

*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

## FAITH IN ACTION

### Peoples' Global Climate March



### Environment

[Meet the Company Suing El Salvador for the Right to Poison Its Water](#) - Other Words

In an obscure World Bank court, a multinational mining firm is suing El Salvador for attempting to protect its citizens from deadly mining pollution.

[U.N. Climate Summit: Staged Parade or Reality Show?](#)- By Thalif Deen

UNITED NATIONS, September, 15 2014 (IPS) – The much-ballyhooed one-day Climate Summit next week is being hyped as one of the major political-environmental events at the United Nations this year. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has urged over 120 of the world's political and business leaders, who are expected to participate in the talk-fest, to announce significant and substantial initiatives, including funding commitments, "to help move the world towards a path that will limit global warming.

[Amazon rainforest destruction in Brazil rises again](#)- BBC

The rate of destruction of the Amazon rainforest in Brazil has increased for a second year running. Brazilian government figures show deforestation was up by 29% in the 12 months up to the end of July 2013. Satellite data showed that almost 6,000 sq km (2,315 sq miles) of forest were cleared during that period.

[The People's Climate March: Meet the Next Movement of Movements](#)- Common Dreams

The most important climate gathering next week will not be happening at the UN, but in the streets: thousands upon thousands of us will be sounding the climate alarm, literally, at the historic People's Climate March on September 21. While the decision was made not to have speeches during the march, at 12:58pm there will be two minutes of silence followed by the unleashing of a chorus of magnificent sound—part of what organizers are describing as a global call for climate justice—complete with church bells and some 32 marching bands.

[Nelson Mandela's widow Graça Machel says leaders failed to rise to challenge after day of impassioned speeches at UN](#) - The Guardian

The widow of Nelson Mandela punctured the self-congratulatory mood of the UN summit on Climate Change, saying world leaders had failed to rise to the challenge of climate change. "There is a huge mismatch between the magnitude of the challenge and the response we heard here today," Graça Machel told the closing moments of the summit. "The scale is much more than we have achieved."

## Economy

[Nation's Poor Remain Hungry as Wall Street Feasts](#)- Common Dreams

Persistent rates of food insecurity reveal vast inequities of so-called "economic recovery" in US, say anti-poverty advocates. Critics and anti-poverty advocates are questioning the so-called economic recovery as a USDA study (PDF) published Wednesday revealed that while the nation's wealthiest enjoyed record gains, nearly 50 million Americans continue to struggle with food insecurity in 2013.

[FloodWallStreet: Protesters Stage Mass Action to Confront Climate Profiteers](#) - Common Dreams

Action takes direct aim at center of global capitalism to call for complete paradigm shift to save planet from climate chaos

[UN Votes for Process to Enact Bankruptcy Treaty and Stop Vulture Funds](#)- Jubilee USA

Washington, DC – The UN General Assembly passed a historic resolution to begin treaty negotiations to enact a global bankruptcy process and stop predatory hedge funds. The resolution passed by a super-majority vote of 124-11 with 41 abstentions. The US voted no along with 10 other countries. The bankruptcy process could make it more difficult for hold-out investors to block countries from debt restructuring and could limit future defaults.

## Peace

[Syria: Bishop says US air raids 'could worsen the situation'](#) - Independent Catholic News

The Armenian Catholic Archbishop of Aleppo, Boutros Marayati, says the air raids against jihadi bases in Syria, carried out by the United States with the support of some Arab countries, are not being welcomed by the local population. They don't see the bomber as liberators. People are afraid "that this type of external involvement could worsen the situation" he said.

[Pax Christi leaders alarmed that airstrikes will aid ISIS recruiting](#) - Catholic News Service

The three top leaders of the Catholic peace organization also called upon the world, particularly the United Nations, to work together to seek nonviolent alternatives to stop the Islamic State's expansion and influence in Iraq and Syria.

[Six Steps Short of War to Beat ISIS](#)- Common Dreams

Weakening ISIS requires eroding the support it relies on from tribal leaders, military figures, and ordinary Iraqi Sunnis. Here's how to do it without bombs.

[Making Windmills out of Warplanes](#) - In Other Words

The federal government needs to cut military spending to free up the money needed to meet the climate challenge.

## Migration

[Libya migrant boat sinks: Scores feared drowned](#)- BBC

Many migrants have drowned while trying to reach Europe after their boat sank off Libya, the Libyan navy says. Navy spokesman Ayub Qassem said 36 people had been rescued after the vessel – which carried 250 – went down near Tajoura, east of Tripoli. “There are so many dead bodies floating in the sea,” Mr Qassem told reporters.

## Trafficking

[2014 State Ratings on Human Trafficking Laws](#)- Polaris

Polaris has rated all 50 states and the District of Columbia based on 10 categories of laws that are critical to a basic legal framework that combats human trafficking, punishes traffickers and supports survivors.

