



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

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"I would like to make an appeal to those in possession of greater resources, to public authorities and to all people of good will who are working for social justice: never tire of working for a more just world, marked by greater solidarity." [Pope Francis in Rio](#) July 25, 2013



CIRCLES OF LIFE

Food Security

[In Kenya, Small Is Vulnerable](#) - InterPress Service

With the country's food security and farmers' livelihoods at risk from climate change, Kenya has divergent policy options. One is reliant on deploying new technologies as well as improving and expanding use of fertilisers and pesticides; while the other would turn to indigenous knowledge and the country's natural biodiversity.

Economy

[So-called free trade talks should be in the public, not corporate interest](#) - Guardian

Though nothing has come of the World Trade Organisation's Doha development round of global trade negotiations since they were launched almost a dozen years ago, another round of talks is in the works. This time the negotiations will not be held on a global, multilateral basis. Rather, two huge regional agreements – one transpacific, and the other transatlantic – are to be negotiated. Are the coming talks likely to be more successful?

['Poverty is a massive crime against humanity'](#) - Duetche Welle

Philosopher Thomas Pogge has accused the wealthy in western democracies of actively harming the world's poor by propagating the wrong political and economic systems. During a recent visit to Germany, Pogge spoke to DW.

Peace

[Syria: children are unseen victims of the war](#) - Independent Catholic News

What began with kids writing anti-regime graffiti on a wall in the Syrian town of Deraa in March 2011 has been transformed into a brutal civil war in Syria and the largest humanitarian crisis Caritas is working in today. There are at least 100,000 people dead, nearly 7 million people in Syria needing aid and four million forced from their homes within the country. Over 1.7 million people have fled to neighbouring countries. But the figures don't adequately reflect the true cost of the war.

Migration

[Pope on Lampedusa: "the globalization of indifference"](#) - Vatican Radio

In his homily at Mass celebrated with the residents of Lampedusa and the immigrants who have sought refuge there, Pope Francis spoke out against the "globalization of indifference" that leads to tragedies like the deaths of so many migrants seeking a better life.

[U.S. Senate passes flawed immigration bill](#) - Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

On June 27, the U.S. Senate passed S. 744, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act. In this highly polarized Congress, it is worth acknowledging that a bill that provides assistance for undocumented

immigrants has progressed at all; however, S. 744 was crafted with tremendously painful compromises, particularly in regards to the militarization of the U.S.-Mexico border.

Trafficking

[Saudi princess Meshael Alayban charged with trafficking](#) - BBC

A woman described as a Saudi princess has been arrested in California and accused of human trafficking. Meshael Alayban, 42, is accused of forcing a Kenyan woman to work 16 hours a day while paying her far less than what she was originally promised. Authorities say Ms Alayban took the woman's passport, precluding her escape. Her lawyer called the case a dispute over work hours.

Environment

[A Healing Walk through Canada's Tar Sands Dystopia](#) - Yes Magazine

Cree organizer Clayton Thomas-Muller provides a deeply personal account of a ceremonial healing walk through the broken landscape of Canada's tar sands. This year's walk begins July 4.

[Obama Unveils Plan to Circumvent Congress on Climate Change](#) - InterPress Service

Stymied by the U.S. Congress, President Barack Obama has unveiled his vision to reset the United States' incoherent national plan to combat climate change, offering dozens of regulatory tweaks and targets that his administration could now implement without Congressional approval.

Ecological Economy

[Faith-based principles on actions of extractive industries](#)

The Sisters of Notre Dame Justice and Peace Office is a member of the Extractive Industries Working Group, a Washington, D.C.-based coalition of faith, human rights, and environmental organizations concerned about the negative impact of extractive industries on the human and natural world. In June the group published the following principles related to work on extractive industries. The statement is open for organizational sign-on; contact [Susan Thompson](#) (Alliance for Justice/Medical Mission Sisters) to endorse.

[Conflict of interest: State Department contractor on Keystone XL study lied about ties to TransCanada & oil industry](#) - Friends of the Earth

The company hired by the State Department to review the environmental impact of the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline lied on its conflict of interest disclosure form about its work for pipeline builder TransCanada and other oil companies, according to research released today by Friends of the Earth and The Checks & Balances Project.

Church

[Francis on the 'Light of Faith'](#) - America Magazine

America asked a selection of writers, theologians and church leaders to respond to Pope Francis' first encyclical, Lumen Fidei.

