

Welcome back to our Wah Yan Community!

The Book of Ecclesiastes 1:9, a wisdom literature from the Old Testament has a famous verse *“What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.”* No matter how many storms Wah Yans have weathered, the love of Wahyanites for Wah Yan and our fraternity is beyond question. The Jesuit legacy of which we are its beneficiaries remain essentially the same.

However, a famous ancient Greek philosopher Heraclitus of Ephesus has rightly said what is certain is that *“everything is in a constant state of flux”*. It can be nicely translated into Chinese 「變幻原是永恆」. The two Wah Yans after 100 and 95 years are not, and cannot be, the same when we were students at Wah Yan/s. Otherwise, it would mean that the schools had not developed at all. Even the manifestation of Jesuit education has been evolving throughout these years due to the ever-changing context to which it sees itself responding.

These seemingly opposite realities are what we find ourselves living with, and it is an undeniable fact. Ignatian spirituality, the bedrock of Jesuit education can be most helpful when we find ourselves facing great tension from two or more contesting ends. Rather than eschewing either one or more of the ends, we look for a uniting point where a new synthesis incorporating the positive values of the ends can be created, understood, tested, evaluated, and improved.

Hence, we do not encourage anyone to identify himself or herself rigidly with a single and exclusive perspective. This would not help us grow in competence, compassion, conscience, and commitment, the core values of Human Excellence that Jesuit education all over the world is trying to foster in our students, alumni, and companions. This is, indeed, no easy task but definitely an important and meaningful one. Especially in this increasingly divisive world, where one voice is trying to dominate or even mute the other voices.

My brothers and companions, we Jesuits believe in our education. Our mission is to formed men and women, agents of dialogue and reconciliation with human excellence for the happiness of humanity and of all created beings which should enjoy their dignity in this Common Home together with us.

We are proud to have you as brothers and comrades of this Jesuit legacy!