



*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*

[The Real Irish American Story Not Taught in School](#) - Zinn Education Project

The school curriculum could and should ask students to reflect on the contradiction of starvation amidst plenty, on the ethics of food exports amidst famine. And it should ask why these patterns persist into our own time.

### *Economy*

[The myth of upward mobility](#) - National Catholic Reporter

It is often difficult to accept the reality that certain long held beliefs may no longer be true. An important article in The New Yorker challenges some traditional beliefs about social mobility in the United States.

[Wall Street Bonuses vs. the Minimum Wage](#) - Other Words

Wall Street Charges Ahead. (OtherWords cartoon by Khalil Bendib) Purveyors of Ferraris and high-end Swiss watches keep their fingers crossed toward the end of each calendar year, hoping that the big Wall Street banks will be generous with their annual cash bonuses.

[Market Reformer](#) - America Magazine

Jesus' teachings offer good news for the righteous, whether they are the poor and marginalized or the rich who are generous with their bounty. All can find a place in the kingdom.

[Illegal miners: Poisoning is better than poverty](#) - Mail & Guardian

Nigeria's illegal miners have continued their quest for gold despite lead contamination affecting thousands. Flanked by fields of millet and groundnut, the northern Nigerian outpost of Bagega is so far out on the periphery of the global economy that when the financial crisis struck in 2008 few residents had any idea it was happening.

### *Peace*

[Economic Reforms Needed for Peace in South Sudan](#) - IPS

Gatmai Deng lost three family members in the violence that erupted in South Sudan on Dec. 15 and lasted until the end of January. And he blames their deaths on the government's failure to use the country's vast oil revenues to create a better life for its almost 11 million people.

## ***Immigration***

[Obama calls for review of deportations](#) - Politico

President Barack Obama finally bowed to pressure from immigration rights activists and signaled on Thursday that he may change his deportation policy.

## ***Migration***

[Deportations and the denial of human dignity](#) - The Hill

As President Obama's administration approaches a record-setting two millionth deportation, an immigration enforcement "accomplishment" never achieved by any other president, many faith leaders are rightly focusing on the hardship that each of these deportations inflicts on families and communities torn apart by our broken immigration system.

[What does locking up migrants say about society?](#) - New Internationalist

This month will see Britain's 12th Immigration Return Centre (IRC) open on Portland, Dorset. The expectation may have been that re-opening the Verne (which was previously a prison) as an IRC would pass unnoticed down in the West Country, away from the largest migrant communities with their specialist lawyers, but this has not been the case.

[The Almost American Family](#) - PBS Newshour

Meet the Fofanas—a Baltimore family facing a constant threat of deportation. Their story, which features three distinct immigration battles within one household, shines a light on the complexities of the U.S. immigration system and the challenges facing reform.

## ***Trafficking***

[Pope Francis urges Brazilians to fight the scourge of human trafficking](#) - Vatican Radio

The National Catholic Bishops' Conference of Brazil (Cnbb) on Ash Wednesday launched the 2014 Brotherhood Campaign, focusing this year on the theme "Brotherhood and human trafficking".

[Five Reasons Slaves Still Catch Your Seafood](#) - NBC News

Seafaring slave ships didn't vanish in the 19th century. They still persist. And there's a good chance they're catching your dinner. Migrant laborers sorting fish as they work on a Thai fishing boat in Sattahip, in Thailand's Rayong province on September 1, 2011. Thousands of men from Myanmar and Cambodia set sail on Thai fishing boats every day, but many are unwilling seafarers — slaves forced to work in brutal conditions under threat of death.

[More Ammunition in the Fight Against Child Trafficking](#) - Covenant House

Wow. That's a big and heavy stick we can use to protect kids who are forced into having sex for someone else's profit. It hasn't been used widely yet, but I am encouraged that, with the help of the court ruling and new proposed legislation, we may finally be able to reduce the demand for sex with children, and reduce the number of children raped and traumatized to meet that demand.

## ***Environment***

### [World Bank Clears Congo's Controversial Dam Project](#) - IPS

The World Bank Thursday approved a 73.1-million-dollar grant in support of a controversial giant dam project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). With another 33.4 million dollars approved by the African Development Bank late last year, the grant, which is being provided by the Bank's soft-loan affiliate, the International Development Association (IDA), will be used to help establish the legal framework and state authority that will oversee the dam's construction and operations.

### [Fossil Fuel Giants Guzzling World's Water as Poor Go Thirsty: UN](#) - Common Dreams

"There is an increasing potential for serious conflict between power generation, other water users and environmental considerations," says the World Water Development Report 2014: Water and Energy (pdf), published on the eve of World Water Day.

