



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

<http://snddenjpic.org>

CIRCLES OF LIFE

Peace

[Africa - Al Qaeda, Boko Haram, Al Shabab Linkages?](#)



[Nigerian Islamists kill at least 159 in two attacks](#) - Reuters

Islamist Boko Haram militants killed 159 people in two roadside attacks in northeast Nigeria this week, officials said, far more than was originally reported and a sign that a four-month-old army offensive has yet to stabilize the region.

[Kenya mall attack: Military says most hostages freed, death toll at 68](#) - CNN

Authorities in Kenya appeared close to ending a deadly siege Monday at an upscale Nairobi mall, where attackers have killed at least 68 people, injured 175, and are believed to still be holding about 10 people hostage.

[Kenya terror attack: Putting the Westgate siege in context](#) - Pambazuka News

The Somali militant group Al Shabaab has claimed responsibility for the September 21 attack at an upmarket shopping mall in Nairobi in which dozens of people were killed. Progressives must intensify their opposition to extremists who manipulate Islam, but also reject the imperial forces inside Africa and their allies

[STATEMENT: Dialogue is the only way towards an end of the violence in Syria](#) - Pax Christi USA

Pax Christi International is deeply concerned about the latest events in Syria.

[Syria: Nun questions authenticity of media images from Damascus gas attack](#) - Independent Catholic News

A Melkite Catholic nun, who has lived and worked in Syria for 20 years has compiled a comprehensive report on some recent films and images of the civil war which are being circulated by the media.

[Calls for Restraint Rise as US/NATO Push for "Illegal" War in Syria](#) - Jon Queally

UN should play proper role and investigate attack, but even if Assad regime is proved to have used chemical weapons, a cease-fire should be the demand, not Western military strikes and an escalation of war

[11 Reasons Why We Should Not Attack Syria peace](#) - YES Magazine

As U.S. political and media leaders prepare for military strikes against Syria, the parallels to the lead-up to the war with Iraq should give us pause.

[Syria: Patriarch says give peace a chance](#) - Independent Catholic News

Speaking from Lebanon following a pastoral mission to the conflict-ridden Syrian capital, Damascus, Gregorios III, Melkite Greek Catholic Church Patriarch of Antioch, stressed that in spite of the ongoing conflict, reconciliation initiatives were still viable and should be the top priority for all countries concerned with the crisis.

[Trappist Nuns in Syria to President Obama: Send Us Your Prayers, Not Your Missiles](#) - Frank Weathers

Catholic World Report has a letter from Cistercian nuns who moved their monastery to Azeir, in Northern Syria, back in 2005.

[Syria: Stop sending arms says Catholic leader](#) - John Pontifex

The leader of Catholics in Syria has hit out at countries which send in arms, saying that the impact of military shipments is "far more dangerous" than the use of chemical weapons.

[LCWR Statement on US Action in Syria](#) - LCWR

We, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, are compelled to work toward a world where reverence for all living beings finds expression in an approach to life free from violence.

[Syria: Six Alternatives to Military Strikes](#) - Sarah van Gelder

Many of the legal and diplomatic processes that led to peace in other times of conflict haven't even been tried yet in Syria. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee's approval of military force in Syria makes military strikes against that country more likely.

[Fifty years after Pacem in Terris, Holy See insists on nuclear disarmament](#) - Independent Catholic News

Archbishop Dominique Mamberti, secretary for Relations with States, spoke at the 57th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (AIEA), held in Vienna on 16 September.

Food Security

[Stand with farmers this World Food Day, October 16.](#) - OXFAM

On October 16, 1945 the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations was founded, built upon "its belief that the goal of freedom from want of food, suitable and adequate for the health and strength of all people can be achieved". Celebrated around the world, World Food Day honors that day and our commitment to defeating hunger. See more at: www.oxfamamerica.org/campaigns/food-justice/world-food-day#sthash.xDKupcNN.dpuf

Economy

[The Role of the State in Developing Countries under Attack from New FTAs](#)

[econ](#) - Martin Khor

In this column, Martin Khor, the executive director of the South Centre, warns that industrialized powers are taking aim against the role of the state in developing countries.

Migration

[As migration rises worldwide, pope calls for international cooperation](#) - Catholic News Service

Pope Francis called for greater international cooperation to improve conditions for the world's rising numbers of migrants and called on the media to combat prejudices that make immigrants unwelcome in their new countries.

[Undocumented migrants in US gaining improved access to higher education](#) - The Guardian

Notre Dame and Loyola medical school are just some of the institutions working to improve conditions for undocumented applicants.

