

I have come that you may have life to the full – John 10:10

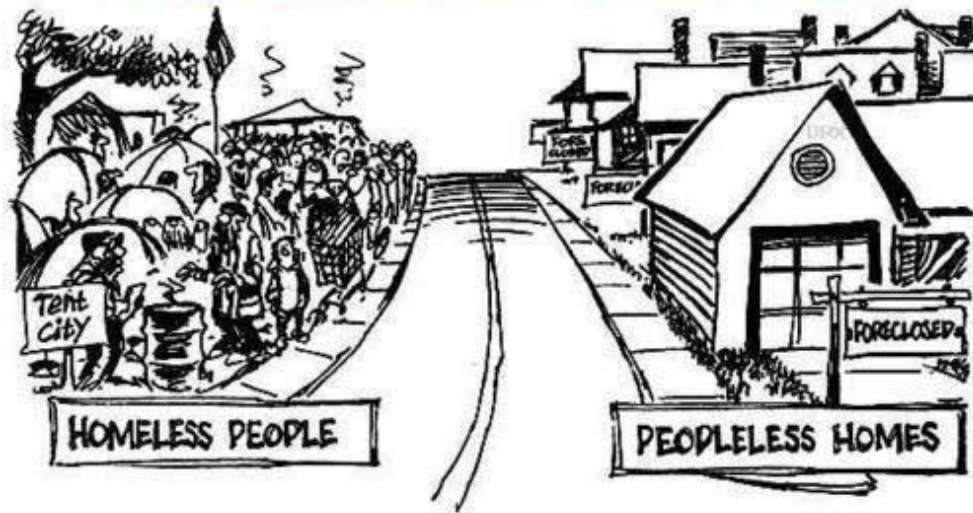
Vol 11 No 10 Oct. 2014

SNDdeNjpic.org/

Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur Justice and Peace Office

FAITH IN ACTION

FREE MARKET CAPITALISM



Economy

[Homeless Jesus](#) - Jesuit Communication Center

A 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.

Ecology

[Pharmaceutical Dumping Could Pose Risks to Wildlife, Scientists Warn](#) - Common Dreams

What happens when the drugs used to treat humans and animals are disposed? Scientific studies published Monday in a special issue of the journal *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B* reveal that pharmaceuticals, when flushed into land and water ecosystems, could pose risks to wildlife, from altering species' behavior to changing fertility rates to death.

[Life on earth is dying, thanks to one species](#) –Telegraph

Five times in the past 440 million years, life on earth has suffered a great dying – a mass extinction eliminating between half and 97 per cent of species. In the words of the palaeontologist and conservationist Richard Leakey, such events “restructure the biosphere”. Life takes millions of years to recover – and only does so by undergoing fundamental changes, such as mammals succeeding dinosaurs.

[New Global Declaration “Insufficient” to Tackle Deforestation](#) – InterPress Service

Heads of state, civil society groups and the leaders of some of the world’s largest companies this week urged their peers to sign on to a landmark new global agreement aimed at halting deforestation by 2030, even as others are warning the accord is too lax.

Peace

[Endless Flow of Weapons Fuels Endless War in Iraq and Syria](#)- Common Dreams

An analysis of new data (pdf) collected by a group which tracks weapons in global conflict zones has found that a large proportion of the munitions now being used by ISIS fighters in Iraq and Syria are from U.S. manufacturers, either captured on the battlefield or sold to them by supposed U.S. allies.

[My Journey as a Muslim in Christian-Muslim J&P work](#) – Independent Catholic News

I have just spent five months in Rome where I came for a course at the Angelicum University in order to deepen my understanding of the Catholic perspective on Inter-religious Dialogue and on Christianity in general. This experience has exposed me to new insights and perspectives about the work of justice and peace.

[U.S. Destroys Its Own Weapons in Enemy Hands](#) – InterPress Service

When the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) captured a treasure trove of U.S. weapons from fleeing Iraqi soldiers last month, one of the rebel leaders with a morbid sense of humor was quoted as saying rather sarcastically: “We hope the Americans would honor their agreements and service our helicopters.

[A Verdict on Blackwater](#)- New York Times

It took far too long, but four former gunslings with the Black water Worldwide security firm have at last been held accountable for the killing of 17 Iraqi civilians in Nisour Square in Baghdad in September 2007. It was one of the darkest episodes of America’s long war.

Migration / Immigration

[Why more and more cities are refusing to help the government deport immigrants](#) - Washington Post

Chicago doesn’t cooperate. Neither does Philadelphia. Nor Baltimore, San Diego, Newark, Milwaukee, Miami-Dade or Denver. One by one, these cities — soon to be joined by New York City — have passed resolutions or enacted new policies refusing to hand over immigrants detained by local police to federal officials for deportation.

