



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



Care of Creation

[Tribute to a Slain Environment Activist](#) - InterPress Service

Berta Isabel Cáceres Flores, was in her early 20s when she co-founded the Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (Cophin), a group that campaigned for the rights of indigenous communities in the South American nation.

[Murder of Honduran environmental activist sparks outrage](#) - Catholic News Service

An outspoken environmental activist in Honduras was murdered in her own home, sparking outrage and offering another example of the impunity and violence in the Central American country.

[Forests Help Quench Urban Thirst - René Castro Salazar](#) - InterPress Service

The next time you turn on the tap to fill the kettle, you might want to spare a thought for the forest that made it possible. It may be a hundred kilometres away or more from where you are sitting, but the chances are that you owe your cup of tea, in part at least, to the trees that helped to capture the water, and to filter it on its long journey to you the consumer.

[Ikea to use packaging made from mushrooms that will decompose in a garden within weeks](#) - National Post
Ikea is planning to use packaging made with mushrooms as an eco-friendly replacement for polystyrene.

[World water day: how the poor pay more in west Africa – in pictures](#) - The Guardian

For many people in west Africa, accessing water is a lot more complex than just turning on a tap. While wealthier communities may benefit from a relatively regular supply of clean water and adequate sanitation, people living in poorer areas are rarely connected to the subsidised network and end up paying more for a basic necessity. All photos by Tara Todras-Whitehill for WaterAid.

Economy

[Socially responsible investors press companies to do the right thing](#) - Catholic News Service

Faith-based investors -- many of which are members of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility -- have led shareholder advocacy campaigns for more than four decades. Over the years, they have leveraged their financial clout as stockholders to air grievances about corporate activities and to pursue responsible corporate action.

[Pope tells corrupt benefactors that church doesn't need 'dirty money'](#) - Catholic News Service

Speaking out against exploitation and unfair wages for workers, Pope Francis told benefactors to forget about donating money to the church if their earnings came from mistreating others.

Peace

[University of Texas dean to quit over gun law](#) - BBC

A dean at the University of Texas is stepping down over a new state law which will allow concealed handguns to be carried on university campuses. Frederick Steiner said the policy was not "appropriate" for higher education and "did not make logical sense".

['Oh, what a big gun you have': NRA rewrites fairytales to include firearms](#) - The Guardian

Series of reimagined fairytales have been published on the gun advocacy group's family website, which see Hansel, Gretel and Little Red Riding Hood sport rifles.

[Brussels Attacks: When Will Our Outrage Lead to a Radical Change in Our Policy Response?](#) - Common Dreams

It's time for us to invest seriously in peace instead of war in the name of the security.

[Syrian Archbishop: Innocent people reap what Western powers have sown in Syria and Iraq](#) - Independent Catholic News

Innocent people caught up in the terrorist attacks in Brussels and Paris are suffering the consequences of western policies in Syria and Iraq over the last few years - that is the view of Syrian Catholic Archbishop Jacques Behnan Hindo.

Migration / Immigration

[Migrant mothers bridge distance with virtual parenting](#) - Deutsche Welle

Migrant parents are using social media to raise their kids from afar. But a virtual presence enabled by technology is hardly a substitute for the intimacy of physical closeness. Ana P. Santos reports from Paris.

[Heathrow's immigration detention centre "among worst"](#) - The Tablet

A report into conditions at Harmondsworth immigration centre near Heathrow Airport has found evidence of substandard facilities and lack of suitable care for vulnerable adults.

Trafficking

[In Historic Vote, U.S. Senate Unanimously Backs McCaskill-Portman Measure to Hold 'Backpage' Website in Contempt of Congress](#) - US Catholic Sisters against Human Trafficking

In an historic vote, the Senate unanimously approved a bipartisan resolution from U.S. Senators Claire McCaskill and Rob Portman to launch civil contempt proceedings against the website Backpage, as part of the duo's bipartisan investigation into online sex trafficking.

Racism

[What We've Seen and Heard...Black Lives Matter](#) - National Black Catholic Congress

Pope Francis, in The Joy of the Gospel tells us "We need to look at our cities with a contemplative gaze, a gaze of faith which sees God dwelling in their homes, in their streets and squares. God's presence accompanies the sincere efforts of individuals and groups to find encouragement and meaning in their lives. Are we poised to embrace this "call to action?"

