



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

Vol 10 No 1 Jan. 2013

SNDdeN.WordPress.com

Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur Justice and Peace Office

CIRCLES OF LIFE

Food Security

[There must be more to the killings in Tana Delta than meets the eye](#) - Daily Nation

In 2008, it was revealed that the Emirate of Qatar had allegedly entered into a deal with the government to convert 40,000 hectares in the region for horticultural produce. These "land-grabs" reflect a trend internationally where rich food-insecure nations seek to acquire land in poor countries for food or biofuel production to boost their own supplies and to avert domestic instability. In the Tana Delta, a fragile and extremely important wetland system, the land-grabs may have aggravated tensions between the agriculturalist Pokomo and the pastoralist Orma and Wardei ethnic groups.

[CAFOD joins major campaign on food and hunger](#) - Independent Catholic News

Hunger is the greatest scandal and the greatest challenge facing our generation. That's why nearly 100 leading charities, including CAFOD, want to make 2013 the beginning of the end of the global hunger crisis.

[European debt crisis: faith leaders call for radical economic change](#) - Independent Catholic News

In response to the European debt crisis, Archbishop Bernard Longley of Birmingham and Archbishop Peter Smith of Southwark with seven Catholic bishops and 37 Church of England bishops, have signed a multifaith statement calling for debt audits in Europe, cancelling the unjust debts of the most indebted nations, more progressive taxation and control of the financial system to prevent large debts being created. Other signatories include the President of the Muslim Association of Britain, the Chief Executive of the Movement for Reform Judaism and the President of the Methodist Conference. The Buddhist, Hindu, Jain, Sikh and Zoroastrian faiths are also represented.

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.

[Giant Victory in Europe on Taxing Financial Speculation](#) - Institute for Policy Studies

European ministers didn't even have to take a formal vote because it was obvious that there was sufficient support to move ahead.

[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.)

Peace

[Groups Decry Obama's Failure to Close Guantanamo](#)

Human rights groups are denouncing President Barack Obama's failure to veto a defence bill that will make it far more difficult for him to fulfill his four-year-old pledge to close the Guantanamo detention facility this year. Obama had threatened to veto the 2013 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) precisely because it renewed, among other things, Congressional restrictions which he said were intended to "foreclose" his ability to shut down the notorious prison, which has been used for the past 11 years to detain suspected foreign terrorists.

Non-Violence

[Gene Weingarten: On Second thought](#) - Washington Post

Transcript of a conversation between James and Dolley Madison; Heaven, Dec. 27, 2012.

Dolley: Gracious. Another deranged person has used an assault weapon to murder defenseless innocents.

James: How damnable! Whoever allows these madmen to have such powerful weapons should be tarred, feathered, pilloried, subject to the ducking stool and then paraded naked through town. Sometimes I curse the mercy shewn by my Eighth Amendment! Still, the scoundrel must be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

Migration

[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

[Twelve arrested in US raid on Latin sex-trafficking ring](#) - BBC

Authorities in the United States have arrested 12 people in connection with a people-trafficking prostitution ring. Another 44 people have been detained. Eleven women from Central America and Mexico, most in their 20s, were freed.

Environment

[Q&A: New Binding Treaty on Mercury Emissions is "Ambitious"](#) - InterPress Service

The international community has adopted a binding treaty for reducing emissions of mercury, a poisonous heavy metal that harms human health and the ecosystems on which life depends.

[More Threats From Fracking: Radioactive Waste](#) - Common Dreams

Pennsylvania's DEP begins study on radioactivity from oil, gas development; follows other studies showing high levels of radium, boron. The controversial drilling practice known as fracking is under renewed scrutiny, this time for producing radioactive waste. Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection announced Thursday it was embarking on a year-long study of radioactivity in by-products from oil and natural gas development.

Church

[Catholic Bishops Share Stories of 'Climate Refugees'](#) - Faith, Ecology, Economy Transformation (FEET)

FAITH IN ACTION

[February 4th - Interfaith Call-in Day to Prevent Gun Violence](#)

COUNTRY UPDATES

Brazil

[Brazil drought stokes worries over energy shortages](#) - BBC

Twelve years ago Brazilians across much of the country faced a stark choice: cut down on their energy use or be cut off completely. The strict measures were part of the government's response to a severe drought that had led to a big drop in the production of hydroelectricity, Brazil's main source of energy. And that stark choice might be looming again today, posing a big political headache for the government of President Dilma Rousseff.

[Brazil to survey Amazon rainforest](#) - BBC

The Brazilian government has announced that it plans to undertake the huge task of recording an inventory of the trees in the Amazon rainforest. The Forestry Ministry said the census would take four years to complete, and would provide detailed data on tree species, soils and biodiversity in the world's largest rainforest.

Congo

[Letter to Patrice Emery Lumumba](#)- Pambazuka News

On the 52nd anniversary of the vicious assassination of Patrice Lumumba, Ama Biney reflects on both the current state of the DRC and Africa, arguing that the Congo is not only a 'world problem' but remains critical to the future unity of Africa due to its resources and geo-strategic location.

