



December, 2007

May the blessings of Christmas be with all of you who are working, in so many different ways and in so many different places, to respond to Jesus' call to be peacemakers!

- **Solidarity: Prayers for Bethlehem**
- **Event: [Conference on the Future of Catholic Peacebuilding](#), April 13-15, 2008, University of Notre Dame.**
- **Event: Summer Institute on Peacebuilding in Northern Ireland, August 18-31, 2008**
- **Working Paper: Social Science Research Council Working Paper: Religion, Reconciliation and Transitional Justice: The State of the Field**
- **Education: Masters of Arts in Peace Studies, The Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame**
- **Event: 2nd International Summit on Conflict Resolution Education, March 28-29, 2008, Cleveland, OH**
- **Fellowship: Women Peacemakers Program**
- **Education: Courses on Catholic Peacebuilding**
- **Book: *Solidarity Will Transform the World: Stories of Hope from Catholic Relief Services* (Orbis:2007)**
- **Event: Catholic Relief Services and Kroc Institute Team Up in the Philippines on Peacebuilding**
- **Event: University of San Diego's Project on Legal Reform in Mexico**

Send Prayers and Wishes for Christmas in Bethlehem

For the eighth consecutive year Christmas celebrations will take place in a difficult climate for all peoples in the Holy Land. We pray for justice, peace and security for Israel and Palestine. Pax Christi International is inviting its members and partners to email Christmas wishes, and prayers for peace to our friends in Bethlehem. English is the preferred language; however, non-native English speakers may

also send wishes and prayers in their mother tongue. Messages can be submitted on Pax Christi's website at <http://www.paxchristi.net/>

or emailed to peace-message@paxchristi.net.

Read more at www.paxchristi.net in: English: 07-01090 - French: 07-01090.fr - Spanish: 07-01090.es - Portuguese: 07-01090.po - Italian: 07-01090.it - German: 07-01090.g - Dutch: 07-01090.nl - Japanese: 07-01090.ja

Conference on the Future of Catholic Peacebuilding, April 13-15, 2008, University of Notre Dame.

Scholars and practitioners, at all levels of the Catholic Church, will come together to reflect on the theological, ethical and practical dimensions of the Church's work on conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and post-conflict reconciliation. The conference is sponsored by the [Catholic Peacebuilding Network](#) and co-sponsored by seventeen major Catholic academic institutions, Church agencies, and lay organizations. For more information, contact *Kathy Smarrella* at Notre Dame's Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies (574-631-9370, ksmarrel@nd.edu) or link directly to conference materials and registration (free) at: <http://cpn.nd.edu/>.

Summer Institute on Peacebuilding in Northern Ireland, August 18-31, 2008

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Presbyterian Committee for Northern Ireland are sponsoring the twelfth Irish Summer Institute in Northern Ireland. The Northern Ireland experience has provided valuable lessons of peacebuilding and reconciliation. This two-week study tour provides opportunities to meet political and religious leaders, as well as local community activists. It also introduces participants to some of the island's spectacular beauty and history. Cost: \$2565 plus airfare. For more information, contact the Rev. Dr. James Macdonnell at 301-530-8093 or jim.nancymac@verizon.net.

Social Science Research Council Working Paper: *Religion, Reconciliation and Transitional Justice: The State of the Field.*

In the wave of transitional justice activity over the past generation, religion has played a dramatic, influential, and at times surprising role.

So says Daniel Philpott, in a religion and reconciliation working paper from the Social Science Research Council (SSRC). Religion's role, he suggests, has arguably established an alternative approach to transitional justice, one that differs substantially from the reigning liberal "peacebuilding consensus." For the entire paper and other papers on religion and conflict go to: <http://programs.ssrc.org/religion/reconciliation.pdf>.

Master of Arts in Peace Studies, The Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN, USA

The Kroc Institute seeks outstanding students who have demonstrated a serious commitment to international justice and peacemaking for the Master of Arts in Peace Studies. The two-year multidisciplinary program offers:

- Rigorous academic coursework taught by distinguished faculty.
- An international student body that forms a vibrant cross-cultural community.
- Theory and practice integrated through a five-month internship in Africa, the Middle East, Asia, or the United States.
- Full tuition scholarships and living stipend provided for all students.

For more information and instructions on how to apply go to <http://kroc.nd.edu/programs/masters/ma2yr.shtml>. The deadline for applications is January 5, 2008 for students seeking to enroll in Fall 2008.

