



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

[New Era of Food Scarcity Echoes Collapsed Civilisations](#) - InterPress Service

The world is in transition from an era of food abundance to one of scarcity. Over the last decade, world grain reserves have fallen by one third. World food prices have more than doubled, triggering a worldwide land rush and ushering in a new geopolitics of food.

Economy

[Fixing the Economy, A New Focus for Congress](#) - Washington Post

The Perils of Pauline melodrama over the “fiscal cliff” will drag on as Washington heads toward another “debt ceiling” faceoff that will climax over the next few weeks.

[Elizabeth Warren Embarrasses Hapless Bank Regulators At First Hearing](#) (VIDEO) - Huffington Post

“Can you identify the last time when you took the Wall Street banks to trial?” Bank regulators got a sense of how their lives will be slightly different now that Elizabeth Warren sits on a Senate committee overseeing their agencies. At her first Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee hearing, Warren questioned top regulators from the alphabet soup that is the nation’s financial regulatory structure: the FDIC, SEC, OCC, CFPB, CFTC, Fed and Treasury.

[Economic activity should serve common good, say J&P Commissions](#) - Independent Catholic News

The Conference of European Justice and Peace Commissions has called for the economy to be at the service of society. This network, comprising 31 national Justice and Peace commissions with a secretariat in Paris, has put out the following statement: As the global financial crisis and its consequences look set to dominate the economic, social and political landscapes once more in 2013, the Conference of European Justice and Peace Commissions, drawing on the experience of 31 European countries, wishes to make the case for radical change. Our vision is of a society in which all economic activity serves the demands of justice and the common good. We believe that particular responsibility falls to those in Government to introduce the legislation and structures necessary to support such a vision.

Peace

[From the Culture of Aloha, a Path Out of Gun Violence](#) - YES Magazine

Beneath mainstream culture runs a current of domination, individualism, and exclusion that is harming our children. We assume this is normal—but is it really?

[US drone attacks ‘counter-productive’, former Obama security adviser claims](#) - guardian.co.uk

US reliance on drones to target terrorists undermines rule of law, is ineffective and has strategic drawbacks, argues Michael Boyle

[Who's Watching Those Unblinking Eyes in the Sky?](#) - InterPress Service

Drones gathered controversy in the United Nations on Jan. 24 when Ben Emmerson, U.N. Special Rapporteur on Counter-Terrorism and Human Rights, launched an investigation into the civilian impact and human rights implications surrounding targeted drone strikes for counter-terrorism purposes, such as the ones carried out by the Barack Obama administration in the Middle East.

[Desmond Tutu Blasts US Drones: American or Not, All Victims Are Human](#) - Common Dreams

In a letter to the New York Times, South African Nobel Peace Prize laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu challenged the hypocrisy of the US and its citizens for accepting a killer drone program when it pertains to foreign suspects while demanding judicial review when those targets are American citizens.

[Yes, We Have A \(Defense\) Spending Problem](#) - The American Prospect

Last year, in 2012, the U.S. government spent about \$841 billion on security—a figure that includes defense, intelligence, war appropriations, and foreign aid. At the same time, the government collected about \$1.1 trillion in individual income taxes. (And about \$2.4 trillion in revenues overall if you include payroll, corporate, estate, and excise taxes.

Migration

[FACT SHEET: Fixing our Broken Immigration System so Everyone Plays by the Rules](#) - White House

President Obama's commonsense immigration reform proposal has four parts. First, continue to strengthen our borders. Second, crack down on companies that hire undocumented workers. Third, hold undocumented immigrants accountable before they can earn their citizenship; this means requiring undocumented workers to pay their taxes and a penalty, move to the back of the line, learn English, and pass background checks. Fourth, streamline the legal immigration system for families, workers, and employers.

[New Study Sheds Light on Mistreatment of Migrants Crossing the U.S.-Mexico Border](#) - Jesuits

The comprehensive report details incidents of physical and verbal abuse suffered by migrants both at the hands of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and Mexican police, and through attacks by human traffickers, robbers and gangs. Additionally, the study highlights the stories of migrants separated from family members and those who have been sexually assaulted by criminals, left for dead in the desert and then denied medical care by U.S. border agents.

