



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



Peace

[Non-Violence and the Lost Message of Jesus](#) - InterPress Service

Mairead Maguire, peace activist from Northern Ireland and Nobel Peace Laureate 1976, argues that in a world that has moved far from the Christic life of non-violence, a clear message and unambiguous proclamation is needed from spiritual or religious leaders that armaments, nuclear weapons, militarism and war must be abolished.

[Pope writes Christmas letter to persecuted Christians in Middle East](#) - Independent Catholic News

Pope Francis has written a pre-Christmas letter to Christians in the Middle East to express his closeness to them at a time of “afflictions and tribulations” due to “the continuing hostilities in the region, but especially because of the work of a newer and disturbing terrorist organization.”

[Searching for Justice and Peace - TrinityDC University](#) - Pat McGuire

Our addiction to violence fuels the injustice that destroys life, diminishes survivors and degrades the authority of those who approve of the use of violence as a way to keep the peace.

Care of Creation

[Lima climate change talks best chance for a generation, say upbeat diplomats](#)- The Guardian

Hopes rise for global warming deal after US-China carbon commitments inject much-needed momentum into Peru talks. UN climate negotiations opening in Lima on Monday have the best chance in a generation of striking a deal on global warming, diplomats say.

[CAFOD comments on Lima climate conference](#) - Independent Catholic News

Some progress was made at the Lima climate talks, but CAFOD has sounded a note of concern that the needs of the vulnerable people who are hit first and worst by climate change are still being overlooked as negotiators wrangle on the detail.

[‘The planet is sad’: Marchers pray for success of U.N. climate summit](#)- Catholic News Service

Dwarfed by the grown-ups holding banners and signs around her, Ruby Arizabal clutched a doll in one hand and a candle in the other. “I’ve come here,” she told Catholic News Service, “because the planet is sad.” The 6-year-old was one of the youngest participants in an interfaith candlelight march and prayer vigil on the eve of the U.N. climate summit, which will run from Dec. 1 to 12 in this city of 9 million people that sprawls across Peru’s coastal desert.

[Bhopal: A Metaphor](#)- Asian Age

“This pattern of double standards, of privatizing profits and socializing disaster runs through the pattern of corporate rule being institutionalized since the Bhopal tragedy.” December 3, 2014, marks the 30th anniversary of the terrible Bhopal gas tragedy, which killed more than 3,000 people almost immediately, another 8,000 in the following days, and more than 20,000 in the last three decades.

[Carbon bubbles in the boardroom](#)- New Internationalist

The fossil fuel divestment movement is taking the world by storm. What started four years ago with students at a few US college campuses asking their universities to stop funding an industry whose business model is causing planetary disaster, has rapidly grown into an international movement with more than 500 active campaigns. But what has the divestment movement achieved so far?

[Global group of Catholic bishops call for end to fossil fuels](#)- BBC

Monsignor Salvador Piñeiro García-Calderón, Archbishop of Ayacucho, and president of the Peruvian Bishops’ Conference, said: “We bishops from Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe have engaged in intense dialogue on the issue of climate change, because we can see it’s the poorest people who are impacted the most, despite the fact they’ve contributed the least to causing it. They’re the ones who respect the planet, the Earth, the soil, the water and the rainforests.”

Economy

[The pope and poverty](#) - Pambazuka News

Regardless of one’s religious persuasions, Pope Francis’ views on poverty are quite progressive. He insists that as long as the problems of the poor are not radically resolved by rejecting the absolute autonomy of markets and financial speculation, and by attacking the structural causes of inequality, no solution will be found for the world’s problems. Inequality is the root of social ills.

Migration / Immigration

[LCWR Welcomes President Obama’s Executive Action](#)

The Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) welcomes President Barack Obama’s decision to use his constitutional authority to address the brokenness of our immigration system; alleviate the suffering of many immigrant families; and begin to heal our national community.

Trafficking

[Slavery levels in UK 'higher than thought'](#) - BBC

There could be between 10,000 and 13,000 victims of slavery in the UK, higher than previous figures, analysis for the Home Office suggests. Modern slavery victims are said to include women forced into prostitution, "imprisoned" domestic staff and workers in fields, factories and fishing boats.

