



July 2009

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### **Philippine Bishops on Politics and Peace**

Decrying more than 50 bombings in Mindanao and the “culture of violence and death [that] seems to have taken over our society,” the Catholic Bishops of the Philippines called for a revival of peace negotiations in a major statement issued on July 12. They also urged Catholics to take an active role in the 2010 elections to counter a politics that many believe is “a structure of evil.” For the full statement: <http://cbcpnews.com/?q=node/9622>.

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### ***Amani Mashinani: Grassroots Peacebuilding in the North Rift Region of Kenya***

Rev. Cornelius Korir, Bishop of the Diocese of Eldoret in Kenya, writes of his experience of holding peace conferences for elites not in air-conditioned hotels but right where the people most affected by violence live. To download the book: <http://crs.org/kenya/downloads/peace-grassroots.pdf>

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***Mirror to the Church: Resurrecting Faith after Genocide in Rwanda* by Emmanuel Katongole**

Fr. Emmanuel Katongole describes how the Rwandan Genocide is a reflection of the deep brokenness found in the Church today, not solely in Africa but in the West as well. He believes that by looking at what happened and why, we can find hope for the global body of Christ, and develop a Christian identity that bears witness to the hope of the Gospel and the peace of Christ. To purchase: [http://www.christianbook.com/Christian/Books/product?item\\_no=284895](http://www.christianbook.com/Christian/Books/product?item_no=284895) .

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**African Synod of Bishops-Material for Action, Reflection and Evaluation**

In October, the African Synod of Bishops will take place in Rome. The Synod's theme is "The Church in Africa in Service to Reconciliation, Justice and Peace." Maryknoll and the Pax Christi Peace Studies Committee are providing materials for reflection, evaluation and action by Americans in solidarity with the African Church. For more information: <http://www.maryknollogc.org/regional/africa/together%20with%20africa%20celebrating%20hope.html>

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**U.S. Catholic Special Issue on Peace and Nonviolence**

The June 2009 issue of *U.S. Catholic* magazine has a special issue on peace and nonviolence. To view go to:

[http://www.uscatholic.org/confronting\\_violence](http://www.uscatholic.org/confronting_violence)

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**Colombian Bishops Reaffirm Willingness to Accompany Peace Talks and Hostage Releases**

The Bishops of the Catholic Church in Colombia, meeting in the 87th Plenary Assembly, said they remain ready to support any humanitarian operation to allow the release of those unfairly deprived of liberty. They also expressed their commitment to set up direct talks with Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) members in order to find paths for peace. For information in Spanish, see: <http://www.cec.org.co/?apc=I1-;;;-&x=24606>. For information on the ongoing work of the church to bring peace and reconciliation see:

<http://www.acuerdonacional.org.co/>

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**Associate Director-Marquette University Center for Peacemaking**

The Marquette University Center for Peacemaking is seeking a highly qualified individual as a Part-time [20 hours / week] Associate Director who will focus primarily on the Center's engagement with the Marquette University Students. For information: <https://careers.marquette.edu/applicants/jsp/shared/frameset/Frameset.jsp?time=1247513647308>

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### **Junior Research Position Institute for Theology and Peace**

The Institute for Theology and Peace in Germany is looking for a junior researcher who is ready to work on ethics and the responsibility to protect. For information: <http://www.ithpeace.de>

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### **Voices for Peace, November 20, 2009**

St. Mary of the Angels in Singapore ([www.stmary.sg](http://www.stmary.sg)) is currently working with other religious groups to hold a one-day interfaith event entitled "Voices for Peace" on 21st November 2009. They have requested speakers and participants for this event. If you are interested, please contact: Charlene Sim, Youth & Young Adults Office, Church of St Mary of the Angels, (65) 6567.3866 [charlene@stmary.sg](mailto:charlene@stmary.sg)

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### **Spirituality of Advocacy in Pax Christi International**

The peace spirituality behind Pax Christi International's advocacy is founded upon the preferential option for the person, the whole person, "created and loved by God." Fr. Paul Lansu of the International Secretariat has written a paper on the "Spirituality of Advocacy in Pax Christi International" and is available at: <http://storage.paxchristi.net/2009-0411-en-gl-RE.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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