



World Union of Jesuit Alumni  
2021 Congress  
Barcelona Candidature



**Associació d'Antics Alumnes**  
Jesuïtes Sarrià - Sant Ignasi



World Congress 2021  
Barcelona Candidature



## Index

1. Presentation of the Candidature - Mr. Andrés Espinós, President of Jesuïtes Sarrià - Sant Ignasi, Barcelona Alumni
2. Barcelona and Saint Ignatius of Loyola - F. Ignasi Vila SJ , Historian
3. Manresa , La Cova and Saint Ignatius of Loyola - F. Lluís Magriñà SJ, Superior of the Community of La Cova Manresa
4. Jesuits Schools Community in Barcelona - Mr. Xavier Aragay, General Manager of Jesuits Education Foundation, Barcelona
5. Letters of support to the candidature of Barcelona 2021
6. Barcelona host city

## 1. Presentation of the Candidature Barcelona 2021

### Jesuïtes Sarrià - Sant Ignasi, Barcelona Alumni - Mr. Andres Espinós, President

It is for me an honor and a pleasure to present the candidature of my city, Barcelona, to host the World Congress of Jesuit Alumni to celebrate next year 2021.

The city of Barcelona that many of you probably already know is a rich city socially and culturally, pioneer in urbanism and architecture or in biomedical research and business schools , and an example of quality tourism.

But we also want to be aware of the Ignatian Barcelona. The life of Ignatius of Loyola and the origin of the Jesuits had significant historical moments in the Ignatian way, "La Cova" of Manresa or the basilica of Montserrat. And fruit of the Ignatian spirit, the city of Barcelona and surroundings, stands out for its 9 schools of Jesuits, representing the past, the present and the future of our associations.



## 1. Presentation of the Candidature Barcelona 2021

### Jesuïtes Sarrià - Sant Ignasi, Barcelona Alumni – Mr. Andrés Espinós, President

This candidature is widely supported. All over Spain, with its different schools and Alumni associations scattered throughout its territory, want to organize this Congress. It is great to receive significant support from prominent members of the Society of Jesus and the Catalan Catholic Church. Moreover the city of Barcelona and its Mayor, will do everything to accompany the Ignatian movement and support this nomination that we will do the best for being exemplary.

We want to work with you hand to hand to realize this project and writing a new chapter in the history of Jesuit Alumni Associations.

Ignatian Barcelona dream is still alive. We are part of something big and want to share it with all of you.

We look forward to have you the year 2021.





## 2. Barcelona and Saint Ignatius of Loyola

### F. Ignasi Vila, SJ, Historian

#### The arrival

For St. Ignatius and the Society of Jesus, Barcelona has a remarkable historical importance.

Ignatius, after his experience of Manresa, went to Barcelona where he spent a month with the intention of going to the Holy Land.

Being impossible to travel to Jerusalem, he decided to go again to Barcelona to keep going with his studies, in the early months of 1524.

Barcelona became again the city that offered many opportunities for him: a house to live on the alms and distributing them among the poor; learning Latin and maintaining spiritual relationship with priests and nuns.

It was said in Barcelona: "Look, look, that (beggar) is a knight or a nobleman?"





## 2. Barcelona and Saint Ignatius of Loyola

### The next visits and stays



After having stayed in Salamanca, he returned to Barcelona in September 1527, and from there went to Paris, to the Sorbonne. There he went alone on foot in early January 1528. On February 2 he entered Paris. He was helped in economic aid from their friends from Barcelona.

Years later, 1536, Ignatius wrote to the Archdeacon of Barcelona, his friend Jaime Cazador, who would become bishop of Barcelona, the sentence that has been in the history of the city: "Because I think, and I don't doubt, that I have more debts in Barcelona than any other city in this life. "

In January 1537 his spiritual friends came to Barcelona. They were nine people who tried to go to Venice and Jerusalem. Surprisingly there was no ship to the Holy Land that year, because of the Venice conflict with the Turks. They ended up offering themselves to the Pope in Rome.

Once founded the Society of Jesus on September 27, 1540, the first Jesuit who stepped Barcelona was St. Peter Faber, one of the founders of the Society, in early October 1541

## 2. Barcelona and Saint Ignatius of Loyola

### Barcelona as a key city for the Jesuits

For the Society of Jesus, Barcelona was also a key city. In the early history of the province of Aragon of the Society of Jesus, Father Gabriel Alvarez, written in 1606, states: "As Catalonia is the gate and entry to people of Italy to come to Spain, and usually Barcelona, because that trip was commonly made by sea, this noble city, enjoyed the first fruits of the Society of Jesus, and saw the first parents of it , at about the same time that was instituted " .

Fr. Muzio Vitelleschi, who was the general of the Society of 1615-1645, repeatedly reminds Barcelona's rectors the importance of the city.

Bethlehem school of Barcelona, at Rambla ("of the Studies"), where the former Jesuit church is preserved, now as a church in the diocese of Barcelona,. As a Jesuit residence who played the apostolic ministries; It was a college, where it was taught theology; It was guest house, where the Jesuits going to or coming from Italy and Europe stayed; it was a center of Christian Life Communities, then called Marian Congregations of students and adults; it was a place of catechetical formation of children and adults.



