

## Fast with the Pope: Give Up Indifference



## CIRCLES OF LIFE

### Care of Creation

[The EU Emissions Trading System: Will mitigation touch our pockets?](#)- Eco-Jesuit

Last week at the European Parliament, we lived through the latest skirmish of what is still, and will be, a long dispute over the European Union Emissions Trading System or the EU ETS. The EU ETS is the mechanism established to regulate the emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> – one of the fruits of Kyoto Protocol – and is a constant source of frustration since its beginnings.

[Prominent Climate Change Denier Funded by Koch Brothers, Energy Companies](#)- Common Dreams

Harvard-Smithsonian researcher Willie Soon, who has denied that climate change is caused by human activity, took more than \$1 million in funding from the energy industry, newly released documents show.

## **Economy**

[Setting Precedent for Public Institutions, Maine University System Pulls Funds From Fossil Fuels](#)- Common Dreams

After two years of student organizing, the University of Maine state-wide system on Monday became the first public land grant institution—and first university system—in the United States to divest any of its fossil fuel holdings, in step with world-wide grassroots efforts to take on the powerful industries driving global warming.

[US Catholic Bishops' Letter on Trade Agreements and Fast Track](#)

The coming months will be critical for most people in our world. Governments of several countries are negotiating trade agreements which have the potential to impact all of us. Many of us believe the impact will be positive for the “haves” and negative for the “have-not”. The issue is complex and the Bishops have helped us with some guiding principles.

## **Peace**

[An arms race won't help Ukraine](#)- Washington Post

Nearly 70 years ago, a group of Manhattan Project scientists, having seen the power of nuclear destruction, created what they called the “Doomsday Clock.” It was a mechanism designed to warn the world of how imminent the threat of global catastrophe was becoming — the closer the clock moved to midnight, the closer we were to doomsday.

[Sr. Dorothy Stang, SND: 10 Years of Remembrance](#)- Trinity Washington University

On February 12, 2005, Sr. Dorothy Stang, SND, was murdered by some hired assassins in the Amazon rainforest. That basic fact still seems hard to state. Who would pump six bullets into a 73 year old nun who had devoted her life to living the Gospel's call to take the option for the poor, to work for justice among some of the most marginalized people on earth?

## **Migration / Immigration**

[New tragedy – EU stands by as 300 refugees drown in Mediterranean](#)- Independent catholic News

About 300 people have drowned as their rubber dinghies sank in the Mediterranean between Libya and Lampedusa, Italy. This latest tragedy is a twofold demonstration of the failure of European border policy. Not only have European states not taken the necessary measures to save lives in the Mediterranean, they have established a series of ‘legal’ obstacles for those fleeing intensifying conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa.

## **Trafficking**

[Nigerian women caught in Italy's sex-trade trap](#)- AlJazeera

A record number of women from Nigeria arrived in Italy over the past year and fears have been raised that many fell victim to Europe's growing sex trade. More than 1,200 Nigerian women came to Italy by boat in 2014 compared to 300 the previous year, according to a new report by the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

## **Racism**

[Examining our social sins](#) - America Magazine

Lent is a time dedicated to evaluation and reflection, conversion and return to God. But what does it mean to embrace honestly an examination of conscience at a time and in a world where racism, violence and environmental degradation are so present?

## Food Security

[Dominion Farm's land grab in Nigeria](#)- Grain

Farmers in Nigeria's Taraba State are being forced off lands that they have farmed for generations to make way for US company Dominion Farms to establish a 30,000 ha rice plantation. The project is backed by the Nigerian government and the G8's New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa.

## Church

[What if Pope Francis gave the State of the Union address?](#)- National Catholic Reporter

Pope Francis is arguably the most compelling leader in the world today. Unless you're one of those hyperventilating Fox News pundits or a certain American cardinal pining for the good old days of pray-pay-and-obey Catholicism, chances are you stand in awe of how quickly Francis has resuscitated an ancient institution nearly on life support after decades of clergy abuse scandals and the first resignation of a pope in six centuries.

[Pope warns African bishops against 'new forms of colonization'](#)- Independent Catholic News

Pope Francis warned African bishops against new and unscrupulous forms of colonization such as the pursuit of success, riches, and power at all costs; but also fundamentalism and the distorted use of religion, and new ideologies that destroy the identity of persons and families. He was speaking to representatives of the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (SECAM).

