



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

[CAFOD Hungry for Change campaigners petition Downing Street](#) - Independent Catholic News

A group of CAFOD campaigners from around the UK visited Downing Street a year ahead of the next general election, with demands from over 60,000 CAFOD supporters asking David Cameron to take action to end world hunger.

Economy

[Africa loses \\$50bn a year in plundered resources](#) - Mail & Guardian

Clamping down on illicit plundering of food and natural resources could curb Africa's food shortages, says the latest Africa Progress Panel report.

[Opinion Piece: Finance and the Post-2015 Agenda](#) - U.N. Non-Governmental Liaison Service

Aldo Caliari (Center of Concern) reflects on various dimensions of the financial and monetary reform agenda which he argues should be an integral part of any meaningful post-2015 development agenda.

[High Inequality Results in More US Deaths Than Tobacco, Car Crashes and Guns Combined](#) - Moyers & Company

In 2009, the British Medical Journal (BMJ) published [a study](#) that revealed what seems to be a shocking truth: those who live in societies with a higher level of income inequality are at a greater risk for premature death.

Peace

[Eyewitness to Nuke Explosion Challenges World Powers](#) - InterPress Service

When the Foreign Minister of Marshall Islands Tony de Brun addressed a nuclear review Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) meeting at the United Nations last month, he asked whether anyone in the room had witnessed a nuclear explosion. The question was met, not surprisingly, with resounding silence. As a nine-year-old boy, the minister vividly remembered seeing the white flash of the Bravo detonation on Bikini atoll, six decades ago. It was 1,000 times more powerful than Hiroshima, he told PrepCom delegates, mostly proponents of nuclear disarmament.

[Militarized Humanitarianism in Africa](#) - InterPress Service

As the world remains transfixed by the kidnapping of almost 300 Nigerian girls, there have been increasing calls for international intervention in the effort to rescue them. But what many people don't know is that the U.S. military has been active in the region for years.

Migration

[Bishops to Travel to Capitol Hill May 29, to Urge House of Representatives to Act on Immigration Reform](#) - Justice for Immigrants

Bishops who celebrated border Mass to continue 'Mission for Migrants'. Their message to House: "Now is the time to act". Mass on behalf of immigrant families to be celebrated on Capitol Hill

[Mr. Boehner comes clean on immigration reform](#) - Washington Post

IN WASHINGTON, House Speaker John A. Boehner (R-Ohio) peddles one line on immigration reform that is transparently false. In his district in Ohio, he becomes a truth-teller. For months, Mr. Boehner has tried to justify the intransigence of his fellow House Republicans, who have refused to consider a Senate measure to overhaul the broken immigration system.

Trafficking

[Pope Francis: Human Trafficking, an open wound on society](#) - Vatican Radio

"Human trafficking is an open wound on the body of contemporary society, a scourge upon the body of Christ. It is a crime against humanity": These were the strong words that Pope Francis addressed to participants at the conference on 'Combating Human Trafficking'.

[Woman says victims of trafficking brought so low, they 'pray for death'](#) - Catholic News Service

Christine McDonald was 15 when she was sold for \$2,500 to the owner of a strip club. The young teenager was a runaway and doing everything she could just to survive. The man who sold her was two to three times her age, someone who had lured her in with the promise of work, food and a roof over her head.

Environment

[What's Wrong With the Electrify Africa Act](#) - TheNation.com and Foreign Policy In Focus.

The U.S. House of Representatives will vote on the Electrify Africa Act. This bill directs the president to draw up a multi-year strategy to strengthen the ability of countries in sub-Saharan Africa to "develop an appropriate mix of power solutions" to provide electricity, fight poverty and "drive economic growth."

[How Cable News Covered The Landmark Climate Change Report](#) - Climate Progress

The U.S. federal government has released the National Climate Assessment (NCA), the definitive account of climate change's already-occurring impacts on the U.S., and of how those impacts will only be felt more acutely as time goes on. So, how did the cable news networks cover it?

