



*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

### Food Security

[GMOs in agriculture: Part of the solution or part of the problem?](#) - Eco-Jesuit

Genetically modified organisms or GMOs are formed by transferring genetic information and are not possible to be formed naturally. This includes the transfer of genes between taxonomically remote groups such as bacteria and animals or plants and animals.

### Economy

[Pope Francis sends message to World Economic Forum in Davos](#) - Independent Catholic News

Pope Francis has sent a message to participants at the World Economic Forum which opened in the Swiss resort city of Davos last night. Catholic Church leaders are among those taking part in the four day meeting, which is focused on the theme 'The Reshaping of the World: Consequences for Society, Politics and Business'.

[Elites Will 'Consider Inequality'](#) - Interpress Service

With no acute crisis on the radar, this year's Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) will move away from the response mode of the past years and "look for solutions for the really fundamental issues," its founder Klaus Schwab said at the pre-meeting press conference.

[World's 85 richest own wealth close to that of poorest 3.5B: report](#) – Daily Nation

The 85 richest people on the planet have as much wealth as that of half the world's population, a meeting of political and financial leaders in Davos has been told.

### Peace

[Pope's New Year Angelus: build a world where enemies recognize themselves as brothers](#) - Vatican Radio

Pope Francis offered New Year's greetings of peace Wednesday to the tens of thousands of pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square to recite with the Holy Father the Angelus prayer at the start of 2014.

### Migration

[Border Groups React to Omnibus Spending Bill](#) - Alliance San Diego

For the first time in 20 years, border communities will not see an increase of Border Patrol agents.

[Why are we locking up migrants?](#) - New Internationalist

A mental-health crisis, endemic self-harm, suicide and forced abandonment of children - Hazel Healy exposes the damage caused by the detention of immigrants.

## Trafficking

[Hospitality, Agriculture Firms Vulnerable to Human Trafficking](#) - InterPress Service  
Shareholders are calling on 15 U.S.-based multinational corporations to ensure that their global supply chains are not facilitating human rights abuses, particularly labour and sex trafficking.

[The U.S. Government Uses Sweatshops, Too](#) - In These Times  
Though the Rana Plaza collapse prompted some private companies to reform their supply chains, the U.S. government has not done the same. The collapse of the Rana Plaza factory complex in Bangladesh last April exposed the cruel link between abusive Global South factories and the Western brands they supply.

[Human trafficking issues come to forefront as Super Bowl nears](#) - Daily Record  
With three weeks to kickoff at Super Bowl XLVIII at MetLife Stadium, the voices of those who warn against human trafficking — the modern sex-slave trade — are growing in number and volume.

[Does Anybody Care about Human Trafficking](#) - National Catholic Reporter  
The story is 20 years old, but it is true. Two Chinese girls came to the United States. Taken to a New Jersey motel, they were raped repeatedly and forced to work as prostitutes in New York City's Chinatown. The girls were never left alone or allowed out of their apartment-brothel. They spoke no English, but they could watch television. Soon, they figured out that dialing 911 on the telephone would bring police.

## Environment

[The commoditization of water and its social impact](#) - EchoJesuit  
Water, once a synonym of life, is fast becoming the basis for disrupting life as we perceive it on Earth. Faced with a task of feeding 8 billion (and counting) hungry mouths, agriculture is becoming more and more intense, with water usage (70 percent of the world's freshwater is used in agriculture) promising to go up drastically. However, sinking ground water levels, contamination due to indiscriminate use of fertilizers and pesticides, and pollution have all combined to put severe caps on this front.

## Extractive Industries

[Despite Legal Attacks, Conflict Minerals Ban Gets Stronger](#) - InterPress Service  
Major manufacturing and business groups urged a court here to roll back a new U.S. regulation that would soon require major manufacturers to ensure that their global supply chains are free of minerals used to fund violence in the Great Lakes region of central Africa. Yet the previous day, Intel, the major computer hardware manufacturer, announced the world's first product formally dubbed free of such materials.

## Church

[Francis tells religious to 'wake the world,' outlines modern struggles for church](#) - National Catholic Reporter

Priests, brothers, and sisters in Catholic religious orders around the globe should "wake up the world" by being "real witnesses" to a counter-cultural way of life that relies on generosity and self-forgetfulness, Pope Francis told a meeting of superiors general of religious orders in November.

[Pope With the Humble Touch Is Firm in Reshaping the Vatican](#) - New York Times

Less than a year into his papacy, Pope Francis has raised expectations among the world's one billion Roman Catholics that change is coming. He has already transformed the tone of the papacy, confessing himself a sinner, declaring "Who am I to judge?" when asked about gays, and kneeling to wash the feet of inmates, including Muslims.

## FAITH IN ACTION

[Tell Congress: it's time to repeal the authorization of the Iraq war.](#)

The Iraq war started after Congress gave George W. Bush the authorization to unleash America's military might by passing the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002, a law that remains in place.

[Don't allow human trafficking at Super Bowl XLVII](#) - Students for a Traffic-free Super Bowl  
Sign the petition at [Change.org](http://Change.org)

## COUNTRY UPDATES

### Brazil

[Descendants of Slaves Report Military Abuses in Brazil](#) - InterPress Service

Residents of the small community of Rio dos Macacos, made up of descendants of slaves in the northeastern Brazilian state of Bahia, reported to United Nations bodies that they were attacked by military personnel from the Aratu naval base, which occupies part of their land.