## FAITH IN ACTION

### A win-win-win: new jobs, clean water, healthy communities

[Tell your Member of the House to co-sponsor 1872 Mining Law reform](#)

The 1872 Mining Law gives hardrock (metal) mining special priority over communities, the environment, hunting, fishing, camping and everything else. Adding insult to injury, it also gives away publicly owned hardrock minerals for free – even to foreign corporations that pollute our water in perpetuity.

## COUNTRY UPDATES

### Brazil

[Follow our love for the poor](#) - Global Sisters Report - Sarah Fahy, SNDdeN

This essay is an adaptation of the homily given at the Caldwell Chapel community Mass on the Catholic University of America Campus, Feb. 8, 2015

[Sr. Dorothy Stang, SND 10 years of remembrance](#) - Trinity Washington University

On February 12, 2005, Sr. Dorothy Stang, SND, was murdered by some hired assassins in the Amazon rainforest. That basic fact still seems hard to state. Who would pump six bullets into a 73 year old nun who had devoted her life to living the Gospel's call to take the option for the poor, to work for justice among some of the most marginalized people on earth?

### Britain

['Stir yourselves' – bishops urge Catholics to engage in politics before May's landmark election](#) - The Tablet  
Cardinal Vincent Nichols made an impassioned call for Catholics to engage with politics in the run-up to this year's general election for the sake of society and to avert a crisis of trust in government.

## Congo

[DR Congo conflict: UN pulls out of planned assault on FDLR](#)-BBC

The UN has withdrawn its backing for a planned offensive against rebels in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo after the government refused to sack two generals, a spokesman has said. UN troops could not join the offensive because the generals were accused of human rights abuses, he added.

[Massacres highlight complexity of violence in DRC's Beni Territory](#)- IRIN

The murders of more than 250 men, women and children in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo's (DRC) Beni Territory in recent weeks have widely been blamed on an insurgency of Ugandan origin known as the Alliance of Democratic Forces-NALU (ADF-NALU). But several armed groups and racketeering gangs are active in the area and the culprits of these killings have not been incontrovertibly identified.

## Japan

[New Leak Spurs Radiation Spike at Fukushima](#) - Common Dreams

The latest incident underscores the difficulty of safely cleaning up and decommissioning the nuclear plant

## Kenya

[Land-grabbing impunity](#)- New Internationalist

In early January, protests ensued over a school's playground in Nairobi being 'grabbed', illegally fenced off and seized. The case of Langata Road Primary School is a classic land-grabbing one, a clear indication of government impunity, and indeed, it's said to be the project of Deputy President William Ruto.

[Kenya must do much more to protect children at the coast from sex pests](#) - Daily Nation

Recently, the United Kingdom took the decent step of protecting children from sexual abuse by forcing all its citizens working with children in Kenya to be cleared by the police.

## Nicaragua

[Nicaraguans demand action over illness killing thousands of sugar cane workers](#) - The Guardian

Families say government failing to address concerns that harsh working conditions are behind chronic kidney disease epidemic.

[One week back in "Normality" Chris' early reflections on Nicaragua](#) - CAFOD

Youth describes his recent visit to Nicaragua as a "life changing experience".

## Nigeria

[Car bomb goes off in Nigeria's Gombe after Jonathan campaign rally](#)- Deutsche Welle

A car bomb has gone off shortly after Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan left an election campaign rally. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast.

[Nigeria to investigate alleged abuses at refugee camps](#)-BBC

Nigeria is to investigate reports of rapes, child trafficking and other abuses in camps for people fleeing from the militant Islamist group Boko Haram. The country's National Emergency Management Agency (Nema) has formed a panel to investigate the abuses.

[Can multinationals deliver selfless community projects?](#) - The Guardian

Community projects undertaken by big multinationals, however well-meaning, often lack community involvement and focus on what they give rather than the long-term impact.

[Nigerian president Goodluck Jonathan wants U.S. troops to fight Boko Haram](#) - Wall Street Journal

With his oil-powered economy faltering and just five weeks to go before he faces a close election, Nigerian President Good luck Jonathan is appealing to the U.S. to send combat troops against his country's most intractable problem: the Islamist insurgency Boko Haram.

