



*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

### Environment

#### [U.S. State Dept. Releases Keystone XL Environmental Impact Statement](#) - Common Dreams

Green groups express "outrage" and "disappointment" over "deeply flawed analysis" that ignores "greatest threat to our children's future: climate disruption".

#### [When to Say No](#) - New York Times

The State Department's latest environmental assessment of the controversial Keystone XL oil pipeline makes no recommendation about whether President Obama should approve it. Here is ours. He should say no, and for one overriding reason: A president who has repeatedly identified climate change as one of humanity's most pressing dangers cannot in good conscience approve a project that — even by the State Department's most cautious calculations — can only add to the problem. The 875-mile pipeline avoids the route of an earlier proposal that traversed the ecologically sensitive Sand Hills of Nebraska and threatened an important aquifer. It would carry 830,000 barrels a day of crude oil from the tar sands of Alberta to pipelines in the United States and then onward to refineries on the Gulf Coast. From there, most of the fuel would be sent abroad.

#### [Climate Change Will Force Billions More Into Poverty, Warns UN](#) - Common Dreams

Global South getting 'raw deal' from 'monster child' of industrialization: climate change.

#### [Visions of a Sustainable, Pollution-Free New York by 2030](#) - InterPress Service

In 2030 will midtown Manhattan be packed with whisper-quiet cars and trams while thousands walk the streets listening to the birds of spring sing amongst the gleaming, grime-free skyscrapers in the crystal-clear morning air.

### Food Security

#### [Secretive U.S. Amendment Would Weaken Biotech Oversight](#) - InterPress Service

Food safety advocates, environmentalists and health professionals here are engaging in a fervent last-minute campaign to highlight a controversial legislative amendment they say would gut the ability of both the judiciary and the federal government to regulate genetically modified agricultural products.

### Economy

#### [BRICS wrangle over new development bank](#) - Al Jazeera

Leaders of world's emerging economies gather in South Africa to flesh out proposal to challenge World Bank domination.

#### [Inequality Is Hurting Us All](#) - Other Words

If the levels of greater income equality of 1968 still prevailed today, the poorest fifth of Marylanders would be earning twice what they take home now.

#### [Paul Ryan's budget undermines the best of America](#) - National Catholic Reporter

Rep. Ryan has unveiled his new Republican budget. It is a budget that rewards wealth instead of work; one that reflects the worst of Ayn Rand as it undermines the best of America. It will take from working poor families to spend more on the wealthy, and it won't even reduce the national debt.

## Peace

### [Ten Years After](#) - New York Times

Ten years after it began, the Iraq war still haunts the United States in the nearly 4,500 troops who died there; the more than 30,000 American wounded who have come home; the more than \$2 trillion spent on combat operations and reconstruction, which inflated the deficit; and in the lessons learned about the limits of American leadership and power.

### [Rabbi Lerner assesses Obama visit to Holy Land](#) - Independent Catholic News

Rabbi Michael Lerner, editor of Tikkun magazine, discusses the trip so far and assesses the speech Obama made in Jerusalem: "If only Obama could go beyond the brilliant principles he articulated today to Israelis in Jerusalem—to follow through with action based on those principles!!!"

## Migration

### [U.S. Looks to Overhaul Massive Immigration Detention System](#) - InterPress Service

Rights groups and government officials have been testifying in a string of hearings, before both bodies of the U.S. Congress, on how to overhaul the United States' huge immigration detention system, the scope of which has expanded massively in recent years in ways that some suggest impinge on civil and human rights.

## Trafficking

### [Fighting Sex Trafficking in Brazil – in Fiction and Reality](#) - InterPress Service

The story generally begins in Brazil's hinterland, with a pretty, young woman from a disadvantaged background and with little formal education, who is drawn in by false promises and ends up in a sex trade network that stretches overseas. The disturbing trend has begun to be addressed by the government, the justice system, the legislature and even a popular soap opera, with encouraging results.

