



May 2008

Materials from the Conference on the Future of Catholic Peacebuilding Now Available

Some 300 people from 28 countries participated in the Fifth International Conference of the Catholic Peacebuilding Network. The Conference on the Future of Catholic Peacebuilding was held at the University of Notre Dame, April 13-16. In addition to the Catholic Peacebuilding Network, 18 Catholic universities and Church organizations co-sponsored this conference. Materials from the conference are now available at <http://cpn.nd.edu/2008CPNConference.shtml> including streaming video of plenary sessions, audio of break out sessions, and texts of many of the presentations. The principal papers from the conference will be published in a major book in 2009.

Archbishop of Yangon Pleads for Aid for Myanmar

Archbishop Charles Bo, President of the Myanmar Episcopal Conference, issued the following statement on May 25: The local response in Myanmar has been hugely important in these initial few weeks; however, resources and capacity have been stretched. Therefore, the news that the government will allow all aid workers into the country is welcomed. Amidst the stories of despair is also hope. The people of Myanmar have joined together in their solidarity for those affected by the cyclone. The emergency relief phase is not over as basic needs of hundreds and thousands of people still need to be met. Children are particularly vulnerable at this time. The church remains committed to continue support and hope and to reach further into the country with relief and to support communities to rebuild lives and livelihoods for the future of Myanmar. For the full statement: <http://cpn.nd.edu/>

Vatican's Foreign Policy

National Public Radio recently aired an hour-long program on the Vatican's foreign policy. The program included a lengthy segment on the Church's role in peacebuilding in Colombia. To listen to the program go to the link: <http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/america-abroad/.jukebox?action=viewPodcast&podcastId=553>.

Zimbabwe: A Call to Peace and Reconciliation

Pax Christi International issued a statement on peace and reconciliation in Zimbabwe on May 21. For the full statement see: <http://www.paxchristi.net/international/eng/news.php?id=49&wat=show>.

Assistant Director, Center for Human Rights & Int'l Justice, Boston College

The Assistant Director will work with the Center's Director to develop research and teaching programs for the Center. The Center's approach to human rights and international justice combines academic study, training programs, and applied research. Application deadline: June 15, 2008. For more information visit the Boston College website job announcement: <https://www7.bc.edu/erecruit/index.html>.

Resource: Fr. J. Bryan Hehir Lecture: Beyond the Challenge of Peace: Pastoral Letter for Our Day

On March 25, Notre Dame's Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies hosted Fr. J. Bryan Hehir for the 14th Annual Hesburgh Lectures in Ethics & Public Policy. Fr. Hehir's lecture on the 25th anniversary of the U.S. Catholic Bishops' peace pastoral can be viewed on streaming video at: <http://streaming.nd.edu/kroc/hesburgh/hehir1.wmv>.

Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame

The Kroc Institute's Visiting Fellows Program seeks to bring outstanding researchers focused on peace research to The University of Notre Dame for all or part of the academic year, 2008-2009. The research agendas of selected fellows must complement the existing research programs at the Institute, thereby allowing substantial collaboration with our permanent faculty and research staff. Applications are currently being accepted at the Kroc website: http://kroc.nd.edu/visiting_fellows/visitingfellows0809.shtml.

Social Action Summer Institute, July 20-25, 2008, Atlanta, GA

The Social Action Summer Institute is hosted by the Archdiocese of Atlanta and sponsored by Roundtable Association of Diocesan Social Action Directors (NPLC), the USCCB's Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development, and several other organizations. There are two tracks to this program; Track I "The Mission of Justice in Scripture and Social Teaching" and Track II "Advanced Symposium on Racism". For registration information visit the website: www.nplc.org/roundtable.

Conference on Religion & Religious Identities in Africa and the African Diaspora, Oct. 9-12, 2008, Kalamazoo College

Religious beliefs and identities have shaped the nature of human experience in Africa and the African Diaspora. What roles have religion played in conflict and nation building? Abstracts for potential papers are being accepted until Aug. 29, 2008. For more information on the conference go to: <http://www.wmich.edu/blackamericanastudies/conferences.htm>.

We Are Each Other's Bread & Wine: Mennonite & Catholic Reflections on Eucharist & Peacemaking

Bridgefolk is inviting sermons and homilies as well as poetry and art that reflect on the relationship between eating together at the Lord's Table and our life of Christian peacemaking. Submissions will be considered for publication in a new book, *We Are Each Other's Bread and Wine: Mennonite and Catholic Reflections on Eucharist and Peacemaking*. This book project is a collaborative effort among Mennonites and Catholics to share reflections and convictions on the profound gifts of each tradition -- the Eucharist and peacemaking -- for the sake of encouraging richer Christian worship and more faithful Christian discipleship in the world. The Institute of Mennonite Studies (AMBS) plans to publish the book jointly with a Catholic publisher. For information: <http://bridgefolk.net/call4sermons.htm>.

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.

If you have information on Catholic peacebuilding that you would like to share with the Network, please contact:

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