[Kingdom of Slaves](#)- Foreign Policy in Focus

In the smallest Gulf kingdoms, upwards of 90 percent of residents are immigrant laborers. Many face unspeakable abuse. Since FIFA picked Qatar to host the 2022 World Cup, the tiny and uber-rich Gulf emirate has increasingly come under scrutiny for its failure to protect the human rights of its burgeoning foreign workforce.

[Can technology help combat the modern slavery business?](#) - BBC

Collaborate.org. takes input from sources such as GIS (geographic information system) data, news and social media feeds, sensor networks, weather reports, shipping movements, and collates this in a single global mapping platform.

## Church

[Follow the money: Cardinal says ISIS conflict is not about religion](#)

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The conflict in which Islamic State fighters are driving out Christians and other minorities must not be seen as a war between Islam and Christianity, said the head of the Vatican Congregation for Eastern Churches. “I do not share this position and I ask, on the contrary, that it never prevail,” Cardinal Leonardo Sandri told participants in the inaugural In Defense of Christians summit Sept. 9.

[Irish Bishop halts plan for Permanent Diaconate after women protest](#) - Independent Catholic News

The bishop of one of the largest dioceses in Ireland, has put on hold plans to introduce the Permanent Diaconate, after consulting with Pastoral Leadership groups, several of whom had protested that many

functions of the proposed deaconate are already being performed by laywomen - who cannot apply to become deacons.

## FAITH IN ACTION



[Act now to end child slavery in the chocolate industry](#) - Sent by Mary Jo McCallum, SNDdeN

Much of the chocolate we enjoy may be tainted by child slavery. Anti-Slavery International's latest research shows the continuation of child trafficking, a form of modern slavery, to cocoa farms in the Ivory Coast, which produces almost 40% of the world's cocoa. Instead of going to school young boys are forced to spend long days hacking open cocoa pods with machetes, handling dangerous pesticides and carrying heavy loads - work that is deemed extremely hazardous, can lead to injury and ill-health, and that no young child should have to do.

### [Participate in Churches Week of Action on Food - October 12-19](#)



The Churches Week of Action on Food is an opportunity for Christians all over the world to act and speak out together on food justice issues. It is a time to raise awareness about food production and distribution systems, examine our own food consumption, and call for policy changes that will ensure the right to food for everyone. Our faith calls us to feed the hungry and care for Creation – this we can do as individuals, as churches,

and as global citizens.

## COUNTRY UPDATES

### Brazil

#### [Brazil builds giant Amazon observation tower](#)- BBC

Construction has begun on a giant observation tower in the heart of the Amazon basin to monitor climate change. The Amazon Tall Tower Observatory is expected to rise 325m from the ground. Its instruments will gather data on greenhouse gases, aerosol particles and the weather in one of the largest continuous rain forests on the planet.

#### [Brazil election: Economy at heart of battle](#)- BBC

It is not the kind of economic background Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff must have hoped for in her run for re-election. Just five weeks before the voting that will take place on 5 October, it was announced that Brazil had fallen into a recession earlier this year.

#### [Sister Dorothy Stang's killer rearrested, linked to three murders](#) - Catholic News Service

Rayfran das Neves Sales, the convicted killer of U.S. Sister Dorothy Stang, was arrested Sept. 19. He was accused of being involved in the murders of three people in the northern state of Para. Sales served a little less than eight years of a 27-year sentence for shooting Sister Dorothy, a member of the Notre Dame de Namur Sisters who had U.S. and Brazilian citizenship.

### Congo



[Paradox of abundance and scarcity of water in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo](#) - EcoJesuit

The paradox is that it rains a lot in Kinshasa (1,500 mm/year). But as the city does not have a good system of disposing that water, the result is catastrophic flood and erosion.

## Japan

[‘Remember Fukushima’: Thousands Rally Against Nuclear Restart in Japan](#) - Common Dreams

Nobel laureate Kenzaburo Oe: “Three and a half years have passed since the nuclear accident, but self-examination has yet to be made.”

[Can ‘Womonomics’ Stem the Feminisation of Poverty in Japan?](#) - InterPress Service

Fifty-four-year-old Marlyn Maeda, an unmarried freelance writer living in Tokyo who never held a permanent job, is now watching her dream of aging independently go up in smoke. “I work four jobs and barely survive,” said the writer, who disclosed only her penname to IPS. Her monthly income after writing articles, working at a call centre, selling cosmetics five days a week and working one night at a bar hovers at close to 1,600 dollars.