Extractive Industries

[In 'David vs. Goliath' Fracking Case, Families Handed Major Win](#) - Common Dreams

A court handed down a \$4.2 million verdict—and vindication—to two Pennsylvania families who said fracking contaminated their water.

Church

[Pope's Via Crucis meditations will look at crosses humanity bears today](#) - Catholic News Service

By reflecting on the Passion of Christ, the author of the Way of the Cross meditations for Pope Francis' Good Friday service said he will focus on the suffering unfolding in the world today and how "the martyrs of the 21st century are undoubtedly the apostles of today."

[Controversial Swiss theologian pleads with Pope Francis to solve problem of infallibility](#) - The Tablet

Hans Küng believes that the future well-being of the church is wrapped up in question of infallibility

FAITH IN ACTION

During this Holy Year of Mercy, promote a culture of Peace instead of a culture of Violence. [See Pax Christi USA Newsletter](#).

COUNTRY UPDATES

Brazil

[Brazil Is Engulfed by Ruling Class Corruption — and a Dangerous Subversion of Democracy](#) - The Intercept Portuguese

THE MULTIPLE, REMARKABLE crises consuming Brazil are now garnering substantial Western media attention. That's understandable given that Brazil is the world's fifth most populous country and eighth-largest economy; its second-largest city, Rio de Janeiro, is the host of this year's Summer Olympics. But much of this Western media coverage mimics the propaganda coming from Brazil's homogenized, oligarch-owned, anti-democracy media outlets and, as such, is misleading, inaccurate, and incomplete, particularly when coming from those with little familiarity with the country (there are numerous Brazil-based Western reporters doing outstanding work).

[Glenn Greenwald: What Is Happening in Brazil is Much Worse Than Donald Trump](#) - Democracy Now

Brazil is facing its worst political crisis in over two decades as opponents of Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff attempt to impeach her on corruption charges. But Rousseff is refusing calls to resign, saying the impeachment proceedings against her amount to undemocratic attempts by the right-wing opposition to oust

her from power. On Wednesday, former Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva called the impeachment proceedings against Rousseff an attempted "coup d'état." We speak to Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Glenn Greenwald. His piece, "Brazil Is Engulfed by Ruling Class Corruption—and a Dangerous Subversion of Democracy," recently was published by The Intercept.

[Police raid home of Brazil's ex-president Lula](#) - Deutsche Wella

Police have detained Brazil's ex-President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva after raiding his properties. The searches are part of an ongoing probe into corruption at oil giant Petrobras.

[Brazil does a U-turn on fracking. Indigenous lands protected from oil and gas exploration](#) -

LifeGate

The government sold indigenous land in the Amazon's Juruá Valley to oil and gas companies. But a court ruled against this, protecting inhabitants from fracking.

[UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples announces follow-up visit to Brazil](#) - Office of the UN Human Rights Commissioner

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, will carry out a visit to Brazil from 7 to 17 March 2016 to identify and assess the main issues currently facing indigenous peoples in the country. She will also follow up on key recommendations made by the previous Special Rapporteur in 2008.

Belgium

[Brussels attacks: Belgian bishops issue statement](#) - Independent Catholic News

The Catholic Bishops of Belgium have issued a statement condemning the deadly terror attacks on the Brussels airport and underground stations on Monday, calling for prayerful solidarity with the victims and for national unity in response to the assault.

Britain

[Catholic People's Week lobby bishops to condemn Trident renewal](#) - Independent Catholic News

Participants in the first Catholic People's Week (Winter weekend) of 2016 will be writing to the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales to urge it to take a stronger stance over government plans to renew the Trident nuclear missile system. "After listening to a presentation by Pat Gaffney, the General Secretary of Pax Christi, on the theme of, 'The things that make for peace when the world prepares for war', and her report on Saturday's anti-Trident rally in London, around 30 participants from around the country unanimously asked that a letter be sent" said Ellen Teague, chair of the weekend. "The letter will ask the bishops to reaffirm their 2006 statement and update it to include Trident," she said. That statement did call on the Government to decommission nuclear weapons, but it did not mention Trident specifically.