## *Climate Change*

### [U.S. Scientists Launch Wake-Up Campaign on Climate Change](#) - IPS

In an unusual intervention in policy debates, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) warned Tuesday that the world was "at risk of pushing our climate system toward abrupt, unpredictable, and potentially irreversible changes with highly damaging impacts."

## *Globalization*

### [On the Wrong Side of Globalization](#) - New York Times

Trade agreements are a subject that can cause the eyes to glaze over, but we should all be paying attention. Right now, there are trade proposals in the works that threaten to put most Americans on the wrong side of globalization.

## *Church*

### [Francis convenes religious institute treasurers for summit on use of money](#) - National Catholic Reporter

Pope Francis has asked the treasurers of the thousands of Catholic religious orders around the world to meet in Rome this weekend to discuss how they can use their orders' financial assets "for the service of humanity."

### [Pope Francis: Do not get used to behavior that anesthetizes the heart](#) - Independent Catholic News

More than 30,000 people gathered in St Peter's Square for the Holy Father's General Audience on Ash Wednesday. Pope Francis dedicated his catechists to the Lenten journey of forty days that leads us to the Easter Triduum, and recalled the two suggestions offered to us by the Church in this period: to be more aware of the redemptive work of Christ, and to live our Baptism in a more committed way.

### [New Commission for the Protection of Children](#) - America Magazine

Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of Boston, four women—including a survivor of clerical sex abuse—two Jesuit priests and an Italian lawyer are the first eight members of the new Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors.

## [Global Day of Action on Military Spending](#) - April 14

Call upon your elected leaders to support policies aimed at reducing gun violence and controlling out-sized military spending in favor of investing in other priorities that can contribute to the reduction of violence and true human security.

## COUNTRY UPDATES

### *Brazil*

#### [Rich Railroad Brings Few Opportunities in Brazil](#) - IPS

The Carajás railroad, regarded as the most efficient in Brazil, runs a loss-making passenger service for the benefit of the population. But this does little to make amends for its original sin: it was created to export minerals and crosses an area of chronic poverty.

### *Congo*

#### [New twists in DR Congo's Inga 3 Dam saga](#) - Pambazuka News

Citizens of the Democratic Republic of Congo may wake up one morning in the future to find that, while \$12 billion was spent to construct the largest hydropower project, Inga 3, they still live in darkness while power lines bypass them- sending power to far off urban cities in South Africa and mining industries in Katanga.

### *Japan*

#### [Thousands in Japan protest nuclear power, conditions at Fukushima](#) - Al Jazeera

Thousands of people in Tokyo have rallied against nuclear power as the government and utilities prepare to restart reactors in southern Japan.

### *Kenya*

#### [Kenya orders all refugees into designated camps](#) - East African

Sunday's attack, in the Likoni district near Mombasa, came amid heightened warnings of a threat of Islamist violence in Kenya despite boosted security in major cities.

- Dadaab, where people often live in appalling conditions, is home to more than 400,000 mainly Somali refugees.
- Kakuma, a vast desert settlement, is home to more than 125,000 refugees from across the region, including Somalia.

### *Nigeria*

#### [Nigeria: Extremists set Catholic school ablaze](#) - Independent Catholic News

A disabled man from northern Nigeria has spoken of his horror as he was forced to watch extremists carry out a string of atrocities including the killing of four men as well as arson attacks that razed a Catholic school to the ground.

#### [Boko Haram: Government Silence Does Little to Inspire Confidence](#) - Think Progress Africa

When the Nigerian government declared a state of emergency in three north-east states of Adamawa, Yobe and Borno in May 2013, many hoped that it would swiftly bring the Islamist militants Boko Haram under control.

[Immigration Job Stampede: 20 Applicants, Nursing Mothers Die](#) - The Guardian (Nigeria)

STAMPEDE involving some 90, 000 applicants for the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) job, yesterday, killed, at least, 19 people and injured many others in Abuja, Port Harcourt, Edo, Minna and Kano.

[Immigration Pockets N520 Million From Job Seekers, As Interior Minister Blames Applicants for Deaths At Recruitment Centres](#) - Premium Times

About 520, 000 people registered for the recruitment exams, and that only 4,556 will be recruited at the end of the exercise based on the available vacancies. During registration for the job tests, the Immigration authorities received N1, 000 from all the applicants, in defiance of several directives from Nigeria's House of Representatives that government agencies refrain from charging job applicants.

## *Peru*

[Project seeks to unlock the mysteries of Peru's peatlands](#) - Forests News

At a small table in a noisy, bustling market, Ana Ríos Ruiz ladles thick, yellow juice into a mug and hands it to a customer. Pocketing a few coins, she turns back to a plastic bowl filled with a yellow paste speckled with brown.

