



September 2010

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*Peacebuilding: Catholic Theology, Ethics, and Praxis*, edited by R. Schreiter, S. Appleby & G. Powers

With original articles by leading Catholic theologians, ethicists, and scholar-practitioners, this groundbreaking volume seeks to contribute to the development of a conceptually coherent, theologically accurate, spiritually enlivening and practically effective approach to Catholic peacebuilding that complements the rich Catholic teaching on the ethics of war. The book covers a range of topics from the practice of Catholic peacebuilding in Colombia, the Philippines, the Great Lakes region of Africa, Indonesia, and South Africa to the relationship between peacebuilding and official social teaching, interreligious dialogue, Christology, pastoral theology, and ritual. The book is the product of an intensive four-year research project sponsored by the Catholic Peacebuilding Network in collaboration with the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame and the Bernardin Center for Theology and Ministry at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. The book is available from Orbis Press: <http://www.maryknollsocietymall.org/description.cfm?ISBN=978-1-57075-893-5>

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### **Sudan: the Church Confronts Risk of New War**

In January 2011, southern Sudan will hold a referendum on independence from Sudan. Will this lead to peace or new violence and instability? The Catholic Church in Sudan, with the assistance of Catholic Relief Services and other Caritas agencies, has intensified its long-standing peacebuilding efforts as the referendum approaches. The Sudanese bishops issued a major statement on the referendum in July, which can be found at: <http://cpn.nd.edu/conflicts-and-the-role-of-the-church/other-conflicts/sudan/>

With the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and CRS, the Sudanese Bishops' Conference has launched a campaign: **Change Your Heart, Change the World: Reflections for 101 Days of Prayer towards a Peaceful Referendum in Sudan**. The USCCB and CRS have also launched a **Peace in Sudan initiative** asking Catholics to Pray, Learn, Advocate, and Give to promote a peaceful transition in Sudan. Information on both initiatives can be found at <http://peaceinsudan.crs.org/>.

Three representatives of the Catholic bishops of Sudan will speak on **Sudan: Peace in the Balance**, on **Oct. 5, 4:15 p.m., EDT, at the University of Notre Dame (USA)**. **This panel will be available on live streaming video at** <mms://streaming.nd.edu/sudan>. Bishop Paride Taban, Bishop Emeritus of Torit, Bishop Daniel Adwok Marko Kur, Auxiliary Bishop of Khartoum, and John Ashworth, Acting Director of the Denis Hurley Peace Institute in South Africa, will be in the United States with an inter-religious delegation for high-level meetings in Washington and New York.

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### **Cardinal Rosales Urges Philippine Government to Withdraw Troops from Mindanao**

Gaudencio B. Cardinal Rosales has urged the Government of the Philippines to withdraw troops from Mindanao, which has suffered from decades of violence. Filipino troops have resumed operations against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels in Mindanao. For further information, see "Rosales: Pull out AFP forces from Mindanao," <http://www.philstar.com/Article.aspx?articleId=611439&publicationSubCategoryId=67>; "Rosales says military, MILF must lay down arms," <http://www.cbcpnews.com/?q=node/13061>; "AFP seeks closer collaboration with Church," <http://www.cbcpnews.com/?q=node/13063>; and, "AFP rejects military pullout in Mindanao," <http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/nation/regions/09/13/10/afp-rejects-military-pullout-mindanao>.

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### **Mindanao Dioceses, CRS and CPN Collaborate on Peace and Reconciliation Workshops**

For two weeks in August, the Catholic dioceses in Mindanao, CRS and CPN collaborated on a series of Peace and Reconciliation Workshops designed to enhance the study and practices of Catholic Peacebuilding in the region. Archbishop Antonio J. Ledesma, S.J. (chair, episcopal commission on

interreligious dialogue and convenor, Bishops-Ulama Forum), Fr. Robert Schreiter (Bernardin Center, Catholic Theological Union), and Scott Appleby (Kroc Institute, University of Notre Dame) led three sets of workshops for hundreds of Church leaders at the diocesan and parish levels. These workshops were a follow up to a 2-day workshop on peacebuilding for 70 bishops held in Manila in January 2009 under the sponsorship of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, CRS and the CPN. For more information on the August workshop go to: <http://www.cbcpnews.com/?q=node/12694>.

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### **Religious Leaders Develop Peace Strategy to Address Lord's Resistance Army**

According to Fides News Service, "Religious leaders from the four countries affected by the violent raids of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) have signed a commitment to apply pressure locally and internationally to find a peaceful solution to a crisis that began in 1986 in northern Uganda and that has extended to parts of southern Sudan, northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and south-eastern Central African Republic (CAR)... Religious leaders, in calling for a peaceful resolution to the LRA crisis, propose to: distribute leaflets and radio messages of peace to the LRA combatants, urging them to desert; prepare a welcome program for former combatants; increase the humanitarian aid to populations in need and for the displaced; detect and block the supports that allow the LRA to continue the war." The meeting was held from September 8-10, 2010, in Yambio, southern Sudan. For the declaration (in French), go to [http://www.fides.org/fra/documents/DECLARATION\\_FINALE\\_LRA.pdf](http://www.fides.org/fra/documents/DECLARATION_FINALE_LRA.pdf) (PDF File).

