



*I have come that you may have life to the full - John 10:10*

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Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur Justice and Peace Office

## CIRCLES OF LIFE

### Food Security

#### [The Epidemic of Land Grabbing is Worse than Colonization: US Companies are Part of the Rip off](#) - AFJN

The consequences of massive land grabs are worse than those of colonization and slavery. A main motivator for colonizers, political interests aside, was to export resources from Africa to their homeland. Slavery consisted of taking people out of Africa to other parts of the world. To the contrary, land grabbers have a very local impact: they are displacing people from the land, and taking away a steady livelihood for generations.

#### [The World Bank and the private sector: partners in land grabbing?](#) - AEFJN

The World Bank Group (WB-G) has been preparing the ground for the private investment in Africa by encouraging the commercialization of farmland through its investment and structural adjustment programs in Africa. Equally, the World Bank has been supervising land reforms in several African countries, with the aim to establish a western-styled property system. The Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) is building on this preparatory work and promotes private sector interest in African agriculture. In what follows we offer a brief overview of the World Bank's role in the commercialization of farmland and then an introduction to the MCA.

### Economy

#### [Challenges Facing Africa in the Implementation of EPAs](#) - AEFJN

The European Union is currently pressing African governments to proceed with interim Economic Partnership Agreement (iEPAs). However, there is resistance from African countries because they consider there are still some contentious issues to be re-addressed like reciprocity, trade in services, tariffs and agricultural subsidies. The EU is interested in maintaining the unbalanced trade relationship in which Africa supplies raw material and natural resources, and the EU exports manufactured products to African Countries.

### Peace

#### [Pope John XXIII's prophetic 'Pacem in Terris' turns 50](#) - National Catholic Reporter

Just over 50 years ago, the earth as we know it came dangerously close to being engulfed in a nuclear fireball. In October 1962, the United States commanded the Soviet Union to dismantle and remove nuclear missile sites in Cuba. After the Soviet Union refused, the U.S. established a Cuban naval blockade. With the situation quickly escalating toward nuclear war, Pope John XXIII issued an urgent appeal for peace.

#### [At 50, 'Pacem in Terris' guides 21st-century peacebuilding efforts](#) - Catholic News Service

Recognizing the inherent dignity of each person is the greatest weapon anyone has against war and violence, Cardinal Peter Turkson, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, told a conference marking the 50th anniversary of Blessed John XXIII's encyclical "Pacem in Terris" ("Peace on Earth"). Peace is intimately connected to working for justice, otherwise violence will be difficult to overcome, Cardinal Turkson said in an address April 10 at The Catholic University of America to about 150 participants in the conference sponsored by the Catholic Peacebuilding Network. "Peace then is not merely the absence of war and conflict, but it represents ... a gift from God," the cardinal said.

[UN arms treaty a small step to global sanity](#) - National Catholic Reporter

The international community's decision to finally pass a treaty that will begin to regulate cross-border sales of conventional weapons is a small step in the direction of global sanity. The decision included, in a major reversal of the U.S. stance in the past, an affirmative vote by the United States.

[Uri Avnery on the role of emotion in peace-making](#) - Tikun Magazine - Sent by Ann Louise Nadeau, SNDdeN

Uri Avnery, now in his eighties, is one of the most respected leaders of the Israeli peace movement. His description of the gathering last week of Israelis and Palestinians together to mourn those killed in the ongoing struggle, a unique spiritual event (though Avnery rarely uses that word), can give hope to even the most cynical.

## Migration

[U.S. Fourth Graders Fight to Bring Home Deported Classmate](#) - InterPress Service

Story of Fourth Grade Twins who learn the realities of immigration when their Mexican born classmate and his mother are suddenly deported. They communicate via Skype.

[Brazilian state of Acre in illegal immigration alert](#) - BBC

The Brazilian state of Acre has declared a state of emergency after a surge of illegal immigrants from neighbouring Bolivia and Peru. Officials said most of the immigrants originally came from Haiti but others had come from as far afield as Bangladesh, Senegal and Nigeria.

