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Report: Religion, Reconciliation and Peace

"Peace From the Ground Up: Post Conflict Socialization, Religion, and Reconciliation in Africa," held in Capetown, South Africa, June 5-7, 2013, produced a [comprehensive conference report](#) (pdf). Premised on the claim that peacebuilding in Africa is far from finished after the recent wave of trials and truth commissions, the conference gathered scholars and practitioners to explore the potential of religion and culture for peacebuilding in the wake of massive violence.

Resource Announcements from CRS

For those interested in technical resources on Justice and Peacebuilding, you can now sign up to receive announcements about new resources from Catholic Relief Services. As a subscriber, you'll receive a brief e-mail announcement when CRS publishes a resource that relates to the subjects of your choice. The materials include case studies, evaluations, fact sheets, guidelines, manuals, papers, reports and more. You can adjust your e-mail preferences or unsubscribe at any time. [Subscribe or learn more.](#)

Pax Christi International Invitation to Theologians

PCI has been gathering stories of grassroots people as part of an effort to articulate a spirituality that motivates and grounds their work. Now they invite the cooperation of

theologians from different traditions, cultures and countries to a mutually enriching partnership that would help to develop a theological reflection on this experience that is (a) *contextual*, emerging from the diversity of cultures and religious traditions that ground Pax Christi members' work for peace worldwide; and (b) *multidimensional*, drawing from dogmatic theology, moral theology, Catholic Social Teaching, theology of spirituality, sciences of religions, interfaith peace theology, etc. If you are willing to consider some involvement with Pax Christi International in this effort, please contact Marie Dennis, at marie.dennis@paxchristi.net or 202-257-1583. [Learn more](#) (pdf).

University of Dayton to Host Human Rights Conference

The University of Dayton hosts "The Social Practice of Human Rights: Charting the Frontier of Research and Advocacy" October 3-5, 2013. Friday will feature 18 panels of original research in the field of human rights, and Saturday will feature three plenary panels comprised of speakers from major NGOs, philanthropic foundations, and academia to engage in critical issues confronting the human rights community. You are welcome to attend either one or two days. Visit the [conference website](#) for registration, preliminary program and more info.

A PEACEBUILDING CHURCH: NEWS

World Day of Peace Message Announced

Pope Francis on July 31st announced the theme for the celebration of the 47th World Day of Peace, the first to be celebrated during his pontificate. The theme chosen for this occurrence, celebrated every year on January 1, is Fraternity, the Foundation and Pathway to Peace. "In the face of the many tragedies that afflict the family of nations—poverty, hunger, underdevelopment, conflicts, migrations, pollution, inequalities, injustice, organized crime, fundamentalisms—fraternity is the foundation and the pathway to peace," states the [Vatican press release](#).

SECAM Document Now Available

As reported last month, the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (SECAM) met for a General Assembly July 8-15 on the theme, "The Church in Africa, at the Service of Reconciliation, Peace and Justice." The [official message](#) (pdf *en francais*) from that plenary assembly is now available online in French.

Burundi Episcopal Office Radio Programs on Peace and Justice

The Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace of Burundi (CEJP Burundi) posts streaming episodes of radio programming on its website. Recent postings include: a segment on the church's work combatting sexual violence ([listen in French](#)); and, on the involvement of the CEJP members in conflict resolution and advocating for the rights of prisoners in the truth and reconciliation process ([listen in French](#)).

Mindanao: Religious Superiors Call for Justice

Following recent bomb attacks in several cities in Mindanao, Philippines, members of the Association of Religious Superiors in the Philippines (AMRSP) have issued a plea for justice for those killed and expressed solidarity with all living in the region. Copy and paste this web address to view the entire statement:

<http://www.amrsp.org/2013/08/amrsp-statement-on-the-bombings-in-mindanao/>.

Colombian Bishops Campaign for Victims' Rights

The Episcopal Conference of Colombia (CEC), in collaboration with UNHCR and others, is engaged in an initiative to inform the victims of armed conflict about their rights to a dignified life and land restitution. The campaign also aims to raise awareness in the international community of the need to protect such rights. [Read more](#). The Colombian bishops previously issued a [statement](#) in April 2013 on the importance of land rights in peace negotiations.

RESOURCES

Book: *Sharing Peace: Mennonites and Catholics in Conversation*

Edited by Margaret Pfeil and Gerald Schlabach, *Sharing Peace* (Liturgical Press, 2013) brings together leading Mennonite and Catholic theologians and ecclesial leaders to reflect on the first-ever international dialogue between the Mennonite World Conference and the Vatican. The search for a shared reading of history, theology of the church and its sacraments or ordinances, and understandings of Christ's call to be peacemakers are its most prominent themes. [Learn more](#).

Peace and Conflict Studies Conference Listing

A wide array of annual conferences related to conflict resolution or peace studies has been compiled by the Peace and Collaborative Development Network. A short description of the organizers is provided as well as a link to the conference webpage. Annual conferences tend to be held in the same month every year, however topics can vary. [Learn more](#).

Call for Papers: Religion and the Environment

The Journal of the Sociology and Theory of Religion (JSTR) has issued a Call for Papers for its upcoming volume to be published in February 2014. Special consideration for this volume will be given to articles that treat the theme, "Religion and the Environment." JSTR is an online, open-access, peer-reviewed, international journal published in three languages (English, Spanish, and Chinese). For more information and the Call for Papers visit the [JSTR website](#).

Funding for On The Ground Work

The Peace & Collaborative Development Network has a listing of 21 key resources for obtaining funding for on the ground peacebuilding work. [View the funding listing](#).

Please send information on Catholic peacebuilding to cpn@nd.edu. To un-subscribe to this listserv, respond to this email with "UNSUBSCRIBE" in the subject heading. If you have received this email as a forward, you may subscribe to the listserv by emailing cpn@nd.edu.

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.

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