



Enhancing the study and practice of Catholic peacebuilding ▪ December 22, 2015

## Christmas Edition

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## FROM CPN AFFILIATES AND REGIONS

### Burundi: Bishops' message for the Year of Mercy

"In our Burundi, the Year of Mercy is timely. We are at a stage where there is a Truth Commission that searches for Reconciliation. We share our wishes for

the Commission to make good progress in the right direction. This Year of Mercy also is timely insofar as it seeks to open dialogue inclusive of all the protagonists in the Burundian conflict.” [Read the message \(French\)](#)

### **Colombia: Christmas message on peace and reconciliation**

“We respectfully call all Colombians, especially the governors, to be authentic instruments of reconciliation, justice and peace. Those who have chosen the way of weapons and violence, of corruption and injustice, may you discover in the manger the true meaning of grandeur and wealth.” [Read the message \(Spanish or English\)](#)

### **DRC: Bishops’ statements on the electoral process and the Year of Mercy**

“We... have discussed the situation in the country, a year before the elections of November 2016: it is disturbing and worrying. We discussed the unfortunate and painful memories of wars and tribulations that have sown confusion in the Congolese population, and shed the blood of millions of son and daughters of our country in particular because in a certain way to gain power by strength and exercised to the detriment of the common good.” [Read the statement on the electoral process \(French\)](#)

“We want this to be a Jubilee of thanksgiving for the gift of faith and its benefits; a Jubilee of peace and of our reconciliation with God, with our brothers and sisters, and with the land, ‘our common home’; a Jubilee of hope that appeals to our Christian commitment and citizenship to leave the dark drama in which we find our people.” [Read the statement on the Year of Mercy \(French\)](#)

### **The Philippines: Cardinal Quevedo on BBL; Mindanao bishops on coal plants; IEC on environment & peace**

"The BBL is the product of 17 to 18 years of negotiations. Quevedo explained if the BBL that would be passed by both houses of congress would be far from the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB), the whole peace process will stop as the whole normalization process would stop." [Read the news story.](#)

"Pope Francis, seeing the urgency of action in dealing with environmental crisis, points out the use of highly polluting fossil fuels – especially coal to be progressively replaced without delay (Cf. Laudato Si, 165). We cannot simply

sit idly while seeing the unfolding of horrific events resulted by so called technological progress at the expense of nature. Instead we recommend the use of renewable energy which is of course not harmful to the environment and to humans." [Read the Mindanao bishops' statement on coal.](#)

*See also:* International Eucharistic Congress in Cebu [to tackle issues on peace, environment](#)

### **South Sudan: Christmas messages; women's choir builds peace**

From Bishop Emeritus Paride Taban of South Sudan: "Empires, governments and kingdoms last for some years, twenty, a hundred years; the same with human life on earth, human sufferings, human mistakes; all these will pass away.... Forgiveness does not have an end; as long as we human beings are alive on earth, we must continue forgiving one another." [Read the message \(English\)](#)

*See also:* [Christmas message of hope](#) from the South Sudan Council of Churches ▪ Story from *The Guardian* on a [Christian women's choir](#) that works for peace

**Pope Francis in Kenya, Uganda, and CAR:** Read [full texts from his visits](#)

## **RESOURCES AND EVENTS**

We are pleased to share with you that the week of June 13-17, 2016 will be when we offer the 8th Annual Summer Institute [SI] for faculty and course development which has the title, "Teaching Peace in the 21st Century".

Since its inception in the summer of 2009, more than 80 institutional teams interested in either [1] enhancing and extending the structure and quality of their peace studies programs; or, [2] developing a new program in peace studies have attended. For those in the first category this Institute has assisted/stimulated the development of more than a dozen new undergraduate majors, a handful of masters levels programs, and the creation of one significant track in a doctoral program. In the second category, the

Institute has had a role in the creation of a substantial number of concentrations and minors, as well as a handful of full undergraduate majors.

More information is available on the [Kroc Institute website](#). Final Applications will be due on March 31, 2016. Early Decision Deadline February 29, 2016.

Please send information on Catholic peacebuilding to [cpn@nd.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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.*

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