## Kenya

[Chaos in Kisumu as traders protest demolition of stalls](#)- Daily Nation

Business was disrupted in Kisumu on Saturday morning after youths blocked roads leading to the town to protest the demolition of stalls at Oile market by the county government. For over an hour, Kisumu was a no-go zone as traders lit fires on the main roads leading to the town and stoned shops near the market.

[Kenya: Nairobi Meeting to Discuss Food Security Challenges](#)- News from Africa

The meeting preceding World Day on October 16, will debate why Kenya, like many African countries, are dependent on food imports, unable to feed its people on domestic production alone. This is despite Africa’s abundant land and resources.

[It’s now illegal to plant any other seed but those produced by multinationals](#)- Daily Nation

It is now clear that every time we engage our collective energies and focus on non-issues, others use the opportunity to put into place nefarious schemes that threaten our very existence. Unbeknown to many Kenyans, we now have as part of our daily diets foods that have never been eaten by anyone else since the world was created. We also have a law that criminalizes anyone who dares to grow seeds that are not from multinational biotech companies.

## Nicaragua

[Where are Nicaraguan children?](#) - Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

A central cause of the recent dramatic increase in the number of unaccompanied children immigrating into the U.S. through its border with Mexico is the high level of crime and violence in the principal “sending countries” – Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador and Mexico . Yet neighboring Nicaragua, with the lowest per capita GDP in the region, has been able to maintain markedly lower levels of violence. While the specific history of Nicaragua has much to do with the lack of violence, its police system, dubbed “a new security paradigm” by some, could offer ways forward for its more violent neighbors.

## Nigeria

[Nigerian bishop says Boko Haram murdered 2,500 in his diocese](#) - Catholic News Agency

Bishop Oliver Dashe Doeme of Maiduguri has denounced the militant Islamist group Boko Haram for the murders of more than 2,500 faithful in his Nigerian diocese. He is currently taking refuge in the Nigerian state of Adamawa, together with thousands of faithful, Fides news agency reports. The bishop denounced Boko Haram in an interview with the newspaper ThisDay.

## Peru

[Four Peruvian anti-logging activists murdered](#)- BBC

Illegal logging in the Amazon rainforest has pushed many indigenous people out of their ancestral land. Four Peruvian tribal leaders have been killed on their way to a meeting to discuss ways to stop illegal logging. The men from the Ashaninka community were attempting to travel to Brazil when they were murdered.

[Peru creates new anti-logging commission after murders](#) - BBC

The Peruvian government says it will investigate illegal logging along the Peru-Brazil border following the murder of four indigenous leaders. The leaders were killed in early September, allegedly by loggers. The Peruvian President of the Council of Ministers, Ana Jara Velasquez, announced a commission which she said would have powers to stop the logging.

## South Africa

[It's not Zuma who needs protection - it's the ANC's ideals](#) - Mail & Guardian

Parliament is there to serve the electorate and the fiscus, not to shield leaders like Jacob Zuma from tough questions – crude or not.

## South Sudan

[International Community Calls on Leaders to Put Their People First and End Conflict](#) - News from Africa

Nearly forty Member States and regional bodies took part, underscoring the high priority this crisis holds for the international community.

## Zimbabwe

['Gucci Grace' poised to lead post-Mugabe](#) - Mail & Guardian

Soon after being shoe-horned into the top ranks of Zimbabwe's ruling party, the wife of aging leader Robert Mugabe has gained a PhD in orphanages, seen as the latest sign that she may be destined for high office. In a country where the path to power is paved with academic letters, analysts said the timing of the first lady's surprise qualification was no coincidence.

## Africa

[Equality or complementarity: Gender relations seen through African eyes](#)- By Eucharika Madueke, SNDdeN - Global Sisters Report

Among people of traditional culture in southeastern Nigeria where I am from, and in other traditional African cultures, gender is not a fundamental organizing principle. Nor is human anatomy a major defining factor in gender relations.

[The Africa Faith & Justice Network, TASSC International and Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur Justice & Peace Office Demand Good Governance and Human Rights on U.S.-Africa Policy Agenda](#)- AFJN

The first U.S.-Africa Leaders' Summit hosted by President Obama in Washington, DC on August 4-6, to enhance U.S.-Africa relations, widen U.S. trade, heighten development and security ties and highlight America's commitment to Africa's democratic development and its people is of historical significance. The Summit provides a unique opportunity for the United States to put the democratic principles, a value the United States holds so dear, on the continental scale.

## USA

[In Face of Super-Rich, Corporate Influence on Elections, 'Nuns on the Bus' Rides Again](#)- Common Dreams  
New 'Nuns on the Bus' tour aims to tackle issue of big money influence on politics. Like Robin Hood, the "Nuns on the Bus" show up when you need them.