[Punishing sex-trafficking accomplices presents quandary](#) - The Boston Globe

The young woman was trembling as she stood before the judge to plead for mercy. She was guilty of helping her boyfriend sexually exploit a teenager, she acknowledged, but she was also one of his victims.

[Meet the nun who helps police raid brothels run by human traffickers](#) - The Guardian

It's Saturday afternoon and in an unmarked police car in central London a burly policeman is accompanied by a tiny, bird-like nun. A raid is about to take place on a brothel whose inhabitants, the police believe, include women who have been trafficked into Britain from eastern Europe. The nun is an integral part of the police operation.

[Pope, religious leaders pledge to work together to end slavery by 2020](#) - National Catholic Reporter

Vatican City — As Pope Francis and leaders of other churches and religions signed a declaration pledging to work together to help end modern slavery in the world by 2020, he urged governments, businesses and all people of good will to join forces against this "crime against humanity."

[English cardinal: Young Africans being seduced into modern slavery](#) - Catholic News Service

Young Africans are being seduced into modern slavery by the promise of a dream that never comes true, an English cardinal told a conference on human trafficking. Cardinal Vincent Nichols of Westminster said "there seems to be no enticement that isn't being used" by human traffickers to entrap children.

Racism

[America's 'Post-Racial' Lie](#) - OtherWords

White Americans have no right to judge the outpouring of black anger in Ferguson. Shortly before Michael Brown's fateful encounter with Ferguson cop Darren Wilson, I was appointed as a teaching assistant in a class on race and ethnicity. I'm white. I didn't go to grad school to study race — I study agriculture. When it comes to race, I'm clueless.

[Statement of Catholic Theologians on Racial Justice](#) - Catholic Moral Theology

Advent is a season of waiting and of hoping. In the face of conflict, distrust, and division — in the wilderness — we are called to cry out for a different way. In consultation with several others, CMTer and former law enforcement officer Tobias Winright has prepared a statement of commitment to racial justice, which names the particularly difficult hope we might bring to illuminate darkness. We are happy to share the statement here on this blog. Many Catholic theologians, including myself and my co-editor, Jana Bennett, have already signed on to the statement. Please pray and act for truth and reconciliation this season.

[The Life and Times of Michael B](#) - Institute for Policy Studies

Ferguson put the U.S.' racial apartheid on the global stage. Economic inequality is a hot topic in America these days. It is the subject of hefty bestsellers, presidential addresses, and even Hollywood movies. The issue has even appeared on the radar screen of foreign policy pundits.

Food Security

[Eat Fresh, Die Hard – Subway, Wal-Mart, Whole Foods and the Plight of the Mexican Worker](#)-America Magazine

In northern Mexico, many farm workers—over a hundred thousand of them children—live in overcrowded, rat-infested conditions, with little food and sometimes no potable water. So the L.A. Times reported yesterday, in the first of a four part series on produce pickers in Mexico.

Church

[Advent Resources with a Justice and Peace focus](#)- Independent Catholic News

As we approach the season of Advent this year, a number of diocesan groups and religious orders in the UK, United States and Australia have put together series of resources for prayer, reflection and action. They are intended for use by individuals, parishes, schools and religious communities and focusing on several different themes.

[The Guardian view on the pope’s speech to the European parliament: rediscover your core values](#)- The Guardian

Europe is far from over. It’s a continent of many blessings. Few speeches about Europe these days arouse much enthusiasm. The subject is more likely to be greeted with boredom or acrimony, the debate conducted in instant and shallow slogans. So the pope’s message to the European parliament in Strasbourg on Tuesday, calling for a break from the current angst and “a return to the conviction of the founders of the European Union” came as something of a shock.

[Vatican’s Report on U.S. Nuns Will Be Released December 16](#)- Independent Catholic News

Canadian spokesman breaks news at Detroit gathering. In less than two weeks, the long-awaited final report on women’s religious orders in the United States will be released. According to Vatican spokesperson Father Thomas Rosica, a press conference will be held at the Vatican December 16.