### 3. Manresa , La Cova and Saint Ignatius of Loyola

#### F. Lluís Magriñà SJ, Superior of the Community of La Cova Manresa



Manresa organized an International Seminar SIPEI Ignatian Pedagogy in November 2014, and helped to put the Cova de Sant Ignasi and the International Center for Ignatian Spirituality of Manresa in the center of reflection and debate between Ignatian spirituality and education. This has been widely reported among the more than 2.000 schools in the world Jesuits , among all Ignatian networks.

La Cova de Manresa and Manresa City prepares 1521 and 1522 to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the conversion of Saint Ignatius of Loyola, his stay in Manresa, and the writing of based the Spiritual Exercises.

Jesuits Alumni 2021 Congress will be a good start and preparation for this celebration that will make all the Jesuits in the world.





**Associació d'Antics Alumnes**  
Jesuïtes Sarrià - Sant Ignasi



#### 4. Jesuits Schools Community in Barcelona

**Mr. Xavier Aragay, General Manager FJE- Jesuit Education Foundation, Barcelona**

Barcelona is the metropolitan area in the world with more Jesuit schools (8) which are present in all socioeconomic levels. This is partly due to the important presence and activity of alumni of Jesuit colleges and educational and social action.

Barcelona is, at present, the center of the educational transformation of Jesuit education in the world with the Horizon 2020 (<http://h2020.fje.edu/en/>) project. Many Jesuit schools in the world want to be inspired by this move way to understand the Jesuit and Ignatian education.

Barcelona is a destination that shaped a vision of the Mediterranean world (light, life, hope and sense of social coexistence) with where Sant Ignasi made its first steps of its service life and for the creation of the Society of Jesus , it is a return to origins. And in this environment, Jesuit schools are inspiring the transformation of education.

Barcelona , Manresa and Montserrat are destinations where you can relive the mystical experience of Saint Ignatius which provides the service action, commitment and dedication to God. You can think and a specific activity within the sessions of Congress. All jointly has a relevant Ignatian significate.

## 4. Jesuits Community in Barcelona

### Jesuits schools in Barcelona

Jesuïtes Gràcia – Col·legi Kostka



Jesuïtes Sarrià – Sant Ignasi



Jesuïtes Bellvitge – Centre d'estudis Joan XXIII



Jesuïtes Sant Gervasi – Escola Infant Jesús



## 4. Jesuits Community in Barcelona

### Jesuits schools in Barcelona

Jesuïtes Poble Sec – Col·legi Sant Pere



Jesuïtes Casp – Sagrat Cor de Jesús



Jesuïtes El Clot – Escola del Clot



Jesuïtes Raimat , Lleida – Escola Claver



## 5. Letters of support to the candidature of Barcelona 2021

### 5.1. Catholic Church

- Mgr. Lluís Martínez Sistach, Cardinal Archebisque of Barcelona

### 5.2. Jesuit Comunity

- F. Francisco José Ruiz SJ - Province of Spain
- F. Llorenç Puig SJ - Platform of Catalonia
- F.Lluís Magriñà SJ, Superior of the Community of La Cova Manresa
- F. Ignasi Vila SJ, Historian

### 5.3. Alumni Associations

- Mr. José Ramón Urizar, President of Federation Jesuit Alumni, Spain
- Mrs. Carmen Llasat - President of Jesuit Casp - Sagrat Cor, Barcelona

### 5.4. Government Institutions

- Mrs. Ada Colau, Major of Barcelona
- Mr. Valentí Junyent , Major of Manresa
- Mr. Enric Vendrell i Aubach, General Manager Religious Affairs of Generalitat of Catalonia
- Mr. Jordi Williams Carnes, General Manager Barcelona Turisme



## 5.1 . Catholic Church



EL CARDENAL ARZOBISPO DE BARCELONA

Barcelona, 30 de septiembre de 2015

Rvdmo. P. Adolfo Nicolás  
Prepósito General  
Compañía de Jesús  
Borgo Santo Spirito, 4  
00193 ROMA  
I T A L I A

Muy estimado P. Nicolás,  
El año 2022 se conmemorará el 500 aniversario de la estancia de San Ignacio de Loyola en Manresa y en Barcelona. Este paso y estancia del Santo Fundador de la Compañía de Jesús es un motivo de satisfacción, atendida la obra que hizo San Ignacio en su vida y su santidad.

La archidiócesis de Barcelona tendría sumo gusto en acoger el Congreso Mundial de los Antiguos Alumnos de los Jesuitas del año 2021. Los jesuitas han estado siempre muy vinculados a esta ciudad y han realizado y realizan una labor muy necesaria e importante en diversos campos como el de la espiritualidad, de los Ejercicios Espirituales, de la docencia en colegios y en centros universitarios, en la pastoral y en el campo social. Como pastor de esta Iglesia de Barcelona, deseo agradecerle toda esta labor eclesial.

Aprovecho esta oportunidad para saludarle muy cordialmente en comunión de oraciones. Fins aviat al Sínode,

  
+ Lluís Martínez Sistach  
Cardenal Arzobispo de Barcelona



EL CARDENAL ARZOBISPO DE BARCELONA

Barcelona, September 30th 2015

Rvdmo. F. Adolfo Nicolás  
Prepósito General  
Compañía de Jesús  
Borgo Santo Spirito, 4  
00193 ROMA  
I T A L I A

Highly Dear F. Nicholas,

In 2022 the 500th anniversary commemorates the stay of San Ignacio de Loyola in Manresa and Barcelona. This step and stay of the Founder of the Society of Jesus is a reason of satisfaction, considering the task that Saint Ignatius made in his life and holiness.

