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

Care of Creation

Pope Francis's Ecology Encyclical - What Can We Expect? - The Jesuit Post

The word emanating from Vatican corridors is that we can expect to see the long awaited environment-themed encyclical at some point during 2015. The exact date has not been disclosed, but it could coincide with Francis' apostolic visit to the Philippines in January, a country where the Catholic Church has been something of a trailblazer on environmental issues. Alternative possibilities are April 22 (World Earth Day) or October 4, the Feast of St. Francis (patron saint of ecology).

<u>That Was Easy: In Just 60 Years, Neoliberal Capitalism Has Nearly Broken Planet Earth</u> - Common Dreams Pair of new studies show how various forms of human activity, driven by a flawed economic system and vast consumption, is laying waste to Earth's natural systems.

Economy

New Oxfam report says half of global wealth held by the 1% - The Guardian Oxfam warns of widening inequality gap, days ahead of Davos economic summit in Switzerland.

New Year's Resolutions: 10 Ways to Combat Upward Redistribution of Income - Huffington Post

The big gainers in the last three decades (aka the 1 percent) like to pretend that their good fortune was simply the result of the natural workings of the market. This backdrop largely limits political debate in Washington. The main difference is that the conservatives want to keep all the money for themselves, while the liberals are willing to toss a few crumbs to the rest of the country in the form of food stamps, healthcare insurance, and other transfers.

In new interview, Francis strongly defends criticisms of capitalism - National Catholic Reporter

Rome -- Pope Francis strongly defends his repeated criticisms of the global market economy in a new interview released Sunday, rebutting those who accuse him of "pauperism" by saying he is only repeating Jesus' message of caring for the poor. "Jesus affirms that you cannot serve two masters, God and wealth," Francis states in the interview, bluntly asking: "Is it pauperism?"

Peace

<u>No Longer Slaves, But Brothers and Sisters</u> - Independent Catholic News Messsage of Pope Francis for the celebration of the World Day of Peace

<u>Reflection: This week's Charlie Hebdo cover is a huge mistake</u> - Independent Catholic News

Canon Pat Browne gave the homily at Holy Apostles, Pimlico, central London, on Peace Sunday. I believe the publishing this week of the cartoon of the prophet Mohammed on the cover of Charlie Hebdo was ill-judged, badly timed and a huge mistake. Yes the publishers have every right to say what they want and publish what they like but that does not mean they should do so in every case. Why seek to offend when you could be friend?

Migration / Immigration

Middle East: Refugees hit by more violent winter storms - Independent Catholic News

The most violent winter storm for two decades swept across conflict-affected areas of the Middle East last week bringing heavy snow, rainfall, high winds and freezing temperatures. Syrians, Gazans, and Iraqis struggling to cope with war in their own countries or as refugees far from home are facing freezing weather conditions.

Immigration Reform is a Pro-life Issue - Millennial

Jesus' miraculous presence in the womb of Mary is often highlighted to illustrate the dignity of the unborn child. But these days, the life of Christ is also particularly helpful in allowing us to see and remember the dignity of the immigrant child. When Jesus was just a child, his family fled their home to avoid persecution from Herod. How many children and their families have fled Latin American countries for the same reasons? We must acknowledge that Jesus and the Holy Family's dangerous journey into Egypt is attempted again and again by families today seeking a home in the United States.

Trafficking

Can technology help combat the modern slavery business? - BBC

There are now some technical solutions that could help put the trafficking gangs out of business. One man who is trying to change this is Kevin Montgomery of Stanford University, who has set up Collaborate.org. Collaborate takes input from sources such as GIS (geographic information system) data, news and social media feeds, sensor networks, weather reports, shipping movements, and collates this in a single global mapping platform.

Racism

Fighting Court Secrecy, Ferguson Juror Sues to Break Gag-Order - Common Dreams

Suit alleges that evidence presented to grand jury 'with the insinuation that Brown, not Wilson, was the wrongdoer'.