[Church Asks If It’s Time to Ban the Bomb](#)- America Magazine

The Holy See continues to question the ethical basis to the so-called doctrine of nuclear deterrence. Ethical and humanitarian consequences of the possession and use of nuclear weapons are catastrophic and beyond the rational and reasonable.

[Christian, Muslim leaders vow to ‘walk hand in hand’ to promote peace](#)- Catholic News Service

Catholic, Anglican, Sunni and Shiite leaders vowed to do all they can to combat “ugly and hideous” distortions of religion, and to involve more women — often the first victims of violence — in official inter-religious dialogues.

[Catholic sisters network, share hope on social justice issues](#)- National Catholic Reporter

About 150 women, and a sprinkling of men, from more than 100 congregations in 26 states and Canada, gathered in Cleveland, Ohio, for a national convocation, entitled “Entering the Transforming Future: Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Ministry in the Coming Age of Religious Life.” It marked the first time that social justice advocates from congregations of women religious met together.

FAITH IN ACTION

Webinar: [Building an Economy of Inclusion Through Fair Trade](#) - Tuesday, January 20th, 3:00-4:00pm (EST)

Join the Interfaith Working Group on Trade and Investment for a webinar just hours before the **President's State of the Union Address** to get a sneak peak at what President Obama will say about his 2015 trade agenda and what role the new Congress will play. Hear how corporate interests influence trade agreements and harm the lives of people on the ground in developing countries. Faith advocates will leave with ideas on how they can help build an economy of inclusion through education and action in 2015. Register here.

<http://bit.ly/1DMTmDD>

COUNTRY UPDATES

Brazil

[Brazil indigenous group clashes with police in Congress](#) - BBC

Indigenous leaders say the government of Dilma Rousseff should do more to protect their people. The group, with some 30 men, tried to break into the building to protest against a bill on indigenous lands. Police officers used pepper spray and blocked access to a committee that was due to vote on the proposal.

Congo

[DRC: WHO Declares End of Ebola Outbreak](#)- News from Africa

WHO and other partners supported the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo with expertise for outbreak investigation, a mobile laboratory, risk communications and social mobilization, contact tracing and clinical care.

Haiti

[Haiti's Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe resigns after protests](#) - BBC

Mr Martelly was to have called polls in 2011, but they were postponed in a stalemate over electoral law. Opposition politicians accuse President Martelly of wanting to rule by decree and that legislation that would authorise the vote unfairly favours the government.

Japan

[Japan election: Voters back Shinzo Abe as PM wins new term](#) - BBC

Japan's ruling coalition has won a new two-thirds majority in parliamentary elections seen as a referendum on Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's economic policy.

Kenya

[Gunmen kill dozens in attack on Kenya mine](#)- Al Jazeera

At least 36 people have been killed in an attack on a stone quarry in Mandera, northern Kenya, local sources told Al Jazeera. About 20 gunmen, described by the Kenyan government as "heavily armed bandits" opened fire at the quarry in the early hours of Tuesday morning after separating Muslims and non-Muslims, sources said.

[ICC drops Uhuru Kenyatta charges](#)- BBC

Prosecutors at the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague have said they are withdrawing charges against Kenya's leader Uhuru Kenyatta. A statement said the evidence had "not improved to such an extent that Mr Kenyatta's alleged criminal responsibility can be proven beyond reasonable doubt".

Nicaragua

[Nicaragua launches construction of inter-oceanic canal](#) - BBC

At an opening ceremony, Wang Jing, the president of HKND, the Chinese company building the canal, said this moment would go down in history. The 278km (172 mile) waterway will be longer, deeper and wider than the Panama Canal. But critics fear a negative environmental impact and doubt its viability and economic benefits.

Nigeria

[Scores killed in Nigeria mosque blasts](#)- Al Jazeera

No claim of responsibility yet as two explosions in northern city of Kano kill nearly 100 people and wound scores more. At least 81 people have been killed and 150 others injured after two bombs exploded outside the central mosque of the Nigerian city of Kano.

