



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



Preparing for Pope Francis' visit on both sides of the wall. "Let's Tear down that wall!!!!"

Care of Creation

[Two-Thirds of the World Faces Severe Water Shortages](#) - New York Times

About four billion people, or two-thirds of the world's population, face severe water shortages during at least one month every year, far more than was previously thought, according to Arjen Y. Hoekstra, a professor of water management at the University of Twente in the Netherlands.

[4 Billion People at Risk as 'Water Table Dropping All Over the World'](#) - Common Dreams

Global scarcity of key life source far worse than thought, new study finds.

[Even Tumbling Fossil Fuel Prices Can't Deter Clean Energy Revolution](#) - Common Dreams

2015 saw 'a global surge for wind and solar energy, which occurred despite oil, coal and natural gas selling at bargain rates.'

Economy

[The Lesson from Davos: No Connection to Reality](#) - InterPress Service

The rich and powerful had all the necessary data for focusing on existential issues for the planet and its inhabitants. Yet they failed to do so. This is a powerful example of the disconnection between the concern of citizens and their elite. The political and financial system is more and more self-reverent: but is also fast losing legitimacy in the eyes of many people. Alternative candidates like Donald Trump or Matteo Salvini in Italy, or governments like those of Hungary and Poland, would have never been possible without a massive discontent. What is increasingly at stake is democracy itself? Are we entering in a Weimar stage of the world?

[‘Crafted By and For Big Business’: TTIP Under Fire Across Europe](#) - Common Dreams

‘TTIP is a bonanza for big business, but a nightmare for everyone else,’ says War on Want.

[Who is writing the TPP?](#) - The Boston Globe

Congress is in an intense debate over trade bills that will shape the course of the US economy for decades. Much of this debate has been characterized as a fight over whether international trade itself creates or destroys American jobs. There is, however, another major concern — that modern “trade” agreements are often less about trade and more about giant multinational corporations finding new ways to rig the economic system to benefit themselves. Hillary Clinton has said that the “United States should be advocating a level and fair playing field, not special favors” for big business, in our trade deals. We agree with this blunt assessment – and believe every member of Congress should consider this carefully before voting to help advance these agreements.

[Ultra-Rich ‘Philanthrocapitalist’ Class Undermining Global Democracy: Report](#) - Common Dreams

As foundations and wealthy individuals funnel money into global development, what “solutions” are they pursuing? [Download](#) the report by Miserior, Global Policy Forum and Brot für die Welt.

Peace

[Western Powers Protect Arms Markets Ignoring Civilian Killings](#) - InterPress Service

The West continues its strong political and military support to one of its longstanding allies in the Middle East – Saudi Arabia — despite withering criticism of the kingdom’s battlefield excesses in the ongoing war in neighboring Yemen.

Migration / Immigration

[Who Am I? An Unexpected Refugee](#) - Matter of Spirit

For seven years, I have lived in the Dzaleka Refugee Camp in Malawi, a country in the southeastern part of Africa. I survive like any other refugee, struggling to meet the basic needs of my family. I receive a monthly food ration that we get from the World Food Program, a monthly stipend of 25,000 MK (something around 40 US dollars), and 20 kg of rice from my job. However, the psychological wounds from my experience in my home country, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), far outweigh the financial difficulties my family and I face in the camp.

[Humanity adrift](#) - New Internationalist

On the front lines of Europe’s refugee crisis in Lesbos, Hazel Healy finds tragedy, hope – and answers.

[Christians for Calais denounces demolitions in Calais ‘Jungle’](#) - Independent Catholic News

Christians for Calais strongly denounces the sudden destruction of a mosque and church in the Calais ‘Jungle’ refugee camp.

[‘We have the same God’: A priest helps Syrian refugees](#) - Al Jazeera

In a Greek village at the heart of the refugee crisis, Father Schuff calls on priests and monasteries to do more.

Trafficking

[U.S. Placed Immigrant Children With Traffickers, Report Says](#) - New York Times

The Department of Health and Human Services placed more than a dozen immigrant children in the custody of human traffickers after it failed to conduct background checks of caregivers, according to a Senate report released on Thursday.