[Uncertainty for Angolans stripped of refugee status in DRC](#) - IRIN

Some 40,000 former Angolan refugees in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are living in limbo, unwilling to go home but lacking legal status in DRC.

Kenya

[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.

[Kenya's IDPs fault government for delayed resettlement](#) - IRIN

Of the 600,000 people forcibly displaced in Kenya during the fierce 2007-2008 post-election violence, hundreds have yet to be resettled, despite government pledges to find them new homes. Minister for Special Programmes Esther Murugi says 723 such families are still displaced, as well as a further 1,200 families who were evicted by the government from their homes in the Mau Forest as part of efforts to protect crucial water catchment areas.

[Women Navigate Political Minefield in Kenya](#) - InterPress Service

Few women in Kenya harbour illusions of entering politics. Blatant discrimination, threats and intimidations, an uneven playing field and a largely unsympathetic public have turned electoral politics into a veritable minefield for women hoping to secure top government posts. Despite adopting a more gender sensitive constitution back in 2010, in which Article 81(b) stipulates that not more than two-thirds of the members of elective public bodies shall be of the same gender, male-dominated parties continue to make a farce of the little political space offered to women.

Nigeria

[Islamists kill Nigerian soldiers heading to Mali](#) - IRIN

Two Nigerian soldiers were killed and five others seriously injured in a 19 January attack on a military detachment heading for deployment in Mali, as part of Nigeria's contribution to a UN-sanctioned African intervention force to reclaim northern Mali from Islamists, military officials told IRIN. The soldiers, from a military unit based in the southern Nigerian city of Ibadan, were on their way to the town of Kachia in northern Kaduna State to prepare for deployment to Mali, when they were attacked near the city of Okene in central Kogi State, Nigerian army spokesman Maj-Gen Bola Koleoso told IRIN.

Peru

[Indigenous women working toward Good Living](#) - Latin America Press

Andean and Amazonian women strengthen their organization at the national level. Three years after the creation of the National Organization of Andean and Amazonian Indigenous Women of Peru, or ONAMIAP, 150 women leaders from around the country met at their second congress Dec. 6-7.

South Africa

[South Africa searches for solutions to shack fires](#) - IRIN

One of the worst informal settlement fires in the history of Cape Town, South Africa, took place on New Year's Day in the sprawling township of Khayelitsha, laying bare the complexities undermining efforts to end these frequent disasters. As more people migrate to the country's towns and cities, new informal settlements regularly spring up unannounced. The high density of these urban areas, and the flammability of the materials used to build in them, make spontaneous and rapidly spreading conflagrations a constant threat.

South Sudan

[Fear keeps Abyei residents from returning home](#) - IRIN

Only a fraction of the 120,000 people who fled the Abyei Area following an invasion by Sudanese troops in May 2011 have returned to their homes, amid fears of repeat military action and uncertainty over the area's political future. The Abyei Area sits on the border between Sudan and the newly independent South Sudan, but which of the two countries Abyei is part of has yet to be determined. In 2005, a peace deal ending decades of civil war called for a referendum to settle the matter, but that vote has been repeatedly delayed by disagreements over who will be allowed to participate. The referendum is currently scheduled to take place in October.

Zimbabwe

[Ringling the changes to end bartering in Zimbabwe](#) - IRIN)

At the end of every month, Tariro Bhachi, 28, in Mutata Village in Mashonaland East Province, walks about 2km from her homestead to the top of a hill in search of cellular signal, joining a throng of others. While most people do this to make phone calls, Bhachi's monthly trips have another purpose – to receive notification that a remittance has arrived from her husband, who has been working in South Africa for the last four years.

USA

[MLK Injustice Index 2013: Racism, Materialism and Militarism in the US](#) - Common Dreams

"We as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values...when machines and computers, profit motives and property rights, are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, materialism and militarism are incapable of being conquered."

RESOURCES

[Right to Water](#) – LCWR

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

[Bill Moyers Essay: Remember The Victims, Reject the Violence](#)

[Zimbabwe's constitutional conundrum](#) - Video (4 min) - Mail and Guardian

Video footage from Zimbabwe reveals how the process of drafting a new Constitution in a poverty-struck nation is often fraught with violence and intimidation.

[NewsNotes](#) - Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

COMING EVENTS

February

Black History Month - USA

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.

4 - Kenya Elections

22 - World Water Day. Visit: www.unwater.org/watercooperation2013

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

Zimbabwe 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.

11-12 - Conference on "Pacem in Terris at 50" will be held at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. The **Catholic Peacebuilding Network** and more than a dozen Catholic universities and agencies will sponsor this commemorative event. **Find out more at** www.orlandodiocese.org/e-scroll-current-issue/item/17609-catholic-peacebuilding-network. **Note: The Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace** will also organize an international seminar on the anniversary of Pope John XXIII's **Encyclical on Peace** entitled "Pacem in Terris" (April 11 1963). **For copies** in English, Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese and German, go to www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_xxiii/encyclicals/index.it.htm.

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

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 Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. 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](#) - 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

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 - [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

31-Aug 3 - 14th Annual Convention of The African Conference of Catholic Clergy and Religious in the United States (ACCCRUS) will take place in Los Angeles.

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

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