[Veteran Jesuit explains choice to return to lay life](#) - NCR Today

In a lengthy, moving letter to friends and colleagues, veteran Jesuit priest Bert Thelen explains his reasons for leaving the order and the priesthood and returning to the lay state. Thelen, who is almost 80 years old, has served as parish priest, provincial staff member and provincial during his 45 years of service.

[Vatican bank oversight lacks independence](#) - NCR

The Vatican bank, officially known as the Institute for the Works of Religion, is scandal-plagued and has been for years. Pope Benedict XVI took important steps in bringing reform to the bank, not the least of which was insisting that the Vatican follow the international standards set by Moneyval, the European anti-money-laundering agency. Moneyval reviewed Vatican financial procedures last year and will return in 2014 to see if the mandated improvements have been made. For example, Moneyval insisted the Vatican establish an independent Financial Information Authority with the power to investigate suspicious transactions. This agency is headed by René Brülhart, a highly respected Swiss lawyer and expert in the field who in May revealed more than a dozen suspicious activities since 2011. That is real progress.

[Final Homily of Bishop Portella - SECAM in Kinshasa](#) - AEFJN

At the African bishops meeting of SECAM in Kinshasa, the Bishops called upon the political leaders of the continent to work not in their own interests, but for the benefit of the entire African population. They also invited Africans to commit themselves urgently to the struggle for a just social order and to enable the rights proper to human dignity to be enjoyed

by all, in all areas of life. They also called for an end to the war in the Democratic Republic of Congo, that has been destroying the country for years and which has caused millions of deaths and serious human rights violations, in addition to the rape of thousands of women and girls.

FAITH IN ACTION

[Sign a petition on behalf of African, primarily Eritrean and Sudanese, asylum seekers](#) who are being kidnapped, tortured, raped and trafficked in Egypt's Sinai Desert on their way to seeking refuge in Israel. sent by Margaret Clark, SNDdeN



August is the time to contact your local Legislators while they are home during the August Recess.

Stress these points for common sense reform: - [Nuns on the Bus](#) - [Action Suggestion](#)

- Ensures family unity
- Protects the rights of immigrant workers
- Acknowledges that our borders are already secure, with only minor changes needed
- Speeds up processing of already-approved immigrants
- Enhances the present diversity visa program
- Provides a clear and direct pathway to citizenship for the 11 million people who are undocumented in the U.S.

COUNTRY UPDATES

Brazil

[Rousseff avoids media-led coup](#) - Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

Every year around this time, students across Brazil hold marches against announced bus fare increases. Usually it is hundreds or even a few thousand students closing down major streets for a few hours and then going home with no other real effect. But this year, for a variety of reasons, the marches "caught on" and grew in size and number in every state. While it was progressive organizations like the Free Pass Movement (MPL) that organized the marches, this year, with complaints about public services, as the protests grew in size, conservative forces tried to take control of the marches to make them appear to be a generalized clamor against President Dilma Rousseff. By reacting quickly to the protestors, the president was able to regain control of the political agenda.

[Brazil's Left Is Eager to Lead the "Swarm"](#) - InterPress Service

The street marches in Brazil, initially non-party-political, have begun to take on the hues of leftwing political and social groupings, which are now trying to set the course of the movement that emerged from online social networks.

[American Nun's Killer Released From Brazil Prison](#) - ABC News

The confessed killer of U.S. nun and Amazon defender Dorothy Stang has been released from jail after serving less than nine of the 27 years he was sentenced to back in 2005. The judiciary branch of the northern state of Para Thursday said on its website that Judge Claudio Henrique Rendeiro ruled that Rayfran das Neves Sales was entitled to serve the rest of his sentence under house arrest. Neves is prohibited from frequenting bars, must sleep at home and find a job.

[Brazil, Fortune and Fate Turn on Billionaire](#) - New York Times

When the Brazilian billionaire Eike Batista appeared on the Charlie Rose show in 2010, he and his country were on a roll. The rise and fall of Eike Batista mirrors Brazil's sudden reversal of fortune.