[Democracy delayed](#)- Africa Confidential

Even a six-week postponement of the elections looks unlikely to slow the momentum of opposition presidential candidate Muhammadu Buhari

## Peru

[Argentina oil company leaves Peru town after protests](#) - BBC

The company, Pluspetrol, was asked to leave by the government after the death of a demonstrator in Junin province, during four days of violent protests.

## South Africa

[Go green or go broke, activists warn](#) - Mail & Guardian

Using a divestment model, campaigners want to force companies to lower their carbon emissions.

[A hopeful story from Greater Hermanus](#)- kairossouthernafrika

Churches in the western Cape, where unemployment is high, especially for first-time job seekers, support a program for young people to get job experience through a type of internship.

## South Sudan

[South Sudan: Cabinet Calls Off June 2015 General Elections](#) - All Africa

South Sudan's general elections, initially set for 30 June this year, will not take place as planned, the country's council of ministers resolved at its regular meeting.

## Zimbabwe

[Mugabe's Birthday Bash to cost \\$1 million as MDC asks money to be channeled to Development](#) - News from Africa

The Morgan Tsvangirai faction of the Movement for Democratic Change has since asked President Robert Mugabe to call off his birthday celebrations and donate the money raised to rehabilitate public hospitals, clinics and rural schools in Matebeleland North.

## USA

[U.S. May Soon Stand Alone Opposing Children's Treaty](#) - Thalif Deen

When the East African nation of Somalia, once described as a "lawless state", ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) early this week, it left two countries in splendid isolation from the rest of the world: South Sudan and the United States.

[Shielding US officials involved with torture has decades long precedent](#)- National Catholic Reporter

Analysis The Obama administration is following a long historical precedent in flouting the rule of law and refusing to prosecute U.S. officials for authorizing or carrying out torture. The latest question is, will the

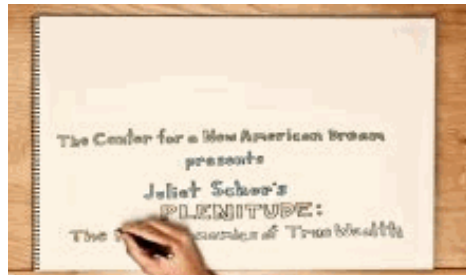
administration go a step further and acquiesce to Republican demands, which some say amount to an attempt to rewrite and erase history?

## RESOURCES

### MultiMedia



[Climate Change: What's Really Been Going On \(And How We Can Solve It\)](#)



[Visualizing a Plenitude Economy](#)



[Senator Feingold: Final Speech as U.S. Special Envoy to the DRC - Feb. 24](#)

## COMING EVENTS



### ***Ecumenical Advocacy Days***

More than 1,000 Christian advocates are expected to gather April 17-20 for the annual **Ecumenical Advocacy Days conference** entitled, **Breaking the Chains: Mass Incarceration and Systems of Exploitation**. **Sr. Patricia Chappell, SNDdeN** will speak during the opening session.

Those gathered will discuss solutions to national and worldwide issues of imprisonment, exploitation, and forced labor. A world that incarcerates so many and allows some to profit from the exploitation of slave, trafficked, and forced labor remains far from the “beloved community” of God’s people. More details and registration information are available at: [advocacydays.org/2015-breaking-the-chains](http://advocacydays.org/2015-breaking-the-chains). If you wish to attend and need help with funding, contact Maura Browne, SNDdeN

### ***MARCH***

**22-30 - World Social Forum** - will take place in Tunis.

### ***APRIL***

**17-20 - [Ecumenical Advocacy Days: Breaking the Chains](#): Mass Incarceration and Systems of Exploitation** will take place near Washington, D.C. and will address solutions to national and worldwide issues of imprisonment, exploitation, racism and forced labor. **Sr. Patty Chappell, SNDdeN** will address the opening session of the Gathering.

Summer: United States Social Forum, Philadelphia, PA will be one of the major sites of convergence in the third *U.S. Social Forum*. Keep abreast at the [U.S. Social Forum Website](#).

## MAY

**3-8 - [Maryknoll Mission Institute: Continuing the Mission of Jesus: Discipleship Today \(& Tomorrow\)](#)** will be held at the Rogers Building at the *Maryknoll Mission Institute*, Maryknoll, New York. There is no single blueprint for discipleship and no one can be a lifelong disciple without changing as life unfolds. The *New Testament* contains the information each of us needs to draw on as we seek to find meaning in our own lives and continue the mission and ministry of Jesus. We will explore discipleship and discover its particular relevance for the lives of each of us. Resource Person: Anthony J. Gittins, CSSp, PhD, Professor Emeritus at Catholic Theological Union, Chicago. **Find out more** at (914) 941-7575/E-mail: [missinst@mksisters.org](mailto:missinst@mksisters.org). The application form is online, [here](#).