## Trafficking

[Faces of Modern-day slavery](#) - The Guardian

Slavery was abolished by most countries 150 years ago, but bonded and forced labour, trafficking and exploitation persist.

## Environment

[13 Spills. 30 Days. Nearly 1.2 Million Toxic Gallons](#) - Common Dreams

In gushes, drips, and spills. With leaks, derailments, and ruptures. Oil companies from North and South America have littered the world with more than 1,185,000 gallons of crude oil, tar sands, and other fossil fuel waste in the last month. Tcktcktck has a new infographic that tells the toxic tale...

[Natural Resources and Social Responsibility: an important step forward](#) - AEFJN

Shell Nigeria, the largest oil and gas company in that country, has been condemned for environmental damage and human rights abuses resulting from its activities. The District Court of The Hague has recently held that Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria was liable for damages and ordered compensation. This sentence can be interpreted as a success towards opening up future avenues to penalize multinationals when they are responsible for environmental damage and other abuses.

[BRICS cook the climate](#) - Pambazuka News

The BRICS are surpassing the US and the EU in terms of emissions of greenhouse gases. The Durban summit was an opportune moment to ask and answer many questions regarding the BRICS' economic strategies and to radically reduce their levels of emissions.

[In Hopeful Sign, EPA Slams State Department for 'Insufficient' KXL Review](#) - Common Dreams

Agency questions assumptions of 'inevitability' and calls for further review of greenhouse gas emissions

## Ecological Economy

[Link][Agro-ecology: for life](#) - AEFJN

For years, Pierre Rabhi has been recognized as a pioneer in agro-ecology. Currently, he is farming agro-ecology in France and he shared his knowledge of farming practices at a conference last February. These days, the dictatorship of money dominates the world and this is irreconcilable with the balance between man and nature. Seen through the eyes of money, the earth is like a field brimming over with riches that must at all costs be bled dry in the name of profit. This view is in contradiction to the idea of making good use of natural resources that is at the heart of aggro-ecology whereas industrial agriculture exhausts the land for us and for future generations. The worst thing is that this production model devastates the water, the soil and the climate. This model, laid down by agribusiness, which makes intensive use of chemical fertilizers, destroys ecosystems and annihilates small farmers.

### [Scottish government approves windfarm opposed by Donald Trump](#) - The Guardian

Billionaire property magnate attacks decision to build experimental offshore windfarm near his golf course as 'purely political'. The US businessman's Trump International golf course at Menie Estate also caused controversy, not least for building on an area of protected dunes.

## Church

### [Pope Francis and a new vision of Catholic reform](#) - Religious News Service

From the very first moment of his unexpected election as Pope Francis, Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio of Argentina has embraced a series of small departures from established tradition. He took his papal name from a great nonconforming saint of the Middle Ages — and one that no other pope in the history of the Roman Catholic Church has taken. He then refused to stand on an elevated platform that would separate him from his "brother cardinals," and asked the people of Rome to bless him rather than receive his blessing. He even insisted on returning to his hotel to settle his account (as though his credit were in any doubt).

## FAITH IN ACTION



**Falling Whistles**, a campaign for peace in DR-Congo, urges you to become a "whistleblower for peace," [here](#).

### [One Million Bones on the National Mall](#) June 8 - 10, 2013

"One Million Bones" is a large-scale social arts practice, which means we use education and hands-on artmaking to raise awareness of genocides and atrocities going on around the world, this very day. The goal is for one million people to each create one bone to represent one victim of genocide. Like a mass grave, the installation will recall the millions of victims of genocide, and demand action from the American people, our policy makers, and the worldwide community to end ongoing atrocities. [How to make the Bones](#)

### [Web tool lets users see if ancestors could immigrate to U.S. today](#)

Millions of Americans have grown up with a defining family immigration story. But while our families may have endured hardship coming to America, the simple fact is that most of our immigration stories would not be possible at all under today's immigration laws.