Church

[Pope Francis: If we destroy Creation, it will destroy us](#) - Independent Catholic News

The focus of Pope Francis' General Audience homily was knowledge. "the gift of knowledge helps us to avoid falling prey to excessive or incorrect attitudes. The first lies in the risk of considering ourselves masters of Creation. Creation is not a property, which we can rule over at will; or, even less, is the property of only a few: Creation is a gift, it is a wonderful gift that God has given us, so that we care for it and we use it for the benefit of all, always with great respect and gratitude

FAITH IN ACTION

[In the wake of the ongoing crisis in Nigeria, Urge Congress to Support and Pass I-VAWA!](#) (International Violence Against Women Act

Violence against women is a horrific and pervasive human rights crisis that demands our response. Far too many women and girls around the world fall prey to traffickers, are attacked as they attend school, endure violence in the home, or are raped as a weapon of war. At least one out of every three women globally will be beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime—with rates reaching 70 percent in some countries.

[June is Torture Awareness Month](#)

Find the toolkit and action suggestions at [\[Link\]www.nrcat.org](#) or contact NRCAT at 110 Maryland Ave. NE, Suite 502, Washington, D.C. 20002; 202-547-1920

COUNTRY UPDATES

Brazil

[Brazil's World Cup Will Kick the Environment in the Teeth](#) - The Nation

As Brazil prepares to host the 2014 World Cup and the 2016 Olympics, a topic that plagues the country is the impact hosting these games will have on the local environment and various ecosystems. Despite efforts by soccer's ruling body, FIFA, to "greenwash" the games—by holding "green events" during the World Cup, putting out press releases about infrastructure construction with recycled materials and speaking rhapsodically about the ways in which the stadiums are designed to capture and recycle rainwater—the truth is not nearly so rank with patchouli oil.

[The People's Cup](#) - Common Dreams

With Brazil's World Cup three weeks away, up to 250,000 unsightly poor people have been driven out of their favelas, or slums, to make way for slick stadiums; thousands of subsequently homeless people have been evicted, often violently, from squatters' encampments set up when skyrocketing rents left them unable to find anywhere else to go; and thousands more remain in other camps to protest a country that has spent \$12 billion "to have a lovely World Cup and for the city to look nice, yet we still see children sleeping in the street." Because many believe there's something wrong there, street artist Paulo Ito's image, put up about a week ago on the doors of a schoolhouse in São Paulo, has now gone viral.

Congo

[Religious leaders create a Guarantee Commission to monitor the next election in Congo](#) - Agenzia Fides

An Integrity Commission and Electoral Mediation (CIME) to ensure peaceful, free and transparent elections, was announced by the religious leaders in Kinshasa at the end of a four-day seminar organized by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), on leadership training and conflict prevention.

Kenya

[Twin explosions rock Kenyan capital](#) - Al Jazeera

At least 10 people die in market and bus blasts in Nairobi, as countries issue travel warnings and evacuate citizens. One blast targeted a 14-passenger vehicle that Kenyans use for public transport. Another explosion occurred in Gikomba market, located to the east of the capital's central business district.

Nigeria

[Bring Back Our Girls](#) - AFJN

AFJN believes that Boko Haram has succeeded in its evil acts mainly due to the larger political culture that plagues and destabilizes Nigeria. Politicians live above the law and feel unaccountable to no one. Therefore, we urge the Nigerian government to address the root causes of Nigeria's social, economic, and political problems

[Interview with Fr. Aniedi Okure on Boko Haram](#) - Millennial - Recommended by Eucharía Madueke, SNDdeN
In light of Boko Haram's recent attacks and kidnappings in Nigeria and the rise of the #BringBackOurGirls campaign, we turned to Fr. Aniedi Okure, the Executive Director of Africa Faith & Justice Network and a Fellow at the Institute for Policy Research & Catholic Studies, to discuss Boko Haram, its origins, and the situation in Nigeria today.

[Nigeria soldiers 'fire at army commander in Maiduguri'](#) - BBC - Recommended by Eucharía Madueke, SNDdeN
Soldiers in Nigeria have opened fire on their commander in the north-eastern city of Maiduguri, witnesses say.

[Nigerians defy terror to keep learning](#) - New York Times - Recommended by Eucharía Madueke, SNDdeN
Two perspectives missed by the international media and the world are: First, this level of violence and other atrocities has been going on for over a year. Mothers, fathers, and children have been murdered, the survivors living in terror and despair. The second thing missing from the raging international discussion is that, for most communities, all families want education - for their girls and their boys.