Racism

[Catholics called to step up in ongoing fight against racism](#) - Catholic News Service

Making realities of the dreams that the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke of in his 1963 address at the March on Washington will mean Catholics must stop being complacent about militarism, racism and poverty, summed up Sister Patricia Chappell, executive director of Pax Christi USA.

Trafficking

[With Special Courts, State Aims to Steer Women Away From Sex Trade](#) - New York Times - Sent by Sr. Lucyane Diniz

New York State is creating a statewide system of specialized criminal courts to handle prostitution cases and provide services to help wrest human- and sex-trafficking victims from the cycle of exploitation and arrest, the state's chief judge announced on Wednesday. The initiative is believed to be the first of its kind in the nation.

Environment

[Climate Change and Our Children](#) - Dr. Frederica Perera

President Obama announced recently that, given Congress's refusal to act, he will use his administrative power to reduce CO2 emissions from power plants and encourage renewable energy.

[Ice on the Equator may soon be relegated to history books](#) - Patrick Mayoyo

And now the evidence is out: the glaciers on the roofs of East Africa's highest mountains are shrinking at an alarming rate, putting into jeopardy the economies that thrive around them and the livelihoods of people hundreds, even thousands, of kilometres away.

[Why Are Millions Of Fish Suddenly Dying In Mass Death Events All Over The Planet?](#) - Michael Snyder

Millions upon millions of fish are suddenly dying in mass death events all over the world, and nobody seems to know why it is happening.

[DRC: Country Gets \\$21.5 million Green Light to Transform its Vast Forests](#) - Newsfromafrica

The project is designed with an emphasis on collaboration among all stakeholders, who together agreed in the design stage on GHG reduction, land tenure, and food security as priority actions.

[Dwindling Water Supplies Make Every Drop Count](#) - Stephen Leahy

Between 2006 and 2011, up to 60 percent of Syria's land experienced its worst ever drought and a series of crop failures. In 2009, the U.N. reported that over 800,000 Syrians lost their livelihoods and fled to cities as result of the drought.

[Japan to be nuclear-free as last reactor switched off](#) - Daily Nation – Kenya

Japan Sunday began switching off its last operating nuclear reactor for an inspection, with no date scheduled for a restart amid strong public hostility towards atomic power.

[Kenya forges ahead with nuke energy plans](#) - Daily Nation

While nuclear is listed among the cheapest alternative energy sources to wean Kenya off heavy dependence on hydroelectricity and expensive diesel-driven thermal power, the decision to pursue the option will be arrived at once the ongoing feasibility studies are completed.

Church

[Pope Francis writes letter to President Putin of Russia ahead of G20 summit](#) - Radio Vatican

Pope Francis has written a letter to President Vladimir Putin of Russia as he prepares to host this year's G20 summit in St. Petersburg.

[International mining executives attend Day of Reflection at Vatican](#) - Independent Catholic News

Representatives of the world's most important mining companies, including Anglo American, China Minmetals Corporation, Rio Tinto and Zamin Resources, as well as experts in the sector from within the Catholic Church, Caritas and Oxfam America attended a Day of Reflection at the Vatican on Saturday.

[A Big Heart Open to God: The exclusive interview with Pope Francis](#) - Thinking Faith

The spirituality of Jorge Mario Bergoglio is not made of "harmonised energies," as he would call them, but of human faces: Christ, St. Francis, St. Joseph and Mary.

FAITH IN ACTION

[Promote "Seeds for Life" During Churches' Week of Action on Food!](#) - Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance

13-20 October

Additional Resources

[Presbyterian Church](#)

FAO - [Healty people depend on Healty food systems - Issues Paper](#)

COUNTRY UPDATES

Brazil

[Brazilian leader pushing Internet bill requiring foreign companies to house servers in Brazil](#) - Associated Press

Brazil's president asked legislators on Thursday to urgently vote on a bill that would force foreign companies to store all data about their Brazilian clients on servers based in the country, a move seen as essential for user security after repeated reports of Internet spying by the U.S. in Brazil.

Congo

[UN honours Sister Angelique Namaika for LRA victim work](#) - BBC

A nun helping female victims of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels in the Democratic Republic of Congo is to receive a top UN award for her work.

[DRC Peacebuilding Ignores Local Solutions](#) - InterPress Service

Despite existing local expertise and strategies in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to build peace-supporting structures at the community level, official debates and media coverage continue to focus predominantly on military interventions.