The archdiocese of Barcelona would be very pleased to host the World Congress of Jesuit Alumni of 2021. The Jesuits have always been closely linked to this city and have made and make a very necessary and important work in various fields such as the spirituality, the Spiritual Exercises, the teaching in schools and universities, in the pastoral and the social field. As pastor of this Church of Barcelona, I want to thank you for all this ecclesial mission.

I take this opportunity to greet you cordially in communion of prayer. See you soon at Sínode,

+ Lluís Martínez Sistach  
Cardinal Archbishop of Barcelona



**Associació d'Antics Alumnes**  
Jesuïtes Sarrià - Sant Ignasi



## 5.2. Jesuit Community



PE 2015/282 - 8th October 2015

Mr. Alain Deneef  
President  
World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae  
8 avenue G. Macau  
1050 Brussels  
Bélgica

Dear Mr. Deneef,  
Dear Members of the Jesuit Alumni World Union,

I am delighted to hear that Barcelona is being proposed by Jesuïtes Sarrià - Sant Ignasi Alumni, fully supported by the Spanish Federation, as the venue for the Jesuit Alumni Worldwide Congress 2021.

As Provincial of the Spanish Province of the Society of Jesus, I am fully pleased with this proposal. I hope you will accept our city of Barcelona as the congress venue. The city and its historical context played an important role in shaping the personal and spiritual biography of Saint Ignatius of Loyola.

I have understood by the main organizers of the candidature to provide you with advice as to the significant and relevant places to visit on the days of the Congress, covering the wide "Camino Ignaciano" with sites from Barcelona, Manresa, Montserrat and Loyola.

I truly hope you will allow our city the privilege and pleasure of hosting of World Jesuit Union Congress in 2021.

Yours sincerely,

Francisco José Ruiz Pérez, SJ



Mr. Alain Deneef  
President  
World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae  
Brussels  
BELGIUM

Barcelona, October 2, 2015

Dear Mr.Deneef  
Dear Members of the Jesuits Alumni Worldide, Confederation

I am delighted to hear that Barcelona is being proposed by Sant Ignasi – Sarrià Alumni and fully supported by the Spanish Federation and as the venue for the Jesuit Alumni Worldwide Congress 2021.

As Delegate of the Jesuit Apostolic Platform of Catalonia, I am fully pleased with this proposal and I hope that you will accept our city of Barcelona as the Congress Venue, as for the historical importance of Barcelona in the personnel trajectory of Saint Ignatius and the development and integration of the Society of Jesus.

I have understood by the main organizers of the candidature to provide you with advice as to the significant and relevant places to visit on the days of the Congress, covering the wide "Camino Ignaciano" with sites from Barcelona, Manresa, Montserrat and Loyola. Besides, we will be very close to the 2022 events of the 500 anniversary of the stay of saint Ignatius in Manresa..

I truly hope you will allow our city the privilege and pleasure of hosting of World Jesuit Union Congress in 2021.

Yours sincerely,



## 5.2. Jesuits Community



Mr. Alain Deneef

6 de Octubre 2015

President World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae

Brussels - BELGIUM

Estimado Sr. Deneef,

En 1521 y 1522 celebraremos los 500 años de la conversión de San Ignacio en su casa natal de Loyola, su llegada a Manresa y la redacción del libro de los Ejercicios Espirituales, así como los 400 años de la canonización de San Ignacio y San Francisco Javier.

Como Director General del Centro de Espiritualidad Ignaciana de la Cueva de San Ignacio, y antiguo alumno del colegio de San Ignacio de Barcelona, quiero apoyar la propuesta de la ciudad de Barcelona y Manresa como sede del Congreso de Antiguos Alumnos de los jesuitas el año 2021.

San Ignacio estuvo en Manresa durante once meses y actualmente son mucho los lugares que se pueden visitar donde estuvo san Ignacio, así como el aprecio que la ciudad de Manresa tiene por el santo. Por otra parte, otro motivo de nuestro apoyo es la larga tradición del trabajo de los jesuitas en Barcelona que empezó en 1533 y continuó en todos los ámbitos culturales, artísticos, sociales, educativos, universitarios y, obviamente, religiosos

Finalmente es de todos conocida la calidad que tiene Barcelona como lugar de ferias y congresos y de importantes monumentos artísticos, como pueden ser, por ejemplo, la basílica gótica de Santa María del Mar, en la puerta de la cual, San Ignacio pedía limosna, o la universalmente conocida basílica "gaudiniana" de la Sagrada Familia, inaugurada por el Papa Benedicto XVI.

Creemos que estas ciudades, justifican el apoyo que queremos dar a Barcelona y Manresa como sede de su congreso.

Muchas gracias por su comprensión a nuestra propuesta.

Atentamente le saluda,

P. Lluís Magriña, SJ



Mr. Alain Deneef

October 6th, 2015

President World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae

Brussels - BELGIUM

Dear Mr. Deneef,

In 1521 and 1522 we will celebrate the 500th anniversary of the conversion of St. Ignatius of Loyola at his birthplace in Loyola, his arrival at Manresa and the writing of the book of the Spiritual Exercises, as well as the 400th anniversary of the canonization of Saint Ignatius and Saint Francisco Javier.

