



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

Impelled by the ecological crisis, we examine every facet of our relationship with the community of creation. All members and units of the Congregation commit to take action on this defining issue of our time. Chapter Acts 2014



The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur are members of The Faith Economy Ecology Transformation Working Group which developed a [four-week Advent series](#) to help individuals, parishes, and religious communities to pray, reflect, and take actions to build towards the kin-dom vision of right relationship. Each week features one of the principles from our statement, A Call to Integrate Faith, Economy, and the Global Economy. Explore with us a paradigm shift in mindset and values, how to support and build resilient communities through our everyday activities, how to develop policies that put the needs of people and the Earth at the center, and that the possibility to rein in corporate power exists.

Care of Creation

[Texas oil town makes history as residents say no to fracking](#) -The Guardian

The Texas town where America's oil and natural gas boom began has voted to ban fracking, in a stunning rebuke to the industry. Denton, a college town on the edge of the Barnett Shale, voted by 59% to ban fracking inside the city limits, a first for any locality in Texas.

[Industry Lashes Out With Lawsuit Hours After Landmark Fracking Ban](#) - Common Dreams

Mere hours after voters in Denton, Texas made history by enacting the state's first ban on fracking, the oil and gas industry has challenged that move with a lawsuit. Supporters say the ban, which passed with the support of nearly 59 percent of voters, said it was necessary to protect the city from the polluting and dangerous process.

[The Philippines: stop the palm oil rush in Palawan](#) - Rainforest Rescue

The proposal to convert further 8 million hectares of Philippine soil into oil palm plantations made headlines across the country and shed a harsh light on how Philippine authorities imagine their country's development. Call on the Governor of Palawan to save the Palawan Man & Biosphere Reserve!

Prophetic Action

[From Charity to JPIC Advocacy](#) - AEFJN

The church is rich in works of mercy: the hospitals, clinics, health centres, adoption and foster care, food collection, emergency services, social works and counselling services among others. But as important as these services are, they seem to cover and endorse the unjust structures of the society. This reflection suggests that moving beyond charity and sacred ministry to embracing advocacy will be a more viable way to make the gospel message come alive in our world. The capacity to confront unjust structures requires not only an inner journey and transformation of the human consciousness but also a more pragmatic understanding of the most basic Christian doctrines which we often take for granted. A conscious love produces compassion and solidarity in the world while fearfulness produces violence and domination of every kind. Pope Francis has also called Christians to display concern for the building of a better world through influence on societal life. [Read More](#)

Economy

[Homeless Jesus](#) - Jesuit Communication Center

The pictured bronze sculpture of the homeless Jesus, by renowned Canadian Catholic artist Timothy P. Schmalz, has proved challenging and controversial. It should not be difficult to imagine Jesus as homeless. He pointed out to a would-be disciple that foxes have holes, birds have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head. In Matthew 25 he identifies with the hungry, naked, sick or imprisoned, with all the needy of this world.

[Renewable Energies](#) - A Double-Edged Sword

Two United Nations bodies appear to be on collision course over the development of renewable energy. Bradnee Chambers, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) Convention on Migratory Species, explains that, while renewable energy has advantages, there are some pitfalls to be avoided.

[Catholics and Climate Divestment: An Update](#) - America

We may learn to see, and to value, our commons again.

Peace

[Women Challenged by Rising Extremism and Militarism](#) - InterPress Service

Ongoing military conflicts in the strife-torn Middle East — specifically in Iraq, Syria, Libya and Palestine — have resulted in widespread civilian casualties, impacting heavily on the most vulnerable in besieged communities: women and children.

Migration / Immigration

[A Betrayal of Migrant Children, and the Law](#) - New York Times

When hundreds of unaccompanied children — part of a recent surge of thousands of migrants stopped at the Southern border after fleeing violence and poverty in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador — were sent by federal officials to stay with relatives or other sponsors on Long Island, many found themselves blocked at the schoolhouse door.

[Decision Time on Immigration](#) - New York Times

President Obama said that he would act on his own by the end of the year to “improve” the immigration system, presumably by giving many — perhaps millions — of the country's unauthorized immigrants temporary protection from deportation and permission to work. He has said this before, only to back off in deference to election-year politics.