[D.C. joins campaign to curtail human trafficking](#) - WTOP

The District is partnering with a federal campaign to raise awareness about human trafficking and diminish its presence in the area.

[Slave-Labor Loophole Closed by U.S. Senate After 8 Decades](#) - Bloomberg News

Gap in law let slave-made products enter U.S. if needed. New focus on slavery in supply chains of global companies. The White House said President Barack Obama intended to sign the bipartisan legislation into law.

Racism

[After community action, NOPD ends collusion with ICE on immigration policing](#) - New Orleans Workers' Center for Racial Justice

In a victory for New Orleans' immigrant communities, the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) announced it is adopting a bias-free immigration policing policy that will end NOPD collusion with federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Extractive Industries

[Guide to land grabs](#) - Oxfam UK

Big land deals in poor countries are leaving people homeless and hungry. Families are being unfairly evicted from their land and left with no way to grow food or earn a living.

Church

[Pope Francis tells indigenous Mexicans: you have much to teach us](#) - The Tablet

Paying homage to the culture and ancient wisdom of Mexico's indigenous peoples, Pope Francis urged them to hold on to hope and condemned those who exploit their people and their land.

[As pope winds up Mexico trip, thoughts on the big picture](#) - Crux

Pope Francis' Feb. 12-17 swing through Mexico reaches a crescendo on Wednesday in Ciudad Juárez, just across the US border from El Paso. So far history's first Latin American pontiff has been a sensation, drawing rapturous crowds and saturation media coverage.

FAITH IN ACTION

[Support Refugees along with NETWORK](#)

In the words of Pope Francis: "...we must not be taken aback by their numbers, but rather view them as persons, seeing their faces and listening to their stories, trying to respond as best we can to their situation.

Refugees are Not the Enemy, Just "the Tired and the Poor."

[Pope Francis: Abolish the death penalty worldwide](#) - Religious News Service

Pope Francis has called for the worldwide abolition of the death penalty, saying the commandment "You shall not kill" was absolute and equally valid for the guilty as for the innocent. ACTION: Respond to efforts to abolish the Death Penalty in our local areas.

[As pope winds up Mexico trip, thoughts on the big picture](#) - Crux

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[Protect our Common Home: Tell Congress to Support the Green Climate Fund](#)

COUNTRY UPDATES

Brazil

[Sr. Dorothy Stang and the people's embodied hope: Romaria da Floresta](#) - Global Sisters Report
Sr. Kristin Matthes writes: Eleven years ago on February 12, 2005, Sr. Dorothy Stang, my sister in the congregation of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, was murdered. She was gunned down by assassins hired by local ranchers. Dorothy's tireless work for the rights of the dispossessed and the protection of the Amazon rain forest stood in the way of the profits of logging and cattle ranching.

[Honoring the Legacy of Sister Dorothy Stang, Martyr and Eco-Warrior](#) - Huffington Post
Matthew Fox writes: Today, February 12, is the anniversary of the assassination, martyrdom and resurrection of Sister Dorothy Stang, a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur, who was murdered in the Amazon for standing with the peasants against landowners, multi-nationals and others determined to destroy peasants, indigenous peoples and others living in and defending the rainforest. Sister Dorothy ("Dot") was a student of mine in my master's program in creation spirituality.

[Brazil's Rousseff vetoes indigenous education project](#) - InterContinentalCry and [CIMI](#) (Portuguese)
Indigenous organizations and those linked to the cause have expressed their outrage over Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff's veto of Bill (PL) 5.954-C/2013, authored by Senator Cristovam Buarque, which seeks to ensure that indigenous communities can utilize their native languages in basic education, in professional education and in higher education, as well as their own processes of learning and assessment that respect their distinct cultures.

Britain

[UK: Thousands take part in 'Visit My Mosque' initiative](#) - Independent Catholic News
Thousands of Britons were welcomed into over 80 mosques across the country on Sunday 7 February, as part of the second annual 'Visit My Mosque' Day.

