



March 28, 2007

- **News:** Caritas reports Sri Lanka Hitting Boiling Point
- **News:** Cardinal Obando Will Head Reconciliation Council
- **Job Opening:** Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies-Events Coordinator
- **Job Opening:** Catholic Relief Services-Regional Representative-Latin America
- **Fellowships:** The Joel L. Fleishman Civil Society Fellows Program – Duke University President
- **Event:** Pax Christi Consultation on Great Lakes of Africa
- **Event:** Greater Horn of Africa Consultation Meeting - April 12-18, 2007
- **Event:** CPN Conference: Creating a Climate of Reconciliation in Colombia - June 24-29, 2007 - Bogotá, Colombia
- **Event:** Conference on the Future of Catholic Peacebuilding - April 13-15, 2008 - University of Notre Dame

Caritas Reports Sri Lanka Hitting Boiling Point

ROME, MARCH 15, 2007. - A military offensive in the eastern Batticaloa province of Sri Lanka has led to a "very volatile" situation, according to the director of Caritas in the Southern Asian nation. "At any moment, anything can happen," said Father Damian Fernando to Caritas Internationalis this week in Rome. "The government appears to have gone on the offensive and to be seeking a military solution to the conflict."

As many as 200,000 people have been forced from their homes in the past six months, as the island nation experiences the worst fighting between the army and the Tamil Tigers since a 2002 cease-fire, the United Nations said last week. In just the past two weeks, the town of Batticaloa has become refuge to some 50,000 people fleeing attacks and shelling. Another 40,000 people have crossed from the conflict zones into government-controlled areas to flee the fighting, reported Caritas.

Father Fernando said that in addition to the military offensives in the east, "various paramilitary groups ... are active, and killings and disappearances are on the rise." "Some of them are political killings, and some even happen in the capital Colombo ... it could be anybody that gets killed," he added. Father Fernando reported that Caritas-Sri Lanka is also working to promote peace: "We are working quietly with all sides ... to help bring about peace."

The Caritas director revealed that tsunami reconstruction projects on the coast have been suspended because of the fighting. "We have been able to continue with the reconstruction work that is taking place in government-controlled areas, while clearly in other areas where there is conflict we have had to suspend tsunami reconstruction," Father Fernando said. He added: "But all of our work has been slowed somewhat by the scarcity and the soaring prices of building materials. "Nevertheless, last month we handed over 120 houses to families whose homes were destroyed by the tsunami. "We work with a certain fear of what might happen. But we have to take care of people's basic need for shelter." (Zenit.org)

Cardinal Obando Will Head Reconciliation Council

MANAGUA, Nicaragua, MARCH 18, 2007. - With the Pope's encouragement, Cardinal Miguel Obando Bravo will lead the council seeking reconciliation following Nicaragua's civil war which plagued the country during most of the 1980s.

Cardinal Obando, retired archbishop of Managua, accepted the presidency of the Council of Reconciliation and Peace, which is in charge of reviewing compliance with the peace agreements signed following the war. During a press conference Wednesday at the headquarters of the Catholic University, Cardinal Obando revealed that he met recently with Pope Benedict XVI to tell him about this post and the Pope asked him "to work for the reconciliation of the Nicaraguan family." The cardinal said that the Holy Father "wants me to work for reconciliation - that's the idea, that we pursue reconciliation."

The former archbishop of Managua, who was accompanied by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, said that the post is not "partisan or governmental." It's not a partisan job, but a job for the nation, especially for those who have suffered the consequences of the various conflicts," clarified the 81-year-old cardinal. Cardinal Obando added that he is in conversation with the bishops of the Nicaraguan episcopal conference so that they will also collaborate in this endeavor.

Ortega said that he had been in touch with Archbishop Leopoldo Brenes Solórzano of Managua, who told him that the bishops' conference will address the subject next week. (Zenit.org)

Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies-University of Notre Dame

Position Title: Events Coordinator-

Location: Notre Dame/South Bend, IN, USA

The Events Coordinator's primary purpose is to efficiently and professionally coordinate all administrative aspects of academic conferences, workshops, lectures, panels and other public events organized by the Kroc Institute. The Institute organizes several conferences each year, both on campus and at international venues including the Catholic Peacebuilding Network conference.