[U.S. Spends More on Immigration Enforcement than on FBI, DEA, Secret Service & All Other Federal Criminal Law Enforcement Agencies~Combined](#) - Migration Policy Institute

Nearly \$187 Billion Spent on Federal Immigration Enforcement over Past 26 Years. The U.S. government spends more on federal immigration enforcement than on all other principal federal criminal law enforcement agencies combined, with the nearly \$18 billion spent in fiscal 2012 approximately 24 percent higher than collective spending for the FBI, Drug Enforcement Administration, Secret Service, U.S. Marshals Service and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, a new Migration Policy Institute (MPI) report finds.

Trafficking

[REBBL Now Available In California Markets](#) - Not for Sale

This month, REBBL begins distribution to Whole Foods and other independent natural food retailers in Northern California. Standing for "Roots, Extracts, Berries, Bark, and Leaves," REBBL is an herbal tonic beverage enterprise launched earlier this year. The product connects labor-enslaved, resource-rich tribes in the Amazon with consumer demand in the U.S. market. It was created as a solution to slavery in the Peruvian Amazon—a region where over 50% of forced labor in the country exists. By sourcing key ingredients for the drink from indigenous communities located in the region, REBBL will not only stimulate economic development in the area, but also generate revenue back into our ground efforts. After the company's online launch in July 2012, the next key for growth was regional distribution.

Environment

[Keystone XL decision will define Barack Obama's legacy on climate change](#) - The Guardian

Does the president have courage to say 'no' to a project that will lock us into decades of dependency on this dirty energy?

Church

[A Historic Departure](#) - America Magazine

Reflections on Benedict XVI's surprise decision. On Feb. 11 Pope Benedict XVI employed an ancient language to announce a decision that will have far-reaching implications for the modern church. The pope declared in Latin his resignation from the See of Saint Peter, catching the world by surprise and moving many to reflect not only on what is to come, but on the complicated legacy he leaves behind. We asked four contributors - Drew Christiansen, James Martin, SJ, Vincent J. Miller, Sidney Callahan - to weigh in.

FAITH IN ACTION

Kenya Elections on March 4th - Join our Sisters in Kenya and Pray for Peaceful, Free and Fair Elections

[Tell US Congress to Reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act](#)



[Join the World Water Walk on March 16 - 24](#)

As part of their Lenten Community projects, the group reminds religious to consider purchasing Fairtrade products. For more information on Fairtrade go to, http://jpicformation.wikispaces.com/EN_fairtrade - UISG/USG JPIC

COUNTRY UPDATES

Brazil

[Brazil landless leader Cicero Guedes shot dead in Rio Brazil](#) - BBC

A leader of the landless movement in Brazil, Cicero Guedes, has been killed in Rio de Janeiro state. Mr Guedes, 43, was shot dead on Saturday as he was cycling to his home which is near a former sugar plant which members of the landless movement, or MST, have occupied.

[Brazil's Marina Silva launches 'sustainability party'](#) - BBC

In Brazil, a former presidential candidate and environment minister has launched a new political party, Sustainability Network, ahead of next year's presidential elections. In a speech to hundreds of supporters in the capital, Brasilia, Marina Silva stressed the party's green credentials.

Japan

[Japan: A visit to Fukushima](#) - Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns

A reflection is written by Sr. Jean Fallon, MM. who visited Tohoku area of northeastern Japan. This area is made up of four coastal prefectures affected by the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami. While the other prefectures endured the double disasters of earthquake and tsunami, Fukushima Prefecture had three:

earthquake, tsunami, and the added tragedy of irradiated coastal cities, villages and farm lands. Some are not anywhere near the destroyed nuclear facility, but are located in the mountains where the radiation plume, driven by winds and a snow fall, brought the more dangerous irradiated particles into the trees and onto the ground.