Congo

[Priest's murder in Congo shows the need for a new concept of martyrdom](#) - Crux

A dozen armed men wearing uniforms of the Congo army assassinated Assumptionist Rev. Vincent Machozi, who operated an influential website documenting atrocities committed against his Nande people. (Photo courtesy of the Augustinians of the Assumption)

[Gunmen kill priest who denounced corruption](#) - Independent Catholic News

An Assumption priest, Fr Vincent Machozi, who for several years documented human rights abuses in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), was murdered on Sunday night by armed gunmen, shortly after he posted an online article denouncing the involvement of the Congolese and Rwandan presidents in the massacres of innocent civilians.

Haiti

[Haiti earthquake: A new start in Canaan for survivors](#) - Al Jazeera

After a 7.0 magnitude earthquake devastated Haiti on January 12, 2010, 209,000 Haitians found new homes in Canaan.

[About 50 pct Haitian children suffer from waterborne diseases](#) - Xinhua

Nearly half of Haitian children have been afflicted with waterborne diseases, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) said. The problem is caused by "poor water quality," Jean Metanier, UNICEF representative in Haiti said in a statement while marking the World Water Day. Press reports in Haiti put attributed the problem to a lack of investment in infrastructure in the impoverished Caribbean island nation.

Japan

[Japan marks fifth anniversary of tsunami and nuclear disaster](#) - The Guardian

Emperor leads tributes to 19,000 people killed after earthquake, and PM says reconstruction is making steady progress

Kenya

[Kenya National Examinations Council board disbanded](#) - Citizen

The government has disbanded the Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC) board over last year's national exams cheating scandal. Education Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i said former University of Nairobi Vice Chancellor George Magoha has been appointed as the new board chair.

[Teachers Strike Looms As Unions Spoil for War With Tsc Over Dues](#) - All Africa

The Trade Union Congress of Kenya (TUC-Ke) on Wednesday joined teachers unions in a move seen as gravitating towards a national strike over dues. TUC-Ke National chairman Tom Odege said that in the absence of amicable solution, the teachers with the support of other civil servants will go on strike and paralyse learning in public schools.

[Tree Regeneration Restoring Hope](#) - InterPress Service

Maurice Kaduka Lukaro, 54, is a farmer in Oljorai, an area with short grasses and small-scattered bushes in Nakuru county in Kenya's Great Rift Valley. Crop production has declined tremendously in this region. Like the rest of the arid and semi-arid lands (ASAL) in the Sub Saharan region, Kenya hosts a population worst hit by the reality of climate change.

Nigeria

[Eight Issues That Buhari's Economic Summit Must Address](#)- All Africa

Economists, private sector players, labour leaders, policy analysts and all Nigerians who are concerned about the parlous state of the Nigerian economy are eagerly awaiting federal government's announcement of dates and modalities for a summit on the economy, which the President Muhammadu Buhari administration has agreed to convene.

Peru

[Elections reminiscent of 2000 fraud](#) - Latin America Press

Electoral authorities eliminate two presidential frontrunners. Keiko Fujimori is the untouchable. Nineteen candidates were registered to participate in the elections on Apr. 10.

[Oil spill affects indigenous communities](#) - Latinamerica Press

People's livelihoods and native Amazon flora and fauna are at risk. Just a month after a second oil spill occurred in northeastern Peru, the government declared a state of emergency in 16 native communities in the district of Morona, in the Loreto department. The rupture of a pipe in the northern branch of the North Peruvian pipeline, owned by state oil company Petroperú, caused more than 3,000 barrels of oil to spill on Jan. 25 and Feb. 3. These events polluted the Chiriaco and Morona rivers, tributaries of the Marañón river, one of the most important tributaries of the Amazon.

South Africa

[South Africa: Jesuit Institute urges ANC to 'act for the common good'](#) - Independent Catholic News

The African National Congress (ANC) has historically shown leadership in challenging times. In the early 90's the leadership of the ANC courageously took the steps needed to bring South Africa back from the brink of civil war. Now, more than ever since then, the ANC needs to courageously steer the country through a mounting crisis: allegations that President Jacob Zuma ceded his executive power to his rich friends - the Gupta family. These allegations are serious because they are a gross violation of his oath of office in which he promises to devote himself to the well-being of the Republic and all of its people.

South Sudan

[South Sudan: Army Abuses Spread West](#) - Human Rights Watch

South Sudanese government forces have carried out numerous killings, enforced disappearances, rapes, and other grave abuses in the Western Equatoria region during expanded fighting in the region. Rebel armed groups there have also committed serious abuses, including rape.

