



I have come that you may have life to the full - John 10:10

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Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur Justice and Peace Office

CIRCLES OF LIFE

Food Security

[Africa's hidden hunger](#) - New Internationalist

Chronic malnutrition fails to capture headlines, but is no less devastating.

Economy

[NGOs Urge Open Selection Process for Next World Bank Chief](#) - IntertPress Service

A global coalition of development activists and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) is calling on the World Bank's governors to ensure that Bank President Robert Zoellick's successor is chosen in an "open and merit-based process" that will give borrowing countries a major say in the selection.

Peace

[Syrian bishop says conflict 'out of control'](#) - Independent Catholic News

A senior bishop in Syria has described how the country is "locked in a murderous stalemate" and has told how his people say farewell to one another after Sunday Mass uncertain if they will meet again.

Migration

[£2m paid out over child asylum seekers illegally detained as adults](#) - The Guardian

Legal case involved 40 youngsters who were locked up in adult units under Home Office policy deemed to be unlawful.

[Shorter detention of asylum seekers set](#) - Japan Times Kyodo

The government has signed a memorandum with the nation's main lawyers association and a nonprofit organization to work together on improving the treatment of asylum seekers while they await a decision on their refugee status, Justice Minister Toshio Ogawa said.

[UN urges support for refugees at Davos summit](#) - AlJazeera

The head of the UN refugee agency has called on leaders meeting at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Switzerland to keep sight of humanitarian crises around the world as they seek solutions to economic troubles in other parts of the globe.

Trafficking

[Blue Heart Campaign Inspires Artistes to Raise Awareness About Human Trafficking](#) - News from Africa

In Kenya, a group of artistes have come together to develop a play to raise awareness about human trafficking. "A Blue Heart, Joy's story" tells the story of Joy, a young girl who goes to live with her aunt after her parent's unfortunate demise and gets involved in a gripping saga. The theater play, developed by Fern Poetry and the Africa Sanaelimu art Ensemble, was inspired in UNODC's Blue Heart Campaign.

Environment

[Irish priest is the latest Catholic ecological voice](#) - National Catholic Reporter

If the Catholic world in particular, and the Christian world in general, has experienced two geologists — in Francis of Assisi and Berry — it might want to take a much closer look at McDonagh while it still can. He may be the third.

Church

[Congoese cardinal to preach Pope Benedict's Lenten retreat](#) - Catholic News Service

Congoese Cardinal Laurent Monsengwo has been chosen to preach Pope Benedict XVI's yearly Lenten retreat on the theme, "Communion of the Christian with God."

FAITH IN ACTION

[Nominate someone for Pax Christi 2010 Teacher of Peace Award](#) - Deadline March 12

COUNTRY UPDATES

Brazil

[Pollution Brazilian Mining Giant VALE Exposed Davos \(Switzerland\) / Porto Alegre \(Brazil\), 27 January 2012](#) - Friends of the Earth - sent by Ani Wihbey, SND

With more than 25,000 votes, the Brazilian mining giant Vale has been crowned the 'world's worst corporation of the year' at the January 27 'Public Eye Awards' in Davos, Switzerland.

Congo

[Congo's bishops: Elections 'stained,' council must acknowledge errors](#) - Catholic News Service

Months after Congo's general elections, the nation's bishops continue to speak out about the legitimacy of the results. "We believe that the electoral process is stained by serious irregularities which raise questions about the published results," the bishops' conference said in mid-January. "We call on the organizers to have the courage and honesty to draw the necessary conclusions." The bishops called on members of the National Electoral Council to "have the courage to question their own practices, or if not, step down."

[DRC switches off broadcasters linked to opposition leader](#) - Daily Nation Kenya

The DRC Government has pulled three broadcasting stations off air. The media houses, two close to opposition leader Jean-Pierre Bemba and one belonging to the Roman Catholic Church, saw their signals stopped on Monday by the Ministry of Information. "Last Friday, we just received a letter from the Information minister urging us to refrain from broadcasting commercial advertisements, saying we are not allowed to do so.

[Democratic Republic of Congo: No end in sight to post-election crisis](#) - Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa

Is the D.R Congo gradually slipping into another civil war? This analysis on post-election crisis paints a worrying picture of uncertainty characterised by abductions, death, national and international condemnations of electoral process by NGOs and incompetence of the national electoral commission.