[Political storm warning](#) - Africa Confidential

The opposition is looking stronger but officials are sounding alarms about serious flaws in the election organisation. It has been a good month for the opposition All Progressives Congress. The APC's successful national convention in Lagos picked Muhammadu Buhari as its presidential candidate on 11 December. Combined with unrelenting bad news for President Goodluck Jonathan, that is eating into his incumbent's advantage just two months before general elections. With security and economic conditions the dominant issues, the governing People's Democratic Party is coming under growing pressure from ever more murderous attacks by Boko Haram's Islamist insurgents and the effects of crashing oil prices.

Peru

[How One Indigenous Woman Took On a Multinational Mining Corporation... And Won](#) - Common Dreams

Indigenous Peruvian farmworker Maxima Acuña de Chaupe withstood violent eviction attempts, beatings, and a legal battle to protect her land from being turned into an open-pit gold mine.

[Peru's drive to stamp out people trafficking undermined by high growth](#) - The Guardian

Efforts to help thousands of trafficked children and adults in Peru are being undermined by a strong economy, enduring social and ethnic inequalities, and a lack of awareness, the head of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in the country has warned.

South Africa

[Trafficking in Persons Report](#) - USA Department of State

South Africa is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking. South African citizens and foreign nationals are subjected to human trafficking within the country.

Sr Marie Andre Mitchell, SNDdeN writes On October 5th Sisters Marie André and Brigid Rose as members of a group of women who name themselves SISTERS FOR JUSTICE climbed Table Mountain to stir up compassion, action, and advocacy on the issues of modern day slavery, exploitation and trafficking of women and children globally.

South Sudan

[Give Peace a Chance – Run with Youth](#) - InterPress Service

Reflection by Rambang “Raymond” Tot Deng who was 18 and attending his final year of school when fighting erupted in South Sudan’s capital Juba, one year ago. In the ensuing violence, as Raymond’s schoolbooks burned, thousands of South Sudanese were killed, including two of his cousins.

Zimbabwe

[Zimbabwe VP barred from ruling party post](#)- Al Jazeera

Joice Mujuru blocked from running for seat on top panel of ZANU-PF party, ending possibility to succeed Robert Mugabe. Zimbabwe’s vice president has been ousted from the ruling party’s leadership after a sustained campaign led by Robert Mugabe’s wife Grace, as the battle to succeed the long-serving president heats up.

USA

[When the City Turned Off Their Water, Detroit Residents and Groups Delivered Help](#)- YES Magazine

The Detroit water-rights movement really got into gear when Charity Hicks was taken to jail while trying to stop shut-offs on her block. “It started a windstorm of people rising up and speaking out, knowing what was happening regarding the water,” says Detroit poet and activist Tawana Petty. “She was always instrumental in the water struggle but her personal experience brought it home to everyone.”

[Patrolling the Boundaries Inside America](#) -Robert Reich

America is embroiled in an immigration debate that goes far beyond President Obama’s executive order on undocumented immigrants. It goes to the heart of who “we” are. And it’s roiling communities across the nation.

RESOURCES

[Eco-Spirituality Resources](#) - Terri McKenzie, SHCJ

[AFJN Newsletter](#)

[ECHOES FROM AEFJN](#) N. 16 - November - December 2014

[A Pilgrimage Towards Freedom, Hope and Joy for All](#) - FREEDOM CLIMB MELVILLE KOPPIES Sent by Marie Andre Mitchell, SNDdeN.org

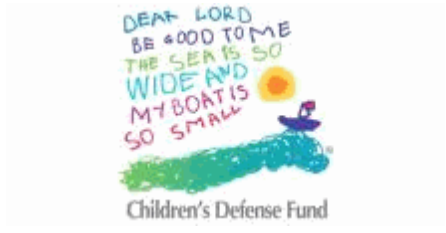
“Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war. O, House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of God.” Is:2;4-5

People of Johannesburg, come, Let us walk in the light of our God.