[ANALYSIS: Europe’s Migrant Graveyard](#) – InterPress Service

“It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the Mediterranean has become an instrument in a policy of deterrence, in which migrant deaths are tacitly accepted as a form of ‘collateral damage’ in a militarized response to 21st century migration whose overriding objective is to stop people coming.”

[After meeting Lampedusa survivors Pope tells Europe: Open the doors of your heart’](#)- Independent Catholic News

Last night, Pope Francis had a private meeting with a group representing survivors of the migrant boat which capsized off the coast of Lampedusa island one year ago. At least 370 people lost their lives in the tragic

accident. Pope Francis has called on the men and women of Europe to ‘open the doors of their hearts’ and welcome migrants who risk their lives at sea to flee war and poverty.

Trafficking

[US courts expose shocking cruelty of Kenyan diplomats](#)- Daily Nation

Three Kenyan diplomats are battling vicious multimillion law suits filed against them by the house helps (workers)they allegedly lured and conscripted into slavish service in the US. A former Kenyan diplomat to the UN is facing charges of luring, human-trafficking and enslaving a countrywoman in the US for over a year.

Food Security

[Africa: Scramble For Oil: The Cause Of Decline In Agriculture](#) - News from Africa

In the 1960s, before it turned to oil, Nigeria was one of the most promising agricultural producers in the world with agriculture exports being the country’s major foreign exchange earner between 1962 and 1968, and was number one globally in palm oil exports, well ahead of Malaysia and Indonesia, and exported 47% of all groundnuts, putting it ahead of the US and Argentina, but this status however have since been in a steep decline the moment oil came in as investments in infrastructure were redirected and rural communities slid into poverty.

[Africa: Family Farming On Focus During World Food Day](#)- News from Africa

According to a 2014 report by GRAIN, an international non-profit organization reveals that small farms produce most of the world’s food which affirmed the claim – Family farming feed the world. In African countries, especially Kenya, small farmers operate 16% of agricultural land, but provide 55% of agricultural output, including: 97% of potatoes, 88% of vegetables, 83% of fruits and berries and 80% of milk.

Church

[Catholic bishops soften tone on same-sex unions](#) - Boston Globe

For the first time in a semi-official Vatican document, a summit of Catholic bishops from around the world convened by Pope Francis acknowledged Monday that relationships that don’t accord with Catholic teaching, including same-sex unions, can have positive moral value.

[Spiritual triage: Help wounded, drop theoretical baggage, pope says](#) – Catholic News Service

“We have to go out! So that the church seems like a field hospital,” where the first order of the day “ is heal the wounds, not measure people’s cholesterol. That comes later. Got it?” With so much spiritual, social and moral suffering in the world, the church has “no right” to stay locked up in an ivory tower, engaging in “byzantine” philosophical reflection, Pope Francis told members of the Focolare movement.

[Bishop: Decision to house those monitored for Ebola ‘right thing to do’](#)- Catholic News Service

Dallas Bishop Kevin J. Farrell said that he followed the teaching of Christ and stepped in to house the fiancée of Ebola victim Thomas Eric Duncan and three others for several weeks at a diocesan facility when no one else would.



Join the [OurVoices](#) campaign. A multi-faith international campaign calling for a strong climate treaty at the Paris 2015 Climate Summit. Begin to pray and [educate yourself](#) about this Climate Summit and what it's all about. Then sign up at [OurVoices.net](#) to add your voice to the multitude. Together, people of faith can bring a chorus to Paris to let our world leaders know we won't stop until action is taken to reduce the effects of climate change.

Join the Franciscan Action Network for an [informational webinar](#) on October 30th at 4pm, Eastern where they will go into detail about the campaign and it's goals.

[Send message to Obama, Congress urging end to family detention](#) - USCCB

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Justice for Immigrants campaign encourages Catholics to use its website to send a message to President Obama and members of Congress:

COUNTRY UPDATES

Brazil

[U.S., Brazil Nearing Approval of Genetically Engineered Trees](#) – InterPress Service

The U.S. and Brazilian governments are moving into the final stages of weighing approval for the commercialization of genetically engineered eucalyptus trees, moves that would mark the first such permits anywhere in the world. The Brazilian government is slated to start taking public comments on such a proposal during the first week of September.

Congo

[Bishops Strongly Condemn Religious Attack in Lodja](#) – CISA

Episcopal Conference of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (CENCO) has condemned the attack on two catholic priests. “It is unacceptable to blame the church personnel who, faithful to the hierarchy, exercise their pastoral ministry,” said a statement from CENCO.