2nd International Summit on Conflict Resolution Education, March 28-29, 2008, Cleveland, OH

Preventing and intervening in conflict situations require interdisciplinary and collaborative approaches. The Global Issues Resource Center, Office of Community Continuing Education at Cuyahoga Community College and the European Centre on Conflict Prevention are partnering with colleges and universities, and local, national, and international non-governmental and governmental organizations to host a two-day International Summit on Conflict Resolution Education in Cleveland, OH. Participants will include members of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict's Peace Education and Conflict Resolution Education Group representing 15 world regions.

For more information on this Summit go to the web site: <http://www.tri-c.edu/community/girc/events.htm>

Women Peacemakers Program

The Africa Desk of the Women Peacemakers Program is a program of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation committed to showcasing Africa as a beacon for peaceful co-existence. The Africa Desk seeks to enhance the capacities of two young African women already involved in peace work and not above 35 years by supporting them with internship placements in peace projects and offices in Asia for four weeks. For more information and the application go to: http://www.ifor.org/WPP/networking_regionaldesks.htm

College Courses on Catholic Peacebuilding

A number of universities now offer courses on Catholic peacebuilding. Andrea Bartoli (abartoli@gmu.edu) offers a Catholic Studies course at Georgetown University; Daniel Philpott offers a peace studies course for the Kroc Institute at the University of Notre Dame

(James.D.Philpott.1@nd.edu), and Maryann Cusimano Love (mcusimanolove@erols.com) offers a politics course at the Catholic University of America. The syllabi for these courses can be found at cpn.nd.edu. If you teach a similar course and would like to share your syllabus with others through the CPN website and listserv, please send it to claake@nd.edu.

Solidarity Will Transform the World: Stories of Hope from Catholic Relief Services (Orbis: 2007)

What happens when the lives of people living in poverty around the world entwine with the lives of U.S. Catholics? In each chapter of Jeff Korgen's *Solidarity Will Transform the World*, you will learn answers to this question through firsthand stories of hope, articulated by the low-income people that Catholic Relief Services works with around the world. In this book, you will travel to [Mexico](#), [Zambia](#), [India](#), [Rwanda](#), and [Nicaragua](#) and may find yourself transformed in the process! To read excerpts or to purchase the book go to: <http://storiesofhope.crs.org/>.

Catholic Relief Services and Kroc Institute Team Up in the Philippines on Peacebuilding

For the seventh year in a row, peacebuilders from around the world gathered for the Catholic Relief Services-Kroc Institute Peacebuilding Institute. Held in Mindanao, the Philippines, between Oct. 21-26, 2007, 31 specialists from 16 countries explored the challenges and opportunities faced by the Catholic community working to build peace in conflict areas from Southeast Asia and Colombia to Sudan, Burundi, and northern Uganda. The institute's host, CRS's peacebuilding program in Mindanao, is known for its innovative programs to promote inter-religious peacebuilding. Since 2000, CRS and the Kroc Institute have partnered to bring together peacebuilders and practitioners for a week of intensive training in religious peacebuilding, conflict transformation, community-based peacebuilding, and related areas. More than 300 peacebuilders – from presidents of bishops' conferences to a wide range of CRS specialists – have participated in these institutes.

For more information on the Kroc Institute-CRS peacebuilding institute or these other joint initiatives, please contact Joe Bock, director of external relations for the Kroc Institute (574-5799; Joseph.G.Bock.5@nd.edu) and/or Tom Bamat, senior advisor for justice and peacebuilding at CRS (410-951-7268; tbamat@crs.org).

University of San Diego's Project on Legal Reform in Mexico

The University of San Diego's Justice in Mexico Project recently held a forum, "Criminal justice reform in Oaxaca" which discussed how lawyers and judges in southeastern Oaxaca state can begin to implement criminal justice reforms. For more information, go to www.justiceinmexico.org or contact Robert Donnelly, the project coordinator, at USD's Trans-Border Institute: (619) 260-4148.

The Catholic Peacebuilding Network (CPN) is a voluntary network of practitioners, academics, clergy and laity from around the world which seeks to enhance the study and practice of Catholic peacebuilding, especially at the local level. The CPN aims to deepen bonds of solidarity among Catholic peacebuilders, share and analyze "best practices," expand the peacebuilding capacity of the Church in areas of conflict, and encourage the further development of a theology of a just peace. While it is a Catholic network, the CPN believes that authentic and effective Catholic peacebuilding involves dialogue and collaboration with those of other religious traditions and all those committed to building a more just and peaceful world.

If you have information on Catholic peacebuilding that you would like to share with the Network, please contact:

Gerard F. Powers, Coordinator, or Cathy Laake, Program Assistant

Catholic Peacebuilding Network

100 Hesburgh Center

Notre Dame, IN 46556, USA

574.631.6970 (ph)

574.631.6973 (fax)

email: cpn@nd.edu

<http://cpn.nd.edu>

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