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CPN ACTIVITIES

Great Lakes Region: Peace from the Ground Up

The current issue of [*New Routes*](#) focuses on peacebuilding in the Great Lakes Region of Africa. It includes numerous articles on the role of the Catholic Church and other religious actors, including Symphorien Pyana (peacebuilding in DRC), John Katunga (Catholic Church's role), Fr. Paulin Manwelo (Catholic Church in DRC), Triphonie Habonimana (women and peacebuilding in Burundi), Daniel Philpott (sustainable peace), and Fanie du Toit (dialogue). This issue is a collaborative effort by the Life and Peace Institute and the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation. Several of the articles were based on talks given at a conference in Capetown in June 2013, entitled, "Peace from the Ground Up: Post-conflict Socialization, Religion, and Reconciliation in Africa."

That conference was co-sponsored by Notre Dame's Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies and the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation with support from the CPN and the John Templeton Foundation. For a free electronic version of *New Routes*, contact: newroutes@life-peace.org.

CPN PARTNERS

Conference/ Call for Papers: Notre Dame Student Peace Conference, March 28-29, 2014

The 2014 Notre Dame Student Peace Conference Committee is seeking submissions from undergraduate and graduate students for its conference, "Building Peace: Integrating Two Decades of Progress," which will be held March 28-29, 2014, at the University of Notre Dame. The deadline for submissions is January 27, 2014. The conference will center on the question, "What have we learned about building peace since the end of the Cold War, and how should we develop this knowledge into future strategies?" The event is sponsored by the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies. [Learn more.](#)

Conference/ Call for Papers: Transitional Justice in Africa, October 8-9, 2014

The Hekima Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations (HPSIR) has issued a call for papers for its International Conference on Peace and International Relations. The theme is Transitional Justice in Post-Conflict Societies in Africa, and the conference will be held October 8-9, 2014, in Nairobi, Kenya. Abstracts are due by April 2, 2014. [Learn more.](#)

A PEACEBUILDING CHURCH: NEWS

South Sudan: Church Statements on Political Crisis and Violence

The South Sudan Council of Churches issued a statement on January 11 entitled, "Let My People Live in Peace and Harmony." The church leaders address the current political crisis and violence in their country, saying, "This nation is a precious gift from God to all of us in our diversity. We should feel called individually and collectively to guard it." The statement expresses how deeply saddened they are by the violence and emphasizes their commitment to peace through prayer and action. They include messages to the people of South Sudan, the warring parties, the international community, and their ecumenical partners, identifying specific steps that can be taken toward peacebuilding. Read the [full statement here](#) (PDF).

Central African Republic: Bishops Appeal for Peace

Bishops in the Central African Republic released a statement this month condemning the violent conflict in their country and calling for peace. "As Christians we are called to reflect the light of God in our political, economic and social interactions," they state. The bishops lay out their proposed steps toward peace, including (among others) the re-establishment of a Republican Army for public security; rapid elections; a committee to investigate human rights abuses; and the promotion of dialogue, truth, justice, forgiveness, unity, and peace. Read the [full text here](#).

Philippines: Zamboanga City Creates Interfaith Council

Following the September 9th attack on Zamboanga City by MNLF rebels, on December 23, 2013, the Zamboanga City Council passed an ordinance to create an Interfaith Council, which would plan interfaith activities, build connections with faith-based organizations, and advise the city on policy and interfaith initiatives. The council will be made up of 20 people, including the Archbishop of Zamboanga, other Christian religious leaders, Islamic leaders, representatives of indigenous peoples, and members of other groups, including the Silsilah Dialogue Movement. The city, which is home to many people of different religions, created this council as a way to promote the country's "policy of peace and cooperation" and "the individual's right to freedom of religion and worship." [Learn more.](#)

Colombia: Marches Against Violence in Cali

On January 7, 2014, a large crowd participated in a march against violence, organized by the Archdiocese of Cali to be in solidarity with a domestic worker who was killed in her home on December 31. This followed another march organized by the archdiocese on December 10, which was attended by thousands of people. Cali is the most dangerous city in Colombia. "We want to say that the dead, who now number more than 1800, are not bar graphs or pie charts indicating numbers. With this march we want to show the humanity of those victims of violence," said Jesús González, director of the Social Reality Observatory of the Archdiocese. [Read more](#) (in Spanish).

Myanmar: Archbishop Bo on World Day of Peace

Archbishop Charles Bo of Yangon called for "the dawn of a new era" of peace and justice in Myanmar in a message on the occasion of the World Day of Peace, January 1. He identified steps toward peace that have been taken in the country but named many injustices that continue. He emphasized the importance of dialogue, unity, and equality. Read the [full text here](#) (PDF).

RESOURCES

Journal: Special Issue on Catholic Social Movements

The current issue of *Journal of Catholic Social Thought* (2013, 10:2), edited by Johan Verstraeten, focuses on Catholic social movements. The issue contains articles by David Hollenbach, S.J. (sustaining engagement), B. Callebaut (Latin America), Kristin Hehir (theo-political imagination), Daniel Pilario (the Philippines) and others.

Book: Pacem in Terris Volume by Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace

In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of *Pacem in terris*, the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace has published a volume of essays by a wide spectrum of authors on a similarly wide spectrum of issues. See Vittorio V. Alberti, ed., *Il Concetto di Pace: Attualità della Pacem in Terris nel 50o Anniversario* (1963-2013) (Libreria Vaticana, 2013). [Learn more](#) (in Italian).

Book: *Peace on Earth: The Role of Religion in Peace and Conflict Studies*, edited by Thomas Matyók, Maureen Flaherty, Hamdesa Tusó, Jessica Senehi and Sean Byrne (Lexington Books, 2013). This book examines “the synergistic relationships among faith traditions and how multiple approaches to conflict transformation and peacebuilding result in a creative process that has the potential to achieve a more detailed view of peace on earth.” [Read more](#).

Report: Religious Violence in 2012 by Pew Research Center

According to a new report by the Religion and Public Life Project of the Pew Research Center, the share of countries with significant social hostilities involving religion reached a six-year peak in 2012: 33%. The sharpest increase in religious hostilities was in the Middle East and North Africa. The share of countries with a high or very high level of government restrictions on religion stayed roughly the same in the latest year studied: 29%. [Read the full report](#) (PDF).

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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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