[UN report highlights 'searing' account of killings, rapes by South Sudanese forces](#) - UN News Centre – Sent by Claudia McTaggart.

A new United Nations report on the human rights situation in South Sudan published today describes a multitude of horrendous violations in "searing detail," in particular by Government forces, including cases of civilians burned alive or cut to pieces and a teenage girl being raped by ten soldiers.

[South Sudan army 'suffocated 60 in container'](#) - BBC

A rights group says it has evidence that South Sudan government forces deliberately suffocated more than 60 men and boys in a shipping container.

Zimbabwe

[Zimbabwe cracks down on foreign firms over local ownership](#) - Deutsche Welle

Zimbabwe has given foreign firms just over a week to cede majority stakes to locals or face closure. Critics say the move will discourage foreign investment in an economy which is

USA

[How Sister Judy Tensing became Cincinnati's unlikeliest entrepreneur](#) - SoapBox

In 2006, when Over-the-Rhine's Vine Street had just begun its building by building transformation, Sister Judy Tensing brought the neighborhood one of its first new retail businesses: Venice on Vine.

[40,000 Former Convicts in Maryland Just Got New Voting Rights. Here's How It Happened](#) - YES Magazine

Just in time for this year's presidential primary, a new law in Maryland will allow former offenders on probation or parole the right to vote.

[Building a Foundation for Social Justice](#) - NETWORK

My name is Joseline Anne Araujo, and I am a Junior at Trinity Washington University (Class of 2017), majoring in Sociology and minoring in History. This summer I was very fortunate to be accepted to an exciting program called Just Advocacy Week by NETWORK here in the heart of the District of Columbia.

RESOURCES

[Digging at Our Conscience: Mining Toolkit](#)

The purpose of the toolkit, aimed at a general audience of interested persons, is to raise awareness about the challenges which vulnerable indigenous communities face when a multi-national company wants to construct a project on their land.

[Pope Francis Journey to Mexico](#) - Center of Concern

[Justice in the Global Economy: Building Sustainable and Inclusive Communities](#) - Social Justice

Secretariat at the General Curia of the Society of Jesus

How can economics better respond to the needs of the poor and the environment?

[Maryknoll News Notes](#) - March/April

[United States Catholic Mission Association Monthly Newsletter](#)

Multi Media



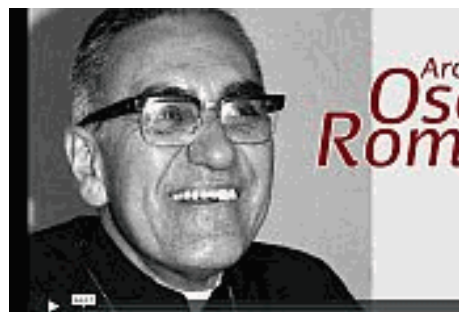
[Mega agrobusiness grows resentment in Mozambique](#)



[Trade and Health](#)



[Towards system change: conference People and Planet First, the Imperative to change course](#)



[Artistic Story of Archbishop Oscar Romero](#)

COMING EVENTS

April

10 - Peru Elections

15-18 Ecumenical Advocacy Days: Lift Every Voice! Racism, Class and Power

will take place near Washington, D.C. at the Doubletree Crystal City, Hotel (Arlington, VA).

www.advocacydays.org

August

9-14 [World Social Forum](#) Montreal Canada

Maryknoll Mission Institute

[EXPLORING EVOLUTIONARY SPIRITUALITY](#)

May 8 - May 13

Resource Person: Ann Braudis, MM, PhD.

The daily scripture readings leading to the Feast of Pentecost from the Gospel of John present to the thoughtful reader a rich array of concepts that are aligned with emerging cosmological and spiritual insights. Deep Time and the forever unfolding future are present, as is the fundamental grasp that all things are bound together. What will become the one Earth Community is present as are the undergirding framework of Kenosis and the call to faithfully fulfill the tasks of one's...[Find out more »](#)

[CARING FOR CREATION IN A CHANGING CLIMATE](#)

May 15 - May 20

Resource Person: Judith Mayotte, PhD

This program will follow Pope Francis' call in his encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, for the human family as stewards of the earth, to engage in dialogue and provoke action that will address the needs of our earth and how ecologically we might better protect and care for our common home. Through a careful reading of *Laudato Si'* and the book *Enough is Enough: Building a Sustainable Economy in a World of Finite Resources*, we will consider our place in a finite...[Find out more »](#)

[LIVING INTO DEATH—DYING INTO LIFE](#)

May 22 - May 27

Resource Person: Peter C. Phan, S.T.D., PhD., D.D.