### **Advocate for Just Immigration Reform Take Action!**

Ask your Senators for a more just and compassionate immigration reform.

A bipartisan group of eight Senators has released a draft proposal, Senate Bill 744, addressing comprehensive immigration reform. While the bill has positive points such as creating a pathway to citizenship for those currently in our country, it also raises serious concerns. A 13-year minimum path to citizenship, increased separation of families, hyper-militarization of the border and a neglect of the most vulnerable in our society make it imperative that we improve this proposed piece of legislation. Contact your Senators today and ask them to support a more just and compassionate immigration reform bill!

## COUNTRY UPDATES

### Brazil

### [The Brazilian State of Pará, Where Land is Power](#) - InterPress Service

The landless peasant farmers occupying large landholdings in Pará, the Brazilian state where the land conflict is most violent, face threats ranging from intimidation by armed private guards to the spraying of toxic agrochemicals over their homes and crops.

### [Brazilian state of Acre in illegal immigration alert](#) - BBC

The Brazilian state of Acre has declared a state of emergency after a surge of illegal immigrants from neighbouring Bolivia and Peru. Officials said most of the immigrants originally came from Haiti but others had come from as far afield as Bangladesh, Senegal and Nigeria. They said about 1,700 illegal migrants had arrived during the past two weeks.

### [Incomplete Justice in Killings of Amazon Activists](#) - InterPress Service

Peasants and human rights defenders in Brazil are indignant over the acquittal of the man accused of ordering the May 2011 murders of two prominent Amazon activists, José Cláudio Ribeiro da Silva and his wife Maria do Espírito Santo.

## Europe

### [Africa-Europe Faith and Justice Network celebrates 25th anniversary](#) - Independent Catholic News

“Love for the people of Africa has inspired the Africa-Europe Faith and Justice Network”, reflected Archbishop Michael Fitzgerald at Saturday’s Jubilee Mass in London to celebrate the Network’s 25th anniversary. The Missionary of Africa and former head of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, with experience of working in Egypt, Uganda and Sudan, complimented the missionary congregations who formed the Network in 1988, saying they were inspired by seeing Africans suffering because of unfair trade, debt and the activity of multinational companies. “They realised the former colonial powers had particular responsibilities in relation to Africa” he said, “and greater awareness of issues affecting Africa had to be created amongst decision-makers”.

## Japan

### [U.S. and Japan Agree on Returning Okinawa Land](#) - New York Times

The United States and Japan have agreed on a new timetable for the return to Japan of a Marine airfield and other military bases on Okinawa, moving to solve a long-festering issue that has bedeviled America’s ties with its largest Asian ally. By agreeing to a clear timetable for the return of 2,500 acres, both nations are hoping to entice Okinawans to drop their opposition to the air base, which Washington and Tokyo want to move to another part of the island but which many Okinawans want to move off the island. Fierce local opposition has kept Japan from being able to follow through on a deal originally made in 1996 to allow the base and its noisy aircraft to be relocated to a less populated area of the island.

## Kenya

### [The Road to Fulfilling Election Promises](#) - InterPress Service

Kenya’s newly sworn-in President Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta may be faced with a number of challenges, including an impending International Criminal Court case and a slow economy. But he must also tackle corruption and ethnic divisions as he embarks on his five-year term as head of state of East Africa’s largest economy.

## Nigeria

### [Nigeria fighting ‘kills scores’ in Baga](#) - BBC

Intense fighting between the military and Islamist militants in north Nigeria is reported to have killed at least 185 civilians and destroyed 2,000 homes. Rocket-propelled grenades and heavy gunfire bombarded the remote town of Baga near the border with Chad for hours on Friday evening, government and military officials say.

### [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. Initial reports indicated that two suicide bombers drove a car packed with

explosives into a bus at the New Road station in Sabon Gari, a predominantly Christian neighbourhood in the majority Muslim city.