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### **Annual Week for Peace in Colombia**

From September 5–12, the Catholic Church in Colombia celebrated its annual *Semana por la Paz* (Week for Peace). This year's theme was "integral reparations" for the victims of the conflict. Since 1987, *Semana por la Paz* has brought together all sectors of the Church, with active involvement by civil society organizations, to highlight the need for peace, justice and human rights in Colombia. *Semana por la Paz* is organized by the Colombian bishops *Secretariado Nacional de Pastoral Social/ Caritas Colombiana* (<http://www.pastoralsocialcolombia.org.co/>) and REDEPAZ (Red de Iniciativas por la Paz y Contra la Guerra). For more information see: <http://semanaporlapaz.info/>

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### **Land Restitution in Colombia**

Msgr. Hector Fabio, director of the *Secretariado Nacional de Pastoral Social/ Caritas Colombiana*, was interviewed recently about the land restitution issue. If the process moves forward it could be either a significant leap forward or the beginning of new rounds of violence. To see a video of the interview in Spanish go to: <http://www.caracoltv.com/producciones/informativos/elradar/video-189766-la-posicion-de-la-iglesia-la-ley-de-restitucion-de-tierras>

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### **Moral Education in Burundi**

A new article evaluates the Catholic Church's efforts at moral education amidst conflict in Burundi. According to Hermenegilde Rwantabagu, "Burundi, like the rest of the Great Lakes region, has been shaken by widespread inter-communal divisions and violent conflict. It is commonly believed that the troubled history of Burundian society has been due to the lack of a consistent moral dimension in school curricula. It is this obvious gap that the Catholic Church, through its Moral Education Programme initiated in 2005, sought to address." See "Moral education in a post-conflict context: the case of

Burundi,” *Journal of Moral Education* 39: 3 (September 2010): p. 345. (available at <http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~db=all~content=t713432411>)

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### **Guatemalan Bishops Speak Out Against Violence, Corruption and Mining**

The Guatemalan bishops issued a major statement on the violence and corruption that are contributing to political and social instability in Guatemala. They also deplored the “profound and progressive ecological damage taking place in many parts of the country,” expressing support for Bishop Alvaro Ramazzini and Cardinal Rodolfo Quezada who have spoken out about open-cast mining and oil drilling by foreign companies in Laguna del Tigre. For the full statement in

Spanish: [http://www.fides.org/spa/documents/CONFERENCIA\\_EPISCOPAL\\_DE\\_GUATEMALA\\_agosto2010.doc](http://www.fides.org/spa/documents/CONFERENCIA_EPISCOPAL_DE_GUATEMALA_agosto2010.doc)

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### **Archdiocese of Jos, Nigeria: “Religion Alone Should Not Be Blamed” for Violence**

The recent violence in Plateau State (central Nigeria) was at the heart of discussions at the 8th General Assembly of the Archdiocese of Jos. The Archdiocese issued a statement that emphasizes, in part, that “...dialogue of life means reaching out lovingly to another person, irrespective of ethnic or religious differences....The lack of clear understanding of the origin and cause of the crises has generated problems even among Christians. While some see nothing in the crises other than the attempt by Muslims to encroach on the sacred space of what is considered a very Christian State, others think that the root causes of the crises are ethnic, social and political, but given a religious coloration. The crises must be put in right perspective. The causes are multiple and so religion alone should not be blamed” (8/23/2010). For the full statement, go to Fides News Service: <http://www.fides.org/eng/documents/JOS2010.doc>. The website of the Archdiocese of Jos is at <http://www.archjosnigeria.org/>.

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### **Precarious Progress: U.N. Resolutions on Women, Peace & Security, Sept. 29-Oct. 1, San Diego, CA**

The 2010 Women PeaceMakers Conference at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice, University of San Diego, CA, USA will coincide with both the 15th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 10th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. This working conference will distill and disseminate expert opinion from practitioners and policymakers about the implementation and challenges of numerous UN resolutions (1325, 1820, 1888 and 1889) and analyze their practical implications. For more information and link to the **live webcast** go to: [http://www.sandiego.edu/peacestudies/ipj/programs/women\\_peace\\_makers/conferences/precarious\\_progress/](http://www.sandiego.edu/peacestudies/ipj/programs/women_peace_makers/conferences/precarious_progress/)

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**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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