This program deals with what was once called the "Last Things" (in Latin: *De Novissimis*), that is, the realities occurring at the end of life, namely, death and dying, and those occurring in the afterlife, namely, judgment, purgatory, hell, heaven, the resurrection, and the consummation of the world. In theology, the treatment of these Last Things is called "eschatology"—a term derived from the Greek: *eschata* and *logos*, meaning discourse on the last things. There is a basic methodological question about...[Find out more »](#)

[STRENGTHENING YOUR INNER LIFE IN CHALLENGING TIMES](#)

June 5 - June 10

Resource Person: Robert J. Wicks PSY.D

One of the greatest gifts we can share with others is a sense of our own peace. However, we can't share what we don't have. By discussing spiritual and psychological approaches to maintaining perspective and inner strength in challenging times, Dr. Wicks, an expert on the prevention of secondary stress (the pressures experienced in reaching out to others) and author of *Perspective: The Calm within the Storm*, *Bounce: Living the Resilient Life* and *Riding the Dragon*, offers insights into how...[Find out more »](#)

[TEILHARD'S MYSTICISM: Spiraling Into the Cosmic Christ](#)

June 12 - June 17

Resource Person: Kathleen Duffy, SSJ, PhD

In an early essay, Jesuit paleontologist Pierre Teilhard de Chardin provides us with a road map into the intensely mystical environment in which he lived and moved. He describes the stages of his mystical growth in terms of five concentric circles. These circles, which could be more properly imaged as the loops of a spiral that he continually revisited throughout his life, provided him with a sacred path into an ever deepening reality, a reality that is informed as much...[Find out more](#) »

[MERCY WITHIN MERCY, WITHIN MERCY: God's Love Awaits our Response](#)

June 19 - June 24

We often think that our dark side, our sins and shadows are not "pleasing" to God. We use our own standards to measure and define what gains us access to our God. We fall victim to values of our cultural traditions, or of our families or of pop culture to convince ourselves that we are "with it" and acceptable. We judge ourselves and others by how well we measure up to these artificial, superficial and false standards. We get so...[Find out more](#) »

[AWAKENING THE HEART, MENDING THE WORLD: Merton's Path to Mercy](#)

June 26 - July 1

In his address to the U.S. Congress, Pope Francis named Thomas Merton one of four great Americans who "offer us a way of seeing and interpreting reality" that is urgently needed in our world today. Describing Merton "as a man of prayer, a thinker who challenged the certainties of his time and opened new horizons for souls and for the Church," Pope Francis chose to highlight important elements of Merton's legacy: his "capacity for dialogue and openness to God" and...[Find out more](#) »

[SAINTS, PROPHETS AND WITNESSES FOR OUR TIME](#)

July 10 - July 15

By using the lives and witness of contemporary figures as an open window to the gospel of our times, this program will challenge us to think more creatively about being faithful and active in our own historical context. Sharing the stories of women and men whose lives and message speak to the spiritual needs of our day, participants will imbibe their creativity, courage and imagination in the face of modern challenges. Participants will deepen their appreciation that the call to...[Find out more](#) »

[EMBODYING THE OPTION FOR THE POOR](#)

July 17 - July 22

The preferential option for the poor, like other key principles of the Christian faith, presents the faithful with a concrete and a transcendent reality. Concretely, the phrase arises out of historic situations of deep suffering and oppression in Latin America during the 1950s through the 1980s, and the Church's struggle to be an agent of hope amidst this suffering – to be the church of the poor promoted at Vatican II. This program leads participants in exploring its essential theological...[Find out more](#) »

[RELIGION AND THE COSMIC STORY: A Look Inside](#)

July 24 - July 29

The universe is still coming into being. It is a story still being told. The most remarkable thing about any story is that it can be the carrier of meaning. We tell stories to bring out the significance of a series of events, for example the episodes that make up a person's life, or that of a family, tribe, or nation. Now, at last, scientists are putting together a new story about the cosmos. Along with our growing awareness that...

[Find out more](#) »

**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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