[Massachusetts Schools Welcome New Students Who Fled Danger](#) - InterPress Service

Pedro sought a safer life. He traveled to Somerville from Chalantenango, El Salvador on foot, by bus, car, and in the back of a tractor-trailer truck. Now he's one of 60 new students from Central America who have enrolled in Somerville Public Schools after making it to the Texas border on their own or with other children, part of a wave of 70,000 youth who crossed the border earlier this year.

Racism

[Hysteria Over Ebola Fuels Racism, While the Real Disease Is Capitalism](#) - Common Dreams

The Ebola crisis has gripped the American media, and by extension the imagination of the public, punctuated by breathless pronouncements from TV news reporters of the medical status of actual and potential victims of the disease; hysteria-inducing magazine covers, like this issue of Bloomberg Business week sporting the message "Ebola Is Coming" in blood-smeared letters; and Facebook feeds dominated by click-bait images of microscopic photos of the virus with eerie back-lit tangles of fat worms symbolizing the foreign bodies that could invade us all.

Food Security

[Pope addresses UN on the 'paradox' of world hunger](#) - Independent Catholic News

In his address the Holy Father spoke of waste and excessive consumption of food as well as the rights of those who go hungry.

[Sell out African food & farming system](#) - AEFJN

African agriculture and its farmers are evermore under pressure to maintain local food systems that produce culturally adapted food. For decades African agriculture has been in dire need of investment. In the latter half of the 20th century, investment came to the continent, but it was not targeted at African farmers.

[McDonald's Rejects GMO Potatoes, Other Fast Food Chains Should Follow Suit](#) - Food & Water Watch

"This week McDonald's, one of the largest fast food chains on the planet, told an agriculture news service that it would not use the J.R. Simplot Company's Innate GMO potato. This victory for consumers is another indication that the food industry recognizes that consumers do not want to eat GMO foods.

Church

[On the Way to Healing](#) - America

Jon Sobrino shares some cherished memories. Twenty-five years ago the Jesuit School of Theology conferred on him an honorary doctorate as a way of honoring his Jesuit brothers and two simple women who had been betrayed and assassinated in the middle of the night just a few weeks earlier in San Salvador.

Children

[25 Years After Rights Convention, Children Still Need More Protection](#) - InterPress Service

Fresh in my mind right now are deadly bomb attacks on schools in northern Nigeria and Syria, Central American children braving perilous journeys to flee violence, children being recruited to fight in South Sudan and gang rapes in India.

[Study: More Homeless Children Now Than Any Point in US History](#) - Common Dreams

A new report on child homelessness in America finds that 2.5 million children experience homelessness annually.

FAITH IN ACTION

It is time to act on climate change

Join activists, people of faith, scientists and concerned citizens around the world as they call on their governments to act decisively to prevent disastrous climate change.

[Third Sunday of Advent: Call on policymakers to invest in development for all God's people](#)

The scriptures for the third Sunday in Advent -- Gaudete Sunday -- call us to action -- to be a voice in the wilderness, a light, and to bring the good news to the oppressed and poor in our world. In his May 2014 address to United Nations officials in Rome, Pope Francis urged the UN to promote development goals that attack the root causes of poverty and hunger, protect the environment and ensure dignified labor for all. He said that this involves challenging all forms of injustices and resisting the economy of exclusion, the throwaway culture and the culture of death which nowadays sadly risk becoming passively accepted.

COUNTRY UPDATES

Brazil

[Brazil carbon emissions rise for the first time since 2004](#) -report - Reuters

Brazil's annual greenhouse gas emissions increased last year for the first time since 2004 after years of reductions as deforestation and the use of thermal power plants rose, a new study found.

[Rousseff faces obstacles in new term](#) - Latin America Press

President proposes political reform to broaden citizen representation, which would affect rural and business interests in the legislature.

Congo

[WHO \(World Health Organization\) Declares End of Ebola Outbreak](#) - NewsfromAfrica

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.

Japan

[Survivors Pulled From Ruins After Quake in Japan](#) - New York Times

Police officers and firefighters rescued almost two dozen people, including a 2-year-old toddler, from beneath their collapsed houses on Sunday, a day after a powerful earthquake shook mountainous central Japan. At least 40 people were injured, but no deaths were reported.

[Growing Coral to Keep a Sea Claim Above Water](#) - New York Times

Amid warnings that rising sea levels caused by global warming could lead to the disappearance of some entire island states, two tiny uninhabited islets in the Pacific are at the forefront of Japanese research into the preservation and regeneration of coral reefs.