Kenya

[Kenyans still displaced by 2007 poll](#) - Daily Nation

In makeshift camps on windswept barren land more than 100 families, chased from their homes in the wave of violence and killing that followed the disputed 2007 polls, are still waiting to be re-settled. In the run up to the next elections on March 4, these still displaced people camping around the town of Nakuru in Kenya's Rift Valley fear renewed violence once more.

[Neighbors Kill Neighbors as Kenyan Vote Stirs Old Feuds](#) - New York Times

"There are three reasons for this war, tribe, land and politics."

[Political Provocateurs Expose Kenya's "MaVultures"](#) - InterPress Service

A new website linking corruption and other scandals to high-ranking Kenyan politicians, created by a team of political provocateurs, has become one of the most-visited web pages in the country. MaVulture.com, which means "many vultures" in Swahili, aims to collect, condense, and air the past wrongdoings of Kenya's political class.

Nigeria

[Shell Case Shows Failure of Nigerian Judiciary](#) – InterPress Service

The decision by The Hague over Shell's liability for polluting in the Niger Delta shows that justice is possible – but it is extremely hard to achieve if you are taking on a massive multinational, says Amnesty International's Africa programme director Audrey Gaughran.

Peru

[Combating Illegal Logging and Exploitation in Peru](#) - Not for Sale

For hundreds of years, Amazonian communities have supported themselves through natural resources: growing, gathering and trading produce to feed their families. As Peru's economy has grown however, more and more local resources have been harvested for industry. Vegetation that once sustained people's livelihoods is disappearing at an alarming rate, threatening widespread poverty among those who cannot find an alternative means of support.

[Undermining Justice](#) - Al Jazeera

If multinationals will do anything to control the public debate, how can indigenous peoples ever assert their rights?

South Africa

[Mining and agriculture must change to survive, says Ramphela](#) - Mail and Guardian

It is important for business government and labour to heed the wake-up call of the unrest and the "bombs in South Africa waiting to go off".

Zimbabwe

[Turning on Taps a Risky Business in Zimbabwe](#) - InterPress Service

A recent study from the University of Zimbabwe indicated that one in every 1,000 people in the capital is at risk of developing colon or liver cancer due to continuous consumption of unsafe water pumped from polluted sources. According to the Health and Child Welfare Ministry's disease monitoring report, an estimated 50

typhoid cases are reported each day in Harare and its satellite towns. Roughly 500,000 people in Zimbabwe suffered from diarrhoea in 2012; of these, 460,000 were serious cases and 281 were fatal.

[Concerns are raised as the government hires executioner](#) - Independent Catholic News

Human rights groups are expressing grave concern at the news that the Zimbabwean prison service has employed a hangman. Currently there are believed to be 74 men and two women on death row. Zimbabwe's last hangman retired in 2005.

[Zimbabwe's constitutional reform to challenge Mugabe's powers](#) - Mail and Guardian

Zimbabwe's Parliament has begun discussing a new constitution that will reduce the president's powers and set up a peace and reconciliation commission.

[Mugabe turns 89, says ruling Zim is his 'divine' mission](#) - Mail and Guardian

Robert Mugabe has said he had a "divine task" to lead Zimbabwe, shrugging off concerns about his health and fitness for office.

USA

[The drone-industrial complex wants 30,000 eyes in the sky spying on us Americans by 2020](#) - Hightower

Lowdown

As constitutional lawyer and writer Glenn Greenwald warns: "The potential for abuse is vast. The escalation in surveillance they ensure is substantial, and the effect they have on the culture of personal privacy—having the state employ hovering, high-tech, stealth video cameras that invade homes and other private spaces—is simply creepy." The good news is that the industry and its cohorts have been recently stunned by a remarkable left-right counterpunch. They are not only being confronted by such progressive opponents of their liberty-busting gambit as the ACLU, CodePink, and Rep. Ed Markey in the US House—but also a determined bunch of Republican privacy defenders in Congress and the media, including Sen. Rand Paul, "Morning Joe" Scarborough on MSNBC, Bloomberg columnist Ramesh Ponnuru, and even far-right Fox commentator Charles Krauthammer, who says: "I don't want restrictions [on drones]—I want a ban."

