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Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur Justice and Peace Office

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

CIRCLES OF LIFE

Care of Creation

[Francis: Environmental destruction makes us like Cain, killing our brother](#) - National Catholic Reporter
"Again and again comes the strength of that question of God to Cain: 'Where is your brother?'" he said. "I ask if our response continues to be: 'Am I my brother's keeper?'"

[Article by Leonardo Boff on the Pope's Encyclical](#) - Earth Charter International

Before making any comment it is worth highlighting some peculiarities of the Laudato Si' encyclical of Pope Francis. It is the first time a Pope has addressed the issue of ecology in the sense of an integral ecology (as it goes beyond the environment) in such a complete way. Big surprise: he elaborates the subject on the new ecological paradigm, which no official document of the UN has done so far.

[The Kids Are Alright As Washington Judge Delivers Youth Climate Win](#) - Common Dreams

Citing what she called the "historical lack of political will to respond adequately to the urgent and dire acceleration of global warming," a judge in Washington state handed a group of eight young petitioners a landmark win this week, ordering the Department of Ecology (ECY) to consider statewide reductions in carbon dioxide emissions based on best available science.

Economy

[In Fiery Speeches, Francis Excoriates Global Capitalism](#) - New York Times

His speeches can blend biblical fury with apocalyptic doom. Pope Francis does not just criticize the excesses of global capitalism. He compares them to the "dung of the devil." He does not simply argue that systemic "greed for money" is a bad thing. He calls it a "subtle dictatorship" that "condemns and enslaves men and women."

["Inaction agenda" from Addis Ababa Conference, criticized by CSOs](#) - Center of Concern

CSOs from all over the world criticized the limited ambition of the "Addis Ababa Action Agenda" adopted by the Third Financing for Development Conference in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), with some calling it an "agenda for inaction."

[Obama's trip to Africa changes a narrative](#) - Christian Science Monitor

The highlight of Obama's trip to Africa will be a summit on how to support entrepreneurs. US support for start-up businesses reflects a different approach to lifting the continent.

[Third FfD Conference Fails to Finance Development](#) – InterPress Service

The third Financing for Development (FfD) conference in Addis Ababa concluded Thursday, July 16,

in bad faith as developed countries rejected a proposal for a global tax body and dismissed developing countries' compromise proposal to strengthen the existing U.N. committee of tax experts.

Peace

[Marking the 70th anniversary of using nuclear weapons](#) - Independent Catholic News
Every year Pax Christi members around the country (Britain) commemorate the anniversaries of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on the 6th & 9th August. This year is even more important as we mark the 70th anniversary of the first use of nuclear weapons and mourn that they are still with us - 70 Years on!

[Children Increasingly Becoming the Spoils of War](#) - InterPress Service
Whether in Palestine, Ukraine or Somalia, wars result in millions of children threatened by the brutality of armed conflict. The numbers speak for themselves: more than 300,000 child soldiers are currently exploited in situations of armed conflict and six million children have been severely injured or permanently disabled, according to UNICEF.

[Civilian Killings? West Literally Gets Away With Murder](#) - InterPress Service
The United Nations continues to come under heavy fire for singling out mostly non-Western states for human rights violations while ignoring the misdeeds of Western nations or big powers.

Migration / Immigration

[Judge Orders Release of Immigrant Children Detained by U.S.](#) - New York Times
A federal judge in California has ruled that the Obama administration's detention of children and their mothers who were caught crossing the border illegally is a serious violation of a longstanding court settlement, and that the families should be released as quickly as possible.

Trafficking

[What Pope Francis might be planning to tell the UN in New York](#) - Catholic News Agency
At a meeting with U.S. mayors at the Vatican this week, Pope Francis hinted at themes he could discuss with the United Nations during his September visit to the states. Among the most important was the issue of human trafficking, which he said can be a "rebound effect" of environmental degradation.

[SADC conducts regional research on Trafficking in Persons](#) - Southern African News Features
Southern Africa is intensifying efforts to respond to rising trafficking in persons, which is now among the world's fastest growing organized crimes. A total of 13 SADC countries have taken measures to address the issue of trafficking in persons, and have set up anti-trafficking structures which help in supporting victims of trafficking. These are Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe and the remaining two — the Democratic Republic of Congo and Namibia are in the process of developing similar legislations.

Church

[Unbridled capitalism is the 'dung of the devil', says Pope Francis](#) - The Guardian
The pontiff condemns the impoverishment of developing countries by the world economic order and

apologised for the church's treatment of native Americans and called for the poor to have the "sacred rights" of labor, lodging and land.

[Invited by Vatican, Naomi Klein Makes Moral Case for World Beyond Fossil Fuels](#) - Common Dreams
Activist and author praises 'courageous' invitation by Pope in face of fossil fuel industry's power.

