



April 2011

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CPN ACTIVITIES

With Gratitude

Joseph Bock, associate coordinator of the CPN for the past three years, has taken a new position at Notre Dame's Eck Institute for Global Health. We are deeply indebted to Joe for his deep commitment and invaluable service to the CPN, and offer our prayers and best wishes as he addresses the health issues which are so critical to a sustainable peace.

Philippines

Working with the inter-religious dialogue commission of the Catholic Bishops' Conference and CRS, the CPN is engaged in a multi-year capacity-building effort by a team of scholars and practitioners. In 2009, 70 bishops participated in a 2-day strategy session on peacebuilding. That meeting has been followed by a series of 2-week training and strategy sessions for bishops, priests, and church personnel of the dioceses in Mindanao in August 2010 and January 2011, with another planned for August 2011. The Peacebuilding Team consists of *Archbishop Antonio Ledesma*, chairman of the bishops' inter-religious dialogue committee; *Myla Leguro* and *Deng Giguientoof* of CRS in Mindanao; *Fr. Robert Schreiter* of Catholic Theological Union in Chicago; and *Scott Appleby*, *John Paul Lederach*, and *Gerard Powers* of the University of Notre Dame's Kroc Institute.

EVENTS

Several universities have held events on Catholic peacebuilding:

- □□□□□□□□ "Catholic Peacebuilding in East Africa," *John Katunga*, *Georgetown's Berkley Center*, April 5
 - □□□□□□□□ "Building Peace in Sudan: Catholic Contributions," *John Katunga*, *The Catholic University of America's Institute for Policy Research and Catholic Studies*, April 5
 - □□□□□□□□ "Becoming a Peacebuilding Church," *John Paul Lederach*, *Scott Appleby*, *Margaret Pfeil*, *Gerard Powers*, *John Katunga*, *Notre Dame's Kroc Institute*, March 29 (audio at <http://cpn.nd.edu/>)
 - □□□□□□□□ "Catholic Peacebuilding in Sudan and Eastern Africa," *Lisa Cahill*, *Steven Pope*, *John Katunga*, *Boston College's Center for Human Rights and International Justice*, March 16 (video available soon at <http://www.bc.edu/centers/humanrights/Videos.html>)
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LEDERACH: A Mennonite on Catholic Peacebuilding

In an article on Catholic engagement with armed actors, *John Paul Lederach*, a renowned peacebuilding specialist, writes about what is distinctive about Catholic peacebuilding. First is

“ubiquitous presence,” which gives the Church a “unique if not unprecedented presence in the landscape of the conflict”; second, the Eucharist “stands as an important, perhaps unique, contribution of the Catholic tradition ... [because of] how the sacramental act, symbolic and real, connects, heals, and challenges people affected by, and who can affect, the wider conflict.” Lederach’s is one of 15 chapters by leading theologians and practitioners in *Peacebuilding: Catholic Theology, Ethics and Practice*, Schreiter, Appleby, Powers, eds (Orbis 2010).

A PEACEBUILDING CHURCH

CONGO: Statement on Political Responsibility

The Catholic bishops' conference of the Congo issued a statement on political responsibility in light of the upcoming presidential and legislative elections. The statement asks Congolese to reflect on what they can do to build their nation on a foundation of peace, truth and justice. For the full statement in French: <http://www.cenco.cd/index.php/actualite/119-lege-catholique-sengage-pour-les-elections-libres-et-democratiques.html?tmpl=component&print=1&layout=default&page=>

SUDAN: Prayer Initiative for Independence Day

In May, the *Catholic bishops in Sudan* will launch a prayer initiative, “10 steps to unity in South Sudan,” leading up to July 9, the official date of independence for South Sudan. See: <http://www.cisanewsafrika.com/?s=Sudan+Prayer&Search.x=30&Search.y=11> <<http://www.cisanewsafrika.com/?s=Sudan+Prayer&Search.x=30&Search.y=11>> . For more on the work of the *Sudan Catholic Bishops' Regional Conference*: <http://scbrc-secretariate.blogspot.com>

SUDAN: Post-Referendum Challenges

In a March 11 communique, the *Sudan Council of Churches* and leaders of other churches expressed concern about the increasing violence in Abyei, Darfur, and elsewhere; the large numbers of people returning to the South and an increasing number of newly displaced; the need to resolve oil, citizenship and other issues; and the need for reconciliation and healing. <http://cpn.nd.edu/news/>.

SUDAN: CRS's Peacebuilding Program

Beside its crucial humanitarian and development programs, *CRS*, the largest development agency in Sudan, invested \$4 million in peacebuilding in the 18 months leading up to the referendum, the largest peacebuilding program *CRS* has ever undertaken. See: <http://peaceinsudan.crs.org/> .

SUDAN: Playing for Peace

A nationally-televised lacrosse game (ESPN, April 10, Noon ET) between top-ranked lacrosse teams, *Georgetown and Notre Dame*, will highlight the need to continue to build peace in Sudan. This is the latest in a series of Playing for Peace events organized in response to the visit of Sudanese Bishops to the United States last October. These events have been sponsored by Notre Dame's basketball and lacrosse teams, student government, Adidas, and CRS. See: <http://playing4peace.nd.edu> <<http://playing4peace.nd.edu/>>

WEST AFRICA: International Forum for Catholic Action

The West African Continental Meeting of the *International Forum for Catholic Action* (FIAC) was held in January in Dakar, on the theme: "Life, bread, peace and liberty." Representatives from the Catholic Action Movement in Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Mali and Niger met to discuss follow up on the 2009 Africa Synod, especially the role of the laity at the service of reconciliation, justice and peace. See: <http://www.fiacifca.org/eng/activities/Continental/senegal2011> .

PEACEBUILDING RESOURCES

"Peacebuilding in Africa" in *Journal for Peace & Justice Studies*

The *Journal for Peace & Justice Studies* has a special issue on "Peacebuilding in Africa," which includes articles on religious peacebuilding in Kenya, Rwanda, East Africa, and Uganda. See: http://www.villanova.edu/artsci/peaceandjustice/journal/articlelisting.htm#vol20_2 <http://www.villanova.edu/artsci/peaceandjustice/journal/articlelisting.htm#vol20_2>

***God's Century* by Duffy, Toft, Philpott, Shah**

A fresh and illuminating perspective on the surge in religion's political influence across the globe. In a time when the public discussion of religion is overheated, these dynamic young scholars use deeply original analysis and sharp case studies to show how and why religion's influence on global politics is surging. Finally they offer concrete suggestions on how to confront the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities posed by globally resurgent religion. See: <http://books.wwnorton.com/books/Gods-Century/>.

Special Issue: Peaceful Co-existence, a Faith Issue

“New Routes” is an on-line quarterly publication of the *Life & Peace Institute*, a member of Pax Christi International in Sweden. Volume 16, which is devoted to religion and peacebuilding, includes articles on inter-religious dialogue, a theology of just peace, religion and peacebuilding at the UN, and other topics. See: www.life-peace.org <<http://www.life-peace.org>> . For the April issue of *Pax Christi International's* newsletter, see: <http://storage.paxchristi.net/NEWSLETTER/2011-0178.pdf>.

Peace Terms Glossary

The *U.S. Institute of Peace* has developed "Peace Terms: A Glossary of Terms for Conflict Management and Peacebuilding." This extensive glossary provides short definitions of a wide range of complex and often confusing terms. See: <http://glossary.usip.org> / <**Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**>

Send us information on peacebuilding to share it with our network: cpn@nd.edu <<mailto: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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