As General Manager of the Center for Ignatian Spirituality of the Cave of Saint Ignatius, and former Alumni of the College of Saint Ignatius of Barcelona, I want to support the proposal of the city of Barcelona and Manresa for hosting the Congress of Alumni of the Jesuits 2021.

Saint Ignatius stayed in Manresa for eleven months and actually there are many places you can visit where Saint Ignatius was, and also the appreciation that the city of Manresa has for the Saint. Moreover, another reason for our support is the long tradition of the work of the Jesuits did in Barcelona that began in 1533 and continued in all cultural, artistic, social, educational, university areas and obviously religious.

Finally it is well known the quality that has Barcelona as a place of fairs and congresses and important artistic monuments, such as, for example, the Gothic Basilica of Santa Maria Del Mar, at the door of which, Saint Ignatius begging, or the universally known "Gaudi's" basilica Sagrada Familia, inaugurated by Pope Benedict XVI.

We believe these cities, justify the support that we want to give to Barcelona and Manresa as the venue for their congress.

Thank you very much for your understanding to our proposal.

Yours faithfully,

F. Lluís Magriña, SJ

## 5.2. Jesuits Community



Barcelona, 7th of October 2015

Mr. Alain Deneef  
President  
World Union of Jesuit Alumni  
Brussels  
BELGIUM

Dear President and Members of World Union of Jesuit Alumni

Please find enclosed my lecture on a brief introduction of the experiences and integration of Saint Ignatius of Loyola in Barcelona on 1521-22 and further stays there on.

Yours faithfully,

  
Ignasi Vila SJ

## 5.2. Jesuits Community



### Saint Ignatius of Loyola Barcelona, School of Bethlehem



For St. Ignatius and the Society of Jesus, Barcelona has a remarkable historical importance. Ignatius, after his experience of Manresa (11 months), went to Barcelona where he spent a month with the intention of embarking to Rome, and from there to Venice and the Holy Land. He expected to stay there, but the situation of the Turkish Empire made him return to Venice without knowing what to do. There he decided to go again to Barcelona to keep going with his studies. We are in the early months of 1524. Barcelona became again the city that offered many opportunities for him: a house to live (at the home of Ines Pascual and his son Juan); live on the alms and distributing them among the poor; learning Latin and maintaining spiritual relationship with priests and nuns. It also had the mystery of his person, that from his experience of Montserrat, the inhabitants of Manresa knew, and these are who brought him to Barcelona. It was said in Barcelona: "Look, look, that (beggar) is a knight or a nobleman.

After learning Latin with Ardévol teacher, he recommended him to go to the University of Alcalá. Ignatius was there a year: since the lent of 1526 to early summer of 1527. After a bad experience in Salamanca, he returned to Barcelona in September, and from there went to Paris, to the Sorbonne. There he went alone on foot in early January 1528. On February 2 he entered Paris. He was helped in economic aid from their friends from Barcelona.

In Paris he was gathering around him a group of students, who ended up being the Society of Jesus founders. 1535 on medical advice, he returned to the Basque Country to breathe clean air from his country. With the group of friends he promised to meet before the summer in 1537 in Venice, and to embark all to the Holy Land. Ignatius recovered very soon and before the end of 1535 he was in Venice studying theology, giving Spiritual Exercises to the Parisian. He wrote to the Archdeacon of Barcelona, his friend Jaime Cazador, who would become bishop of Barcelona, the sentence that has been in the history of the city: "Because I think, and I don't doubt, that I have more debts in Barcelona than any other city in this life." Written in February



12, 1536, in the feast of St. Eulalia. In January 1537 his spiritual friends came to Barcelona. They were nine people. Surprisingly there was no ship to the Holy Land that year, because of the Venice conflict with the Turks.

They ended up offering themselves to the Pope in Rome.

Once the Society of Jesus was accepted orally by Paul III in late summer of 1539, appeared in Barcelona Antonio Araoz, explaining some friends of Ignatius in Barcelona the situation of the Society of Jesus in Rome. Once founded on September 27, 1540, the first Jesuit who stepped Barcelona was St. Peter Faber, one of the founders of the Society, in early October 1541 on his way to the center of Spain. In Barcelona, he prayed in the crypt of the Cathedral to Santa Eulalia and then visited Montserrat. Coming back to the German Empire, the last days of February and early March 1542 he spent a few days in the city living in the Palace of the Archdeacon, where at the time lived the viceroy (St.) Francis Borgia, and is currently the Archive Historic City of Barcelona.

For the Society of Jesus, Barcelona was also a key city. In the early history of the province of Aragon of the Society of Jesus, Father Gabriel Alvarez, written in 1606, states: "As Catalonia is the gate and entry to people of Italy to come to Spain, and usually Barcelona, because that trip was commonly made by sea, this noble city, enjoyed the first fruits of the Society of Jesus, and saw the first parents of it, at about the same time that was instituted".

Fr. Muzio Vitelleschi, who was the general of the Society of 1615-1645, repeatedly reminds Barcelona's rectors the importance of the city: "this position is of great importance [or as principal] and is very well spent on it a person's religion [spirit], letters, prudence and holy zeal has Your Reverence." It says both to the Father Jaime Puig as Father Diego Escrivá.