[Gang war in Brazil's Pedrinhas jail kills 59 in 2013](#) - BBC

Fifty-nine inmates have been killed in a single northern Brazilian prison this year, according to a judicial report. Video taken inside the Pedrinhas prison in Sao Luis also shows the torture of one inmate at the hands of others - and cases of beheadings. The district judge who wrote the report said the video was the "most barbarous scene" he had ever witnessed.

### Congo

[Kinshasa: Heavy gunfire, hostage scenario wreaks panic among residents](#) - Mail and Guardian

Residents in the capital of the DRC have been left to feel uneasy after gunfire erupted throughout the city and several reporters were taken hostage.

### Japan

['Never Bend': Thousands Protest New Air Base After Okinawa Switch](#) - Common Dreams

Anti-base protester: 'Okinawa residents cannot tolerate the base relocation within the prefecture.'

[Constitution's Article 9 revisited](#) - Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns

With the geo-political shifts in Asia and last year's return to power of the conservative Liberal Democratic Party in Japan, a real possibility exists of changing Article 9 of Japan's Constitution which had been written during the Occupation Period after World War II. Article 9 is found in the second

chapter of the constitution, "Renunciation of war"; its English translation states: Aspiring sincerely to an international peace based on justice and order, the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes. In order to accomplish the aim of the preceding paragraph, land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained. The right of belligerency of the state will not be recognized.

## Kenya

[Kenya's Scorched Earth Removal of Forest's Indigenous](#) - InterPress Service

Kenyan government security forces are forcefully evicting thousands of people, including the indigenous Sengwer tribe, from the Embobut forest in western Kenya by burning homes and possessions in an effort to promote forest conservation, safeguard urban water access and "remove squatters".

## Nigeria

[Boko Haram and the Dynamics of Exclusion](#) - Think Africa Press

Boko Haram emerged out of the economic, political and religious frustration of northern Muslims - it will not be defeated unless these issues are addressed.

## Peru

[Former Shining Path leader 'Presidente Gonzalo' faces Peru court](#) - The Guardian

After eight years hidden from the public view, Abimael Guzmán, 79, the one-time Shining Path leader, has appeared in court to face charges for the bombing of an upmarket street in Peru's capital Lima 22 years ago.

[Peru closes forced sterilisation probe and clears ex-President Alberto Fujimori](#) - BBC

Prosecutors say they found no evidence to support claims that hundreds of mostly poor and indigenous women and men were sterilised against their will. The Fujimori government has always maintained all operations were consensual. But human rights groups have reacted angrily, saying they will appeal.

## South Africa

[Poll shock alarms ANC](#) - Africa Confidential

Anger over broken promises is slashing the party's unassailable lead. With elections at most six months away, the opposition is more hopeful than ever.

## South Sudan

[Breakdown in South Sudan - What Went Wrong -- and How to Fix It](#) - Foreign Affairs

The South Sudanese people made extraordinary sacrifices to achieve independence two and a half years ago. That makes their leaders' abject failure to build a viable South Sudan since then all the more galling. Now, a political crisis imperils the nation. But there is a silver lining: The turmoil could give South Sudan the opportunity to reset the national agenda. The country's leaders cannot afford to squander this moment, and their first task is a sober appraisal of what has gone so disastrously wrong.

[South Sudan rivals sign ceasefire agreement](#) - BBC

South Sudan's government and rebels have signed a ceasefire agreement after talks in Ethiopia. Under the deal, signed in a hotel in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, the fighting is due to come to an end within 24 hours.

## Zimbabwe

[Baba Jukwa vs. Mugabe: The Man on Facebook Standing Up to Zimbabwe's President](#) - Think Africa Press

A disaffected ZANU-PF insider leaking details of fraud and inside information from an anonymous Facebook page has become an online sensation. But will it change anything?

## USA

[Major Parts of World Ignored by U.S. TV News in 2013](#) - InterPress Service

If people outside the United States are looking for answers why Americans often seem so clueless about the world outside their borders, they could start with what the three major U.S. television networks offered their viewers in the way of news during 2013.

## RESOURCES

[20 Ways to Stop Human Trafficking](#) - US State Department

[LIST OF GOODS PRODUCED BY CHILD LABOR OR FORCED LABOR](#)

[Maryknoll NewsNotes](#)

## Videos



[Clean Up Abandoned Uranium Mines](#)



[Brazil: Green Economy vs Community-based Economy](#)



[The Story of Solutions: move our economy in a more sustainable and just direction.](#)

## COMING EVENTS

### February

**8 - Feast of St. Josephine Bakhita**, the 19th-century Sudanese slave woman kidnapped as a child, so young she forgot her own name.

### 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](http://www.advocacydays.org)**, or for more information, call (202) 543-1126.

## **April**

**14 - Global Day of Action on Military Spending** coincides, once again, with the release by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) of their annual statistics on global military spending. In the U.S., Tax Day actions will be held on April 15, and some groups will combine the GDAMS actions with those. Visit <http://demilitarize.org/>.

**27 - South Africa 20th anniversary of liberation day** on 27 April 1994

**30 - May 6 - Sisters of Notre Dame Justice and Peace Meeting Namur**

## **June**

**12 -13 - FIFA World Cup: All in One Rythm** will take place in 12 cities in Brazil. "Human Trafficking" will be spotlighted separately but concurrently, more pending. For the official site, visit [www.fifa.com/worldcup/](http://www.fifa.com/worldcup/).

## **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](http://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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