['State of the Union' Outlines Social Policy](#) - America Magazine

President Obama set out an agenda in his State of the Union address on Feb. 12 that includes many of the social policy items on the wish-list of faith-based organizations. Among them are an increase in the federal minimum wage, comprehensive immigration reform, gun control and protection from budget cuts for Social Security, Medicare and education programs; job-creation initiatives; and development of sustainable energy alternatives.

RESOURCES

Eco-theological Message on Utube: To see a powerful visual message on Gia, go to,

<http://www.youtube.com/embed/nGeXdv-uPaw>

[LCWR Statement on Immigration Proposals](#)

[Water is a women's issue](#) - Fact Sheet

[Right to Water](#) – LCWR

[Gun laws in the US, state by state](#) --interactive – The Guardian

[A Pastoral Letter about Faith, Finances, and the Federal Budget](#) - Circle of Protection

A Documentary on Solidarity with South Sudan: Irish Television, RTE, have done a series of documentaries on Irish missionaries, one of which includes the South Sudan Project. Sr. Pat Murray is one of

three missionaries who took part in the programme. Go to, <http://www.rte.ie/player/it/show/10107030/> - *UISG/USG JPIC*

New Prayer Service (March 24): A prayer for the International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims, March 24, 2013, is available in several languages [English, Spanish, Italian, German, French, Dutch, Chinese, Japanese, Albanian, Portuguese, Rumanian and Kiswahili] and more on the way at, http://picformation.wikispaces.com/En_24March - *UISG/USG JPIC*

Land Grabbing: For an analysis of the present situation regarding land grabbing (in English), go to, <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/14747731.2013.760911>

"Why Poverty?": This is a project that uses film to get people talking about poverty. The series includes eight documentaries from award-winning film makers and 30 shorts from new and emerging talents, now available online at www.whypoverty.net

Richard Rohr ofm on Contemplation and Action: Richard will retire from International lecturing soon. His Institute is working on an online project which distils the 15 building blocks and the 7 underlying themes of his teachings. To find out more go to, <https://cac.org/rohr-inst/ls-program-details/ls-lineage> and <https://cac.org/rohr-inst/ls-program-details/ls-themes>

Environmental Scorecard – League of Conservation Voters
Interactive map to see how your representatives voted 1971 - 2012

COMING EVENTS

March

1 - 3 AFJN 30th Anniversary Conference, will take place at Notre Dame University in Notre Dame, Indiana . Featuring Cardinal Turkson, keynote speaker Visit www.afjn.org.

26-30 The next [World Social Forum](#) is scheduled to take place in Tunisia in March 2013

4 - Kenya Elections

April

April 5-8, 2013: 2013 Ecumenical Advocacy Days: At God's Table: Food Justice for a Healthy World will take place in Crystal City, VA near Washington, D.C. The theme of food security is one of great importance. Learn more about the annual gathering at www.advacacydays.org.

13 - AEFJN [AEFJN-UK: Special event Saturday 13 April 2013 at Westminster Cathedral Hall](#)

17 - 18 - 11th Annual Freedom Network Human Trafficking Conference Doubletree Hotel, Crystal City 300 Army Navy Drive Arlington, VA 22202 www.freedomnetworkusa.org Presentations and workshops by experts on human trafficking issues for Advocates, Legal Representatives, Social Service Providers, Government Officials, Prosecutors, Law Enforcement Officers, Faith Community (with a dedicated law enforcement track)

22-25 AEFJN 25th Anniversary Celebration in Brussels

May

5-10 - [Boundless Compassion](#) - Living the Heart of the Gospel Joyce Rupp, OSM [Maryknoll Mission Institute](#) Rogers Building, #529 Maryknoll, NY, USA 10545-0311 Phone: 914-941-7575 (Ext. 5671 or Ext. 5631) E-Mail: missinst@mksisters.org

19-24 - [The Bible Story Anew](#) - Living the Heart of the Gospel Carol J. Dempsey, OP [Maryknoll Mission Institute](#) Rogers Building, #529 Maryknoll, NY, USA 10545-0311 Phone: 914-941-7575 (Ext. 5671 or Ext. 5631) E-Mail: missinst@mksisters.org