Kenya

[Impact of the International Criminal Court proceedings](#) - International Crisis Group African

With elections due in Kenya in 2012, this briefing paper outlines the ICC's and the government's obligations. "If the ICC process is to contribute to the deterrence of future political violence in Kenya, the court and its friends must explain its work and limitations better to the public. Furthermore, Kenya's government must complement that ICC process with a national process aimed at countering impunity and punishing ethnic hate speech and violence."

[Three shot, scores injured in Nairobi slum demolition](#) - Daily Nation

Three people have been shot and several injured as Nairobi's Mukuru Kwa Njenga slum residents riot over ongoing demolitions. The demolitions began on Saturday morning leaving thousands of angry residents homeless. Protesters have since engaged the police in running battles, destroying properties and blocking motorists at Cabanas along Mombasa road highway. Residents who spoke to Nation said they had not received eviction notice and have demanded an end to the

demolitions. Motorist plying the Mombasa road highway are said to be experiencing traffic snarl-up while some expressed fear of missing flights at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA).

[Kenyan Chief Tweets His Way to Reducing Crime](#) - InterPrese Service

Using 140 characters or less, Chief Francis Kariuki in Kenya, has tweeted his way to reducing crime in his and surrounding villages. "I have brought crime and illicit brewing under control in my location," Kariuki told IPS, "until May 2011, this place was very dangerous. Incidents of carjacking, mugging and burglaries occurred daily, but they are no more." who is from Lanet Umoja Location, a semi-urban area in Nakuru County, Rift Valley Province, first began tweeting in May 2011 when local IT expert, Njoha Gathua, created a Twitter account for him. It was an innovative idea because to date, Lanet Umoja is the only semi-urban area in this East African country that uses this social media site to fight crime.

[We must conquer the four Kenyan demons](#) - Sunday Nation

The demon is identity; the second demon is impunity; the third demon is fatalism, and the last demon is infertility.

Nigeria

[Soyinka: don't reduce anti-fuel subsidy removal protests to ethnicity](#) - The Nation

Nobel Laureate Prof. Wole Soyinka berated some elements from the Southeast and Southsouth for giving the anti-fuel subsidy removal protests an ethnic colouration, that such perception was dishonourable, dishonest and unfair to the patriots who protested against maladministration on the streets. The acclaimed writer decried the recurrent bomb explosions that have killed many Nigerians in the North, saying the Boko Haram sect harbours an intent to fuel ethnicity at the detriment of Nigerians. The retired university don described the presidential system as a disaster, noting that it has shown Nigerian legislature as the personification of corruption.

[Boko Haram vows to fight until Nigeria establishes sharia law](#) - The Guardian

Boko Haram, which has killed almost 1,000 people in Nigeria, will continue its campaign of violence until the country is ruled by sharia law, a senior member has told the Guardian. "We will consider negotiation only when we have brought the government to their knees," the spokesman, Abu Qaqa, said in the group's first major interview with a western newspaper. "Once we see that things are being done according to the dictates of Allah, and our members are released [from prison], we will only put aside our arms – but we will not lay them down. You don't put down your arms in Islam, you only put them aside." Qaqa, whose name is a pseudonym, said the group's members were spiritual followers of al-Qaida, and claimed they had met senior figures in the network founded by Osama bin Laden during visits to Saudia Arabia.

[Religious tolerance in the country, a view from the North](#) (Opinion) - allafrika.com

The Nigeria conflict is not a conflict between Muslims and Christians, says the author. He tells how Christians and Muslims are coming together to protect each other, and develop their communities. Both communities across Nigeria have resolved to be their brother's keeper during religious congregations in the future and they have created what is called the Adamawa Peace Council to work together to build a community based on peace and harmony.

South Sudan

[UN urges support for refugees at Davos summit](#) - AlJazeera

The head of the UN refugee agency has called on leaders meeting at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Switzerland to keep sight of humanitarian crises around the world as they seek solutions to economic troubles in other parts of the globe.

[South Sudan's Doomsday Machine](#) - New York Times

The only pipeline to market runs through northern Sudan, giving the government in Khartoum control over South Sudan's economic artery. And on independence day there was no agreement on the terms of pipeline use.