Congo

[Apple, Samsung and Sony face child labor claims](#) - BBC
Human rights organization Amnesty has accused Apple, Samsung and Sony, among others, of failing to do basic checks to ensure minerals used in their products are not mined by children.

Haiti

[As drought hammers countryside, many in Haiti go hungry](#) - AP
Only shriveled carrots and potatoes grow in Carole Joseph's small vegetable plot. The family's chickens are long gone. She sold her only tools to buy food, then the wooden bed she shared with her children. The family now sleeps on the floor of their shack. All that's left to sell are the pots she uses to cook over a fire pit, when there's something to eat.

Japan

[Japan's Future Farms](#) - Al Jazeera

How Japan is using high tech factories to grow vegetables indoors.

Kenya

[Women on child trafficking charge to remain in custody for five more days](#) - Daily Nation

Tharaka-Nithi court has granted police an additional five days to investigate two women arrested on suspicion of being involved in human trafficking.

[Kenyan Teacher Jailed For Radicalizing pupils](#) - News from Africa

A Kenyan Muslim teacher has been sentenced to 20 years in jail for radicalizing primary school children in Kilifi County in the coastal region.

Nicaragua

[Social Justice Advocate Fr. Fernando Cardenal, S.J., Dies at Age 82](#) - Ignatian Solidarity Network

Fr. Cardenal, born in 1934 in Granada, Nicaragua, led a life of advocacy and active commitment to the poor that emulated the Jesuit approach to injustice throughout the Americas since the Second Vatican Council. His lifelong commitment to the poor and the oppressed began as a young Jesuit living among the poor in Medellín, Colombia, and has lasted throughout his Jesuit life.

Nigeria

[UN Calls for More Support In Nigeria For Those Displaced By Boko Haram](#) - News from Africa

Three U.N. special investigators who visited three displaced persons camps in war-torn Borno State say Nigeria must do more to help its people, particularly its women and children.

Boko Haram's nearly seven-year quest to impose strict Islamic law across the country's northeast has killed more than 20,000 people and displaced more than two million others.

Peru

[Peru oil spill pollutes Amazon rivers used by indigenous group](#) - BBC

At least 3,000 barrels of crude oil have been spilled in an Amazonian region after leaks from Peru's main oil pipeline, the state oil company said. The oil has polluted two rivers that at least eight indigenous communities rely on for water, the government and indigenous leaders said. Petroperu has promised a full clean-up and is also providing food and water.

South Africa

[Bishop Kevin Dowling: South Africa's "Voice of the Voiceless"](#) - America

Redemptorist bishop of Rustenburg, South Africa, Kevin Dowling, C.Ss.R., celebrated his silver jubilee of ordination earlier this week. Bishop Dowling is well-known for his unwavering prophetic stand and option for the poor. He is co-president (with American Marie Dennis) of Pax Christi International—the Catholic peace movement working in over 50 countries.

[South Africa: Zuma delivers "no hope" State of the Nation](#) - African Arguments

South African President Jacob Zuma has delivered his annual State of the Nation address in the country's parliament. After more than an hour of disruptions and interruptions, mostly by members of the opposition Economic Freedom Fighters, Zuma finally got down to business. Or did he?

South Sudan

[Catholic Bishops of Sudan, South Sudan call for more to be done to honour peace agreement](#) - Independent Catholic News

Catholic Bishops of Sudan and South Sudan, in a pastoral letter, have said that the suffering and misery caused by "insecurity and wars" must end. "People are hurting beyond bearable proportions. This unacceptable situation cannot go on forever," they said in a statement after meeting in Rome last month.

Zimbabwe

[Groundwater Crisis Worsens Food Insecurity](#) - InterPress Service

Sijabuliso Nleya has been kept busy in the past few weeks digging up sand. He is not a sand poacher like scores of people who local district councils across the country say are digging along dry river beds for sand used in the construction of houses. "The situation is terrible," said Nleya, who owns a plot in Douglasdale, a small farming community on the outskirts of Bulawayo.