### [Statement by His Excellency Archbishop Silvano M. Tomasi](#)

Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva at the 22nd Session of the Human Rights Council. "Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography"

### [Global Report 2012 on Trafficking in Persons](#) - Comboni JPIC

On February 2013 at United Nations (UN) Headquarters, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime along with the Group of Friends against Human Trafficking presented the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, a crime that generates billions of dollars in profits for the traffic

## Racism

### [Uprooting Racism in the Food System: African Americans Organize](#) - Other Words

A shovel overturned can flip so much more than soil, worms, and weeds. Structural racism - the ways in which social systems and institutions promote and perpetuate the oppression of people of color – manifests at all points in the food system. It emerges as barriers to land ownership and credit access for farmers of color, as wage discrimination and poor working conditions for food and farmworkers of color, and as lack of healthy food in neighborhoods of color. It shows up as discrimination in housing, employment, redlining, and other elements which impact food access and food justice.

## Church

### [Homily of Pope Francis at Inaugural Mass](#) - Independent Catholic

Let us be "protectors" of creation, protectors of God's plan inscribed in nature, protectors of one another and of the environment.

### [In the Green Tradition](#) - America Magazine

Catholic greens had reason to sound exclamations of joy at the inaugural papal Mass. From the announcement of the new pope's name, Francis, there was speculation about whether Pope Francis would show the same sensitivity for nature that saint who preached to the birds, loved the wild places and tamed the wolf of Gubbio.

### [Five tests of whether Pope Francis' reform of the Vatican could be real](#) - National Catholic Reporter

Polling around the world suggests that overwhelming majorities have a positive impression of the new pope, and the media have fallen in love with a man who packs his own bags, makes his own calls and prefers to walk rather than taking the limo.

[Leave the Curia, Peter](#) - The Tablet

Pedro Casaldáliga, a Catalan bishop who has spent his life in Brazil, wrote a poem for the new pope before Francis was elected. Casaldáliga is the retired bishop of São Félix do Araguaia in the Amazon. He is the author of *A Spirituality of Liberation*.

[Pope Francis Raises Hopes for an Ecological Church](#) - InterPress Service

The new pope's choice of the name Francis, to honour the Catholic Church's patron saint of animals and the environment, has awakened the hopes of ecologists and others who are concerned about rampant consumerism and the deterioration of the planet.

## FAITH IN ACTION

**April 15 - [Global Day of Action Against Military Spending \(GDAMS\)](#)** brings groups together to create a global movement to pressure governments to reallocate their defense budgets. The latest SIPRI report estimated the global military spending in 2011 at \$1.738 billion. **Get more information** at the web site, <http://demilitarize.org/>. Find an action near you, check [interactive map](#).

[Send e-postcard to Congress for immigration reform](#)

## COUNTRY UPDATES

### Brazil

[Brazilian-Made Plastic Solar Panels, a Clean Energy Breakthrough](#) - InterPress Service

As part of the country's growing emphasis on green tech research, Brazilian scientists have developed plastic solar panels that could revolutionise power generation from this clean, renewable energy source. What looks like a thin, flexible sheet of regular plastic is actually a solar panel printed with photovoltaic cells, which convert sunlight into electricity. This new material, totally unlike the heavy and costly silicon-based panels commonly used to generate solar power today, was created by scientists at CSEM Brasil, a research institute based in the southeast Brazilian state of Minas Gerais.

[Indigenous community faces loggers](#) - Latin America Press

Tired of the logging of their forests, members of the indigenous community Pukobjê-Gavião, from the Brazilian northeastern state of Maranhão, decided at the end of January to seize four trucks and one tractor with some 20 cubic meters (700 cubic feet) of illegally logged timber from their territory.

### Britain

[EDF drops lawsuit against environmental activists after backlash](#) - the Guardian

The energy company EDF has dropped a £5m civil lawsuit against a group of 21 activists who occupied one of its gas-fired power plants for a week in October 2012, in a move described by supporters of the demonstrators as a "humiliating climbdown".

### Congo

[Local Communities Forced to Pay Salaries of DRC Army and Rebels](#) - InterPress Service

The M23 rebels are among the other rebel groups and Congolese army who have been accused of extorting money from locals to pay their soldiers.

[M23 Rebel Surrenders to US Embassy](#) - Newsfromafrica

Democratic Republic of Congo fugitive rebel leader Bosco Ntaganda, has handed himself to the US embassy in Rwanda asking to be turned over to the International Criminal Court where he is wanted for suspected war crimes.

### Japan

[Stories Sprout like Warnings in Japan's Tsunami Wasteland](#) - InterPress Service

As a survivor of Japan's deadliest tsunami in living memory, Shun Ito dedicates his mornings to evoking stories of heroism that helped to save lives in this port town that was decimated on that fateful March afternoon two years ago.

