



*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

[A growing issue: how can we secure food supplies?](#) - New Internationalist

Our world relies on an intricate system of transport, communication and trade to bring food from the fields to our tables, but any system is subject to flaws and can buckle under stress.

### Economy

[World financial system built as 'new idolatry,' cardinal tells forum](#) - Catholic News Service

The world financial system "has been built as a new idolatry," charged Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, at a June 3 forum in Washington sponsored by The Catholic University of America's Institute for Policy Research & Catholic Studies. During his keynote address, Cardinal Rodriguez issued a ringing endorsement of the church's competency to critique economic systems.

### Peace

[Water and Conflict in Syria](#) - Pacific Institute

Drought, Water and Agricultural Management, and Climatic Conditions are Factors in the Syrian Conflict. A foreign policy that supports Israel regardless of what Israel does to Palestinians trapped in Gaza or forced into Bantustans in the West Bank creates anti-US sentiment. When US weaponry, whether wielded by American forces or by American clients, is killing civilians in places like eastern Libya, Gaza, and Sinai, anti-US sentiment will increase. American patronage of authoritarian Middle Eastern regimes absolutely creates anti-American sentiment. ...unless America embarks on some hard choices about holding its allies to the same standards it demands of its enemies, its reputation will continue to suffer.

[Pope's peace summit a turning point, even without peace](#) - The Boston Globe

Hours before he convened an unprecedented Vatican prayer service for peace in the Middle East, Pope Francis told a crowd gathered in St. Peter's Square that "a church that doesn't have the capacity to surprise ... is a dying church."

### Migration

[Of Tears and Terror Families Torn Apart By Community Raids in the New Orleans Area](#) - Just South Quarterly

The family holds a central place in Catholic Social Teaching. Key Church teachings describe the family as "the sanctuary of life," the "essential cell of human society," and the "domestic Church." Given the primacy of the

family in the spiritual, ethical, social, and emotional formation of children, the unprecedented increase in deportations since President Obama took office is deeply disturbing. An Urban Institute study found that one child was left behind for every two immigrants apprehended by immigration authorities in worksite raids.

[US Bishop urges Congress to protect unaccompanied child migrants](#) -Independent Catholic News

Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, auxiliary bishop of Seattle and chairman of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Migration, called upon the Administration and Congress to protect unaccompanied children from Mexico and Central America crossing the border and to respond to the root causes of poverty and increasing violence as a long-term solution to the issue.

## Trafficking

[FBI recovers 168 children in child sex trafficking sting](#) - BBC

Authorities rescued 168 children and arrested 281 alleged pimps in cities across the US in a week-long child sex-trafficking sting, the FBI has said.

## Environment

[U.S. moves to boost energy in Nigeria, others](#) - Nigeria Guardian News

The U.S. has announced a new energy innovation tagged "Beyond the Grid" to boost energy and address supply shortages in Nigeria and five other African countries. The U.S. Secretary for Energy, Ernest Moniz, said this on Wednesday at the ongoing U.S.-Africa Energy Ministerial conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The theme of the conference is Power Africa Beyond the Grid: Increasing Access through Small-Scale Energy Solution.

[China Bulldozing Hundreds Of Mountains To Expand Cities](#) - Thinkprogress Press

China is just about the same size as the United States, but livable land is in short supply. With the population and economy still growing at a rapid clip, the government has undertaken a plan to bulldoze hundreds of mountains to create land for building on.

## Church

[US Bishops urge action on carbon pollution to stem climate change](#) - Independent Catholic News

Catholic bishops in the United States have urged the US Environmental Protection Agency "to develop standards to reduce carbon pollution from existing power plants and thereby mitigate climate change" in a May 29 letter from Archbishop Thomas G Wenski of Miami, chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

[Pope sacks entire board of Vatican financial authority](#) - Independent Catholic News

The Vatican said the Pope named four experts from Switzerland, Singapore, the United States and Italy to replace them on the board of the Financial Information Authority (AIF), the Holy See's internal regulatory office.

[U.S. Bishops Seek to Match Vatican in Shifting Tone](#) - The New York Times

They are rethinking what kinds of houses they live in, and what kinds of cars they drive. They are wondering whether, in anticipation of the 2016 presidential election, they need to rewrite their advice to parishioners to make sure that poverty, and not just abortion, is discussed as a high-priority issue. And they are trying to get

better about returning phone calls, reaching out to the disenchanting and the disenfranchised, and showing up at events.

## FAITH IN ACTION

### [Take the Plastics Pledge](#)

There is a section of the Pacific Ocean twice the size of the continental United States called the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. Within it, 100 million tons of plastic swirl in a vortex of currents. There is so much plastic in the water that it outnumbers zooplankton by six to one!