FAITH IN ACTION

[Sign the petition: Stop the Apache land grab](#) - Sent by Sr Rebeca Spires, SNDdeN

[Citing Religious Freedom, Native Americans Fight To Take Back Sacred Land From Mining Companies](#) - Think Progress

[Urge the U.S. Congress to support Iran nuclear deal](#) - Pax Christi - Sr Patty Chappell, SNDdeN

This collaborative effort is sponsored by the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, Sisters of Mercy, Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach and Pax Christi USA and Pax Christi International.

[Please join us and give one prayer on the weekend of July 24th-26th for debt relief for our young people.](#) - Jubilee USA

Land Grabs

AFJN and SECAM are organizing a conference on Land Grabbing in Nairobi, November 23-26, 2015. Many organizations are interested, including USAID, CRS, A/EFJN, Cafod.

[*AEFJN Ethical and Religious Reflection on Land Grabbing*](#)

[*Summary Moratorium on Large Scale Land acquisitions*](#)

[*AFJN Focus on Land Grabs*](#)

COUNTRY UPDATES

Brazil

[Fishing Families Left High and Dry by Amazon Dams](#) - InterPress Service

Small-scale fisherpersons were among the first forgotten victims of mega construction projects like the Belo Monte hydroelectric dam on the Xingú River in the Brazilian Amazon.

[Brazil's Amazon wilderness at risk from organised crime](#) - BBC

No country has done more than Brazil in recent years to tackle the previously rampant levels of deforestation but there is a good reason the agents have their guns drawn - we have seen statistics which show that rates of Amazon destruction are again on the rise.

Britain

[J&P activists called to build peace internationally and locally](#) - Independent Catholic News

A leading academic called for drastic action over the next 15 years to address climate change or face the consequences. Addressing the annual conference of the National Justice and Peace Network in Swanwick, Derbyshire, the Professor of Peace Studies at Bradford University, Paul Rogers, claimed that governments often adopt a military solution to try to control problems rather than dealing with underlying causes.

Congo

[Bishops Urge President Kabila to Dialogue On Elections](#) - Religious News Service

Catholic Bishops of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have requested President Joseph Kabila for a "national dialogue in accordance with the constitution", where the drafting of the new electoral calendar will be agreed on. This was after the opposition alleged that the elections expected to happen in 2016 are too dense and close, and called for a new election timetable. According to Agenzia Fides, there are suspicions that president Kabila intends to extend his term in office that should expire in 2016.

Haiti

[Haitians protest over Dominican Republic deportations](#) - AlJazeera

Thousands march in solidarity with undocumented residents of Haitian descent in Dominican Republic who face deportation.

Japan

[70 Years after the War Blessed are the peacemakers – Now especially, peace must not depend upon weapons](#) - Catholic Bishops' Conference of Japan

To our Brothers and Sisters in Christ and to All Who Wish for Peace

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of Japan issued messages marking the end of the Second World War in 1995 (Resolution for Peace -- On the 50th. Anniversary of the End of the War) and 2005 (Peace Message After 60 Years From the End of War World II -- The Road To Peace Based On Nonviolence -- Now Is The Time To Be Prophetic). In this year in which we mark the 70th anniversary of the end of the war, we wish to once again declare our commitment to peace.

Kenya

[Street families to be moved from Nairobi CBD ahead of Obama visit](#) - Daily Nation

Nairobi County Environment Chief Officer Leah Oyake on Wednesday said the county was "clearing up all these areas before the summit kicks off."

[GE Healthcare to set up Sh1.3bn training school in Nairobi](#) - Business Daily

The centre will have about 15 experts offering medical professionals training on how to handle the equipment.

It is part of GE Healthcare's commitment to invest over \$1 billion in localized offerings for the healthcare sector.

The firm, which is also undertaking key energy projects in Kenya, says it will install x-ray, mammography and ultrasound machines, among others, in the facility, which will be operational by November.

[Shock as Holy Family Basilica Group Learns of SH10M Fraud](#) - Nairobi News

Members of a self-help group at the Holy Family Basilica catholic church expressed shock during an Annual General Meeting (AGM) Sunday when they learnt that more than Sh10 million had been lost through fraud. In a report from independent auditors, the members were told that they lost Sh10, 575, 533 between 2012 and 2014.

Nicaragua

[Police: Woman lured by man on Facebook lived in a closet, held as sex slave](#) - Los Angeles Times
Detectives discovered that Constantino-Sanchez met the woman on Facebook and lured her to move from Nicaragua to the U.S. to live with him, police said. Constantino-Sanchez made "promises of work and having a better life in the U.S."

Nigeria

[Nigeria's Muhammadu Buhari: US 'aided' Boko Haram with arms ban](#) - BBC
A US law prevents the government from selling arms to countries which fail to tackle human rights. Nigeria's Muhammadu Buhari met President Barack Obama to seek further assistance.