[Denis Hurley Centre Update](#) - Sent by Bidy Rose Tiernan, SNDdeN

[The Denis Hurley Centre](#) website and a subscription to the Newsletter are an excellent source of news of the life in the Community of Durban South Africa.

MultiMedia



[Marian Wright Edelman: I care and I am willing to serve](#)



[How One Indigenous Woman Took On a Multinational Mining Corporation... And Won](#)



[United Nations Climate Summit Opening Ceremony – A poem to my Daughter](#)



[Displaced in South Sudan, Raymond, 18, shares his hopes for peace UNICEF](#)



[Chocolate Child Slaves](#)



[Why it's time for Doughnut Economics Kate Raworth TEDxAthens](#)

COMING EVENTS

January

1 - World Peace Day: Slaves No More, but Brothers and Sisters (Pope Francis's selected theme). Last year's theme was dedicated to brotherhood, and this year's to slavery. Today there are almost 30 million people forced to live as slaves (in all slavery's different forms) around the world. They contribute to the production of about 120 goods from 58 countries, with an estimated \$15.5 billion made in wealthy industrialized countries.

11 : Witness Against Torture Annual Fast in Washington, D.C. [Click here.](#)

19 Martin Luther King Day Observances.

23-25 : Interfaith Conference on Drone Warfare, organized by national denominations and faith groups, will take place at the Erdman Center at Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, NJ. U.S. drone strikes continue in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, Iraq and Syria. Participants will address the issue of drone warfare, concentrating on three tasks: **(1)** Clarify the nature of lethal drones, with policy recommendations to be made by the conference to the U.S. government; **(2)** We'll apply our various traditions to our understand the issue of drone warfare; and **(3)** Recommendations will be developed for how the religious community will address this issue. Speakers include Most Rev. Richard E. Pates, Jeremy Waldron, Dr. Hassan Abbas, Rob Eshman, Antti Pentikainen, Marjorie Cohn, Dr. George Hunsinger and The Rev. Dr. Susan Thistlethwaite. **To find out more, [click here.](#)**

February

8 : Feast Day of St. Bakhita and First International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking will be celebrated all over the world - in dioceses and parishes, in groups and schools. The initiative is promoted by the Pontifical Council of Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People, the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the International Union of Superiors General (UISG and USG). St. Josephine Bakhita, a Sudanese slave, freed, who became a Canossian nun, was declared a Saint in 2000. [Click here](#).

7-10 : Catholic Social Ministry Gathering (CSMG) 2015: *To Go Forth: Encountering Christ in the Heart of the World* takes place in Washington, D.C. at the Omni Shoreham Hotel. The lead sponsor is the USCCB's Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development, along with other USCCB departments and 16 other national Catholic groups including the Catholic Climate Covenant, a new sponsor this year. This is a central gathering of Catholic social ministry leaders in the U.S. whose faith inspires them to respond to pressing domestic and global challenges relating to poverty, war, injustice, and the promotion of human life and dignity. Executive Director of the Catholic Climate Covenant Dan Misleh will receive the **Harry Fagan Award** from the Roundtable Association of Diocesan Social Action Directors on the 9th. [Click here](#).

14 and 28 - Nigeria Elections - Presidential and National Assembly elections Feb. 14 and local elections Feb. 28.

March

22-30 - World Social Forum will take place in Tunis

April

17-20 - [Ecumenical Advocacy Days: Breaking the Chains](#): Mass Incarceration and Systems of Exploitation will take place near Washington, D.C. and will address solutions to national and worldwide issues of imprisonment, exploitation, racism and forced labor. **Sr. Patty Chappell, SNDdeN** will address the opening session of the Gathering.

Summer: United States Social Forum, Philadelphia, PA will be one of the major sites of convergence in the third *U.S. Social Forum*. Keep abreast at the [U.S. Social Forum Website](#).