## COUNTRY UPDATES

### Brazil

#### [Brazil Security Forces Shoot Peaceful Indigenous Protesters with Rubber Bullets](#) - Amazon Watch

Over 150 indigenous people began a new peaceful protest of construction of the Belo Monte Dam complex in Brazil. Demanding respect for their legal rights and the fulfillment of government agreements to construct schools and healthcare facilities, protesters blocked access to construction workers. According to the protesters, an agreement made over three years ago to provide assistance to communities displaced by the dam's construction has yet to be fulfilled. They also assert that the Brazilian Institute of the Environment (IBAMA) has never visited the village to assess the fulfillment of the conditions of the agreement.

#### [Brazilian bishops give government, World Cup organizers 'red card'](#) - Catholic News Service

The Brazilian bishops' conference has given the government and 2014 FIFA World Cup organizers a "red card" for putting the competition above the Brazilian people's basic needs. In soccer, a "red card" is given to players who commit serious fouls and are expelled from the game.

### Congo

#### [The Democratic Republic Of Congo Paradox: Time to Think the Unthinkable](#) - AFJN

DRC customs office in Uvira In November 2013, a report, known as "the Simon Nyandu Report" after the nation's Attorney General, was completed but never officially released. The DRC government attempted to suppress it, but it was leaked. The investigators concluded 11 companies illegally avoided \$741 million in taxes and fines often with the collusion of local customs officials. After just 10 days, the Nyandu commission was ordered to stop its investigation and return to Kinshasa without completing its work.

### Japan

#### [Climate Legislation Up Against 'Abenomics' in Japan](#) - InterPress Service

Undaunted by Japan's national consensus to boost the economy, which has been mired in lackluster growth for decades, environmentalists are taking baby steps towards incorporating climate change into national legislation.

#### [Q&A: "Fukushima Accident Still Ongoing After Three Years"](#) - InterPress Service

It has been three years since the nuclear accident in Fukushima, Japan. But the consequences are still ongoing due to continuous leaks of radioactivity into the environment, says independent nuclear energy consultant Mycle Schneider.

## Kenya

[Kenya's Climate Change Legislation Takes Shape To Save Struggling Farmers](#) - InterPress Service

Daniel Njau, a small-scale farmer from Nyeri County, central Kenya, is torn. He just may have to give up his six-hectare tea plantation in favour of farming climate-resilient food crops. "Tea is very sensitive to climate change. Any drastic weather changes spell doom for the cash crop.

[Dozens massacred in Kenya attack](#)- Daily Nation

At least 48 people were killed when suspected Shebab militants from Somalia stormed into a Kenyan coastal town and launched a major assault on a police station, hotels and government offices, officials said.

[15 killed in fresh Mpeketoni attack](#) - Daily Nation

Another attack in Mpeketoni left at least 15 people, including two police officers killed, police have confirmed.

## Nigeria

[Nigeria Has Been Stumbling In Its Fight Against Boko Haram](#) - Think Progress

Militants disguised as members of the Nigerian army believed to be members of the Boko Haram terrorist group attacked a church in the northeastern state of Borno, killing dozens. Witnesses report they also captured three villages near the border with Cameroon. This violent episode is part of an ongoing string of terrorist attacks throughout northern Nigeria that, despite receiving U.S. support, the Nigerian government is struggling to address.

[Nigeria's emirs: Power behind the throne](#) - BBC News

Traditional leaders continue to exert considerable influence in Nigeria

[Nigerian cardinal supports offer of amnesty to Boko Haram insurgents](#) - Catholic News Service

Cardinal John Olorunfemi Onaiyekan of Abuja supported Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan's proposal to offer amnesty for any Boko Haram militants who stop fighting and embrace peace.

[Jonathan faces the north](#) - Africa Confidential

After two months in the global spotlight, the insurgency in northern Nigeria is fast turning into a national political crisis. The deepening security crisis in northern Nigeria and along the borders with Cameroon and Niger has galvanized more attention internationally than in Abuja. This week, it was Britain's turn to hold a security conference on northern Nigeria. It invited an impressive group of diplomats and security experts. Many also attended the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, hosted by Foreign Secretary William Hague and Angelina Jolie, a Special Envoy of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

[Search for Nigerian Girls May be Impeded by Government's Longstanding Lack of Coherent Strategy](#) -

InterPress Service

The search for the Nigerian schoolgirls abducted by Islamist extremist group, Boko Haram, could be hampered by a series of policy and information flip-flops by the government, the latest one of them being a public disagreement on policy between the president and the military chief.

## Peru

[Peru Needs to Know More About its Water in Order to Supply More People With the Valuable Resource](#) - InterPress Service

Peru urgently needs a national plan for the management of water over the next two decades, one that will take into account the effects of climate change and the social and environmental conflicts triggered by problems over water.

