mar Griera, professor of Sociology of Religions at the UAB, gave the opening talk “The challenges of the post-secular era. A sociological look.” The expert presented the role played by religion and spirituality in modern times. During the rest of the day, two communication roundtables were held focused on the fields of democracy and society.

The second day began with a conference by the professor and philosopher Josep Cobo. The author of a trilogy on the validity of Christianity today, he dedicated his presentation to the discernment of what is the nuclear fact of Christian truth and what is its authentic message. A final roundtable with four communications continued to explore the role of religion in the construction of identities.

The symposium was closed by Dr Carlos Losada, president of UNIJES, who highlighted the importance of having a space to meet, discuss, and above all carry out academic reflection on religious and spiritual events in our universities, as well as on the necessary collaboration between Jesuit universities, which can see the fruits of their reflection and work multiplied if they commit to working together through different historical traditions and specializations. This has been demonstrated during the two days of intense work, which will continue in future publications and meetings of the group.





### Meeting of the Professional Ethics Group to Develop a New Strategic Project

On 12 and 13 January, the meeting of the Professional Ethics Group was held in Barcelona and Manresa. The meeting began at the IQS campus on Thursday the 12th and concluded at the Manresa Spirituality Centre on Friday the 13th.

The meeting addressed the central theme proposed by UNIJES on "Identity subjects and training in values." This topic arose from a strategic project proposed a year ago by the Professional Ethics Group on "Ethics as an identity matter." At the time, the UNIJES Board proposed expanding this initiative towards something more general and considered the idea of covering "Identity subjects and training in values." To move in this direction, a committee was appointed that included members of the Department of Ethics and Christian Thought.

This meeting represented a crucial opportunity to exchange ideas and perspectives, as well as to outline future actions that can contribute to the consolidation of ethical principles and fundamental values in education and professional practice.

## Podcast *Inescapable*

Beginning in academic year 2022, the IQS Department of Ethics and Christian Thought, in collaboration with the Catalunya Religió web portal, has posted a Podcast that analyses and discusses issues related to its areas of research and teaching. We have recorded episodes about technology and its most recent applications, being of service for others, the evolution of the idea of progress, and integrating diversity in the society, among others, and we have had the presence of illustrious guests, such as the theologians Joseph Maria Christie, SJ (global head of higher education with the Society of Jesus), Josep Cobo (recent author of influential treatises on Christian theology), and the international journalist John Carlin.



## *“Will technology save us? Social and Personal impact of technologies.” Training at the Centre of Studies on Christianity and Justice*

Between the months of October and November 2022, we have organized a course jointly with the Centre of Studies on Christianity and Justice, with the aim of reaching a wide and open public. The objective has been to share certain reflections that are carried out in our Department of Ethics and Christian Thought about technology and its impact on society with a more general public. A total of 50 people participated in the event. The IQS professors and collaborators who spoke during this course over six sessions included: Oriol Quintana, Joaquim Menacho, Albert Florensa, and Georgina Curto. The course also ended up leading to a new collaboration with this Jesuit study centre in Catalonia, the publication of the Booklet 187 CJ – On technology, prepared by Oriol Quintana and published in January 2023 with a print run of 35,000 copies.



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