Systemic Racism & Police Violence Against People of Color - Catholic Committee of Appalachia

The Catholic Committee of Appalachia joins with myriad voices being raised in protest of the refusal to indict the white police officers involved in the recent violent deaths of Michael Brown, Eric Garner, and others. The homicides of these two unarmed men and the failure of the grand jury system to provide for the possibility of justice reveal that we are not living in a "post-racial" society.

Land Grabs

Five pupils, policeman hurt as protest over school land marred by violence - Daily Nation

Police tear gas primary school children. Five children and a police officer were injured as violence marred demonstrations to save the Lang'ata Road Primary School playground from a land grabber.

Church

Catholic liberals in Italy launch petition to back Pope Francis - Crux

Amid a robust Italian debate over the leadership of Pope Francis, a cross-section of liberal Catholic groups in Italy has launched an online petition to show backing for the Argentinian pontiff.

FAITH IN ACTION

Participate in local celebrations of the International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking

The First "International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking" will be celebrated in all dioceses and parishes in the world, in the groups and schools on 8 February 2015, the Feast Day of Josephine Bakhita, a Sudanese slave, freed, who became a Canossian nun, and was declared a Saint in 2000. The initiative is promoted by the Pontifical Council of Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People, the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the International Union of Superiors General.

Please share on First Class what you plan in your area or report how you celebtated in your area. For those in the USA please check the following links:

Resources are available from a number of sources:

The Holy Cross Sisters have shared a prayer service for the day. Find it at: http://www.cscsisters.org/spirituality/Prayer%20Services/humantrafficking2015.pdf

USCSAHT prayer service http://www.ssnd.org/sites/default/files/files/Shalom/BakhitaPrayerService.pdf
lntercommunityPeace and Justice Center Prayer Service
StopEnslavementPrayerService

USCCB anti-trafficking resources are available at: www.usccb.org/stopslavery

International Network of Consecrated Life against Human Trafficking www.talithakum.info/

US Catholic Sisters against Human Trafficking

http://www.cscsisters.org/justice/issues/human_trafficking/Pages/USCSAHT.aspx http://bakhitainitiative.com/

Join the One World One Climate Campaign - CAFOD

COUNTRY UPDATES

Brazil

High gold prices causing increased deforestation in South America, study finds - The Guardian

Rising gold prices have made it profitable to extract lowgrade deposits lying beneath protected Amazon and other South American forests, says study of mining impacts

Congo

UNHCR Condemns Massacres in Beni, in DR Congo and Calls for Humanitarian Access - AllAfrica

UNHCR is greatly concerned by the ongoing killings and other human rights violations against civilians in the Beni area of DR Congo's North Kivu Province. Multiple attacks over the last three months have caused widespread fear and displacement. We are appealing for humanitarian access to help people in distress.

Police disperse protesters ahead of Congo parliament election debate - Reuters

Police fired tear gas at demonstrators trying to protest against a parliamentary debate on a proposed census in the Democratic Republic of Congo's which, if approved, could delay next year's elections.

DR Congo rocked by anti-government protests - Al Jazeera

At least four people, including two policemen, have been killed in the Democratic Republic of Congo's capital Kinshasa, after security forces clashed with thousands protesting moves that will pave the way for President Joseph Kabila to extend his hold on power, police say.

DR Congo unrest: Kinshasa Catholic schools shut - BBC

The Roman Catholic Church has shut its schools in the Democratic Republic of Congo's capital, Kinshasa, as protests against President Joseph Kabila continue for a third day. Church head Cardinal Monsengwo Pasinya called on people to peacefully oppose government moves to delay presidential elections until a census is held.

DR Congo senate amends census law to allow 2016 election - BBC

The Democratic Republic of Congo senate has amended a controversial census bill following four days of violent nationwide protests. The new version, to be approved by the lower house, removes the requirement to hold a census before the next election.