## *South Africa*

[Rain causes flooding havoc in Jo'burg](#) - Mail & Guardian

Several areas in Johannesburg are flooded, says the Gauteng provincial government, and emergency services are working to provide aid.

[Justice Breakdown Blamed for South Africa's Rising Mob Justice](#) - IPS

Margaret Feke\* got off a taxi in Khayelitsha, a township in Cape Town, South Africa, carrying a package of new clothes for her son who was due to leave for his traditional initiation into manhood in the Transkei the following day.

## *South Sudan*

[South Sudan fighters destroy hospitals, murder patients: MSF](#) - Daily Nation

Warring fighters in South Sudan have looted hospitals and murdered patients in their beds, cutting life-saving healthcare to hundreds of thousands of people, Doctors Without Borders said Wednesday.

[Bishops of Eastern Africa Make Statement on South Sudan Crisis](#) - Zenit.org

We, the Catholic leaders in the Eastern Africa Region, under the umbrella body of the Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa, AMECEA, (with membership of the national Episcopal Conferences of: Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Malawi, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia), have listened and watched with a lot of pain and grief the current happenings in the young nation of South Sudan.

[MALAKAL RECAPTURED BY THE OPPOSITION FORCES FOR THE THIRD TIME](#) - Comboni Missionaries South Sudan

I would have never imagined to be back writing a third part to the chronicle of the events that happened in Malakal and surrounding areas since the beginning of the armed rebellion started by dr. Riek Machar in Dec. 2013. As a matter of fact, military activities continued and in February Malakal changed hands for the fifth time in two months.

[South Sudan rebels seize capital of oil-producing state](#) - Al Jazeera

Clashes in Malakal expected to fuel concerns over security of South Sudan's oil fields, an economic lifeline. South Sudanese rebels said they had seized control of the capital of oil-producing Upper Nile state on Tuesday, an assault that the government said breaches a ceasefire signed last month and casts doubt over planned peace talks in neighboring Ethiopia.

[South Sudan: We have lost everything](#) - Independent Catholic News

Entire swathes of a region in South Sudan have been abandoned by the local people who – according to their Church leader – have fled for their lives following a brutal attack carried out during a so-called ceasefire.

## **Zimbabwe**

[Women Turn Potatoes into Gold in Zimbabwe's Cities](#) - IPS

Shyline Chipfika, 26, is one of thousands of Zimbabwean women in urban centres who have struck gold by growing potatoes. And a lot of their success has to do with an import ban.

## **USA**

[Carter says he hand-writes letters to avoid US surveillance](#) - BBC

Former US President Jimmy Carter has said he hand-writes letters to foreign and US leaders in an effort to evade what he described as pervasive US electronic surveillance.

Mr Carter, 89, told the Associated Press he had "no doubt" the US monitored and recorded "almost every telephone call" and email.

## **RESOURCES**

[Stations of the Cross by Megan McKenna](#) - Pax Christi USA

[Kenya: Lenten Resource](#) - Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops

New Book by Sister Simone Campbell – "A Nun on the Bus: How All of Us Can Create Hope, Change, and Community" – Pre-order now!



[Notre Dame Mission Volunteers](#)

[Texas landowners resist Keystone Pipeline](#)

[Lent: Stations of the Forest](#)

## COMING EVENTS

### *April*

**14 - Global Day of Action on Military Spending** coincides, once again, with the release by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) of their annual statistics on global military spending. In the U.S., Tax Day actions will be held on April 15, and some groups will combine the GDAMS actions with those. Visit <http://demilitarize.org/>.

**27 - South Africa 20th anniversary of liberation day** on 27 April 1994

**30 - May 6 - Sisters of Notre Dame Justice and Peace Meeting Namur**

### *May*

**7 - South Africa elections**

### *June*

**12 -13 - FIFA World Cup: All in One Rhythm** will take place in 12 cities in Brazil. "Human Trafficking" will be spotlighted separately but concurrently, more pending. For the official site, visit [www.fifa.com/worldcup](http://www.fifa.com/worldcup)

### *July*

**7-10 - USCCB/MRS and CLINIC to host National Migration Conference, Washington, DC**

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops/Migration and Refugee Services (USCCB/MRS) and the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC) will host the National Migration Conference in Washington, DC from July 7-10, 2014. The Center for Migration Studies of New York (CMS) is also assisting with the conference. **Early Registration ends February 28.** To get more information, visit: [www.nationalmigrationconference.org](http://www.nationalmigrationconference.org).

### *October*

**5-19 The Synod of Bishops Meeting at the Vatican on the Family**

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

**Justice in the World** - 1971 Synod of Bishops

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