

Fr. John Baumann, S.J. Bio

John Baumann, S.J. In 1972, Fr. Baumann co-founded PICO and led the organization as the Executive Director for 36 years until his transition in 2009 to the position of Founder and PICO Director of Special Projects, which includes oversight of international work. Under John's leadership, PICO has steadily grown to serve a US network of 50 faith-based community organizations in over 150 cities in 21 states, and three international locations. Through these inter-faith, multi-ethnic organizations, more than a million families are involved in the work of community organizing to address the needs they are identifying in their local communities. **John has been instrumental in expanding PICO organizing into international locations and providing ongoing support and consultation to insure their success.** Prior to the creation of PICO in 1972, John was co-founder of a multi-ethnic and multi-racial community organization which successfully addressed a wide variety of issues on Chicago's Near West Side. He received his professional training as a community organizer at Chicago's Urban Training Center for Christian Mission and the Organization for a Better Austin (OBA). John graduated from Bellarmine College Preparatory in San Jose, California, and then entered the Jesuits. He was ordained as a Jesuit priest in 1969. He received his undergraduate degree in philosophy and the classics from Gonzaga University and a Masters Degree in Theology from Santa Clara University. Honorary degrees awarded to John include Doctor of Humane Letters from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles in 1991; the University of San Francisco in 1998; and the degree of Public Service from Santa Clara University in 2009. He received the Sr. Margaret Cafferty Development of People award from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development in 2009.