## Peru

[A sustainable community is born](#) - Latin America Press

Based on the principles of Buen Vivir, indigenous youth in the Amazon create an intercultural community. University students from seven indigenous communities who live together in the Peruvian city of Iquitos, on the banks of the Amazon River, have created a sustainable community based on the tenets of Buen Vivir, or “good living” — the concept of existing in harmony with other people and with nature.

## South Africa

[South African activists vow to fight on after MPs pass 'secrecy bill'](#) - The Guardian

Freedom of speech campaigners warn that bill could have 'chilling effect' on those seeking to expose official corruption

## South Sudan

[Kiir Forms New Committee for National Reconciliation](#) - Catholic Information Service for Africa

South Sudan's president, Salva Kiir, has announced the formation of a new national reconciliation committee in a move seen as a response to public concerns, a week after suspending the process. The public expressed numerous concerns in the media as to why the president decided to suspend the much-needed national reconciliation process, instead of changing the membership and composition of the committee without interruptions.

## Zimbabwe

[Zim rights lawyer Mtetwa faces new charges](#) - Mail and Guardian

Mtetwa was arrested a day after Zimbabwe's constitutional referendum, during a police raid of Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai's offices in Harare. She is alleged to have said: "Stop whatever you are doing, it's unconstitutional, illegal and undemocratic. You confused cockroaches".

[Children Learn Lessons of Commerce on the Streets of Zimbabwe](#) - InterPress Service

Hard times have hit Zimbabweans and have forced disadvantaged children to earn a living as vendors in downtown Harare.

## USA

[Bishops say health, retirement reforms should not contribute to poverty](#) - Catholic News Service

Reforms in health and retirement programs such as Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security must not increase poverty or economic hardship among the people they are designed to help, the chairman of two U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops committees said in a letter to Congress. Bishop Stephen E. Blaire of Stockton, Calif., chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, and Bishop Richard E. Pates of Des Moines, Iowa, chairman of the Committee on International Justice and Peace, cautioned in the April 22 letter against shifting the cost of such programs to or diminishing benefits of vulnerable seniors, people with disabilities and the poor.

[The Guys With The Guns, and The Money, Won This Round](#) - Network

Rachael Travis, an intern at Network, reflects on the failure of the Manchin-Toomey amendment for gun control.

[Boston Hospitals And Insurers Will Help Ease The Bombing Victims' Medical Costs](#) - Think Progress

The total medical costs resulting from last week's Boston Marathon attack are expected to top \$9 million — and that could be a conservative estimate, since the bombings' injury toll has just been revised up to nearly

## RESOURCES

300 people. Fortunately, however, the city's largest health providers are stepping up to ensure that the victims won't suffer under the full weight of those mounting costs.

Students are responding also. Bishop Fenwick High students have raised over \$1,800 in one fundraiser and have two more in the works.

[Summary and Analysis of Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act of 2013](#) - National Immigration Law Center

[45 Who voted against the Gun Control Law](#) - Network pdf giving photo, number of deaths in their district since Newtown and money donated by NRA since last election. Note: Harry Reid is excluded from this list because his no vote was a procedural vote that would allow the amendment to be brought back up for a vote on the Senate floor.

[AFJN Policy on African Issues \(pdf\)](#) - AFJN

### Videos



[Can we have Green Equality?](#)



[Doughnut Economics: Creating a safe and just space for humanity](#)- Update



[Gang of Eight Explains Senate Immigration Proposal](#)



[A beginner's guide to land grabs](#)

## COMING EVENTS

### May

**4-5 - General Assembly of the UISG (Rome).** The JPIC Commission has an opportunity to share at lunchtimes on May 4-5. Find out more from [www.jpicformation.wikispaces.com](http://www.jpicformation.wikispaces.com). Contact Teresa

