



March 2, 2007

CPN Conference: Creating a Climate of Reconciliation in Colombia - June 24-29, 2007 - Bogotá, Colombia

- **Conference on the Future of Catholic Peacebuilding - April 13-15, 2008 - University of Notre Dame**
- **"Interreligious Dialogue: Seeking Understanding In Our Age" A Nostra Ætate Lecture - March 2, 2007**
- **"Peacemaking in an Age of Terror" - March 20-22, 2007**
- **Greater Horn of Africa Consultation Meeting April 12-18, 2007**
- **Mindanao Peacebuilding Institute - May 21-June 8, 2007**
- **Interfaith Academies for Religious Leaders - June 13-27, 2007**
- **Bridgfolk Sixth Annual Conference - July 26-29. 2007**

CPN Conference: Creating a Climate of Reconciliation in Colombia - June 24-29, 2007 - Bogotá, Colombia

The Fourth Annual International Conference of the Catholic Peacebuilding Network will be held June 24-29, 2007 in Bogotá, Colombia. The theme of the conference is Creating a Climate of Reconciliation in Colombia: Opening Space for Truth, Justice and Reparation. The purpose is threefold: (1) to improve international awareness and understanding of the key role that the Catholic Church plays in promoting peace in Colombia; (2) to bring together scholars, Church leaders, and peacebuilding practitioners from a diverse set of countries in conflict to share their wisdom about "best practices" and lessons learned; and (3) to explore concrete ways in which interested parties outside Colombia might support the efforts of the Catholic community as it continues to play a critical role in promoting a just and lasting peace.

This conference is sponsored by the CPN and the Secretariado Nacional de Pastoral Social/Caritas Colombiana of the Colombian Bishops' Conference. Other co-sponsors include the University of Notre Dame's Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies and Helen Kellogg Institute for International Studies, and Catholic Relief Services.

Previous CPN conferences were held at the University of Notre Dame (May 2004), in Mindanao, the Philippines (July 2005), and in Bujumbura, Burundi (July 2006). The papers and video from the last two conferences can be found at <http://cpn.nd.edu>.

If you have any questions, please contact Gerard Powers (1-574-631-3765, gpowers1@nd.edu) or Colette Sgambati (1-574-631-9370, csgambati@nd.edu).

**Conference on the Future of Catholic Peacebuilding - April 13-15, 2008 -
University of Notre Dame**

A major conference for scholars and practitioners to reflect on the theological, ethical and practical dimensions of the Church's peacebuilding work. The conference is connected to a major research project which will produce a major book on the theology, ethics, and praxis of Catholic peacebuilding. It will also provide an opportunity to reflect on lessons learned from Catholic peacebuilding around the world and future directions for this often unexamined and unheralded dimension of the Church's ministry.

The conference is sponsored by the Catholic Peacebuilding Network; co-sponsors include Boston College's Department of Theology and Center for Human Rights and International Justice, Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Theological Union's Bernardin Center for Theology and Ministry, Georgetown University's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, Pax Christi International, the Sant' Egidio Community in the United States, University of Notre Dame's Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies and Program on Catholic Social Traditions.

For more information contact Gerard Powers (1-574-631-3765, gpowers1@nd.edu) or Colette Sgambati (1-574-631-9370, csgambati@nd.edu).

"Interreligious Dialogue: Seeking Understanding in Our Age" A Nostra Ætate Lecture - March 2, 2007

Georgetown University presents His Excellency, Kjell Magne Bondevik, President of The Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights

Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Norway (1997 to 2000; 2001 to 2005)

Friday, March 2, 2007 Riggs Library - 4:00 p.m. Georgetown University.

For more information go to the website at <http://president.georgetown.edu/na>.

"Peacemaking in an Age of Terror" - March 20-22, 2007

Loyola University of Chicago is holding a major conference "Peacemaking in an Age of Terror" on March 20-22, 2007. A fine array of speakers are planned, among them are Arun Gandhi, Helen

Caldicott, Daniel Berrigan, Mark Juergensmeyer, James Carroll, Mohammed Abu-Nimer, Kennette Benedict, Yaacov Iram, Glen Stassen, Pamela Brubaker, Eugene Jareki, Abdul Rashied Omar, Eboo Patel, and Janet Parker. Discussions will examine how one might best mitigate forces pushing extremist violence and militarism and push instead for stability, justice, and peace for a planetary community facing multiple challenges. Conference registration is required because seating is limited. Regular registration is free. Full registration with priority seating is \$75. The conference is sponsored by Loyola's Center for Ethics and Social Justice and supported by the Morris Leibman Endowment Fund.