Bethlehem school of Barcelona, at Rambla ("of the Studies"), where the former Jesuit church is preserved, now as a church in the diocese of Barcelona, whose facade shows the statues of the early saints of the Company; Saint Ignatius, Saint Francis Xavier and Saint Francis of Borgia. When it was founded, had several functions: As a Jesuit residence who played the apostolic ministries; It was a college, where it was taught theology; It was guest house, where the Jesuits going to or coming from Italy and Europe stayed; it was a center of Christian Life Communities, then called Marian Congregations of students and adults; it was a place of catechetical formation of children and adults.

Barcelona, 7<sup>th</sup> of October 2015



## 5.3. Alumni Associations



Mr. Alain Deneef  
President  
World Union of Jesuit Alumni.  
Brussels  
BELGIUM

Barcelona, September 26<sup>th</sup> 2015

Dear Mr. Deneef,

We are pleased to know that Barcelona is currently being proposed by Jesuites Sarrià -Sant Ignasi Barcelona Alumni as host-city for the World Congress of Jesuit Alumni to be hold in the year 2021.

Barcelona is Mediterranean, historical and unique. It is also an open, plural and diverse city, in terms of both social and cultural dynamism with a long tradition in hosting international meetings, offering excellent facilities. It is also a capital of reference for knowledge, science and in particular to education, and hosts many research institutions and groups which are consolidated and committed to excellence, as well as a significant number of Jesuits schools in the city.

A constantly flourishing city like Barcelona has become one of the most attractive and trendy destinations in Europe and represent a close link to the origin of Saint Ignatius of Loyola. We have the platform where both history and actual presence are committed.

We sincerely hope that you will allow the city of Barcelona and Jesuites Sarrià-Sant Ignasi Alumni the honor of hosting the World Union of Jesuit Alumni 2021.

Yours truly,

Jose Ramón Urizar  
President of Spanish Jesuit Alumni Federation



Associació  
Antics  
Alumnes  
Casp, 25 08010  
Barcelona  
T. 933 189 342  
T. 933 183 704  
antics@casp.fje.edu

To: Mr. Alain Deneef, President  
World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae  
Brussels  
Belgium

Dear Alain,

It is a pleasure for me and my Association of Jesuit Alumni "Casp-Sagrat Cor de Jesús", giving our truly support to the proposal presented by the Association of Jesuit Alumni "Sant Ignasi" to host the 2021 Meeting of the World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae.

The city of Barcelona has nowadays three Associations of Jesuit Alumni of different schools (Sant Ignasi, Casp-Sagrat Cor and Joan XXIII-Bellvitge) and we expect to start a new Association (Sant Pere Claver) along this year. But we also have two Associations from University Jesuit Alumni, ESADE and IQS, plus an old Association from a school that was already closed some years ago but that is still alive. It means that we have a strong Jesuit Alumni pool that will be able to reinforce the local organization of this international event. Besides this, as you already know, Barcelona is between the first places in the world to host international meetings and congress.

But I would like to add, the fact that Saint Ignatius lived in our city before going to Jerusalem, and that he maintained all his life a very important correspondence with Jesuits and laics. Nowadays it is possible to follow an Ignatian way inside the city, starting in the church where its sword is exposed. Barcelona is also near Manresa, where in 2022 will be commemorated the 500 years of the pass of Saint Ignatius. A great number of activities have already started to prepare it. The "Cova", placed in Manresa, where Ignatius lived and wrote the Spiritual Exercises, is now an important focal point for the Company around the World, and it is included in the Ignatian Way (<http://caminoignaciano.org/en/introduccion>), from Loyola to Manresa. Every year, people from all the countries come to Spain to follow it, and could be included, partially (or totally), between the activities of the congress.

I cannot participate in the next Assembly that will be held in Lyon, but the former President of our Association and his husband, both of them from my Directive Board, will be present to support the Sant Ignasi candidature.

Hoping to welcome you and our colleagues from Jesuit Alumni from all the World in 2021,

Best Regards

Maria del Carmen Llasat,  
President of Casp-Sagrat Cor de Jesus Alumni Association



**Associació d'Antics Alumnes**  
Jesuïtes Sarrià - Sant Ignasi



## 5.4. Government Institutions



L'Alcaldessa de Barcelona

28<sup>th</sup> July 2015

Mr. Alain Deneef  
President  
World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae  
Brussels  
BELGIUM

Dear Mr. Deneef,

I am pleased to know that Barcelona is currently being considered as host city for the World Congress of Jesuit Alumni to be held in 2021.

As Mayor of Barcelona, I fully support this initiative and I would like to formally invite you to consider Barcelona as the venue for your congress.

Barcelona is Mediterranean, historical and unique. An open, plural and diverse city, in terms of both social and cultural dynamism. It is also a capital of reference for knowledge, science and health, and hosts many research institutions and groups which are consolidated and committed to excellence, especially in the field of sciences.

A constantly flourishing city like Barcelona is the perfect location for the thriving and innovative community. Furthermore, we have plenty of facilities and advantages for celebrating international events. Thus you have here the perfect platform where both professional and personal alliances can be forged and fostered.

I sincerely hope that you will allow our city the honour of hosting the WUJA Congress 2021.