Haiti

Vatican conference remembers Haiti earthquake five years - Independent catholic News

The communion of the Church: memory and hope for Haiti five years after the earthquake was the title of the conference which took place today in the Vatican. The event was organised by the Pontifical Council Cor Unum and the Pontifical Commission for Latin America in collaboration with the bishops of Haiti, and was a response to the Holy Father's wish to maintain close attention to a country that continues to suffer the consequences of the earthquake, and to reiterate the Church's closeness to the Haitian people during the reconstruction phase.

Japan

TEPCO executives won't face charges over Fukushima disaster, Japan prosecutors say - ABC News

Japanese prosecutors say three former Tokyo Electric Power Co (TEPCO) executives will not be charged over their handling of the 2011 Fukushima disaster, setting up a possible showdown with a rarely used citizen's panel that could still force an indictment. A spokesman for the Tokyo District Public Prosecutor's Office said the prosecutors decided not to issue charges due to insufficient evidence.

Kenya

Five pupils, policeman hurt as protest over school land marred by violence - Daily Nation

Five children and a police officer were injured as violence marred demonstrations to save the Lang'ata Road Primary School playground from a land grabber.

<u>Police action on Lang'ata Road Primary School pupils is unacceptable</u> - Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops The Catholic Church in Kenya is deeply concerned over the excessive use of force by the police to disperse unarmed children at Lang'ata Road Primary School who were protesting against the grabbing of their school playing field by an unnamed private developer, causing injury to five children.

Two dead, scores injured after building collapses in Nairobi's Huruma estate - Daily Nation

The collapse of the building sparked a major rescue operation involving scores of police officers, city officials and medical workers. Medical workers said more than 20 people had been admitted to local hospitals.

Thirty houses razed in Kibera fire - Daily Nation

Thirty houses burnt down in Kibera area of Nairobi in a blaze that took more than two hours to put out. The blaze which was concentrated in Gatwekera area of the slum left no casualties its wake.

Kenya president signs tough 'anti-terror' law - Al Jazeera

President Kenyatta signs into law contested security bill which gives sweeping powers to crack down on suspects.

Nicaragua

Science Fuels the Writing, and Faith, of a Nicaraguan Poet - New York Times

"Science brings me close to God because it describes the universe and creation, and that brings me close to the creator," said Nicaragua's most prominent living poet in an interview a few weeks before his 90th birthday. "For me this is a prayer." Father Cardenal is being celebrated with a new anthology of his poems: "Ninety at Ninety."

Nigeria

Elections face new risks - Africa Confidential

With three weeks to go until voting day, almost half the electorate still lack voters' cards and could be disenfranchised

Shell agrees \$84m deal over Niger Delta oil spill - BBC

The local fishing community in Nigeria's delta region have been hardest hit by recent oil spills. Oil giant Royal Dutch Shell has agreed to a \$84m (£55m) settlement with residents of the Bodo community in the Niger Delta for two oil spills. Lawyers for 15,600 Nigerian fishermen say their clients will receive \$3,300 each for losses caused by the spills.

Nigeria's elections will be a test of peace vs. power - Washington Post

Africa's most populous nation may be careening toward trouble. While Nigeria has recently captured international headlines for its battle against the murderous terrorist group Boko Haram, the most immediate threats to the country's stability are not bullets from Islamist militants, but ballots. In February, Nigeria, home to almost 200 million people, will hold what will essentially be the first electoral contest between the country's two major parties, the incumbent People's Democratic Party and the All Progressives Congress.

Thousands suspected dead in Boko Haram massacre - Mail & Guardian

Hundreds of bodies are left in a bush in Nigeria from a Boko Haram attack, killing mostly children, women and elderly people.

Peru

Climate Change Threatens Quechua and Their Crops in Peru's Andes - InterPress Service

In the mountains surrounding the Sacred Valley of the Incas, the Quechua Indians who have lived here since time immemorial are worried about threats to their potato crops from alterations in rainfall patterns and temperatures.