For conference registration and further information, see the conference web-page at www.luc.edu/ethics.

Greater Horn of Africa Consultation Meeting April 12-18, 2007

Pax Christi International is organizing a Greater Horn of Africa Consultation Meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Consultation is taking place from 12 to 18 April, 2007, and brings together 50 to 60 people from Member Organizations and other NGOs in the region. It is being organized by Mark Barwick of the International Secretariat and Edwin Ruigrok of Pax Christi Netherlands, together with a Regional Steering Committee. The preliminary topic for discussion is the empowerment of civil society, and the development of an Action Plan for the coming years. The Ethiopian/Eritrean conflict is also on the agenda, as well as the Lord's Resistance Army-Government of Uganda peace process, the Islamic courts and the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, and a number of other issues. For more information: www.paxchristi.net.

Mindanao Peacebuilding Institute - May 21-June 8, 2007

The Catholic Relief Services- Philippine Program in collaboration with the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) and the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD) is hosting the 8th Mindanao Peacebuilding Institute. This institute, which will run for three weeks, will bring together a wide range of people with experience, knowledge and skills in peace-related work. Intensive training in areas such as religious peacebuilding, mediation, grassroots peace work, and conflict transformation will hopefully increase such skills, drawing on the shared knowledge of both the participants and the facilitators.

We believe that this institute is highly important at this time when peacebuilding is faced with the immense challenges currently facing Mindanao and the Southeast/South Asian region. We are expecting participants from all over Mindanao and other parts of Asia and the Pacific, coming from a broad range of religious, ethnic and cultural groups.

We believe that faced with our current realities, such an endeavor is vital in fostering peacebuilding skills in raising consciousness and skills for a region of unity and pro-existence amidst diversity. For more information contact the committee via

Interfaith Academies for Religious Leaders - June 13-27, 2007

The Interfaith Academies for Religious Leaders will be held June 13-27, 2007 at Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, MO. The Academy is made possible by a partnership between Saint Paul School of Theology, Religions for Peace-USA, The Pluralism Project at Harvard University, and the Greater Kansas City Interfaith Council, with funding from the Henry Luce Foundation.

Two programs are available: June 13-27 - The Interfaith Academy for Emerging Religious Leaders is a two-week course for people in training for leadership in their respective traditions. June 13-20 - The Interfaith Academy for Religious Professionals is a week-long course for people already active in religious leadership as clergy, professors, teachers, or in other vocations. If interested go to the website: <http://www.rfpusa.org/interfaithacademy> where more information and an application are available.

Bridgefolk Sixth Annual Conference - July 26-29. 2007

You are invited! Bridgefolk will be gathering for its sixth annual conference this year on July 26-29 at the Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana. The theme of this year's conference is "Who Do We Think We Are? – Catholics and Mennonites Growing Together in Christ."

Issues of identity are never far below the surface when Mennonites and Roman Catholics dialogue and work together. We know we are called to share and express more fully a common baptismal identity in Jesus Christ, yet differing baptismal practices have marked our historic divisions. Still, even when Mennonites and Roman Catholics of the past thought of themselves as quite divided, they actually shared many identity-shaping experiences, especially as they sought to make a home in North America – in some places, side-by-side.

Northern Indiana is one of those places. It is the home of sizeable historic communities of both Mennonites and Roman Catholics. As such, it offers a rich opportunity to reflect on our shared baptismal identity as Christians in relation to other identities. The theme, "Who Do We Think We Are?", will invite Bridgefolk participants to explore the interplay of our primary loyalty to Jesus Christ in relationship to citizenship, and ethnic identities, as well as the "double belonging" of those seeking in various ways to be both Mennonite and Catholic.

Complementing conference sessions will be tours to such local sites as the Loretto Chapel at St. Mary's College, the [Basilica of the Sacred Heart](#) at Notre Dame, and [Menno-Hof](#), an information center in nearby Shippshewana that teaches visitors about the faith and life of Amish and Mennonites. Options for afternoon service projects will also be available. Hosting the conference, which will take place on the campus of the [Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary](#), will be the Michiana chapter of Bridgefolk.

Plans are also underway for an academic conference at Notre Dame in the days immediately following the Bridgefolk conference. Mennonite and Catholic scholars will take up issues of history, theology and peacemaking as they emerge in *Called Together to Be Peacemakers*, the final report of the international dialogue between Catholic and Mennonite representatives from 1998-2003.

Watch for further details and registration materials on both conferences in coming weeks. A [tentative schedule](#) for the Bridgefolk conference available online at www.bridgefolk.net/conferences, and will be updated regularly as speakers are confirmed.

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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