Peru

[Citizens march for water](#) - Latin America Press

Hundreds join in 800-kilometer march to demand the government declare access to clean water a human right.

[Shining Path leader captured](#) - Latin America Press

For three decades, "Artemio" lead guerrillas operating in coca-growing region. The Shining Path suffered a blow on Feb. 12 when a leader of the Peruvian rebel group, known by the nom de guerre of "Comrade Artemio", was captured by security forces. The police had been following "Artemio", whose real name is Florindo Eleuterio Flores Hala, with financing from the United States. Since 1984, he had dominated the Alto Huallaga River Valley in north-central Peru, one of the country's main coca-growing regions. Even though Shining Path's founder Abimael Guzmán was captured in 1992 and sentenced to life in prison in 2006, "Artemio" remained on the loose, mainly due to his ties to drug trafficking operations.

South Africa

[South Africa: 'Global sustainability' wilts in political hot air](#) - Pambazuka News

"Nearly everything President Zuma and the big corporates are doing places short-term demands above long-term thinking, both in the marketplace and at the polling place, promoting unfairness and exclusion, and thus preventing lasting prosperity and stability."

[S Africa's ANC denies appeal of youth leader](#) - AlJazeera

Disciplinary committee upholds suspension of Julius Malema, fiery leader convicted of causing rifts within ruling party.

[S Africa's Zuma outlines economic plan](#) - AlJazeera

President focuses on job creation in his annual address but the opposition says he is "out of touch with reality".

Zimbabwe

[Rape at the border: how immigration officials are abusing women in Zimbabwe](#) - New Internationalist

I watched as the woman followed the immigration officer and I concluded that it was a simple case of money changing hands. Maybe the woman's passport is not in order, I reasoned. This cycle of events repeated itself two more times before someone behind me remarked that they would never allow their wives to do cross border business. "Why?" I enquired. "Have you noticed that it's only women who have to follow the officials outside? The men just pay the bride right at the desk."

[Zimbabwe's Mugabe jokes: I have beaten Jesus Christ](#) - BBC

Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe has denied reports he has cancer, joking that he has died and been resurrected more times than Jesus Christ. On his 88th birthday, he told state radio: "I am fit as a fiddle". Making light of numerous media reports of his sickness, the Roman Catholic Mr Mugabe said: "I have died many times – that's where I have beaten Christ. Christ died once and resurrected once." After 32 years in power, he is seeking re-election in polls due before 2013.

[Mugabe calls for early vote at birthday rally](#) - AlJazeera

Zimbabwe's president calls for peaceful elections while lashing out at gay rights activists at 88th birthday event.

Britain

[Text: Bishop John Arnold at CAFOD 50th Anniversary Mass](#) - Independent Catholic News

Bishop John Arnold gave the following homily at CAFOD's 50th Anniversary Mass in Westminster Cathedral on Saturday, 28 January 2012 (further reports to follow).

[Rich London, poor London – a tale of two cities](#) - Independent Catholic News

What would Charles Dickens, born 200 years ago this month, make of Britain's inequality in the 21st century?

Japan

[Bishops offer Mass ahead of earthquake anniversary](#) - Independent Catholic News Source: UCAN/Japan

A special Mass was held at Sekiguchi Cathedral in Tokyo yesterday ahead of next month's first anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster. The Mass, celebrated by 17 bishops and attended by around 400 people, was dedicated to the memory of the disaster victims and prayers for recovery.

USA

[Social Justice Quiz 2012: Thirteen Questions](#) - Common Dreams by Bill Quigley and Sam Schmitt

Question One. The combined pay of the 299 highest paid CEOs in the US is enough to support how many median salary jobs? 45,000? 83,000? 102,325?

[Faith's Big Picture Posted](#) - Huffington Post

Patricia McGuire, President, Trinity Washington University - The First Amendment is so important, separating church and state, so that church can have complete liberty to profess its moral teachings unambiguously while the state enacts law and policy according to the will of the citizens. Exact alignment of those interests is almost always impossible, but people of good will can work together to close the gap. In a healthy, functional free society, neither side can cut the other out of the picture. God and Caesar have to figure out how to work together for the good of all of the people we serve.