Yours sincerely,

The Mayor

Ada Colau | Ballano  
Pl. Sant Jaume, 1 08002 Barcelona  
Tel. 932 914 700 Fax 933 170 139 alcaldia@bcn.cat www.bcn.cat



Jordi William Carres  
Director General  
Managing Director

Mr. Alain DENEEF  
President  
World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae  
Brussels  
BELGIUM

Barcelona, August 24th 2015

Dear Mr. Deneef,

We are pleased to learn that Barcelona is being proposed as host-city for the **World Congress of Jesuit Alumni** in the year **2021**

Barcelona has a long tradition in hosting international meetings offering excellent facilities as well as expert professionals of the organisation and technical services.

The city, which has undergone during the past years a huge process of renovation, has become one of the most attractive and trendy destinations in Europe both for professional, travel and leisure.

The Barcelona Convention Bureau, our specialised department for meetings support, stands ready to assist you and cooperate with your production staff, to assure the successful planning and staging of your event, and make it a truly memorable one.

We do hope to deserve this opportunity.

Cordially yours,

Tel. +34 93 368 97 50  
Fax +34 93 368 97 01  
jwcarres@barcelonaturisme.cat  
barcelonaturisme.cat  
twitter.com/barcelonaturism

## 5.4. Government Institutions



L'alcalde de Manresa  
Valentí Junyent i Torras

8 de octubre de 2015

Mr. Alain Deneef  
President  
World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae  
Brussels  
BELGIUM

Distinguido Sr. Deneef,

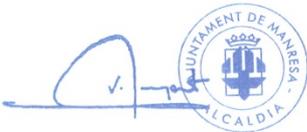
Como Alcalde de la ciudad de Manresa me es grato apoyar la candidatura conjunta de nuestra ciudad con Barcelona para el World Congress Jesuit Alumni que tendrá lugar en el año 2021.

San Ignacio de Loyola es la personalidad que ha dado más proyección internacional a la ciudad de Manresa. Durante su estancia de abril de 1522 a febrero de 1523 vivió experiencias, en esta ciudad, que le ayudaron a consolidar la transformación espiritual iniciada en su ciudad natal. Según se relata en su biografía, Ignacio tuvo experiencias místicas y raptos espirituales que fueron clave en la redacción de su obra más influyente: los Ejercicios Espirituales. Por ello, una gran parte del casco antiguo ha quedado impregnado del legado espiritual del santo y ha influido en la arquitectura, el arte y el paisaje urbano de la ciudad.

La Ruta Ignaciana recorre una serie de lugares marcados por anécdotas, leyendas y simbolismo religioso y espiritual. Muchos de los lugares que recorre la ruta fueron espacios de oración, como la Basílica de Santa María de la Seu y la Iglesia del Carmen, y en algunos, vivió misterios y revelaciones, como el antiguo Hospital de Santa Lúcia y la Capilla del Rapto. Otros espacios, se han ido transformando a medida que la Compañía de Jesús iba adquiriendo reconocimiento, como el Santuario de la Cueva. Este último, construido entre los siglos XVII y XVIII, es sin duda, el principal lugar ignaciano de la ciudad.

Por todo ello sería un honor para nuestra ciudad, en la antesala de los actos de Manresa 2022, que el WUJA Congress tuviera lugar entre nosotros.

Le saluda muy atentamente,





L'alcalde de Manresa  
Valentí Junyent i Torras

8th of October 2015

Mr. Alain Deneef  
President  
World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae  
Brussels  
BELGIUM

Distinguish Mr. Deneef,

As Major of the city of Manresa I am pleased to support the joint candidature of our city with Barcelona for the Jesuit Alumni World Congress to be held in 2021.

Saint Ignatius of Loyola is the personality that has given the most international projection to the city of Manresa. During his stay from April 1522 to February 1523 he lived experiences, in this city, which helped to consolidate the spiritual transformation that began in his birth place. As recounted in his biography, Ignatius had mystical experiences and spiritual raptures that were instrumental in the drafting of his most influential work: the Spiritual Exercises. Therefore, much of the old town has been imbued with the spiritual legacy of the saint and has influenced the architecture, art and urban landscape of the city.

The Ignatian route covers a number of places marked by anecdotes, legends and religious and spiritual symbolism. Many of the places he traveled the route were places of worship, such as the Basilica of Santa Maria de la Seu and the Church of Carmen, and in some, he lived mysteries and revelations, like the old Hospital of Santa Lúcia and the Chapel of the Rapture. Other spaces have been transformed as the Society of Jesus was gaining recognition as the Sanctuary of the Cave. The latter, built between the XVII and XVIII centuries, is undoubtedly the main Ignatian place in town.

Therefore it would be an honor for our city, on the previous of acts of Manresa 2022, that WUJA Congress that took place with us.