## South Africa

Offsets to Cushion South African Carbon Tax - InterPress Service

To curb greenhouse gas emissions, South Africa wants to put a tax on carbon emissions from big polluters.

## South Sudan

[In South Sudan, a Ghost of Wars Past: Child Soldiers](#) - The New York Times

Stretched out on a tarp on the floor of a makeshift hospital on a dirt road outside this town, a soldier in a leg cast was laughing and joking with other wounded fighters. His smile was broad and innocent, his voice not yet changed by puberty.

## Zimbabwe

[Zimbabwe: \\$770 Million in Potential Revenue Lost](#) - News From Africa

In 2013 alone, price manipulations due to transfer pricing generated in excess of \$1,6 billion in profits for diamond companies in the UAE, and represents a major deprivation for African treasuries which lost much needed tax revenues that could have funded public service, says report.

## USA

[Meeting with Representative Paul Ryan and Moving Forward](#) - Network Interconnection

In the middle of May I had the opportunity to meet briefly with Congressman Paul Ryan, Chairman of the House Budget Committee. That meeting is still echoing in my mind as I try to find ways to bridge his understanding of the issues of poverty and what we know from our work in economically challenged communities.

[After Shootings, Extended Silence: What The Border Patrol Hasn't Said](#) - NPR

The U.S. Border Patrol is becoming more transparent, according to the commissioner who oversees it. Still, there is much the agency has yet to disclose. The agency has repeatedly used deadly force along the U.S.-Mexico border while providing little or no information about what happened or why. What follows are the stories of four notable killings that have raised unanswered questions between 2010 and 2014.

## RESOURCES

[Mission to Central America: The Flight of Unaccompanied Child Migrants](#) - USCCB

[Myths and Facts on Central American Migration Surge](#) - Jesuits

The **Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report** was released on June 20th. It is widely regarded as the world's most comprehensive resource of governmental anti-human trafficking efforts and actions that can be taken to address and eliminate it.

[LCWR Statement on Children Crossing Borders Alone](#)

[This map shows how little space we'd need to power the entire world with solar panel](#) - Washington Post

## MultiMedia



[Webinar: The Sacredness of Water](#)



[The Meatrix](#)



[Globalised Slavery: How Big Supermarkets are Selling Prawns in Supply Chain Fed by Slave Labour](#)

## COMING EVENTS

### July

#### **7-10 - USCCB/MRS and CLINIC to host National Migration Conference, Washington, DC**

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops/Migration and Refugee Services (USCCB/MRS) and the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC) will host the National Migration Conference in Washington, DC from July 7-10, 2014. The Center for Migration Studies of New York (CMS) is also assisting with the conference. **Early Registration ends February 28.** To get more information, visit: [www.nationalmigrationconference.org](http://www.nationalmigrationconference.org).

**16-18 - 2014 Trafficking in America Conference: *Restoring Humanity from Modern Day Slavery***, hosted by Trafficking in America Task Force, will bring the most current and cutting edge information on root cause issues that are fueling modern day slavery in the United States. The location is the Hilton Palm Beach Airport at West Palm Beach, FL. The conference will address all three elements in the human trafficking triangle: supply, distribution and demand reduction. **Contact** Yvonne Williams, *Trafficking in America Task Force* at (615) 815-7068. **Register** [here](#).

### August

**August 3 - 10 - Exploring the Sacred Universe Earth Literacy Program**, a weeklong residential experience, invites participants to connect with Divine Mystery as they deepen recognition of the inherent spiritual dimension of the universe, contemplate the sacred Universe Story, critically examine perceptions that currently fashion our cultural worldview, immerse themselves in the beauty of the natural world, and develop practical skills for living a more ecologically conscious life. Through the perspective of the new cosmology, we can understand both why and how we must change direction to participate in the healing and flourishing of life on our rare and precious planet. Located on the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River in Godfrey, IL, it is a 45 minute drive from St. Louis, MO. Sponsored by the Oblate Ecological Initiative, a ministry of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. Cost is \$550. [Click here](#) for more information or call 618-466-5004.

**August 5-6, - U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit.** 47 African leaders have been invited to the U.S. Stay posted!

## *September*

**21 - International Day of Peace.**

**21-27 - Prepare for Nonviolent Action**,~an initiative of the Campaign Nonviolence will take place during the International Day of Peace week, in hundreds of cities, congressional districts, and Washington, D.C. It's sponsored by Campaign Nonviolence. [Get more information.](#)

## *October*

**5-19 The Synod of Bishops Meeting at the Vatican on the Family**

## *November*

**21-23 - Vigil at the Gates of Fort Benning, Georgia.**~Gather with other anti-death penalty activists. This is the annual convergence with speakers and musicians from across the Americas, workshops, concerts, caucuses, strategy sessions, and more. Visit <http://SOAW.org/november>.

**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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