



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

Vol. 10 No 5 May 2013

Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur Justice and Peace Office

<http://sddenjpic.org>

CIRCLES OF LIFE

Food Security

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

AFJN

Advocates, mostly African diaspora, gathered on March 15 in the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill to call attention to the tragic effects of land grabbing in Africa by foreign investors. The discussion was moderated by Gregory Simpkins, senior advisor to Congressman Chris Smith, the Chairman of the U.S. House Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations.

Economy

[New report shows how tax dodging feeds world hunger](#) - Independent Catholic News

The scandal of world hunger could soon be ended if the revenues that developing countries lose through tax dodging were available to them to invest in agricultural development, says a new report from Christian Aid.

Peace

[Hundreds of anti-drone protesters march against UK flight-control centre Britain](#) - The Guardian

Marchers protest the navigation from RAF Waddington of unmanned Reaper aircraft in Afghanistan. Hundreds of peace campaigners gathered outside an RAF base to protest against armed drones being operated from Britain to conduct missions in Afghanistan. Around 400 demonstrators took part in a march from Lincoln to a rally at nearby RAF Waddington, which assumed control of British drone missions in Afghanistan.

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

The 45 USA Senators who voted against the Manchin-Toomey amendment for background checks weren't representing their constituents in voting against the amendment, they were representing the National Rifle Association.

[Syria's Chemical Weapons](#) - Institute for Policy Studies

The allegations of chemical weapons being used in Syria have given rise to a whole escalating campaign for direct US military intervention. That's a very dangerous problem.

Migration

['Nuns on the Bus' will hit the road for immigration reform](#) - Religious News Service

The "Nuns on the Bus" are revving up their engines for another national campaign, only this time the Catholic sisters are taking their mobile platform for social justice along the country's Southern border to push Congress to pass immigration reform.

[U.S. Reforms Could Slash African Immigration Levels](#) - InterPress Service

Advocates for the African diaspora in the United States have stepped up a campaign to urge the U.S. Congress not to end a longstanding visa programme aimed at boosting immigration from “underrepresented countries”.

[An Imperfect Immigration Bill Survives](#) - New York Times

The bipartisan immigration bill that passed the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday has many serious hurdles ahead. It is the most serious and worthy attempt to fix immigration in a generation, but it cannot help reflecting the poisoned politics of today, with its heavy tilt toward needless border enforcement and a deficiency in equal rights.

Trafficking

[Comic book tackles wage theft with goal of empowering aggrieved workers](#) - Catholic News Service

Worker advocates have turned to a new tool to educate low-wage employees about wage theft. The first issue of “Wage Theft: Crime & Justice,” published by Chicago-based Interfaith Worker Justice, may not be coveted by comic book collectors, but clients at worker centers around the country are poring over the bilingual book to learn how best to regain wages owed to them by deceitful employers.

[Brazil Lagging in Fight against Human Trafficking](#) - InterPress Service

In contravention of international law, in Brazil trafficking in human beings remains invisible and unpunished, which encourages the practice of trafficking for sexual exploitation, forced labour, illegal adoption and the trade in human organs, according to experts.

[Trafficking gang 'smuggled Bangladeshis into Brazil'](#) - BBC

Brazilian police say they have identified a gang specialising in trafficking Bangladeshi nationals into the country. About 80 workers have been lured by their own countrymen with promises of earning up to \$1,500 (£985) a month.

Environment

[Religious activists hold mining companies to account](#) - Independent Catholic News

Religious activists have become increasingly important in challenging large-scale destructive mining practices around the world. Last week they were protesting prominently outside the annual general shareholder meetings of Rio Tinto and Anglo-American. They supported a representative of Mongolian herders who claimed that a \$5bn (£3.3bn) expansion of Rio Tinto’s Oyu Tolgoi copper and gold mine in the Gobi desert threatens the fresh water supply of hundreds of nomadic people and the area’s unique ecology.

[Launch of the Short Circuit Report](#) - London Mining Network

A new report, launched in Westminster by The Gaia Foundation and allies including London Mining Network, exposes the social and ecological atrocities and the toxic legacy of gadgets such as smartphones and laptops. From environmental destruction and contamination caused by extraction, exploitative working conditions during production, to the mountains of e-waste being shipped abroad, the report follows the birth, life and death of everyday gadgets and reveals their true cost to the planet and to future generations.

[Obama Might Actually Be the Environmental President](#) - New York Magazine

His climate-change policy has been an abject failure, says Al Gore and just about everyone else. They’re wrong. Here’s why.

Ecological Economy

[Rich Countries Drag Feet at Climate Talks](#) - InterPress Service

At the recent international climate negotiations in Bonn, Germany last there was little the mid-level bureaucrats could do because world leaders remain in thrall to the fossil fuel industry, according to environmentalists. “The main barrier to confronting the climate crisis isn’t lack of knowledge about the problem, nor is it the lack of cost-effective solutions,” said Alden Meyer, director of strategy at the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Church

[US Bishops urge government to publicly discuss and rethink use of Drones](#) - Independent Catholic News
The United States should publicly discuss and scrutinize its policy of targeted killings by unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), or drones, in order to formulate “a more comprehensive, moral and effective policy to resist terrorism,” said the chairman of the US bishops’ Committee on International Justice and Peace in a letter to National Security Adviser Thomas Donilon.

[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.