Japan

[2013 - Safeguarding Japan's Constitution](#) - Japan Catholic Council for Justice and Peace

Today, Japan's peace constitution is probably more than ever - in danger! This statement headlined a global campaign's reaction when Shinzo Abe was elected prime minister of Japan, given his "ideological conservative right" stance. These days, Abe and his party, the LDP (Liberal Democratic Party), are attempting to make very significant changes to the Japanese Constitution. Their first step is to ease the amendment procedure by changing the 2/3 votes needed to a simple 50%+1.

[Rally against discrimination, hate speech in Tokyo](#) - THE ASAHI

Protesters fighting discrimination held one of their biggest rallies in Tokyo's Shinjuku Ward on Sept. 22, with participants young and old expressing disgust at groups that yell menacing and hate-filled words at ethnic Koreans. The March on Tokyo for Freedom was organized mainly by the People's Front of Anti-Racism, an organization that has scuffled with anti-Korea protesters in Koreatown in the Shin-Okubo district of the ward.

[Japan to be nuclear-free as last reactor switched off](#) - Daily Nation - Kenya

Japan has begun switching off its last operating nuclear reactor for an inspection, with no date scheduled for a restart amid strong public hostility towards atomic power.

Kenya

[Kenya: A smartphone that's a sight for sore eyes](#) - Voices of Africa

Kamau has a chance to better his quality of life thanks to a team of doctors from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine armed with an innovative, low cost, smartphone solution.

[Trials of Kenya's leaders threaten to reopen old wounds](#) - James Macharia

For the International Criminal Court, the first trial involving a sitting president is its biggest test to date. The approaching trials of Kenya's president and his deputy in The Hague are worrying the upland communities that were rent apart by a post-election bloodbath more than five years ago, violence the two men are accused of orchestrating.

[Kenya forges ahead with nuke energy plans](#) - Daily Nation

The Kenya government seeks to establish a nuclear plant to harness electricity.

[Kenya Strikes Massive Water Reserve in Turkana](#) - All Africa.com

The discovery of the biggest aquifer yet in Kenya's history could soon put an end to the drought residents of Northern Kenya experience perennially.

Nigeria

[Archbishop Ignatius Kattey: Nigeria police seek kidnappers](#) - BBC

Police in Nigeria are looking for the armed men who kidnapped the country's second most senior Anglican archbishop, Ignatius Kattey.

[Nigeria: kidnapped Archbishop released](#) - Independent Catholic News

Archbishop Kattey is the head of the Anglican Church in the predominantly Christian Niger Delta. The cleric and his wife Beatrice were seized close to their home in the southern city of Port Harcourt on 6 September.

Peru

[Survivors of Peru's Armed Conflict Still Waiting](#) - Milagros Salazar

Venisia Ávalos, a 65-year-old indigenous woman from Peru's highlands region of Ayacucho, looks for her son's name among a labyrinth formed by thousands of small grey stones. Each one of the fist-sized stones carries the name of a victim of the country's armed conflict between government forces and left-wing guerrillas.

South Africa

[Has the God who inspired the Kairos document left South Africa?](#) - Kairos Southern Africa

In the beginning there was a God
A Restless and peaceful God
Who turned to restless and peaceful hearts
And said: my Word cannot be abused in this way
My Name cannot be misused in this way...

South Sudan

[South Sudan: Kiir Needs to Tread Cautiously](#) - News from Africa

After more than two decades of a bruising battle with its neighbour Sudan, South Sudan, Africa's newly independent state should tread cautiously to avoid a civil war which is now looming large following power struggles within the ruling SPLM.

Zimbabwe

[Crisis looms as crop failure put 2.2 million Zimbabweans at risk of chronic hunger](#) - Independent Catholic News

Erratic rains and unusual mid-season droughts over the past year have triggered critical levels of crop failure in Zimbabwe, leaving more than two million people in need of urgent food assistance in the coming lean months, according to the World Food Programme (WFP).

Haiti

[Small farmers win Food Sovereignty Prize](#) - Latin America Press

Haitian team recognized for fighting for food democracy by promoting safe, healthy agricultural practices and advocating for peasant farmer rights.

USA

[Before You Give up on Democracy, Read This!](#) - Huffington Post

Who doesn't feel like throwing in the towel... with congressional approval ratings at a pitiful 10 percent? For pete's sake, even the much-reviled "socialism" has more than double the fans. Yet a moment's reflection tells us we can't solve any of our giant challenges without public decision-making bodies that work.