South Africa

Are the people really sharing in the country's wealth? - Mail & Guardian

The ANC believes it is well on its way to fulfilling promises made in the Freedom Charter, but Numsa tells a different story. Sixty years after it was drafted, the Freedom Charter has again taken centre stage with rival political parties claiming its principles ahead of next year's local government elections.

South Sudan

As South Sudan hopes for peace to hold, the displaced cope with trauma - National Catholic Reporter

Malakal, a city in the northeast part of the country, has experienced some of the worst bits of fighting in a civil conflict that began a year ago and has never really been settled. There have been killings and rapes in hospitals and desecrations of churches; of bodies not buried for days and then weeks; of town squares and village centers laid waste. It was also a story of acts of courage, kindness and resilience; and, for many, the new challenges and difficulties now posed by trauma and guilt.

Zimbabwe

200 farmers evicted to make way for Mugabe park - Mail & Guardian

Armed police evicted more than 200 families from a farm in eastern Zimbabwe to create space for a game park proposed by first lady Grace Mugabe.

USA

<u>10 Ways Human Rights and Democracy Won in 2014 (Yeah, You Heard That Right)</u> - YES Magazine Let's be honest: It was a brutal year for human rights. But we still have victories worth celebrating.

RESOURCES

Stop Trafficking Newsletter

Afin latest newsletter

NewsNotes - Maryknoll Office of Global Cocerns

MultiMedia







Margaret Thacher on Climate Change

<u>Global Divestment Day — 13–14 February 2015</u>

<u>Global Sustainability and Planetary</u> <u>Boundaries</u>

COMING EVENTS

February

8: Feast Day of St. Bakhita and First International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking will be celebrated all over the world - in dioceses and parishes, in groups and schools. The initiative is promoted by the Pontifical Council of Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People, the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the International Union of Superiors General (UISG and USG).St. Josephine Bakhita, a Sudanese slave, freed, who became a Canossian nun, was declared a Saint in 2000. Click here.

7-10: Catholic Social Ministry Gathering (CSMG) 2015: *To Go Forth: Encountering Christ in the Heart of the World* takes place in Washington, D.C. at the Omni Shoreham Hotel. The lead sponsor is the USCCB's Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development, along other USCCB departments and 16 other national Catholic groups including the Catholic Climate Covenant, a new sponsor this year. This is a central gathering of Catholic social ministry leaders in the U.S. whose faith inspires them to respond to pressing domestic and global challenges relating to poverty, war, injustice, and the promotion of human life and dignity. Executive Director of the Catholic Climate Covenant Dan Misleh will receive the *Harry Fagan Award* from the Roundtable Association of Diocesan Social Action Directors on the 9th. <u>Click</u> here.

14 and 28 - Nigeria Elections - presidential and National Assembly elections Feb. 14 and local elections Feb. 28.

March

22-30 - World Social Forum will take place in Tunis

April

17-20 - <u>Ecumenical Advocacy Days: Breaking the Chains</u>: Mass Incarceration and Systems of Exploitation will take place near Washington, D.C. and will address solutions to national and worldwide issues of imprisonment, exploitation, racism and forced labor. **Sr. Patty Chappell, SNDdeN** will address the opening session of the Gathering.

Summer: United States Social Forum, Philadelphia, PA will be one of the major sites of convergence in the third *U.S. Social Forum*. Keep abreast at the U.S. Social Forum Website.