May

3-8 - [Maryknoll Mission Institute: Continuing the Mission of Jesus: Discipleship Today \(& Tomorrow\)](#) will be held at the Rogers Building at the *Maryknoll Mission Institute*, Maryknoll, New York. There is no single blueprint for discipleship and no one can be a lifelong disciple without changing as life unfolds. The *New Testament* contains the information each of us needs to draw on as we seek to find meaning in our own lives and continue the mission and ministry of Jesus. We will explore discipleship and discover its particular relevance for the lives of each of us. Resource Person: Anthony J. Gittins, CSSp, PhD, Professor Emeritus at Catholic Theological Union, Chicago. **Find out more** at (914) 941-7575/E-mail: missinst@mksisters.org. The application form is online, [here](#).

10-15 : [Maryknoll Mission Institute: UPSTART Spring: Imagine Justice..Exploration into God](#) will be held at the Rogers Building at the Maryknoll Mission Institute, Maryknoll, New York. Increasing inequality, pervasive violence, divisive politics, what has all of our work for social justice meant? Such a lament seems so plausible yet could this be an "upstart Spring?" During our time together, we will explore this moment in our evolutionary history. We will be challenged to deepen our contemplative practice communally and imagine new ways of being with each other, with all beings on Earth and with the Divine. We will explore what it means to exercise contemplative power and imagine doing justice in new ways. **Resource Person:** Nancy Sylvester, IHM, President and Founder of the *Institute for Communal Contemplation and Dialogue*. **Find out more** at (914) 941-7575/E-mail: missinst@mksisters.org. The application form is online, [here](#).

11-13 : 2nd Annual AJWS Policy Summit is set for the Washington Court Hotel, 525 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001 in Washington D.C. You'll learn about human rights abuses around the world. Advocate for policy change. Lead for global justice. Registration will open in early 2015. Save the date!
Contact: American Jewish World Service/New York City, NY; (212) 792-2900.

JUNE

7-12 : [Maryknoll Mission Institute: The Spirit Leads Us Forth: Mission Reconsidered](#) will be held at the Rogers Building at the Maryknoll Mission Institute, Maryknoll, New York. Over the past twenty years, pneumatology, the theology of the Holy Spirit, has pioneered some of the most revolutionary ideas in our contemporary understanding of faith. How to integrate these ideas with the work of mission and apply them in living the faith today, will be the topic explored in this program. **Resource Person:** Diarmuid O'Murchu, MSC, a priest and social psychologist with a special interest in changing trends of faith and mission in the contemporary world. **Find out more** at (914) 941-7575/E-mail: missinst@mksisters.org. The application form is online at www.maryknollsisters.org/maryknoll-mission-institute.

14-19 : [Maryknoll Mission Institute: No Longer Servants: Toward a Biblical Theology of Friendship](#) will be held at the Rogers Building at the Maryknoll Mission Institute, Maryknoll, New York. This week-long class will make two extraordinary claims: that our life's ultimate goal is friendship with God and that the Scriptures provide the roadmap. Friendship with God is a gift of Holy Wisdom 7:27. God speaks to Moses, face to face, as one speaks to a friend (Ex. 33:11). Most striking of all these biblical examples, Jesus calls his own disciples "friends" (John: 15:15). This program engages a dynamic process that integrates personal experience with biblical study in order to trace the emerging theology of friendship in the Scriptures. **Resource Person:** Laurie Brink, OP, PhD, Associate Professor of New Testament Studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. **Find out more** at (914) 941-7575/E-mail: missinst@mksisters.org. The application form is online at <http://www.maryknollsisters.org/maryknoll-mission-institute>.

21-26 : [Maryknoll Mission Institute: The New Universe Story: God, Jesus and Prayer](#) will be held at the Rogers Building at the Maryknoll Mission Institute, Maryknoll, New York. The 21st century provides us with images, data, an understanding of the cosmos and how life developed on earth that are radically different from the worldview and cosmology which have shaped formal religion's understanding of Jesus as revealer of God-with-us. We will use this "lens" to focus on God, on the human endeavor, on revelation, on Judaism, on Jesus and his message of the "kingdom of God" here on earth, on what Jesus was ready to die for, on the mystery of what lies beyond death, and on prayer and sacraments. **Resource Person:** Michael Morwood, MA, the author of 10 books including his latest, *In Memory of Jesus*. **Find out more** at (914) 941-7575/E-mail: missinst@mksisters.org. The application form is online [here](#).