28 - AEFJN Eucharist Celebration in Rome: 28th May 2013 with Cardinal Peter Turkson, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace

June

2-7 - [Dying to Live](#) - Migration, Globalization and the Human Journey Daniel Groody, CSC [Maryknoll Mission Institute](#) Rogers Building, #529 Maryknoll, NY, USA 10545-0311 Phone: 914-941-7575 (Ext. 5671 or Ext. 5631) E-Mail: missinst@mksisters.org

14-16 - Pax Christi USA National Conference will celebrate its 40th anniversary at The Sheraton Gateway Hotel at the Atlanta Airport in Atlanta, GA. More information available soon at www.paxchristiusa.org.

9-14 - [Disciple\(ship\) Today](#) - The REAL Challenge of the New Evangelization Anthony J. Gittens, CSSp [Maryknoll Mission Institute](#) Rogers Building, #529 Maryknoll, NY, USA 10545-0311 Phone: 914-941-7575 (Ext. 5671 or Ext. 5631) E-Mail: missinst@mksisters.org

16-21 - [The Missionary Spirit and the Spirit in our Time](#) - Diarmuid O'Murchu, MSC [Maryknoll Mission Institute](#) Rogers Building, #529 Maryknoll, NY, USA 10545-0311 Phone: 914-941-7575 (Ext. 5671 or Ext. 5631) E-Mail: missinst@mksisters.org

23-28 - [Love, Evolution and the Emergence of God](#) - Ilija Delio, OSF [Maryknoll Mission Institute](#) Rogers Building, #529 Maryknoll, NY, USA 10545-0311 Phone: 914-941-7575 (Ext. 5671 or Ext. 5631) E-Mail: missinst@mksisters.org

July

7-12 - [The New Universe Story](#) - God, Jesus and Prayer Michael Morwood, MA [Maryknoll Mission Institute](#) Rogers Building, #529 Maryknoll, NY, USA 10545-0311 Phone: 914-941-7575 (Ext. 5671 or Ext. 5631) E-Mail: missinst@mksisters.org

14 - 19 - Burren Environmental Study Week, Ireland This week is organized by the Columban Ecological Institute, Dalgan, Navan, under the direction of Dr John Feehan. He spoke at one of the JPIC Commission Seminars during the International Year of the Tree. Throughout the week, participants will carry out an intensive and hands-on exploration of Ireland's most ecologically diverse and beautiful landscape. The total cost is €600 (£480 /\$760). For more information, write to Elizabeth at devofficemail@gmail.com

14-19 - [The Evolution of Human Thought](#) - The World, The Church and Religious Life Carol Zinn, SSJ [Maryknoll Mission Institute](#) Rogers Building, #529 Maryknoll, NY, USA 10545-0311 Phone: 914-941-7575 (Ext. 5671 or Ext. 5631) E-Mail: missinst@mksisters.org

21-26 - [Call to Personal & Global Transformation](#) - Edwina Gateley, MA [Maryknoll Mission Institute](#) Rogers Building, #529 Maryknoll, NY, USA 10545-0311 Phone: 914-941-7575 (Ext. 5671 or Ext. 5631) E-Mail: missinst@mksisters.org

September

25-28 - [\(Program in California\) Life - A Journey With God](#) - Michael Morwood, MA [Maryknoll Mission Institute](#) Phone: 914-941-7575 (Ext. 5671 or Ext. 5631) E-Mail: missinst@mksisters.org

29-Oct 4 - [\(Program in California\) Life - A Journey With God](#) - Michael Morwood, MA [Maryknoll Mission Institute](#) Phone: 914-941-7575 (Ext. 5671 or Ext. 5631) E-Mail: missinst@mksisters.org

December

18 - Closing of AEFJN Celebrations: in Rome (at the General Assembly)

2014

International Year of Family Farming

**Action on behalf of justice is a constitutive dimension of the preaching of the gospel.
Justice in the World** - 1971 Synod of Bishops