[Freedom of and From Religion](#) - Common Dreams

Bill Moyers - The president did something agile and wise the other day. And something quite important to the health of our politics. He reached up and snuffed out what some folks wanted to make into a cosmic battle between good and evil. No, said the president, we're not going to turn the argument over contraception into Armageddon, this is an honest difference between Americans, and I'll not see it escalated into a holy war. So instead of the government requiring Catholic hospitals and other faith-based institutions to provide employees with health coverage involving contraceptives, the insurance companies will offer that coverage, and offer it free.

RESOURCES

[How corporations rule Vale](#) – leading the corporate lobby for easier offsetting and other false 'green' solutions - Friends of the Earth - Recommended by Ani Wihbey, SND

[Rigged? The scramble for Africa's oil, gas and minerals](#) - Global Witness

The intensifying competition for commercial access to the world's remaining deposits of oil, gas and minerals brings with it a serious risk of exacerbating corruption and violent conflict. Our new report shows that in Angola and Nigeria there is a risk that complex deals struck between governments and corporations for access to natural resources could be used corruptly to benefit vested interests in these countries, rather than the citizens. The report also points to major concerns over opaque sales of mining assets in the Democratic Republic of Congo to offshore companies.

[Network Connection](#) - Our Soaring and Undemocratic Wealth Gap

[DEMOCRACY & AFRICA'S TOP PRIORITIES](#) - AFJN

Minimizing conflict. Alleviating poverty. Defending sovereignty and resources: What has democracy got to do with any of these?

[AFJN Food Security Toolkit](#)

Food security is an important and dynamic issue in the study of Africa. Familiarize yourself with the definitions, current issues, and how to advocate for food security using [AFJN's Food Security Toolkit](#). Put together by AFJN interns, this toolkit is a clear and thorough introduction to understanding African food security and how it relates to foreign aid, trade, and climate change. [Feel free to cite and use this toolkit](#) to start a conversation with your community or church about food security--that's what it's all about!

COMING EVENTS

February

29 -[The New Economy: Moving Toward a Sustainable Future](#) - Center of Concern 40th Anniversary

Reception: 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm - Panel: 7:00 pm

See the world anew through the lens of the New Economy Movement. Join in the celebration of the Center of Concern's 40th anniversary with a look into the future -- sponsored by Center of Concern and Washington Theological Union.

Speakers: Gar Alperovitz -- author of "America Beyond Capitalism"; E.J. Dionne -- noted editorial writer the Washington Post; Professor Laurie Cassidy -- Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Marywood University, Scranton, PA

March

Water Forum in Marseille , France

23-26 - Ecumenical Advocacy Days for Global Peace with Justice: Is This the Fast I Seek? (Isaiah 58)

Economy, Livelihood and Our National Priorities will be held in the Washington , D.C. area. In this era of economic and political urgency, as critical decisions are being made about U.S. federal budget priorities and as national elections are fast approaching, join other Christian disciples in seeking a global economy and a national budget that breaks the yokes of injustice, poverty, hunger and unemployment – heeding Isaiah’s call to become “repairers of the breach and restorers of streets to live in.” Experts will lead sessions. Watch www.AdvocacyDays.org for more details.

April

14 - 40th Anniversary Celebration for NETWORK at Trinity College in Washington, D.C will include speakers, awards and food. They’ll explore what it means to be a faith-filled justice activist today. To make sure you receive a personal invitation, email: sniedringhaus@networklobby.org. Watch the 40th anniversary news at www.networklobby.org/about-us/history.

June

20 - 22 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) (Rio + 20) is scheduled in Rio de Janeiro , Brazil . Visit www.uncsd2012.org

12 - 15 SND International Education Conference at Emmanuel College

20 - 22 Pax Christi USA National Conference 2012 celebrates the 40th anniversary of Pax Christi USA at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. More information available soon at www.paxchristiusa.org.

2013

March

1-3 - 30th Anniversary of the Africa Faith & Justice Network (AFJN) Conference will take place at Notre Dame University in Notre Dame, Indiana . Details much later!!!! Visit www.afjn.org.

Action on behalf of justice is a constitutive dimension of the preaching of the gospel.

Justice in the World - 1971 Synod of Bishops