A Bachelor's degree is required. Applicants must have 3-5 years of experience organizing international conferences and events, preferably in an academic setting; excellent communication and administrative skills; a high level of professionalism in dealing with people; efficiency; and flexibility. Applicants should also have a high proficiency with standard software for word processing, email, and spreadsheets.

For more information and to apply, go to the website:

<https://jobs.nd.edu/applicants/jsp/shared/frameset/Frameset.jsp?time=1175011420539>

Catholic Relief Services-Regional Representative-Latin America

Position Title: Regional Representative - Latin America/Caribbean
Location: Baltimore, MD
Requisition Number: D 07 022

Qualifications :

- 1. Master's in international development or related field**
- 2. Previous work in CRS' programs in Latin America preferred**
- 3. Minimum 3 years international development work experience required. Previous work in CRS' programs in Latin America is a definite plus.**
- 4. Previous experience working with or backstopping emergency programs**
- 5. Strong knowledge of CRS programming, justice agenda and Catholic Social Teaching principles**
- 6. Advocacy experience preferred**
- 7. Knowledge of Microsoft Office software (Word, Excel, Outlook, Internet) required**

For a complete job description and application, go to the CRS website at <https://sh.webhire.com/servlet/av/jd?ai=495&ji=1977090&sn=I>

In your cover letter please include requisition number D 07 022, source code Corporate Website and salary requirements.

The Joel L. Fleishman Civil Society Fellows Program - DUKE UNIVERSITY

Created in honor of the Institute's founding director, the Joel L. Fleishman Civil Society Fellows Program provides a select group of

leaders from nonprofit organizations, international NGOs, foundations, government, socially responsible businesses, and other civil society groups with the opportunity to spend a four-week residential sabbatical at Duke University's Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy.

While at Duke, Fellows perform research and work with Institute faculty and other Duke affiliates on issues related to the development of civil society. Applicants are selected based upon their proposed research topic and how they intend to utilize Duke's resources to benefit their professional work in society. Housing and program expenses are covered. In addition, each Fellow receives a \$6000 stipend. Full-time academics are not eligible to apply. The 2007 Fellowship period will begin October 1, 2007. The Application deadline is May 1, 2007. Applications can be downloaded from the program website: <http://www.pubpol.duke.edu/centers/civil/>.

Contact: Melynn Glusman, Program Director, 919-613-7432 or melynn.glusman@duke.edu.

Pax Christi Consultation on Great Lakes of Africa

Over fifty participants from Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo gathered from 17 to 22 February 2007 at the Centre Christus in Kigali for the Fourth Regional Consultation of Pax Christi in the Great Lakes. High on the agenda were an analysis of the current situation of peace and security in the region and the formulation of an Action Plan for the coming years. A final report of the event is forthcoming. To read an article on the Great Lakes Consultation, see [07-0262](#). To read the statement of analysis and recommendations (in French), see <http://storage.paxchristi.net/AF06F07.pdf>. To read the press release (in French and in English), see <http://storage.paxchristi.net/AF09F07.pdf>.

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, from 12 to 18 April 2007. The Consultation brings together 50 to 60 people

from Member Organizations and other NGOs in the region. Mark Barwick of the International Secretariat and Edwin Ruigrok of Pax Christi Netherlands, together with a Regional Steering Committee, are organizing the event. 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 email: mark@paxchristi.net

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).

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:

***Gerard F. Powers, Coordinator, or Cathy Laake, Program Assistant
Catholic Peacebuilding Network
100 Hesburgh Center
Notre Dame, IN 46556, USA
574.631.6970 (ph)
574.631.6973 (fax)
email: cpn@nd.edu
<http://cpn.nd.edu>***

To un-subscribe to this listserv, respond to this email with "UNSUBSCRIBE" in the subject heading.