[A Jihadist's Face Taunts Nigeria From the Shadows](#) - New York Times - Recommended by Eucharía Madueke, SNDdeN

After years of slaughtering civilians and setting fire to villages in rampages that had gone largely unnoticed outside Nigeria, Mr. Shekau and his fellow militants have finally caught the world's attention by kidnapping hundreds of schoolgirls from the village of Chibok, 80 miles from here.

Peru

[Peru's Conga Mine Conflict: Cajamarca Won't Capitulate](#) - Upside Down World
Today, the local population continues resisting the imposition of one of Latin America's largest gold mining projects - Minas Conga. The situation remains tense, and the resistance continues, but with an intensified sense of urgency because as the battles are won and lost, many feel that the conflict is nearing its conclusion.

South Africa

[South Africa's Election Changed Little, But Then It Was Never Going To](#) - Think Africa Press
Much of South Africa's intelligentsia has been putting its hope in the wrong place. For now, opposition parties are not the answer, but there are three avenues that might be.

South Sudan

[Violence Leaves Women, Girls, and Young People on the Edge in South Sudan](#) - InterPress Service
As with many conflicts and other humanitarian emergencies around the world, those who suffer the most are women, young girls and children. The current terrible crisis in South Sudan is no exception.

Zimbabwe

[Tsvangirai 'expels' Tendai Biti from MDC](#) - BBC
Zimbabwe's opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai says his rival Tendai Biti has been expelled from their MDC party, along with eight other members.

USA

[The Practical Choice: Not American Capitalism or “Welfare State Socialism” but an Economy That’s Working for a Few or Many](#) - Common Dreams

For years Americans have assumed that our hard-charging capitalism is better than the soft-hearted version found in Canada and Europe. American capitalism might be a bit crueller but it generates faster growth and higher living standards overall. Canada’s and Europe’s “welfare-state socialism” is doomed.

[The Time is Now: Veterans’ service should be matched with economic opportunity](#) - Center for American Progress

To commemorate Memorial Day, Half in Ten and the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans are honoring the veterans who have made sacrifices for our country. They have protected and served the United States, yet many return home and struggle with poverty and economic insecurity, as illustrated in our Veterans Poverty and Opportunity Profile (PDF). There are roughly 22.5 million veterans in the United States—many above the retirement age—and more than 1.4 million of them are living in poverty.

[In Nation’s Capital, It’s Native Americans and Ranchers vs. KXL ‘Death Warrant’](#) - Common Dreams

‘Cowboy and Indian Alliance’ protest encampment on national mall culminates with ceremonial procession to ‘protect sacred land and water’

RESOURCES

[USA Veterans Poverty and Opportunity Profile](#)

[Bishops Come to Washington on May 29th on a Mission for Migrants](#) following last month's Border Mass in Nogales, Arizona. Please join them at a SPECIAL MASS FOR IMMIGRANTS & IMMIGRANT FAMILIES

[Deadly Environment](#) - Global Witness

Report on the sharp rise in environmental and land killings as pressure on planet’s resources increases

[The New Populism](#) - Campaign for America's Future

[Joy of the Gospel](#) - NETWORK

WORK Lobby, a national Catholic social justice lobby, has prepared a 24-page PDF resource to help Catholics (along with Christians and other faith-curious social justice-seekers) study the words of Pope Francis, specifically his first papal exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*

[NewsNotes](#) - Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns



[Download Size of Africa map](#) - Africa is larger than China, USA, India, Eastern Europe, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, France, Spain, Portugal, Belgium, U.K. and the Netherlands combined.

COMING EVENTS

June

4-5 - G-7 Economic Summit to meet in Brussels, Belgium, not Sochi, Russia.

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

14-21 - Sudan and South Sudan Course 2014 in Kenya. **Find out more**, and get the online application. [Click here](#).

16-20 - Fifth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider Implementation of the Programme of Action (PoA) (BMS5) in New York City. This relates to the prevention, combat and eradication of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects. **Find out more**, [here](#). [Learn more](#).

27 - Pax Christi USA's MOMENTUM 2014~will honor the *2013 Teacher of Peace*, Mary Meg McCarthy, director of the *National Immigrant Justice Center*. Sr. Simone Campbell, Executive Director of NETWORK, will present the keynote on immigration reform and DREAMERS will also share their experience. The location of the event is Trinity University, 125 Michigan Ave., NE in Washington, D.C., from 6 - 9 pm/ \$50. **Visit** <http://paxchristiusa.org/programs/momentum-2014>.

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.

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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