May

3-8 - Maryknoll Mission Institute: Continuing the Mission of Jesus: Discipleship Today (& Tomorrow) will be held at the Rogers Building at the *Maryknoll Mission Institute*, Maryknoll, New York. There is no single blueprint for discipleship and no one can be a lifelong disciple without changing as life unfolds. The *New Testament* contains the information each of us needs to draw on as we seek to find meaning in our own lives and continue the mission and ministry of Jesus. We will explore discipleship and discover its particular relevance for the lives of each of us. Resource Person: Anthony J. Gittins, CSSp, PhD, Professor Emeritus at Catholic Theological Union, Chicago. **Find out more** at (914) 941-7575/E-mail: **missinst@mksisters.org**. The application form is online, **here.**

10-15: Maryknoll Mission Institute: UPSTART Spring: Imagine Justice.. Exploration into God will be held at the Rogers Building at the Maryknoll Mission Institute, Maryknoll, New York. Increasing inequality, pervasive violence, divisive politics, what has all of our work for social justice meant? Such a lament seems so plausible yet could this be an "upstart Spring? "During our time together, we will explore this moment in our evolutionary history. We will be challenged to deepen our contemplative practice communally and imagine new ways of being with each other, with all beings on Earth and with the Divine. We will explore what it means to exercise contemplative power and imagine doing justice in new ways. **Resource Person:** Nancy Sylvester, IHM, President and Founder of the *Institute for Communal Contemplation and Dialogue*. **Find out more** at (914) 941-7575/E-mail: **missinst@mksisters.org**. The application form is online, **here**.

11-13 : 2nd Annual AJWS Policy Summit is set for the Washington Court Hotel, 525 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001 in Washington D.C. You'll learn about human rights abuses around the world. Advocate for policy change. Lead for global justice. Registration will open in early 2015. Save the date! **Contact:** American Jewish World Service/New York City, NY; (212) 792-2900.

June

7-12: Maryknoll Mission Institute: The Spirit Leads Us Forth: Mission Reconsidered will be held at the Rogers Building at the Maryknoll Mission Institute, Maryknoll, New York. Over the past twenty years, pneumatology, the theology of the Holy Spirit, has pioneered some of the most revolutionary ideas in our contemporary understanding of faith. How to integrate these ideas with the work of mission and apply them in living the faith today, will be the topic explored in this program. **Resource Person:** Diarmuid O'Murchu, MSC, a priest and social psychologist with a special interest in changing trends of faith and mission in the contemporary world. **Find out more** at (914) 941-7575/E-mail: **missinst@mksisters.org**. The application form is online at **www.maryknollsisters.org/maryknoll-mission-instutute.**

14-19: Maryknoll Mission Institute: No Longer Servants: Toward a Biblical Theology of Friendship will be held at the Rogers Building at the Maryknoll Mission Institute, Maryknoll, New York. This week-long class will make two

extraordinary claims: that our life's ultimate goal is friendship with God and that the Scriptures provide the roadmap. Friendship with God is a gift of Holy Wisdom 7:27. God speaks to Moses, face to face, as one speaks to a friend (Ex. 33:11). Most striking of all these biblical examples, Jesus calls his own disciples "friends" (John: 15:15). This program engages a dynamic process that integrates personal experience with biblical study in order to trace the emerging theology of friendship in the Scriptures. **Resource Person:** Laurie Brink, OP, PhD, Associate Professor of New Testament Studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. **Find out more** at (914) 941-7575/E-mail: <u>missinst@mksisters.org</u>. The application form is online at http://www.maryknollsisters.org/maryknoll-mission-institute.

21-26: Maryknoll Mission Institute: The New Universe Story: God, Jesus and Prayer will be held at the Rogers Building at the Maryknoll Mission Institute, Maryknoll, New York. The 21st century provides us with images, data, an understanding of the cosmos and how life developed on earth that are radically different from the worldview and cosmology which have shaped formal religion's understanding of Jesus as revealer of God-with-us. We will use this "lens" to focus on God, on the human endeavor, on revelation, on Judaism, on Jesus and his message of the "kingdom of God" here on earth, on what Jesus was ready to die for, on the mystery of what lies beyond death, and on prayer and sacraments. Resource Person: Michael Morwood, MA, the author of 10 books including his latest, *In Memory of Jesus*. Find out more~at (914) 941-7575/E-mail: missinst@mksisters.org. The application form is online here.