Japan

[Women's rights activist welcomes Supreme Court decision after own mistreatment](#) - Mainichi

A women's rights activist welcomed an Oct. 23 Supreme Court decision that declared it illegal to demote pregnant women without their agreement, saying the ruling is a step toward creating better work environments for future generations of women.

Kenya

[Ali Mazrui: Unafraid to confront contentious issues](#) - Mail & Guardian

The Kenyan political thinker Ali Mazrui, who has died aged 81, was best known in the West for writing and presenting a ground-breaking television series, *The Africans: A Triple Heritage* (1986). In the nine-part documentary, co-produced by the BBC and the United States (US) Public Broadcasting Service in association with the Nigerian Television Authority, Mazrui set out to explore wide-ranging aspects of African culture and society “from the inside”. Episodes focused on subjects including nature, the family, exploitation, conflict and political instability.

[Uhuru Kenyatta heads to International Criminal Court](#)- Daily Nation

Mr Kenyatta, 52, faces five counts at the ICC over his alleged role in masterminding post-election violence in 2007 and 2008 that left 1,200 people dead and 600,000 displaced. On Monday, Mr Kenyatta told Parliament he had taken the “unprecedented” move to temporarily hand power over to Ruto — whose trial at the ICC has already begun.

Nigeria

[Nigeria's schools live in fear of Boko Haram](#)- Nigeria's government has promised to protect schoolchildren. It has been six months since 200 girls were kidnapped by Boko Haram and Nigeria's northern states continue to live in fear. “The only thing we desire is that we want them back”, said Bukky Shonibare, barely holding back his tears. “At this point we are begging, we are pleading that they should do all that is needed and let the girls come back.”

[Mega churches: The hidden pillar of Nigeria's economy](#)- Mail & Guardian

When a guesthouse belonging to one of Nigeria's leading Christian pastors collapsed last month, killing 115 mostly South African pilgrims, attention focused on the multimillion-dollar “mega churches” that form a huge, untaxed sector of Africa's top economy.

[Nigeria's Actions Seem to Contain Ebola Outbreak](#)- New York Times

With quick and coordinated action by some of its top doctors, Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, appears to have contained its first Ebola outbreak, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Tuesday.

Peru

[Illegal loggers remain hidden in Peru's forest but timber finds global buyers](#)- The Guardian

Javier Gomez sucks the last morsels of meat from the leg bone of an agouti, a large Amazonian rodent, his creased face belying his 44 years. ‘We're just happy to have the work,’ he shrugs wearily. “Here the only work is timber, that's it. It's heavy work but we're used to it.” Older than his sinewy companions, Gomez says he will earn around \$825 for spending four months logging in a camp two days up the Mayuruna river from his home village.

South Africa

[Wealth division in SA and around the world](#)- Mail & Guardian

French economist Thomas Piketty sees the source of the 2008 financial crash in the unsustainable levels of inequality that characterizes capitalism. Thomas Piketty, the French economist whose *Capital in the Twenty-First Century* has become one of the most talked-about.

South Sudan

[South Sudan: children bear brunt of man-made disaster](#) - The Guardian - Sent by Margaret Clark, SNDdeN

Despite aid agencies' efforts, the world's newest nation is on the brink as its leaders fight for the spoils of power

Zimbabwe

[Zimbabwe students view PhD for president's wife as an 'insult'](#) - Mail & Guardian

Grace Mugabe's PhD, awarded just months after she enrolled for the course, has incited protest among Zimbabwean students who view it as a 'sham'. (Aaron Ufumeli). The Zimbabwe students union, on Friday, demanded the resignation of authorities at the country's top university after it awarded a "miraculous" doctorate to President Robert Mugabe's wife.

USA

[Prospect of No Water Looms in Over a Dozen California Towns](#) - Common Dreams

Over 37 million people now affected by historic drought. Over a dozen California communities now face running out of water within 60 days if urgent steps are not taken, and that list will only grow as the record drought of 2014 continues, according to the State Water Board.

[Detroitters Vow Resistance After Judge Rules There is No Human Right to Water](#) -Common Dreams

Bankruptcy judge declines moratorium allowing water shutoffs to continue. The people of Detroit are vowing resistance after a federal bankruptcy judge on Monday ruled that the city can continue shutting off water to its poorest residents if their bills cannot be paid.

[The Foreign-Born Population from Africa: 2008–2012 American Community Survey Briefs, ACSBR/12-16](#)- Africa Focus

According to the 2008–2012 American Community Survey (ACS), 39.8 million foreign-born people resided in the United States, including 1.6 million from Africa, or about 4 percent of the total foreign-born population. In 1970, there were about 80,000 African foreign born, representing less than 1 percent of the total foreign-born population.