[Let's Be Brazil](#) - Huffington Post

I have outrage envy. For nearly two weeks, more than a million citizens across Brazil have taken to the streets to protest political corruption, economic injustice, poor health care, inadequate schools, lousy mass transit, a crumbling infrastructure and — yes, in the land of Pelé — billions blown on sports. Also Watch [Bill Moyer's Journal](#)

Congo

[Will Congo's poor benefit from world's largest dam project?](#) - Pambazuka News

Despite being in the path of this huge project, the people have very little information about the dam and the impacts it will bring to their lives. The situation is the same everywhere in Africa where poor communities are relocated to make way for huge infrastructure projects

[Church Continues the Struggle To Save Democracy in Congo](#) - America Magazine

Cardinal Monsengwo said that despite the church's past direct involvement in government affairs, it is time to take a back seat. "The time has come for the country's religious to return to their pastoral role, and leave running the country to laypeople".

[U.S. Courts Uphold Conflict Minerals Disclosure](#) - InterPress Service

A U.S. federal judge has upheld a key regulatory provision aimed at ensuring that the profits from products mined in central Africa are not used to benefit armed groups, particularly in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Japan

['Strongly Suspected' Fukushima Leaking Radioactivity Into Ocean and Has Been for Two Years](#) - Common Dreams

Head of Japan's Nuclear Regulation Authority revealed alarming finding

Kenya

[CAFOD assists with project to give half a million Kenyans solar power](#) - Independent Catholic News

More than 600,000 people are set for an energy revolution with the installation of solar-powered systems in schools and health centres in some of Kenya's poorest regions. CAFOD is working with the European Union on a four-year green energy project in the counties of Kitui, Kajiado and Isiolo, each covering an area bigger than Wales, where average annual rainfall is just 400 millimetres compared to 1300 millimetres in the UK.

[Why climate change has become a big threat to vulnerable African countries](#) - Daily Nation

Like most African countries, Kenya's economy remains fragile due to the dependency on rain-fed agriculture, which contributes up to 28.5 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product. Between 2008 and 2011, drought alone slowed the country's economic growth by an average 2.8 per cent per year. In a sense, African countries have collectively done little in terms of harming the environment, yet some of the greatest impacts of climate change will occur in Africa.

Nigeria

[Death Row Inmates Moved Closer to the Gallows](#) - NewsfromAfrica

Amnesty International has received worrying reports that Nigerian prison authorities on Tuesday moved a group of death row prisoners into cells closer to the gallows, including one man who narrowly escaped execution last month. "With these latest reports it appears that the authorities at Nigeria's Benin prison may be gearing up to continue executing," said Lucy Freeman, Deputy Director of Amnesty International's Africa Programme.

Peru

[Repsol to drill for oil in Amazon rainforest in Peru](#) - The Guardian

Company to operate in a region inhabited by indigenous people extremely vulnerable to any contact with outsiders.

[Developers destroy ancient Peru pyramid](#) - BBC

Authorities in Peru say an ancient pyramid at the oldest archaeological site near the capital, Lima, has been destroyed. They are pressing criminal charges against two real-estate companies blamed for tearing down the structure, which was 6m (20-ft) high.

South Africa

[The road to a 'Hunger Games' state](#) - Mail and Guardian

An estimated 1.5-million pupils in South Africa are not at school – and it is not difficult to see why.

South Sudan

[7 Things You Need to Know About South Sudan's Government Crisis](#) - Enough Project

On July 23, South Sudan's President Salva Kiir issued a decree dismissing his longtime vice president, Dr. Riek Machar, along with all the ministers and deputy ministers in his cabinet. In a statement read on national television late Tuesday evening, Kiir also suspended Pagan Amum, the Secretary-General of South Sudan's ruling political party, the Sudan

People's Liberation Movement, or SPLM. Social media reports that 17 brigadier generals have also been removed from their posts.

Zimbabwe

[Complicated Registration 'Designed' to Prevent Zimbabwean's From Voting](#) - InterPress Service

At most voter registration centres in Zimbabwe there are long queues and the process to register a tedious one. Most civil society organisations believe that this is a deliberate attempt by President Robert Mugabe's supporters to frustrate people and prevent them from registering.

[Rushing and cheating](#) - Africa Confidential

A tightened election timetable with almost a third of eligible voters missing from the register leaves plenty of space for a nationwide gerrymander.

[Zimbabwean authorities accused of pre-poll clampdown](#) - Deutsche Welle

A rights group is warning that the authorities in Zimbabwe are cracking down on the opposition just weeks before voters go to the polls. Election violence five years ago claimed 200 lives. Zimbabwe's upcoming general elections will take place amid a crackdown by the state on human rights activists and opposition supporters, Amnesty International warned in a report released on Friday.