July

5-10, 2015: Maryknoll Mission Institute: Everyday Holiness: Sacred Scripture's Teaching on Economic Life will be held at the Rogers Building at the Maryknoll Mission Institute, Maryknoll, New York. Sacred Scripture has been a perennial source of guidance and inspiration on how to flourish in economic life. For this week, we will assess: What do the individual books of the Bible say about proper economic conduct? How do these teachings fit within the larger theology and ethics of the books in which they are found? Are there recurring themes, underlying patterns, or issues running across these different sections of the Bible when read together as a single canon? Resource Person: Albino Barrera, OP, professor of economics and theology at Providence College, Rhode Island. **Find out more** at (914) 941-7575/E-mail: missinst@mksisters.org. The application form is online, here.

12-17: Maryknoll Mission Institute: Denial or Discipleship? Bioregional Theology and Practice in a World of Ecological Ultimatums will be held at the Rogers Building at the Maryknoll Mission Institute, Maryknoll, New York. This program will briefly overview the deepening and interlocking environmental crises that stalk our history: climate destruction, species extinction, declining natural fertility and "peak everything." The bulk of the program will examine how to make "Creation Care" more practical and contextual by focusing on bioregional/watershed scales of engagement and literacy. We'll explore watershed theology and ecclesiology as well as "transition" economics and politics with an emphasis on restorative justice. Resource Person: Ched Myers, a theological animator with the Bartimaeus Cooperative Ministries, best known for his book, Binding the Strong Man: A Political Reading of Mark's Story of Jesus. Find out more at (914) 941-7575/E-mail: missinst@mksisters.org. The application form is online, here.

19-24: Maryknoll Mission Institute: Compassion: Witness to Love will be held at the Rogers Building at the Maryknoll Mission Institute, Maryknoll, New York. In a world fraught with division and alienation, the call to live a compassionate life is a "sign of our times." The teachings and praxis of Jesus and other spiritual leaders lead our journey into the foundations of compassion and the awakening it engenders as we encounter self and others in the pursuit of just and peace-filled relationships. Art, music, film and literature wil draw participants into the compassionate life as a witness to love. **Resource Person:** Antoinette (Nonie) Gutzler, MM, Ph.D. has served in Tanzania and TaiwaN. She is an Associate Professor of Theology at Fu Jen University, Taipei. **Find out more** at (914) 941-7575/E-mail: missinst@mksisters.org. The application form is online, here.

August

6-9 : Campaign Nonviolence National Conference will be held in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Great speakers include Rev. James Lawson, a well-known civil rights activist, professor and practitioner of nonviolence. He worked directly with

Martin Luther King, Jr. and spent over a year in prison as a conscientious objector. He will speak about his many years of nonviolent action and how we can move forward building a culture of peace. **Learn more** from **info@paceebene.org.**~

September

17, 2015: A Blessing to One Another: Pope John Paul II and the Jewish People, a landmark exhibit, will open at the Vatican Museum in Rome, Italy. Find out more from BrueggemanCenter@xavier.edu.

22-27, 2015: World Meeting of Families welcoming Pope Francis~is set for Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (USA). Although it is organized by Catholics, along Catholic teachings, it will be open to families and people of different faiths, including no faith at all, to engage the wider society in dialogue and to serve and strengthen families. More to come!

September 30-October 1, 2015: Africa Faith & Justice Network Annual Membership Meeting~conjunction with the *USCMA Mission Congress.* **Find out more** at www.afjn.org.

October

1-4, 2015: United States Catholic Mission Association 2015 Mission Congress: Witnessing Mission takes place at the Hilton North Hotel in Houston, TX. **Find out more** at the USCMA website, **www.uscatholicmission.org/**.

November

November 30-December 20, 2015: COP 21 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference will be held at the Le Bourget site in Paris, France.

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

Justice in the World - 1971 Synod of Bishops