[Here's How Global Warming Is Already Worsening Extreme Deluges In The U.S.](#)- Think Progress  
Decadal index of two-day precipitation totals that are exceeded on average only once in a 5-year period. Changes are compared to the period 1901-1960. As data show, such once-in-five-year events have become much more common (via NCA.)

[Biden, a Catholic School 'Kid,' Praises Nuns Under Fire From the Vatican](#)- New York Times  
DES MOINES — At a Vatican meeting a few years ago, Pope Benedict XVI unexpectedly asked Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. for some advice. "You are being entirely too hard on the American nuns," Mr. Biden offered. "Lighten up."

## RESOURCES

[The Impacts of Mining](#) - UISG

The Integrity of Creation Working Group (ICWG) has released A See, Judge, Act Reflection on the Impacts of Mining. The booklet was inspired by the overwhelming response to the ICWG's 2013 Impacts of Mining Survey. It is intended to serve as a general introduction to understanding the impact of mining industries on the community and the environment. We invite and encourage each JPIC Promoter to disseminate this among the members of your community and colleagues in your ministry.

[Climate Change Interactive Map](#)

UN Climate Summit: Who's Promised What

[The Kingdom of Heaven Belongs to Such as These](#) - Ignation Solidarity Net

A Toolkit for advocating for the rights of unaccompanied children

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

## MultiMedia



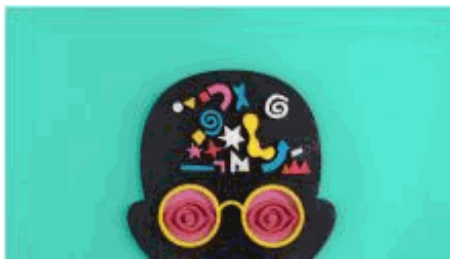
[Dumpster divers seek out free food as prices increase](#)



[Disruption](#) is an unflinching look at the devastating consequences of our inaction in the face of climate change - and gives a behind-the-scenes look at a part of the effort to organize the People's Climate March.



[The Church and War: A Look at Humanitarian Intervention](#)



[Decide the Future of the Internet](#)



[The Trans-Pacific Partnership: A Threat to Affordable Medicines for Millions - Doctors Without Borders](#)



[People Taking a Stand Against Coal](#)

## COMING EVENTS

### October

**4 - Feast of St. Francis Education Program**, prepared by the Catholic Climate Covenant, will celebrate St. Francis's mission. He was named as the Patron Saint of those who promote ecology 35 years ago. You'll want to save the date for this 90-minute multimedia presentation with discussion guide. Help create a Climate for Solidarity! All materials for classrooms are free of charge. The presentation includes video testimonials and group reflection to highlight the impacts of climate change on the world's poorest and most vulnerable. Take the pledge to support the Covenant. Visit <http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/>.

### 5 - Brazil Election

**12-19 - Churches Week of Action on Food** The Churches Week of Action on Food is an opportunity for Christians all over the world to act and speak out together on food justice issues. It is a time to raise awareness about food production and distribution systems, examine our own food consumption, and call for policy changes that will ensure the right to food for everyone. Our faith calls us to feed the hungry and care for Creation – this we can do as individuals, as churches, and as global citizens.



**5-19 The Synod of Bishops Meeting at the Vatican on the Family** will discuss law governing marriage and "a somewhat deeper pastoral care of marriage," including the question of the eligibility of divorced and remarried Catholics to receive communion. [Click here.](#)

## **16 - World Food Day**

**19- Breaking the Silence Congo Week** is a week of activities that commemorates the millions of lives lost in the DR-Congo conflict while celebrating the enormous human and natural potential that exists in the country. Communities throughout the globe join in partnership with the Congolese people each year on the third week of October to screen films, hold teach-ins and forums, organize rallies, host fundraisers, put on concerts and undertake many other activities to elevate the profile of the Congo throughout the globe. Students and community organizers initiated Congo Week in 2008. Religious leaders, scholars, intellectuals, artists, and ordinary people throughout the globe also got involved to acknowledge the lives of the Congolese people and their pursuit for human dignity. For more information, view [www.congoweeek.org](http://www.congoweeek.org).

## **19 [Freedom Sunday](#) - Human Trafficking**

**24-26 - USCMA Mission Conference: Gospel Justice: A Living Challenge for the Church in Mission** will be held in Alexandria, Virginia. Keep abreast and register, [here](#)

## ***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](#).

**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***

**4-6- National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry (NCCYM)** will take place in San Antonio, TX and will showcase the best of what youth ministry has to offer. Scores of youth ministers from around the U.S. and world typically attend this biennial conference. For details and registration, please visit <http://nccym.nfcym.org>.

## ***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](http://www.combonisouthsudan.org).

**Action on behalf of justice is a constitutive dimension of the preaching of the gospel.**

**Justice in the World** - 1971 Synod of Bishops