## Kenya

### [Kenyans queue in general election vote](#) - Al Jazeera

Voters waited for more than six hours at a time to cast ballots for a president, senators, members of parliament, county governors and representatives to the newly formed county assembly.

### [Kenyatta wins Kenya's Presidential Elections](#) - Al Jazeera

Deputy PM Uhuru Kenyatta declared poll winner with 50.07 percent of vote, as rival Odinga says he will contest result.

### [Locals Downplay Diplomatic Implications of Kenyatta's Presidency](#) - InterPress Service

Kenyans may have elected as president a man wanted by the International Criminal Court for war crimes, but political analysts here say that Uhuru Kenyatta's presidency will not have significant implications for the country's international standing just yet.

### [A sigh of relief post-Kenya election](#) - New Internationalist

Kenya has finally redeemed its image from the tarnishing it experienced during the 2007 post-general election violence. Kenyans have largely accepted the results of the latest poll on 4 March and maintained the peace, regardless of which side of the party political divide they stand on.

### [Odinga challenges defeat at Kenya Court](#) - Al Jazeera

Police fire teargas at supporters as the defeated presidential contender files legal objection to election results.

### [The Closest of Shaves](#) - Africa Confidential

Prime Minister Raila Odinga is challenging Uhuru Kenyatta's narrow win in court after a spate of technical failures at the electoral commission. Uhuru Kenyatta's presidential victory leaves Kenya still a divided nation. He achieved it by engineering a partnership between his fellow Kikuyu and the Kalenjin of his running mate, William Ruto, in the Jubilee Alliance. Locally, the big losers are the rival candidates, Raila Odinga and Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka. Those Western countries which opposed the candidacies of Kenyatta and Ruto now face the problems of dealing with a President and Deputy who are charged with crimes against humanity at the International Criminal Court (ICC).

## Nigeria

### [Boko Haram blasts in Nigeria kill at least 20](#) - Mail and Guardian

A series of blasts targeting buses full of passengers in Kano, Nigeria has killed at least 20 people and sources say the toll is expected to rise.

### [Chinua Achebe, 'Grandfather of Modern African Literature,' Dead at 82](#) - Common Dreams

Famed Nigerian writer Chinua Achebe has died following a short illness. He was 82.

## Peru

### [Scandal Over Israeli Firm Training Peruvian Soldiers](#) - InterPress Service

The Peruvian legislature is investigating a contract with an Israeli company, entered into by the previous government for advising and training the military, after audit bodies found irregularities in how it was signed.

## South Africa

### [The silent death of the private sector](#) - Free State Business Bulletin

Communists in South Africa must be popping the corks of their champagne as they witness the dream of a state-run economy coming true. Socialists must be wearing a wry smile as, despite their belief in a mixed economy, they do have reservations about the profit motive. Why all this celebration? Because the big picture suggests that, with some illustrious exceptions, the decline and fall of the private sector is happening before our eyes.

### [South Africa: more of a briquette than a Bric?](#) - Mail and Guardian

The newest member of the developing world's leading economies ranks significantly lower in population and GDP. South Africa is the newest and smallest member the Brics. Its population is 50 million compared to China's more than 1 billion, and its GDP ranked only 28th in the world. By contrast China is 2nd, Brazil 6th, Russia 9th and India 10th. South Africa accounts for just 2.5% of the Brics' GDP, according to Standard Bank research.

## South Sudan

[‘Born in War, Grown up in War, Now Time for Rehabilitation’](#) - InterPress Service

The Comboni missionary-run hospital in Nzara, South Sudan provides counselling to former abductees of the Lord’s Resistance Army who were traumatised by the war and provides antiretrovirals for those living with HIV.

## Zimbabwe

[Voting Will Change the Lives of Zimbabwe’s Women](#) - InterPress Service

Five million registered voters in Zimbabwe have an opportunity to change the lives of this country’s women. Women represent the majority, some 53 percent of the Zimbabwe’s 12.6 million people.

[Zimbabwe votes on new constitution](#) - Al Jazeera

Reports of violence mar campaign for widely supported charter that would limit powers of President Robert Mugabe.

[Unofficial results show Zim vote in favour of new referendum](#) - Mail and Guardian

Tallies from regional counting centres published by state-controlled daily the Herald found 3.1-million voters of a total of nearly 3.4-million people who cast their ballots approved the supreme law.