Yours faithfully,

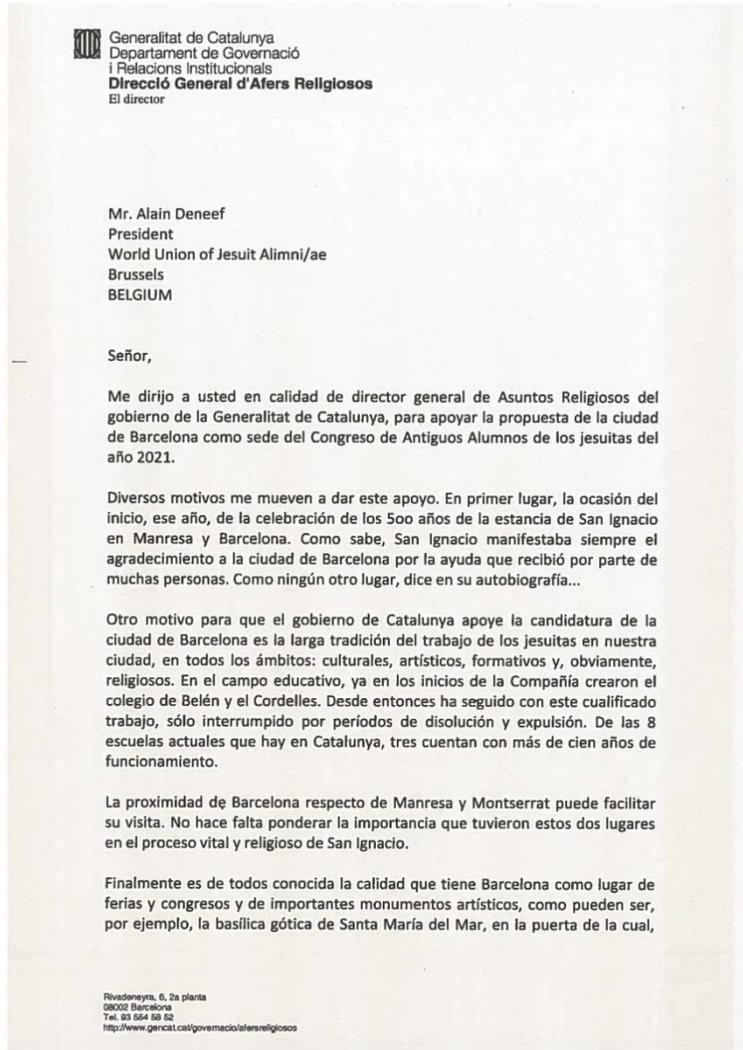
Valentí Junyent i Torras



**Associació d'Antics Alumnes**  
Jesuïtes Sarrià - Sant Ignasi



## 5.4. Government Institutions



## 5.4. Government Institutions

 Generalitat de Catalunya  
Departament de Governació  
i Relacions Institucionals  
Direcció General d'Asser Religiosos  
El darrer

Barcelona, 6th of October 2015

Mr. Alain Deneef  
President  
World Union of Jesuit Alumni  
Brussels  
BELGIUM

Sir,

I am writing to you as General Manager Religious Affairs of the Government of the Generalitat of Catalonia, to support the proposal of the city of Barcelona as the venue of Congress of Jesuit Alumni of 2021.

Several reasons move me to give this support. In the first place, the occasion of the beginning, that year, the celebration of 500 years of the stay of Saint Ignatius of Loyola in Manresa and Barcelona. As you know, Saint Ignatius always expressed his gratitude to the city of Barcelona for the help he received from many people. As anywhere else, he says in his autobiography...

Another reason for the Government of Catalonia supports the candidacy of Barcelona is the long tradition of the Jesuits task in our city, in all areas: cultural, artistic, educational and obviously religious. In the education field, in the beginning of the Society of Jesús they created the school of Bethlehem and Cordelles. Since then the Jesuits have continued with this qualified task, only interrupted by periods of dissolution and expulsion. From the 8 current schools that are in Catalonia, three have more than one hundred years of operation.

The proximity of Barcelona regarding Manresa and Montserrat can facilitate your visit. Not necessary to express the importance they had these two places in the life and religious process of Saint Ignatius.

Finally it is well known the quality that Barcelona has as a place of fairs and congresses and important artistic monuments, such as, for example, the gothic Santa Maria del Mar, at the door of which, Saint Ignatius asked for alms, or the universally known basilica "Gaudiniana" Sagrada Família, inaugurated by Pope Benedict XVI.

I believe that these circumstances justify the support we want to give to Barcelona as the venue of the congress.

With the confidence that the city of Barcelona may host the Jesuit Alumni Congress 2021.

Yours sincerely,

Enric Vendrell I Aubach

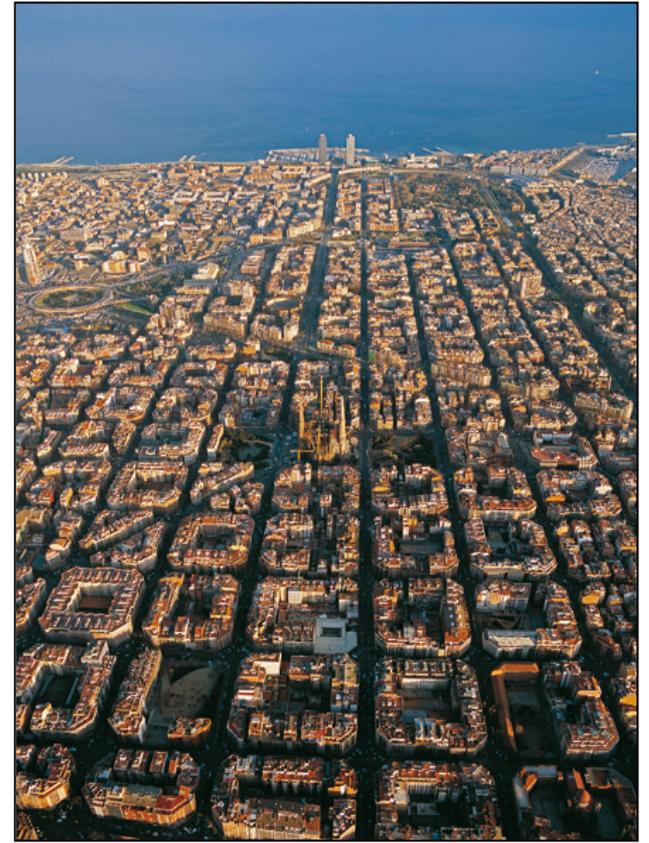
## 6. Presentation of host city Barcelona

