



Enhancing the study and practice of Catholic peacebuilding ▪ December 3, 2015

FEATURES

The CPN is on Twitter! ▪ Connect with us [@Catholic_Peace](#)

Profiles in Catholic Peacebuilding ▪ “For more than 20 years, Deng has worked on the ground in the Mindanao conflict, creating alliances among conflicting Christian, Muslim and indigenous groups.” [Read more from Tanenbaum](#) ▪ “Father Mussie Zerai, a 40-year-old Catholic priest of Eritrean descent, has been nominated for his helping save the lives of thousands of migrants and refugees crossing the Mediterranean by simply answering his cell phone.” [Read more from The Telegraph](#)

Teaching this Spring? ▪ The CPN website features [course syllabi and curricula](#) related to Catholic peacebuilding. [Contribute your syllabus by email](#)

IN THIS ISSUE

CPN News ▪ CPN joins CRRA ▪ CPN Events Recap

News from CPN Affiliates and Regions

- **Burundi:** Bishops' Latest Statement: Justice Will Produce Peace
- **CAR:** Faith based humanitarian organizations welcome Pope Francis to the CAR
- **Colombia:** [“Weapons are the breakdown of the word”](#) statement by religious leaders on reconciliation
- **South Sudan:** [Pope Francis meets with President Salva Kiir in Uganda \(Reuters\)](#)
- **Uganda:** National Reconciliation Plan
- **Other:** [Pax Christi on Paris Talks](#) ▪ 2008: [The Human Family, a Community of Peace](#) (Benedict XVI)

Resources and Events ▪ *Can War Be Just in the 21st Century?* (2015) ▪ *Land and Food*, by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace (2015) ▪ *Forgiveness: Unveiling an Asset for Peacebuilding* ▪ Bishop of Tombura-Yambio Launches Book on Reconciliation (2015) ▪ Under Caesar’s Sword: An International Conference on Christian Response to Persecution (Dec 2015) ▪ Video: Beyond Extremism: Reclaiming Religion’s Peacebuilding Capacity in an Unstable World ▪ Video: The Pope and the Bomb: New Nuclear Dangers and Moral Dilemmas

CPN NEWS

Catholic Peacebuilding Network Joins CRRA

The Catholic Research Resources Alliance (CRRA) has recently welcomed the Catholic Peacebuilding Network (CPN) as a partner member. The CPN contributes materials from our affiliates, such as statements and reports related to peacebuilding and Catholic social action, to the CRRA Catholic Portal, making them freely and publicly available for online research. Some universities affiliated with both the CPN and the CRRA have expressed interest in participating in the initiative, and the CPN and CRRA plan to direct this energy through the efforts of a working group. All materials will be accessible alongside materials from eleven other themes through the CPN's website as well as through searches from CatholicResearch.net, affiliate libraries, and Google searches.

To learn more, [visit the CPN's web page](#) and [view the poster](#)

CPN Conflict Resources Colloquium and Steering Committee Meeting, October 29-31

CPN Steering Committee members gathered at the Catholic University of America with affiliate staff members and academic experts for two back-to-back events, October 29-31. The first was a research planning colloquium on conflict resources. The participants, including experts on the Church's practice and academic experts, made recommendations to guide strategically the CPN's research on the theology and ethics of natural resources, conflict, and peacebuilding. The second meeting was an in-person assembly of the CPN Steering Committee. Discussions covered the CPN's two major research initiatives, transitional justice / reconciliation and conflict resources; strategies for increasing the CPN's impact; and more. For more information, please contact Kristi Haas, Research Associate, at khaas3@nd.edu.

NEWS FROM CPN AFFILIATES AND REGIONS

Burundi Bishops' Statement: Justice Will Produce Peace

The Conference of Catholic Bishops of Burundi released a four-page message on September 16, 2015, entitled "Appeal to Burundians to build together a bright future for their country: 'Justice will produce peace, and the law, perpetual security' (Is 32:17)." This statement continues a series of messages the Bishops have released in the past year leading up to the elections, as the political conflict and violence have developed and intensified. Read them here, beginning with the most recent:

- **'Justice will produce peace, and the law, perpetual security'** (Is 32:17), ([French text](#)).
- **Communique #3, Persevere in Prayer for Peace for our Country**, May 26, 2015 ([French text](#))
- **Communique #2, Dialogue and Cooperation Lead to Sustainable Solutions**, May 12, 2015 ([French text](#))
- **Communique #1, In Preparation for the Elections**, May 5, 2015 ([English text](#); [French text](#), [French text \[pdf\]](#))

- Message #2, **Preparing Elections in Order to Promote Peace and Reconciliation**, March 6, 2015 ([French text](#))
- Message on the Elections: **Preparing for Our Elections in Serenity and Truth**, December 5, 2014 ([French text](#))