[Mugabe era draws to a close but it will be no ordinary succession](#) - Financial Times

Access to the international markets may help the next president guide Zimbabwe out of the doldrums.

USA

[Obama Ends New Coal Leases On Public Lands](#) - Think Progress

The Obama administration announced Friday that it is stopping most new coal leasing on America's public lands as it moves to modernize and reform the federal coal leasing program, which has not been updated in more than 30 years.



[California Bishop Urges Catholics to Combat Anti-Islamic Bigotry](#) - America

San Diego Bishop Robert W. McElroy is challenging U.S. Catholics to take an active role in combating "the scourge of anti-Islamic prejudice."

[A Little Reality on Immigration](#) - New York Times

It's mostly the clash of two trends: the graying of the G.O.P. and the browning of America. The Republican primary base is more and more made up of older people, who have significantly more negative views about immigration. Second, by 2044, America will be a majority-minority country. This is a very different America than the one people who grew up in the 1960s were used to. It's a historical transformation that is bound to raise very legitimate concerns.

RESOURCES

[New documentary on life of Sr Dorothy Stang](#) - Independent Catholic News

Amazonia: Dorothy Stang's Struggle tells the story of US-born Dorothy Stang (1931-2005), who joined the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur and then lived Laudato Si' long before it was written. With every breath, Sister Stang made the protection of the poor and respect for creation her life's mission - and she did it in one of the most essential, most threatened, and most coveted ecosystems on Earth. Watch Trailer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UnNFT-UFNXU>

The National Immigration Law Center www.nilc.org has updated its website in hopes of making it more accessible, easier to read, and more user-friendly overall.

Echoes from AEFJN - [French](#)

[Columban Newsletter](#)



Ghetto Radio: Nairobi's voice of the streets



How One Student's Fight for Scholarships and Immigration Rights Made Her a Community Touchstone



Social Justice Advocate Fr. Fernando Cardenal, S.J., Dies at Age 82

Coming Events

March

25 - Way of the Cross for Economic and Ecological Justice

April

15-18 Ecumenical Advocacy Days: Lift Every Voice! Racism, Class and Power

will take place near Washington, D.C. at the Doubletree Crystal City, Hotel (Arlington, VA).

www.advocacydays.org

August

9-14 World Social Forum 2016 (WSF2016) in Montreal, Quebec, Canada

seeks to gather tens of thousands of people from groups in civil society, organizations and social movements who want to build a sustainable and inclusive world, where every person and every people has its place and can make its voice heard. It will be "an open meeting place for reflective thinking, democratic debate of ideas, formulation of proposals, free exchange of experiences and interlinking for effective action, by groups and movements of civil society. They are opposed to neoliberalism and to domination of the world by capital and any form of imperialism, and committed to building a planetary society directed at fruitful relationships among humankind and between it and the Earth." Another world is possible! Go to the official site, [here](#), and also read more at the [Canadian CED Network website](#).

Maryknoll Mission Institute

[EXPLORING EVOLUTIONARY SPIRITUALITY](#)

May 8 - May 13

Resource Person: Ann Braudis, MM, PhD.

The daily scripture readings leading to the Feast of Pentecost from the Gospel of John present to the thoughtful reader a rich array of concepts that are aligned with emerging cosmological and spiritual insights. Deep Time and the forever unfolding future are present, as is the fundamental grasp that all things are bound together. What will become the one Earth Community is present as are the undergirding framework of Kenosis and the call to faithfully fulfill the tasks of one's...[Find out more »](#)

[CARING FOR CREATION IN A CHANGING CLIMATE](#)

May 15 - May 20

Resource Person: Judith Mayotte, PhD

This program will follow Pope Francis' call in his encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, for the human family as stewards of the earth, to engage in dialogue and provoke action that will address the needs of our earth and how ecologically we might better protect and care for our common home. Through a careful reading of *Laudato Si'* and the book *Enough is Enough: Building a Sustainable Economy in a World of Finite Resources*, we will consider our place in a finite...[Find out more »](#)

[LIVING INTO DEATH—DYING INTO LIFE](#)

May 22 - May 27

Resource Person: Peter C. Phan, S.T.D., PhD., D.D.