**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)

**21 - CLINIC and the Justice for Immigrants Campaign (JFI) Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.** Join us for a day of Congressional advocacy on behalf of the immigrants we serve across the country. This is part of CLINIC's 16th Annual Convening. We will start the day with a preparatory session which will include how-to advocacy tips and a review of talking points and messaging. Then we will head to the Hill where you will meet with your Senators and Representatives to let them know how important immigration reform is to their constituents. We know from experience that hearing directly from constituents has a powerful

effect on the decisions made by our members of Congress. Take advantage of this opportunity to advocate for those who need immigration reform to pass! The Hyatt Regency Crystal City is the venue for CLINIC's convening. (1-800-321-3010; Group Code: Catholic Legal Immigration). Registration is free, but required. Please consider bringing your clients, coworkers, or other interested constituents who support the Church's principles for immigration reform. Donations are welcomed! REGISTER HERE (Advocacy Day ONLY), (<http://cliniclegal.org/advocacy-day>.)

**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)

**5 - World Environment Day** A new prayer service for World Environment Day in several languages is available at [http://jpicformation.wikispaces.com/EN\\_5June](http://jpicformation.wikispaces.com/EN_5June)

**8-9 - One Million Bones Exhibit on the National Mall, Washington, D.C.** "One Million Bones" is a large-scale social arts practice, which means we use education and hands-on artmaking to raise awareness of genocides and atrocities going on around the world, this very day. The goal is for one million people to each create one bone to represent one victim of genocide. Like a mass grave, the installation will recall the millions of victims of genocide, and demand action from the American people, our policy makers, and the worldwide community to end ongoing atrocities. Go to <http://onemillionbones.squarespace.com/the-project/>.

**10 - "Enough Project's" Advocacy Day in Washington for Sudan and DR-Congo.** Come to Washington to meet face-to-face with members of Congress and their staff to educate them about the mass atrocities which continue to unfold in Sudan and DRC. This is sponsored by the Enough Project and One Million Bones. It takes place from 8 am – 4 pm on Capitol Hill and is free. Visit the registration page at <http://enoughproject.org/act-against-atrocities?link=3>.

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)

**16-20 - Social Action Summer Institute 2013: Many Borders, One Body in Christ** will take place at the University of Arizona, Tucson. Bishop Gerald Kicanas of the Diocese of Tucson and Archbishop Jose Ulises Macias of the Archdiocese of Hermosillo will take part, as well as Rev. Daniel Groody, Kevin Appleby of USCCB, and Jeff Korgen who will focus on border push factors. The Social Action Summer Institute 2013 is sponsored by the Roundtable Association of Catholic Diocesan Social Action Directors. For more information on the event, [download the PDF flyer](#) or contact Adam Brown at 202-635-2757 ext. 133 or [coordinator@catholicroundtable.org](mailto:coordinator@catholicroundtable.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)

**18-21 - Promoting Justice & Peace Conference in Nairobi, Kenya.** Co-sponsors are Loyola University Chicago, Catholic University of East Africa and Project HARAMBEE. The conference will take place at the Catholic University of East Africa near Nairobi. There will be interaction with the Grow A Doc scholarship students as well as other Kenyan students. Marvelous networking opportunity. The full itinerary includes a two-week stay, reasonable priced accommodations at a guest house near the university, day trips to several

HARAMBEE project sites such as Upendo Village, and universities and some special fun activities including a visit to Karen Blixen's farm. Optional 3-day safari. For more information and to register, visit <http://justicepeace.org>, or email [harambee.work@sbcglobal.net](mailto:harambee.work@sbcglobal.net).

23-28 - [Love, Evolution and the Emergence of God](#) - Ilia 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)

## October

**20-26 - Congo Week.** Visit [www.friendsofthecongo.org](http://www.friendsofthecongo.org).

**25-27 - USCMA 2013 Mission Conference: Social Media, a New Language for Mission** will take place in St. Louis, Missouri, details tba. These annual conferences gather members and those concerned about the cross-cultural and global mission of the Church. Opportunities for orientation, renewal, as well as updating on mission, scripture, theology and social analysis are provided through these annual gatherings. Watch Archbishop Robert Carlson's video invitation at [www.uscatholicmission.org/uscma\\_home.aspx](http://www.uscatholicmission.org/uscma_home.aspx).

## 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

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