**10-15 : [Maryknoll Mission Institute: UPSTART Spring: Imagine Justice..Exploration into God](#)** will be held at the Rogers Building at the Maryknoll Mission Institute, Maryknoll, New York. Increasing inequality, pervasive violence, divisive politics, what has all of our work for social justice meant? Such a lament seems so plausible yet could this be an "upstart Spring? "During our time together, we will explore this moment in our evolutionary history. We will be challenged to deepen our contemplative practice communally and imagine new ways of being with each other, with all beings on Earth and with the Divine. We will explore what it means to exercise contemplative power and imagine doing justice in new ways. **Resource Person:** Nancy Sylvester, IHM, President and Founder of the *Institute for Communal Contemplation and Dialogue*. **Find out more** at (914) 941-7575/E-mail: [missinst@mksisters.org](mailto:missinst@mksisters.org). The application form is online, [here](#).

**11-13 : 2nd Annual AJWS Policy Summit** is set for the Washington Court Hotel, 525 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001 in Washington D.C. You'll learn about human rights abuses around the world. Advocate for policy change. Lead for global justice. Registration will open in early 2015. Save the date!  
**Contact:** American Jewish World Service/New York City, NY; (212) 792-2900.

## JUNE

**7-12 : [Maryknoll Mission Institute: The Spirit Leads Us Forth: Mission Reconsidered](#)** will be held at the Rogers Building at the Maryknoll Mission Institute, Maryknoll, New York. Over the past twenty years, pneumatology, the theology of the Holy Spirit, has pioneered some of the most revolutionary ideas in our contemporary understanding of faith. How to integrate these ideas with the work of mission and apply them in living the faith today, will be the topic explored in this program. **Resource Person:** Diarmuid O'Murchu, MSC, a priest and social psychologist with a special interest in changing trends of faith and mission in the contemporary world. **Find out more** at (914) 941-7575/E-mail: [missinst@mksisters.org](mailto:missinst@mksisters.org). The application form is online at [www.maryknollsisters.org/maryknoll-mission-institute](http://www.maryknollsisters.org/maryknoll-mission-institute).

**14-19 : [Maryknoll Mission Institute: No Longer Servants: Toward a Biblical Theology of Friendship](#)** will be held at the Rogers Building at the Maryknoll Mission Institute, Maryknoll, New York. This week-long class will make two extraordinary claims: that our life's ultimate goal is friendship with God and that the Scriptures provide the roadmap. Friendship with God is a gift of Holy Wisdom 7:27. God speaks to Moses, face to face, as one speaks to a friend (Ex. 33:11). Most striking of all these biblical examples, Jesus calls his own disciples "friends" (John: 15:15). This program engages a dynamic process that integrates personal experience with biblical study in order to trace the emerging theology of friendship in the Scriptures. **Resource Person:** Laurie

Brink, OP, PhD, Associate Professor of New Testament Studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. **Find out more** at (914) 941-7575/E-mail: [missinst@mksisters.org](mailto:missinst@mksisters.org). The application form is online at <http://www.maryknollsisters.org/maryknoll-mission-institute>.

**21-26 : [Maryknoll Mission Institute: The New Universe Story: God, Jesus and Prayer](#)** will be held at the Rogers Building at the Maryknoll Mission Institute, Maryknoll, New York. The 21st century provides us with images, data, an understanding of the cosmos and how life developed on earth that are radically different from the worldview and cosmology which have shaped formal religion's understanding of Jesus as revealer of God-with-us. We will use this "lens" to focus on God, on the human endeavor, on revelation, on Judaism, on Jesus and his message of the "kingdom of God" here on earth, on what Jesus was ready to die for, on the mystery of what lies beyond death, and on prayer and sacraments. **Resource Person:** Michael Morwood, MA, the author of 10 books including his latest, *In Memory of Jesus*. **Find out more** at (914) 941-7575/E-mail: [missinst@mksisters.org](mailto:missinst@mksisters.org). The application form is online [here](#).