USA

[REFLECTION: When profiling is "reasonable," injustice becomes excusable](#) - Pax Christi USA

"The blues" describes my reaction to the "not guilty" verdict in the death of Trayvon Martin. I cannot be dispassionate about this matter. For I know what it feels like to be a black man in America, regardless of the impassioned denials of so many that race had nothing to do with this case.

[Obama Plan to Electrify Africa Offers a "New Model" of Aid](#) - InterPress Service

During an eight-day trip to Africa, President Barack Obama unveiled an ambitious plan to improve access to electricity across the continent, a move the White House says is designed to lift Sub-Saharan Africa out of poverty and help the region develop a stable middle class. While the initiative may appear to be a generous increase in U.S. government aid to the continent, analysts suggest that it is perhaps more noteworthy as a change in the paradigm of how the United States assists developing nations.

[How the George Zimmerman Mindset Has Rigged the Justice System against Young Black Men](#) - Think Progress

George Zimmerman killed one boy, 17-year-old Trayvon Martin. Although a Florida jury found Zimmerman not guilty, his attitude — that a young black male is an object suspicion and contempt — not only cost Martin his life but has infected the entire United States criminal justice system.

[NAACP Seeks DOJ Intervention in Martin Case, Targets 'Stand Your Ground' Laws](#)

The nation's oldest and largest civil rights group responded to the acquittal of George Zimmerman with shock, anguish and a call to action. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is petitioning the United States Department of Justice to seek justice for slain teenager Trayvon Martin by filing civil rights charges against Zimmerman.

RESOURCES

[ADNA Briefing](#) at National Press Club

[Two Families](#) - Video

Bill Moyers chronicles two ordinary families - one black and one white - for two decades.

[Lumen Fidei](#) Download

[Band of Sisters Movie](#)

Band of Sisters tells the story of Catholic nuns and their work for social justice after Vatican II of the 1960s. For Catholics who wonder what became of the nuns they knew in habits and convents many years ago, for activists who may feel profoundly discouraged given the problems of today's world, for women seeking equality in their church, and for people of all faiths yearning for an inclusive and contemplative spirituality, Band of Sisters challenges us to ask what really matters in life. And as we seek what matters, how do we go about changing our lives and the world around us?

[Free On-Line Course on Climate Change](#) - University of Melbourne

Professor Jon Barnett, Professor John Freebairn, Professor David Jamieson, Dr. Maurizio Toscano and Rachel Webster. This course develops an interdisciplinary understanding of the social, political, economic and scientific perspectives on climate change. Workload: 6-8 hours/week. Aug 12th 2013 (9 weeks long)

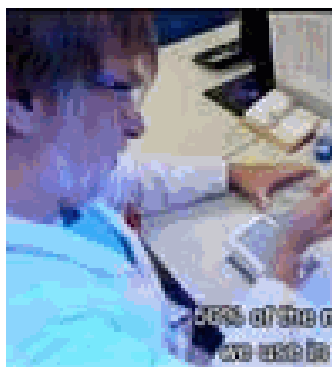
[Maryknoll NewsNotes](#)

A book on ***Strangers No Longer*** has just been released by Justice for Immigrants at the USCCB. You may read the Preface and Introduction of the book at <http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org/OnStrangersNoLonger.htm>

Echoes from AEFJN - [English](#)

Echoes de AEFJN - [French](#)

Video



[Tarsands Healing Walk 2013](#)

[Superweeds: How Biotech Crops Bolster the Pesticide Industry](#)

[The Scourge of Bio-Piracy](#)

[How ALEC's Ag-Gag Laws Silence Whistleblowers](#)

COMING EVENTS

September

21 - International Day of Peace. Join the efforts for a global march for peace and unity, www.facebook.com/GlobalMarchForPeaceUnity.

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

October

18-21 - [This Fall at Power Shift 2013 we draw a line in the sand and say no more. Register now and join us!](#)

More than ten thousand youth leaders from every walk of life — college students, young environmental justice leaders, DREAMers, young people of faith, young workers — will **come together in Pittsburgh, PA to train, build, and launch our resistance.**

20-26 - Congo Week. Visit 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.

November

20 - Solidarity with South Sudan Annual Assembly. From 9-4 pm at the Fratelli. Rome. **Find out more from** Teresa Dagdag at jpico@lasalle.org.

December

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

2014

International Year of Family Farming

July

7-10 National Migration Conference - Renaissance Hotel Washington DC USCCB and CLINIC

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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