Kenya

[Kenya moves to rein in solar cowboys](#) - The East African

By mid-2015 Kenya should have around 580 certified technicians, including those trained by the government and others who have gotten qualified on their own. That number should grow to about 1,000 by 2016. The government knows that if it is going to motivate more Kenyans to install solar-energy systems in their homes and businesses, it not only needs to increase the number of trained technicians but also make it harder for untrained installers to undercut them.

[Kenyan Police arrest 109 in new raids on Mombasa mosques](#) - The East African

Police in Kenya's coastal city of Mombasa raided two mosques and arrested more than 100 people about a day after taking 251 people into custody during a swoop on two other mosques in the port city.

Nicaragua

[Giant canal threatens way of life on the banks of Lake Nicaragua](#) - The Telegraph

Plans for Nicaraguan canal which would dwarf its Panama rival and dissect central America's largest lake met with violent resistance from locals

Nigeria

[Nigeria: More than 50,000 Violence-Displaced People in North-East Get Aid](#) - NewsfromAfrica

Most displaced people who arrived in Maiduguri in the past few months were settled in government buildings, schools or official camps. Some stayed with relatives or host families, with whom they shared scant resources, while others found refuge in informal settlements.

[Bring Back Our Journalists](#) - Foreign Policy

There was never any cease-fire. War in Nigeria will not end anytime soon and the hundreds of schoolgirls from the northeastern town of Chibok kidnapped back in April will not — not now, maybe not ever — be coming home. So announces the leader of Boko Haram, the militant group that has brought all this havoc to the country, in a video released Oct. 31.

[Remember Ken Saro-Wiwa and the Ogoni Nine](#) - EarthRights International

On November 10, 1995, internationally renowned author and human rights and environmental activist Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other Ogoni men were hung in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. Arrested and held for months without charges, tortured while under detention, and sentenced to death by a "Special Tribunal" convened in violation of international law.

Peru

[New Research Points to Vast Deforestation in Peru](#) - Peruvian Times

New research by the Lima-based Instituto del Bien Comun, a non-governmental organization that promotes indigenous rights and environmental stewardship, has found that 1.42 million hectares (3.5 million acres) have been deforested in the Peruvian Amazon.

[When oil is more important than life](#) - Latin America Press

Oil exploitation leaves trail of pollution and death in the Peruvian Amazon.

[Strengthening youth leadership and capacity in environmental and social action in Huamanga and Jaén, Perú](#) - EcoJesuit

An exciting new three-year project on the training and democratic participation of youth leaders from Huamanga and Jaén for the environment, areas with the greatest levels of poverty and inequality in Perú, intends to strengthen the capacities and skills of young people regarding environmental issues.

[Corruption as political ideology](#) - Latinamerica Press

Public shows increased lack of confidence in politics after regional and local elections.

South Africa

[Viewpoint from South Africa: Crime and family life](#) - Independent Catholic News

The murder of Senzo Meyiwa is front page news, and dominating social media. His shocking death has stunned us as a nation. Here is a young man who was a symbol of hope and an inspiration for many other young South Africans. His tragic death reminds us all of the reality we live with, that ours is an incredibly violent society.

South Sudan

[South Sudan's first female mayor murdered, bishops plead for peace](#) - The Tablet

Yei Diocese in South Sudan has condemned the brutal murder of the first female mayor of Yei City. Fr Zachariah Angutuwa Sebit, Vicar General of Yei Diocese, said it was an act against the people. Cecilia Oba Tito, who was killed on 9 November near Juba, participated in drafting the Constitution of South Sudan and in 2013 was elected mayor of Yei, a post she stepped down from in September. She was an active Christian, especially championing women's access to education.

Zimbabwe

[Uproar over Harare demolitions](#) - IRIN

Thousands of residents in Zimbabwe's capital Harare and surrounding areas are facing eviction from their homes as local authorities embark on an operation to demolish all illegal structures. At the end of last month, city authorities turned 70 residential and business buildings into rubble overnight in the dormitory town of Chitungwiza, 25km north of Harare, and served 324 settlers in the high-density suburb of Glen Norah with 48-hour eviction notices. However, the demolitions in Glen Norah did not proceed, as residents armed with axes, knobkerries and other objects faced off with police who eventually retreated.