[Arrests, Intimidation And No New Zimbabwe](#) - InterPress Service

Heightened political tension between the major rivals in Zimbabwe’s coalition government and increased clampdowns on civil society have left questions about the country’s readiness for a true democracy just days after people voted to adopt a new constitution.

## USA

[U.S. Finally Passes Stronger Protections for Women against Abuse](#) - InterPress Service

The move will close gaps in related funding and safeguards that have opened since the legislation, known as the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), lapsed in September 2011. It will also offer renewed protections for Native American women and immigrants, regardless of their legal status, and, for the first time, will extend similar guarantees to sexual minorities.

[‘Senate’s Big Oil Benefactors’ Slammed for Keystone XL Vote](#) - Common Dreams

In a 62-37 vote late Friday, the US Senate passed a non-binding amendment calling for the approval of the controversial Keystone XL pipeline. 10 KXL amendment co-sponsors took \$8 million from fossil fuel industry

## RESOURCES

[Roots and Routes of Justice Ministry in Africa](#) - AFJN

Paper for the AFJN 30th Anniversary prepared by Cardinal Peter K.A. Turkson who due to the Pope’s resignation was unable to attend. His paper was interpreted by Fr. Richard, Superior general of the Missionaries of Africa at the conference.

[Encore: Ending the Silence on Climate Change](#) - Bill Moyers Journal Video

Remember climate change? The issue barely comes up with any substance in our current political dialogue. But bringing climate change back into our national conversation is as much a communications challenge as it is a scientific one.

[Who’s at the Table Demanding Answers on Agriculture in the Trans-Pacific Partnership PDF](#) - Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) has the potential to become the biggest regional free-trade agreement (FTA) in history, both because of the size of the economies participating in the negotiations and because it holds open the possibility for other countries to quietly “dock in” to the existing agreement at some point in the future.

[Land Grabs and Fragile Food Systems - The Role of Globalization PDF](#) - Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

Trade agreements need to respect and promote human rights, not drive a process of globalization that privileges commercial interests and tramples on public interests.

[Reflection of the Late Fr. Joseph Donders on his Life](#) - Petit Echo (Missionaries of Africa)

Father Donders (Sjef) ministered at the University of Nairobi, was the first Executive Director of AFJN and taught at the Washington Theological University and is the Author of several books. Sjef died on March 7th.

[News Notes](#) - Maryknoll

[Stop Trafficking Newsletter](#)



## [Economic and Ecological Way of the Cross](#)

Written for Washington DC, but can be adapted for local use.

## COMING EVENTS

### 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](http://www.advacacydays.org).

**8-11 - SOA Watch April lobby days** - From April 8-10, 2013, the School of the Americas Watch movement will return to DC to take the message that "We are One America" to the lawmakers and politicians in the halls of power. In November, 2012, thousands marched to the gates of Fort Benning, Georgia, where the killers are trained. SOAW supporters sent letters to Congress and even took their demands to the White House, where they met with Deputy National Security Advisor Denis McDonough. SOA Watch voices echoed the millions of people in the Americas who are creating change, and those from the six countries who have pulled out of the SOA/WHINSEC - Venezuela, Argentina, Uruguay, Bolivia, Ecuador and Nicaragua. [Check the SOA Watch website for more information.](#)

**9-10 - Peacebuilding 2013: Pacem in Terris at 50** - A major conference on peace will be held April 9-10 at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.; it is sponsored by the Catholic Peacebuilding Network and over a dozen Catholic universities and agencies to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the encyclical Pacem in terris and explore Catholic peacebuilding today. **Further updates on speakers, workshops, and registration can be found at the CPN website on the [Upcoming Events](#) page.** Registration is free but required. Deadline to register: April 2, 2013.

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

**15 - [Global Day of Action Against Military Spending \(GDAMS\)](#)** brings groups together to create a global movement to pressure governments to reallocate their defense budgets. The latest SIPRI report estimated the global military spending in 2011 at \$1.738 billion. **Get more information** at the web site, <http://demilitarize.org/>.

**17 - 18 - 11th Annual Freedom Network Human Trafficking Conference** Doubletree Hotel, Crystal City 300 Army Navy Drive Arlington, VA 22202 [www.freedomnetworkusa.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:missinst@mksisters.org)

23-28 - **[Love, Evolution and the Emergence of God](#) - Iliia 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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