## **JULY**

**5-10, 2015: [Maryknoll Mission Institute: Everyday Holiness: Sacred Scripture's Teaching on Economic Life](#)** will be held at the Rogers Building at the Maryknoll Mission Institute, Maryknoll, New York. Sacred Scripture has been a perennial source of guidance and inspiration on how to flourish in economic life. For this week, we will assess: *What do the individual books of the Bible say about proper economic conduct? How do these teachings fit within the larger theology and ethics of the books in which they are found? Are there recurring themes, underlying patterns, or issues running across these different sections of the Bible when read together as a single canon?* **Resource Person:** Albino Barrera, OP, professor of economics and theology at Providence College, Rhode Island. **Find out more** at (914) 941-7575/E-mail: [missinst@mksisters.org](mailto:missinst@mksisters.org). The application form is online, [here](#).

## **9-15 - Anti-racism retreat at Ipswich**

**12-17 : [Maryknoll Mission Institute: Denial or Discipleship? Bioregional Theology and Practice in a World of Ecological Ultimatums](#)** will be held at the Rogers Building at the Maryknoll Mission Institute, Maryknoll, New York. This program will briefly overview the deepening and interlocking environmental crises that stalk our history: climate destruction, species extinction, declining natural fertility and "peak everything." The bulk of the program will examine how to make "Creation Care" more practical and contextual by focusing on bioregional/watershed scales of engagement and literacy. We'll explore watershed theology and ecclesiology as well as "transition" economics and politics with an emphasis on restorative justice. **Resource Person:** Ched Myers, a theological animator with the Bartimaeus Cooperative Ministries, best known for his book, *Binding the Strong Man: A Political Reading of Mark's Story of Jesus*. **Find out more** at (914) 941-7575/E-mail: [missinst@mksisters.org](mailto:missinst@mksisters.org). The application form is online, [here](#).

**19-24: [Maryknoll Mission Institute: Compassion: Witness to Love](#)** will be held at the Rogers Building at the Maryknoll Mission Institute, Maryknoll, New York. In a world fraught with division and alienation, the call to live a compassionate life is a "sign of our times." The teachings and praxis of Jesus and other spiritual leaders lead our journey into the foundations of compassion and the awakening it engenders as we encounter self and others in the pursuit of just and peace-filled relationships. Art, music, film and literature will draw participants into the compassionate life as a witness to love. **Resource Person:** Antoinette (Nonie) Gutzler, MM, Ph.D. has served in Tanzania and Taiwan. She is an Associate Professor of Theology at Fu Jen University,



Taipei. **Find out more** at (914) 941-7575/E-mail: [missinst@mksisters.org](mailto:missinst@mksisters.org). The application form is online, [here](#).

## **AUGUST**

**6-9: Campaign Nonviolence National Conference** will be held in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Great speakers include Rev. James Lawson, a well-known civil rights activist, professor and practitioner of nonviolence. He worked directly with Martin Luther King, Jr. and spent over a year in prison as a conscientious objector. He will speak about his many years of nonviolent action and how we can move forward building a culture of peace. **Learn more** from [info@paceebene.org](mailto:info@paceebene.org).~

## **SEPTEMBER**

**17, 2015: A Blessing to One Another: Pope John Paul II and the Jewish People**, a landmark exhibit, will open at the Vatican Museum in Rome, Italy. **Find out more** from [BrueggemanCenter@xavier.edu](mailto:BrueggemanCenter@xavier.edu).

**22-27, 2015: World Meeting of Families welcoming Pope Francis** is set for Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (USA). Although it is organized by Catholics, along Catholic teachings, it will be open to families and people of different faiths, including no faith at all, to engage the wider society in dialogue and to serve and strengthen families. More to come!

**September 30-October 1, 2015: Africa Faith & Justice Network Annual Membership Meeting** conjunction with the *USCMA Mission Congress*. **Find out more** at [www.afjn.org](http://www.afjn.org).

## **OCTOBER**

**1-4, 2015: United States Catholic Mission Association 2015 Mission Congress: *Witnessing Mission*** takes place at the Hilton North Hotel in Houston, TX. **Find out more** at the USCMA website, [www.uscatholicmission.org/](http://www.uscatholicmission.org/).

## **NOVEMBER**

**November 30-December 20, 2015: COP 21 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference** will be held at the Le Bourget site in Paris, France.

**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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