[How We Punish People for Being Poor](#)- Common Dreams

This past weekend, I was part of a panel discussion on MSNBC's Melissa Harris Perry with New York Times reporter Michael Corkery, whose reporting on the rise in sub-prime auto loans is as horrifying as it is important.

RESOURCES

"**The Facts on Immigration Today**" by The Center for American Progress. Originally published April 3, 2013, it has been updated with the latest, most essential facts as of **October 23, 2014**. It is divided into five sections:

Online edition: <http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/report/2014/10/23/59040/the-facts-on-immigration-today-3/>

Pdf version (includes endnotes): <http://cdn.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/ImmigrationFacts-brief-10.23.pdf>

- Today's immigrant population
- Demographics and political power of new Americans
- Federal immigration policy
- Public opinion polling on immigration
- Unaccompanied children at the U.S. southern border

Webinar series: Building a Faithful Response to Corporate Power

The Faith Economy Ecology Transformation Working Group is hosting a four-part webinar series with faith leaders, experts on corporate power, and advocates for change. The series will explore how the role of corporations in society has changed over time, what positive alternative forms of corporations exist, and how

people of faith can play an active role in confronting corporate power on a local, national, and international scale.

Each webinar will be held **4-5 pm** Eastern standard time on the following dates:

October 1: A Paradigm Shift in the Understanding of Corporations- David Korten and Prof. Bill Quigley (Loyola University) [Use this link to listen to the recording of this webinar](#)

October 15: Alternative Forms of Corporations- John Duda (Democracy Collaborative), Heather Van Dusen (B Lab), Prof. Ed Lorenz (Alma College) [Use this link to listen to the recording of this webinar](#)

November 5: National Campaigns to Diminish Corporate Power- Robert Weissman (Public Citizen), Mateo Nube (Movement Generation)

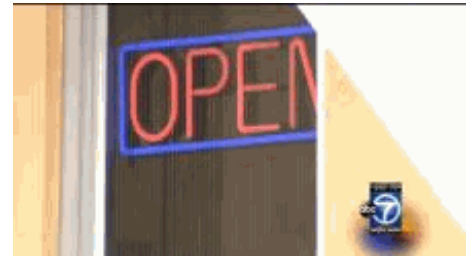
November 19: Taking Action to Address International Corporate Power- Kirsten Cross (Corporate Accountability International), Melinda St. Louis (Public Citizen-Global Trade Watch)

See registration information [here](#).

The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). A charter for deregulation, an attack on jobs, an end to democracy - Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung

This booklet, written by John Hilary, Executive Director of War on Want, explains in short what TTIP is and how it will affect the lives of all of us if it comes into force. The Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung tries to cast some light into this secretly negotiated treaty and to encourage resistance, by bringing together experts, civil society and politicians in workshops and conferences in Europe and the USA. [Download pdf copy](#) in English, French, Italian, Portuguese or Spanish

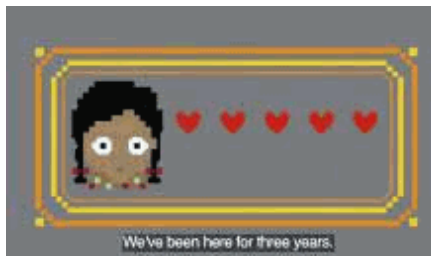
MultiMedia



[Honest Accounts? The true story of Africa's billion dollar losses](#)

[Trafficking: Saving a Generation of Grls](#)

[PG County wants to crack down on human trafficking by banning hourly room rates](#)



[Perpetual War Fuels Perpetual Terrorism](#)

[Invisible Picture Show - Children in Detention](#)

[The Good Lie - South Sudan Lost Boys](#)

COMING EVENTS

November

7-9 - Call to Action Conference 2014: The Well of Many Rivers: Creating Currents of Change features over 75 speakers, workshops, caucuses, prayer sessions, exhibitors and networking opportunities. From inclusive liturgies to workshops on spirituality and justice, join an inspiring community of Catholics cultivating change in our church. Click [here](#).

7 - Annual William Dyer Lecture, sponsored by the Africa Faith & Justice Network, takes place at BusBoys in Chinatown, Washington, D.C., 5th and K Street, NW. The U.S. Ambassador of Tanzania. Hon. Liberata Mulamula, will speak on post - U.S.- Africa Summit. What loopholes are there to close? She is a graduate of St. John's University in New York City and was the head of Tanzania's delegation to the U.N. and also the head of Chancery in Canada. Contact AFJN, www.afjn.org, to learn more.

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>.

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/.

2015

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