USA

[Drop That Plate Right Now: Cops Arrest 90-Year-Old Advocate and Clergy For Scary Crime of Feeding the Hungry](#)

Common Dreams

Bound by faith and virtue to resist newly passed "homeless hate laws" in Fort Lauderdale, a 90-year-old homeless advocate and two ministers were arrested by a phalanx of burly cops for resolutely continuing to share food with homeless people in public, part of a "week of resistance" to a growing body of laws there and in at least 20 other cities that criminalize poor people by restricting their panhandling, camping, storing belongings, going to the bathroom and other activities deemed "life sustaining" to the homeless – that is, essentially, for existing.

[Orphaned by deportation: the crisis of American children left behind](#) - Guardian

Ten-year-old Andrés Jiménez was looking forward to the end of summer. Not because he was particularly eager to return to school, but because the end of summer was meant to be the president's deadline for taking action on immigration. But Obama's deadline came and went, and with it Andrés's hopes of reuniting his family after his father was wrenched from his life three years ago.

RESOURCES

The Faith Economy Ecology Transformation Working Group developed a [four-week Advent series](#) to help individuals, parishes, and religious communities to pray, reflect, and take actions to build towards the kin-dom vision of right relationship.

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<http://www.maryknollogc.org/resources/economy-right-relationship-advent-reflection-guide-new-economy>

[Impact of Climate Change on Latin America and the Caribbean](#) - Latin America Press

Download Infographic

[Prayer Resources for World AIDS Day](#) - December 1 - IHM

[Harvest of Empire, The Untold Story of Latinos in America?](#) - Sent by Denise Curry, SNDdeN

It is a 90 minute documentary that examines the direct connection between the long history of US intervention in Latin America and the immigration crisis today. From Puerto Rico, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Mexico and El Salvador – the facts become powerfully clear. I recommend it for all of us working to secure justice for immigrants, to high school and university students and all their teachers, and interested community organizations.

[Human Trafficking: The Story of Ruth](#) - Talitha Kum

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

Catholic Sisters Deepen Collaboration for Justice



Sisters Denise Curry and Maura Browne joined social justice promoters from congregations of women religious in Cleveland, Ohio for a the first-ever national convocation. Over 150 participants representing more than 100 congregations from 26 states and one Canadian province focused on the theme **“Entering the Transforming Future: Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Ministry in the Coming Age of Religious Life.”** For more information check out the links below.

Keynote: [Transforming Future - Marie Dennis](#)

Press Release: [Catholic Sisters Deepen Collaboration for Justice](#)

Immigration: [Letter to President Obama](#)

Open Space: [Notes](#) (Open Space Notes.pdf)

MultiMedia



[90 Year Old cited for feeding the homeless in Fort Lauderdale](#)



[Massachusetts Schools Welcome New Students Who Fled Danger](#)



[Watch a Sneak Preview & Help Finish the Film](#)

COMING EVENTS

December

11-14 - The National Gun Violence Prevention Sabbath weekend has been a cornerstone in the national conversation about gun violence and, specifically, what people of faith can do in their own communities to prevent it. This year, organizers are hoping to strengthen their outreach while also bolstering the efforts of a key partner, Newtown Action newtownaction.org. Plans for this year's Sabbath include the National Vigil for Gun Violence Victims at the Washington National Cathedral (and in states across the country) on Thursday, December 11, and an invitation to congregations across the nation to participate via prayer, song, vigils, and education from December 11-14. Congregations can pledge to join the Newtown community, and hundreds of religious congregations, the weekend of Dec 11-14 at marchsabbath.org/sabbath/.

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. Our greater purpose should be "to build a civilization based on the equal dignity of every person without discrimination. To achieve this will also require the commitment of the media, of education, and of culture to a renewed society pledged to freedom, justice, and therefore peace." Visit www.combonisouthsudan.org.

April

17-20 - Ecumenical Advocacy Days: Breaking the Chains: Mass Incarceration and Systems of Exploitation will take place near Washington, D.C. Potential workshop topics include de facto "incarceration" from the Africa Faith & Justice Network viewpoint, land grabs, extractives, etc. There will be three workshops designed for the Africa Track. Keep an eye out, [here](#)..

Action on behalf of justice is a constitutive dimension of the preaching of the gospel.
Justice in the World - 1971 Synod of Bishops