[Access these statements via the CPN website](#)

Faith based humanitarian organizations welcome Pope Francis to the Central African Republic

Bangui, 27 November 2015 – Along with a number of other faith-based humanitarian organizations, Catholic Relief Services issued this statement welcoming Pope Francis to the Central African Republic. “Together with the hundreds of thousands of displaced and vulnerable children and families who we strive to serve, we salute your visit to the Central African Republic (CAR) as a sign of hope and courage. The moment is critical as the country and the dire humanitarian circumstances are once again at risk of being forgotten amidst other crises taking place in the world....” [Read the rest here](#)

“Las armas son el fracaso de la palabra” – Catholics with other religious leaders in Colombia

“Under the auspices of Create Reconciliation in Colombia, leaders of different religious and spiritual denominations have given us the task of reflecting on the responsibility we have in the wake of the armed conflict, namely, peacebuilding and reconciliation. We want to address men and women, sons and daughters of this country who carry guns: Weapons are made to kill. The history of humanity has been the history of wars and technological development of armaments – from the club to nuclear warheads. What does not change is the result: death, destruction and especially anger, resentment and vengeance of eternal return of the survivors. How to stop this vicious recycling of retaliation?” [Read the statement in Spanish](#)

Pope Francis Meets with South Sudan President Salva Kiir in Uganda (Reuters)

“Pope Francis held a private meeting with South Sudan's President Salva Kiir on Friday, pushing for peace in the world's newest nation that has endured nearly two years of civil war, a Vatican spokesman said. There were no details on the 15-minute conversation with the president, a Catholic who regularly attends the cathedral in his capital Juba and on occasions addresses the congregation. Several other world leaders have urged Kiir to end the conflict that has killed more than 10,000 people, forced more than 2 million to flee and brought large parts of the population close to starvation...” [Read more from Reuters](#)

Ugandan Bishops Move Forward with National Reconciliation Plan

The Uganda Episcopal Conference (UEC) approved the plan entitled “Disarmament of the Heart,” in June, but it will be officially launched this December. The plan was developed in consultation with some CPN affiliates through a Kroc Institute-CRS Fellowship. The focus at this stage is the training of the National Resource Persons, who will support and coordinate initiatives at the diocesan level. The CPN conducted an initial training of UEC staff on July 9. [Read more from the UEC.](#)

More from Ugandan bishops: [News on Pope Francis's visit](#) ▪ [Pastoral letter on 2016 elections](#)

A peaceful future depends on climate justice now: Pax Christi International statement on COP21

Pax Christi International's Statement on the Paris climate talks begins, "Thousands of people from government, industry, intergovernmental organisations and civil society are expected to attend meetings and activities during the UN climate change conference (COP21), to be held 30 November–11 December 2015 in Paris. The Global Catholic Climate Movement, of which Pax Christi International is a member, has collected more than 800.000 signatures on its Catholic Climate Petition, to be delivered on 28 November to world leaders attending COP21. The petition, inspired by the words of Pope Francis in *Laudato Si'*, urges leaders to drastically cut carbon emissions." [Read the rest of the statement online](#)

"The Human Family, A Community of Peace" (World Day of Peace, 2008)

In the wake of the World Meeting of Families hosted in the United States this fall, we remind you of this message written by Pope Benedict XVI for the 2008 World Day of Peace: "The first form of communion between persons is that born of the love of a man and a woman who decide to enter a stable union in order to build together a *new family*. But the peoples of the earth, too, are called to build relationships of solidarity and cooperation among themselves, as befits members of the one *human family*: "All peoples"—as the Second Vatican Council declared—"are one community and have one origin, because God caused the whole human race to dwell on the face of the earth (cf. *Acts 17:26*); they also have one final end, God." [Read the rest of the message online](#)

RESOURCES AND EVENTS

Book: *Can War Be Just in the 21st Century?* (2015)

The Christian just war tradition has played an important role in political deliberations by many nation-states for seventeen centuries. But does it still have relevance in an age of drones, war by proxy, terrorism, environmental devastation, and failed states? This volume, edited by Tobias Winright and Laurie Johnston, brings together leading scholars from around the world on the viability of the just war tradition in a modern environment, with many essays offering specific historical examples of how the theory plays out in reality. Topics covered include cluster munitions, drones, nuclear proliferation, genocide (and the "responsibility to protect"), environmental concerns, torture, and care for returning soldiers. Foreword by Stanley Hauerwas, introduction by Tobias Winright, and chapters by Lisa Sowle Cahill, Kenneth Himes OFM, Gerard Powers, Elias Opongo, editors, and others. [See the page at Orbis Books](#)