Peru

[Peru Cracking Down Against Dissent On Excavation Economy](#) - Center for Research on Globalization
By many accounts, Peru is doing well. Investments have poured into the mining and energy sectors thanks to government efforts to create a welcome environment for foreign capital. And while economic growth has tapered off in the last year, the average annual rate from 2010 to 2014 was an impressive 5.8 percent. The country's poverty rate fell by half between 2000 and 2012, while the middle class grew faster than that of any other country in Latin America. By drawing revenue from the mining and energy sectors, the government has increased spending on education to an unprecedented 3.5 percent of its GDP and has made some progress in reducing chronic child malnutrition.

South Africa

[Radical approach needed to tackle student debt](#) - Mail & Guardian
Student debt has become an "excruciating" experience for SA's poor families and must be "treated like the crisis it is".

[S Africa opposition party gets first black leader](#) - AlJazeera
South Africa's main opposition party, the Democratic Alliance, has elected Mmusi Maimane as its new leader to succeed Helen Zille. Maimane, 34, who became the first black leader of the party, began his victory speech in his native Xhosa language. He told delegates at the party conference that his priorities would be fighting for a fairer society with equal opportunities for all.

South Sudan

[South Sudanese Girls Given Away As 'Blood Money'](#) - InterPress Service
A vast majority of South Sudanese girls will have been victims of at least one form of gender-based violence in their young lives, but those living in Eastern Equatoria State face a particularly abhorrent practice which is a tradition among at least five of the state's 12 tribes – being given away as 'blood money'.

Zimbabwe

[Goats Take the Bite Out of Climate Change in Zimbabwe](#) - InterPress Service

With unusually hot and dry weather beating down on this Southern African nation, climate change and the accompanying drought have cost farmers much of their cattle herds. In response, many ranchers are turning to goats to preserve their livestock assets. Climate change experts agree that breeding drought-tolerant animals like goats, which survive on shrubs and need less manpower to tend, is a better choice than high-maintenance cattle.

[Zimbabwean Women Weave Their Own Beautiful Future](#) - InterPress Service

Seventy-seven-year-old Grace Ngwenya has an eye for detail. You will never catch her squinting as she effortlessly weaves ilala palm fronds into beautiful baskets. A small group of women started in 1997, today they have grown their ranks to 3,638 members. Average earnings have increased from one dollar to 50 dollars a month, and this past May one of their number earned 700 dollars from the sale of her crafts.

USA

[New Orleans Katrina Pain Index at Ten: Who Was Left Behind](#) - Common Dreams

When Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast on August 29, 2005, the nation saw tens of thousands of people left behind in New Orleans. Ten years later, it looks like the same people in New Orleans have been left behind again. The population of New Orleans is noticeably smaller and noticeably whiter. While tens of billions poured into Louisiana, the impact on poor and working people in New Orleans has been minimal.

['Pope of the Poor' Francis apologizes for overlooking middle class woes](#) - Religious News Service

Pope Francis acknowledged he had neglected problems of the middle class and said he was willing to have a dialogue with Americans who disagree with his criticism of capitalism.

RESOURCES

[Laudato Si - Study Guide](#) - Columban Justice and Peace Office

[Powerpoint Reflection on Laudato Si](#) - CAFOD

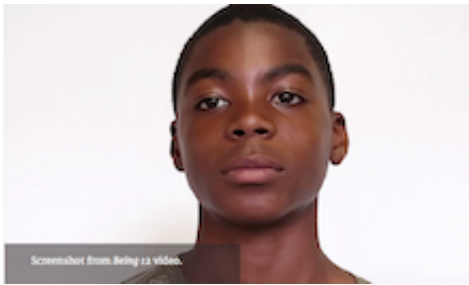
[A Reader's Guide to Laudato Si](#) - National Catholic Reporter

[Action Kit](#) - Interfaith Power and Light

[USCCB resources on environmental justice and the encyclical](#) - USCCB

[News Notes](#) - Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

Multi Media



[New York City middle-schoolers open up about their experiences with race and racism in WNYC's "Being 12" series.](#)



[Churches and Mining in Latin America](#)



[Life in Baltimore, from the people who call it home](#)

COMING EVENTS

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.

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.

21: [International Day of Peace](#)

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.

OCTOBER

1-4, 2015: United States Catholic Mission Association 2015 Mission Congress: Witnessing Mission

When will the Pope come to the U.S.?

Pope Francis Visits Washington, D.C.

September 23, 2015

White House Welcoming Ceremony
Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

Speech to the Senate and House of Representatives

Pope Francis Visits New York

September 25, 2015

United Nations General-Assembly
Visit to St. Patrick's Cathedral
Madison Square Garden
Mass

Pope Francis Visits Philadelphia

September 26, 2015

Prayer Vigil with World Meeting of Families

September 27, 2015

Mass with World Meeting of Families

takes place at the Hilton North Hotel in Houston, TX. Find out more at the USCMA website, www.uscatholicmission.org/.

NOVEMBER

11-13 [Justice for Immigrants National Convening](#)

Chicago IL

20-22: [Close the SOAW/WHINSEC](#): Annual gathering at Ft. Benning
Columbus GA

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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