RESOURCES

[Stop Trafficking Newsletter](#)

[Weaving Abundance: The Good Life Restored](#) - Sisters of the Holy Cross

[Catholic Coalition on Climate Change Newsletter](#)

[NewsNotes](#) - Maryknoll

[Peacemaking Day by Day Vol. 1](#) - Pax Christi USA

Features quotes from peacemakers and justice-seekers around the world. Our best seller of all time, this original book of daily quotes for peacemakers is lively, practical, educational, and inspirational. A great resource for teachers who want to introduce students to peacemakers. Reprinted 18 times. Portable, small, stapled edition.

[Resources for Feast of St. Francis 2013](#) - Catholic Coalition on Climate Change

Join tens of thousands of other Catholics who will learn about the dramatic evidence of climate change and explore Catholic teaching on climate change.

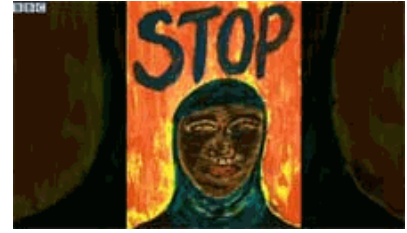
Videos



[Climate Name Change](#)



[Enoughness – Restoring Balance to the Economy](#)



[Refugees overcome trauma and find their voice through art](#)

COMING EVENTS

October

4 - Feast of St. Francis Education Program: *Melting Ice, Mending Creation: A Catholic Approach to Climate Change* is sponsored by the *Catholic Coalition on Climate Change*. Watch for the next education program to commemorate this day! Pope Francis has already both inspired us with his humility and challenged us with his words urging us to care for Creation. This year will highlight the Pontifical Academy of Science's Working Group (PAS) statement, *Fate of Mountain Glaciers in the Anthropocene*, combined with the work of James Balog, the science photographer behind the documentary film, *Chasing Ice*. There will be an educational kit much like last year's for Sun Come Up. **Contact:** Dan Misleh, Executive Director, Catholic Coalition on Climate Change, info@catholicsandclimatechange.org.

13 - 20 [Week of Action on Food](#)

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.**

19 - [Global Frackdown](#). The Global Frackdown will unite concerned citizens everywhere for a day of action on October 19, 2013 to send a message to elected officials in our communities and across the globe that we want a future powered by clean, renewable energy, not dirty, polluting fossil fuels. The journey to a renewable energy future will not be fueled by shale gas. Climate scientists warn that continued extraction and burning of fossil fuels will lead to catastrophic climate change.

20 - World Mission Sunday.

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

1 - 5th Annual William Dyer Lecture: *Reclaiming Africa's Destiny African life, and what can we do to refine and reclaim Africa's destiny?* Please join us for honest African dialogue and reflection at Busboys and Poets, 1025 5th Street, Northwest, Washington, D.C. at 5:30 pm. The event is free and open to the public. **Register at www.afjn.org.**

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.

22-24 - Converge on Fort Benning, Georgia! Keep up the pressure to close the *School of the Americas* (SOA/WHINSEC). 1000s gathered at the gates last year, as they have for many years. There are speakers, music, street

theater, workshops and networking with people from across the Americas. The Vigil weekend is your opportunity to connect your communities with those across the hemisphere who are resisting Empire. Lots of activities are part of this weekend. **Find out more at <http://soaw.org>.**

December

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

2014

International Year of Family Farming

March

21-24 - 12th Annual Ecumenical Advocacy Days: *Jesus Weeps: Resisting Violence, Building Peace* will expose the violence that pervades our culture and world - guided by the image of Jesus weeping over a capital city that turned from the true way of peace (Luke 19: 41-42), and then imagine how to transform it. Through prayer, worship, speakers and advocacy training, we will discover a faith-based vision for national policies that “guide our feet into the path of peace.” The site is the DoubleTree Crystal City Hotel in Arlington, VA, across the Potomac and Washington, D.C. Congressional Lobby Day will be held on the 24th. \$195 until February 21. **Go to www.advocacydays.org**, or for more information, call (202) 543-1126.

July

7-10 National Migration Conference - will be held at the Renaissance Washington D.C. downtown hotel, 999 9th Street, NW. Sponsored by CLINIC and USCCB/MRS, the gathering will bring together 800 participants including representatives from the *Catholic Legal Immigration Network* (CLINIC) and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Migration and Refugee Services networks, government and non-government partner agencies. For church officials, and other interested individuals and organizations. They'll be renowned speakers and experts on a wide range of migration-related topics. **Keep abreast at www.nationalmigrationconference.org.**

**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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