1. Introducing Barcelona
2. Accessibility
3. Public transportation in Barcelona
4. Congress venue
5. Accommodation in Barcelona
6. Social events
7. Tours and Excursions
8. Barcelona as a congress destination

## 6. Presentation of City of Barcelona

### Introducing Barcelona

Welcoming  
Mediterranean  
Mild Climate  
Historical  
Cultural  
Modernism  
Contemporary Design  
Gastronomic City



## 6. Presentation of City of Barcelona

### Accessibility

- **By Air:**
  - Direct flights to/from 158 cities (90 European)
  - Direct intercontinental flights
  - 12 km from the airport to the city centre
  
- **By Road:**
  - Connected to the European motorway system
  
- **By Train:**
  - High Speed train to Madrid: 2,38 hrs on direct trains, 20 daily trains
  - High Speed train to Paris: 6,30 hrs on direct trains





## 6. Presentation of City of Barcelona

### Congress venues

Barcelona is a metropolis which is fully equipped to host congresses and conventions.

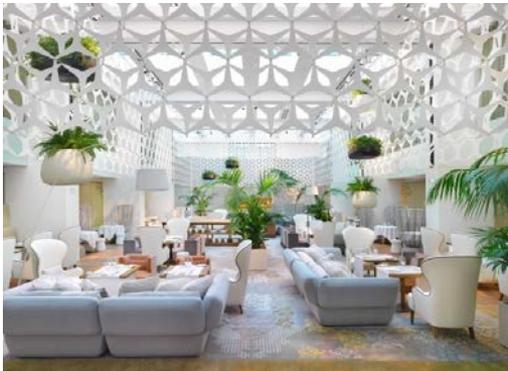
It is one of the cities in Europe and the world which host the greatest number of international congresses.



## 6. Presentation of City of Barcelona

### Accommodation in Barcelona

Barcelona city offers today 34.389 rooms in all categories, in more than 372 hotels.



## 6. Presentation of City of Barcelona

### Social events

A wide range of both public and private special venues are available in Barcelona and its surroundings for the industry events.

MNAC, Nacional Museum of Catalan Arts



Marítim Museum



Sala Marques de Comillas



The Barcelona Design Hub



## 6. Presentation of City of Barcelona

### Tours and Excursions

Old Barcelona, Gothic Quarter



Basilica de La Sagrada Familia



Gaudí and the Modernism



Olympic Barcelona



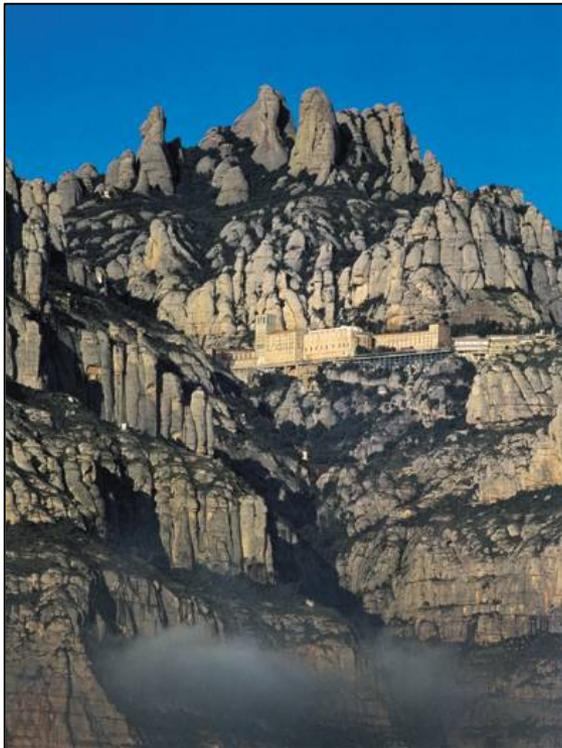
Museums



## 6. Presentation of City of Barcelona

### Tours and Excursions

Montserrat and the Penedes



Costa Brava



The World of Dalí, Figueres



La Cova, Manresa



## 6. Presentation of City of Barcelona

### Barcelona as a congress destination

- 4th worldwide destination in 2014 (hosting 182 congresses and meetings)
- Top 5th destination for the last 11 years as a host for international association meetings



## Barcelona 2021 World Congress of Jesuit Alumni



 **Associació d'Antics Alumnes**  
Jesuïtes Sarrià - Sant Ignasi



World Congress 2021  
Barcelona Candidature

[www.anticssantignasi.com](http://www.anticssantignasi.com)