This program deals with what was once called the "Last Things" (in Latin: *De Novissimis*), that is, the realities occurring at the end of life, namely, death and dying, and those occurring in the afterlife, namely, judgment, purgatory, hell, heaven, the resurrection, and the consummation of the world. In theology, the treatment of these Last Things is called "eschatology"—a term derived from the Greek: *eschata* and *logos*, meaning discourse on the last things. There is a basic methodological question about...[Find out more »](#)

[STRENGTHENING YOUR INNER LIFE IN CHALLENGING TIMES](#)

June 5 - June 10

Resource Person: Robert J. Wicks PSY.D

One of the greatest gifts we can share with others is a sense of our own peace. However, we can't share what we don't have. By discussing spiritual and psychological approaches to maintaining perspective and inner strength in challenging times, Dr. Wicks, an expert on the prevention of secondary stress (the pressures experienced in reaching out to others) and author of *Perspective: The Calm within the Storm*, *Bounce: Living the Resilient Life and Riding the Dragon*, offers insights into how...[Find out more »](#)

[TEILHARD'S MYSTICISM: Spiraling Into the Cosmic Christ](#)

June 12 - June 17

Resource Person: Kathleen Duffy, SSJ, PhD

In an early essay, Jesuit paleontologist Pierre Teilhard de Chardin provides us with a road map into the intensely mystical environment in which he lived and moved. He describes the stages of his mystical growth in terms of five concentric circles. These circles, which could be more properly imaged as the loops of a spiral that he continually revisited throughout his life, provided him with a sacred path into an ever deepening reality, a reality that is informed as much...[Find out more »](#)

[MERCY WITHIN MERCY, WITHIN MERCY: God's Love Awaits our Response](#)

June 19 - June 24

We often think that our dark side, our sins and shadows are not "pleasing" to God. We use our own standards to measure and define what gains us access to our God. We fall victim to values of our cultural traditions, or of our families or of pop culture to convince ourselves that we are "with it" and acceptable. We judge ourselves and others by how well we measure up to these artificial, superficial and false standards. We get so...[Find out more »](#)

[AWAKENING THE HEART, MENDING THE WORLD: Merton's Path to Mercy](#)

June 26 - July 1

In his address to the U.S. Congress, Pope Francis named Thomas Merton one of four great Americans who "offer us a way of seeing and interpreting reality" that is urgently needed in our world today. Describing Merton "as a man of prayer, a thinker who challenged the certainties of his time and opened new horizons for souls and for the Church," Pope Francis chose to highlight important elements of Merton's legacy: his "capacity for dialogue and openness to God" and...[Find out more »](#)

[SAINTS, PROPHETS AND WITNESSES FOR OUR TIME](#)

July 10 - July 15

By using the lives and witness of contemporary figures as an open window to the gospel of our times, this program will challenge us to think more creatively about being faithful and active in our own historical context. Sharing the stories of women and men whose lives and message speak to the spiritual needs of our day, participants will imbibe their creativity, courage and imagination in the face of modern challenges. Participants will deepen their appreciation that the call to...[Find out more »](#)

[EMBODYING THE OPTION FOR THE POOR](#)

July 17 - July 22

The preferential option for the poor, like other key principles of the Christian faith, presents the faithful with a concrete and a transcendent reality. Concretely, the phrase arises out of historic situations of deep suffering and oppression in Latin America during the 1950s through the 1980s, and the Church's struggle to be an agent of hope amidst this suffering – to be the church of the poor promoted at Vatican II. This program leads participants in exploring its essential theological...[Find out more](#) »

[RELIGION AND THE COSMIC STORY: A Look Inside](#)

July 24 - July 29

The universe is still coming into being. It is a story still being told. The most remarkable thing about any story is that it can be the carrier of meaning. We tell stories to bring out the significance of a series of events, for example the episodes that make up a person's life, or that of a family, tribe, or nation. Now, at last, scientists are putting together a new story about the cosmos. Along with our growing awareness that...[Find out more](#) »