Book: *Land and Food*, by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace (2015)

Land and Food is a new contribution from the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace published in the year 2015, the year of the encyclical *Laudato si'*, the Universal EXPO in Milan *Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life*, and the adoption of the new United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The book, 144 pages, was released in November 2015. It can be acquired through the *Libreria Editrice Vaticana*, via online retailers or by emailing: commerciale@lev.va. For additional information, please contact: pcjustpax@justpeace.va

Report: *Forgiveness: Unveiling an Asset for Peacebuilding*

A generous grant from the Fetzer Institute enabled Professor Daniel Philpott to lead a research project on the attitudes and practice of forgiveness in the wake of armed conflict. Working in partnership with the Refugee Law Project, Philpott conducted focus groups, interviews, and a 600-person survey in five districts of Uganda. The research found that Ugandans approve of and practice forgiveness widely in the wake of armed conflict. If widely practiced, promoted and complemented with appropriate transitional justice mechanisms, forgiveness can be a strong asset for peace-building. [The final report can be found here](#)

Book: Bishop of Tombura-Yambio Launches Book on Reconciliation (2015)

The Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Tombura-Yambio, Rt. Rev Edward Hiiboro has launched his book entitled *Reconciliation, Healing and Peace* on 16 July 2015 in Juba. The book is a reflection on the way forward in the country. Opening the launching event organized by the institute for Applied Research and Community Outreach of the Catholic University of South Sudan, Bishop Hiiboro said that God created people to live in peace and therefore prayed for all citizens of South Sudan to work for peace in the country. (text of news story from Enrica Valentini, CRN, Juba, South Sudan)

Event: Under Caesar's Sword: An International Conference on Christian Response to Persecution (Dec 2015)

"The International Conference on Christian Response to Persecution is a major component of "Under Caesar's Sword." It will take place at the Pontifical Urban University in Rome, Italy, from December 10 to 12, 2015. The main objective of the conference is to introduce the results of the world's first systematic global investigation into the responses of Christian communities to the violation of their religious freedom. The scope of "Under Caesar's Sword" extends to some 100 beleaguered Christian communities in around 30 countries. The conference is organized jointly by the Center for Civil and Human Rights at the University of Notre Dame and the [Religious Freedom Project](#) at the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs at Georgetown University. Co-sponsoring is the Community of Sant'Egidio." [More information is online](#); questions may be directed to Zahra Vieneuve at zvieneuv@nd.edu

Video: Beyond Extremism: Reclaiming Religion's Peacebuilding Capacity in an Unstable World

The terrorist attacks in Paris have reignited debates about religious extremism. Indeed, as the organizers "In the post-9/11 world, where boundaries between faith and global politics are fluid, religion is often criticized for stoking extremism and underwriting violence. But can the enmeshed relationship between faith and politics also be the starting point for a new era in peacebuilding and conflict resolution? How can religious leaders and foreign policymakers work together to lay the foundations for peace in hotspots around the globe?"

In case you missed the event earlier in 2015, [watch the recorded panel presentation](#), which features:

- R. Scott Appleby, Marilyn Keough Dean of the Keough School of Global Affairs, University of Notre Dame
- Shaun Casey, Special Advisor for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, U.S. State Department
- Robin Wright, Journalist, foreign policy analyst, and author of *Rock the Casbah: Rage and Rebellion across the Islamic World*
- Eliza Griswold, Author of *The Tenth Parallel: Dispatches from the Fault Line between Christianity and Islam*

Video: The Pope and the Bomb: New Nuclear Dangers and Moral Dilemmas

On Thursday, September 17, 2015, ahead of Pope Francis's visit to the United States, leaders from the Catholic Church and policy community met to discuss the current state of nuclear weapons and nonproliferation. They discussed the moral and policy implications of major new initiatives by Pope Francis and the Holy See on nuclear proliferation and disarmament. The event included:

- Bishop Oscar Cantú, Chairman, Committee on International Justice & Peace, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
- Senator Sam Nunn, Co-Chairman and CEO, Nuclear Threat Initiative
- Maryann Cusimano Love, Associate Professor of International Relations, The Catholic University of America
- Moderator: E.J. Dionne, Jr., Columnist, *The Washington Post*

[Watch the video](#)

Please send information on Catholic peacebuilding to cpn@nd.edu. To unsubscribe 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. Connect with us on Twitter [@Catholic_Peace](#).

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.

Gerard Powers, Coordinator

Kristin Haas

,

Research Associate

Catholic Peacebuilding Network

Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies
University of Notre Dame
100
Hesburgh Center
Notre Dame, IN 46556
kroc.nd.edu ▪ cpn.nd.edu