JULY

5-10, 2015: [Maryknoll Mission Institute: Everyday Holiness: Sacred Scripture's Teaching on Economic Life](#) will be held at the Rogers Building at the Maryknoll Mission Institute, Maryknoll, New York. Sacred Scripture has been a perennial source of guidance and inspiration on how to flourish in economic life. For this week, we will assess: *What do the individual books of the Bible say about proper economic conduct? How do these teachings fit within the larger theology and ethics of the books in which they are found? Are there recurring themes, underlying patterns, or issues running across these different sections of the Bible when read together as a single canon?* **Resource Person:** Albino Barrera, OP, professor of economics and theology at Providence College, Rhode Island. **Find out more** at (914) 941-7575/E-mail: missinst@mksisters.org. The application form is online, [here](#).

12-17 : [Maryknoll Mission Institute: Denial or Discipleship? Bioregional Theology and Practice in a World of Ecological Ultimatums](#) will be held at the Rogers Building at the Maryknoll Mission Institute, Maryknoll, New

York.~This program will briefly overview the deepening and interlocking environmental crises that stalk our history: climate destruction, species extinction, declining natural fertility and "peak everything." The bulk of the program will examine how to make "Creation Care" more practical and contextual by focusing on bioregional/watershed scales of engagement and literacy. We'll explore watershed theology and ecclesiology as well as "transition" economics and politics with an emphasis on restorative justice. **Resource Person:** Ched Myers, a theological animator with the Bartimaeus Cooperative Ministries, best known for his book, *Binding the Strong Man: A Political Reading of Mark's Story of Jesus*. **Find out more** at (914) 941-7575/E-mail: missinst@mksisters.org. The application form is online, [here](#).

19-24 : [Maryknoll Mission Institute: Compassion: Witness to Love](#) will be held at the Rogers Building at the Maryknoll Mission Institute, Maryknoll, New York. In a world fraught with division and alienation, the call to live a compassionate life is a "sign of our times." The teachings and praxis of Jesus and other spiritual leaders lead our journey into the foundations of compassion and the awakening it engenders as we encounter self and others in the pursuit of just and peace-filled relationships. Art, music, film and literature will draw participants into the compassionate life as a witness to love. **Resource Person:** Antoinette (Nonie) Gutzler, MM, Ph.D. has served in Tanzania and Taiwan. She is an Associate Professor of Theology at Fu Jen University, Taipei. **Find out more** at (914) 941-7575/E-mail: missinst@mksisters.org. The application form is online, [here](#).

AUGUST

6-9 : **Campaign Nonviolence National Conference** will be held in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Great speakers include Rev. James Lawson, a well-known civil rights activist, professor and practitioner of nonviolence. He worked directly with Martin Luther King, Jr. and spent over a year in prison as a conscientious objector. He will speak about his many years of nonviolent action and how we can move forward building a culture of peace. **Learn more** from info@paceebene.org.~

SEPTEMBER

17, 2015: A Blessing to One Another: Pope John Paul II and the Jewish People, a landmark exhibit, will open at the Vatican Museum in Rome, Italy. **Find out more** from BrueggemanCenter@xavier.edu.

22-27, 2015: World Meeting of Families welcoming Pope Francis is set for Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (USA). Although it is organized by Catholics, along Catholic teachings, it will be open to families and people of different faiths, including no faith at all, to engage the wider society in dialogue and to serve and strengthen families. More to come!

September 30-October 1, 2015: Africa Faith & Justice Network Annual Membership Meeting conjunction with the *USCMA Mission Congress*. **Find out more** at www.afjn.org.

OCTOBER

1-4, 2015: United States Catholic Mission Association 2015 Mission Congress: *Witnessing Mission* takes place at the Hilton North Hotel in Houston, TX. **Find out more** at the USCMA website, www.uscatholicmission.org/.

NOVEMBER

November 30-December 20, 2015: COP 21 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference will be held at the Le Bourget site in Paris, France.

Action on behalf of justice is a constitutive dimension of the preaching of the gospel.

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