FAITH IN ACTION

[AFJN urgently needs your voice to end 17 years of rape, kidnapping, and killing in Congo](#)

COUNTRY UPDATES

Brazil

[Brazil court shelves latest trial in Dayton nun’s slaying](#) - Dayton Daily News
Brazil’s Supreme Court has annulled the trial of a rancher convicted of ordering the 2005 murder of U.S. nun and Amazon people’s advocate Dorothy Stang. The court ruled Vitalmiro Moura was not given enough time to prepare his defense in 2010 when he was sentenced to 30 years in prison. The court said Moura will remain behind bars until he is retried at a yet-to be scheduled date.

Congo

[U.S.-trained Congolese troops committed rapes and other atrocities, U.N. says](#) - Washington Post
A Congolese army battalion that received its formative training from the U.S. military went on to commit mass rapes and other atrocities last year, a U.N. investigation has found.

Britain

[Hundreds of Religious urge MPs to prioritise global hunger](#) - Independent Catholic News
More than 250 members of religious orders, priests and lay associates lobbied their members of parliament to push for action on global hunger, yesterday, as part of the Enough Food for Everyone IF campaign. Organised by CAFOD - in conjunction with JPIC Religious Links, the Africa-Europe Faith and Justice Network, Progressio and others - the lobby came ahead of June’s G8 summit which is held in the UK only once every eight years.

Haiti

[Haitian Sweatshop Workers Speak: Sub-Poverty Wages and Sexual Coercion](#) - Common Dreams
Haitian women workers tell of their experiences in sweatshops. All tell of miserable working conditions and the inability to feed, shelter, and educate their children on insufficient wages.

Kenya

[For Kenya, when it rains, it pours destruction all over](#) - Daily Nation

At least 40 people have been killed in Rift Valley, 21 in Eastern Kenya, seven in the coastal region, four in Western and two in central Kenya. As a result of the urgent humanitarian work needed, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has appealed to the international community for about Sh290 million to support Kenya Red Cross as it scales up assistance for the affected communities.

[Why land is main cause of conflict](#) - Daily Nation

Fifty per cent of claims The Truth Justice and Reconciliation Commission received were about irregular allocation and grabbing of plots by politicians

Nicaragua

[Nicaragua cloud forest 'under siege' by illegal loggers](#) - BBC News

The Bosawas Reserve is a critically important rainforest but native people say it is being destroyed by "colonists"

Nigeria

[Cardinal says country in 'jeopardy'](#) - Independent Catholic News

Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need invited Cardinal John Onaiyekan, Archbishop of Abuja, and Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah of Sokoto to meet with officers of the European Union to reveal the scale of the problems facing one of the EU's three priority countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Cardinal Onaiyekan told the delegates: "Growing corruption and religious violence jeopardise the west African country of Nigeria".

[Nigeria attack: Nasarawa cult ambush 'kills 23 police'](#) - BBC

At least 23 police officers in Nigeria have been killed in an ambush by a local militia in the central Nasarawa state. They were on their way to arrest the leader of the outlawed Ombatse "cult" when gunmen opened fire.

[Nigeria declares 'massive' military campaign on borders](#) - BBC

Nigeria has sent a "massive deployment of men and resources" to combat Islamist militants in three north-eastern states.

A statement said the drive was aimed at "asserting the nation's territorial integrity" and "enhancing security".

Peru

["We propose development within a framework of respect for the rights of indigenous peoples"](#) - Latin America Press

The municipality of Río Negro, located in the province of Satipo, in the central region of Junín, is today recognized as a model of Good Living governance. This is one of the first experiences of the institutionalization of indigenous representation in local government and has also become a model for many municipalities in Peru. In 2012, the municipality was recognized with the National Prize for Good Practices in Public Management, awarded each year by the Peruvian institution Citizens Up to Date (CAD), for its work on social inclusion.

South Africa

[Statement of the "Protection of State Information Bill" \("Secrecy Bill"\)](#) - Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference

We regret that the "Protection of State Information Bill" was passed by the National Assembly. While improvements have been made to the Bill there are still flaws which are a cause for concern. President Zuma has the power to refer the Bill to the Constitutional Court before he signs it into law. We call upon him to do so in order to avoid the risk of a prolonged and expensive court battle and the possibility of more parliamentary time being spent on amendments.

[South Africa: Bishop warns of growing crisis in platinum mines](#) - Independent Catholic News

The Bishop of Rustenburg, Mgr Kevin Dowling has expressed concern over the growing unrest in the Marikana platinum mines, following the murder of a trade unionist on Sunday, 12 May.

Zimbabwe

[Q&A: The Security of a Nation Is Its Women](#) - InterPress Service

Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, the general secretary of the global rights network World YWCA, said that further economic and social empowerment was needed to change the lives of women in Africa.

[Zim Constitution inked into law while elections wait for date](#) - Mail and Guardian

President Robert Mugabe has signed Zimbabwe's new Constitution into law, clearing the path to crucial elections later this year.

USA

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.

RESOURCES

[Short Circuit](#) - Gaia Foundation

The Lifecycle of our Electronic Gadgets and the True Cost to Earth

[Vocation for Justice](#) - Columban JPIC Office, UK

Justice and Peace Newsletter

[HEALING A BROKEN WORLD](#) - Jesuit Task Force on Ecology

[Building a New Culture](#) - Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

The Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) has outlined eight central themes in recent Church teaching on the environment. "These reflect on how a Catholic approach to economic questions, social justice, and environmental questions are necessarily viewed in relation to each other,"

[Letter of US Catholic Bishops urging US Administration regarding the morality of its use of DRONES](#)

[Kenya after the elections](#) - International Crisis Group

Videos



[Blood in the Mobile](#)



[Give Peace a Budget](#)



[Continuum](#)

COMING EVENTS

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

5 - World Environment Day A new prayer service for World Environment Day in several languages is available at 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.

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

16-20 - 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.

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

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.

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

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

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

September

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

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

October

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.

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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