



# J/P ALERT

CONFERENCE OF MAJOR SUPERIORS OF MEN JUSTICE AND PEACE OFFICE



*JULY-AUGUST 2014*

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## *Iraq*

Pope Francis has affirmed that “[peacemaking is more courageous than warfare](#),” and more recently he said that “[it is licit to stop the unjust aggressor. I underscore the verb 'stop:' I don't say bomb, make war--stop him](#).” But how we might ask? Here is one “[just peace approach](#)” to the situation from a number of

religious organizations and leaders.

For an opinion from the Arms Security Project, [click here](#).

For a short video about resisting military escalation in Iraq, [click here](#).

For more details on the variety of actors and habits of violence in the Iraqi conflict, [click here](#).

## *Immigration*



sent back.

President Obama is likely to issue an executive action on immigration in early September. Part of it will be about making more people eligible to stay in the country without fear of deportation. Part if it will also likely address some of migrant children recently crossing. Here's [Pope Francis](#) on “welcoming and protecting” the migrant children. One of the predictable tragedies of sending kids back to violent spaces is that they are at even greater risk, **as some have [already been killed](#) after they were**

It's urgent that we respond as religious leaders of Jesus Christ. One thing happening this Thursday Aug. 28th is another offering of civil disobedience at the White House, likely the largest in history for immigration. Here are some [quotes from Catholics](#) who participated in the July 31st civil disobedience at the White House. If you are planning to come then Thank You! If not please pray for this action and do one or both of the following:

**Action:**

Please contact President Obama today at 1-866-940-2439 to let him know that our country's leader should place the dignity of the person before partisan politics. For more details: [click here](#).

Sample Script:

*Hello, my name is [your name], and I stand in solidarity with national faith leaders who are sending a letter to you urging you to uphold protections for refugee children and families. As a person of faith, I expect us to live up to the American values of fairness, justice, compassion, healing, and due process. I ask that the Administration abandon plans to dilute due process, end the resurrection of the failed family detention system which has cut off legal access for mothers and children fleeing violence, and work with governments and civil society groups in the region to address the country conditions and root causes compelling children and families to flee El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.*

Write an Op-Ed: [Sample](#)

## Care for Creation

### Fossil Fuel Divestment

Dayton University, a Marianist school, decided to divest from fossil fuels! This is an amazing and promising accomplishment for each of us to consider. This divestment included \$34 million. They considered shareholder advocacy but realized due to the need for a large group of institutions, the limited divestment was more strategic. Similar campaigns are engaged at Georgetown and Boston College. More details in this [NCR article](#).



### Climate March in NYC

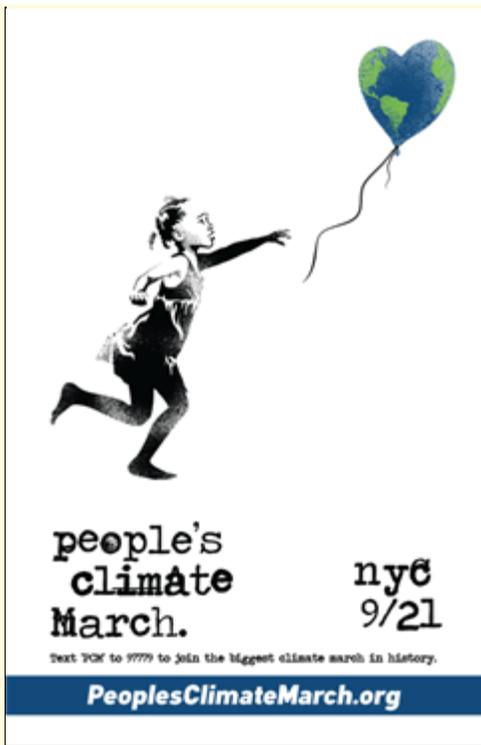
Mark your calendars and plan to participate in **The People's Climate March** held on **Sunday, September 21st, in New York City**. This March will include a large representation by interfaith groups, a coalition of Catholic groups, colleges/universities, and many religious congregations.

The March is being convened so that the witness of thousands of March participants will positively impact the discussions and decisions made at UN Climate Summit of world leaders which begins on September 23rd.

While final details for the March will be forthcoming from the organizers, here is what we know now:

- The March will begin at Columbus Circle, ca. 11:30 a.m.
- The Catholic Coalition will establish a rendezvous point where folks can gather
- The March route will be about 3 miles
- A Climate March Mass will be held at St. Columba's Church on the west side of Manhattan, 9 a.m., Sunday, 21 September.

If you would like to check updates on the



People's Climate March website go to: [PeoplesClimateMarch.org](http://PeoplesClimateMarch.org).

### Campaign Nonviolence Joins Climate March

We are now less than a month away from the [125 Campaign Nonviolence marches, rallies, and vigils](#) that will take place in cities and towns across the country **September 21-27** to end **war, poverty, and the climate crisis**. Together, we will launch a long-term movement working for a culture of peace and nonviolence.

From American Samoa to New York—where we will be a participating organization in the People's Climate March—Campaign Nonviolence will inaugurate this exciting, long-term movement to build a more just, peaceful and sustainable world.

### LCWR Passes Renewable Energy Resolution

This [LCWR resolution](#) favors member congregations transitioning to renewable energy sources.

### Jesuit Letter to Pope Francis

Jim Hug SJ wrote [this letter](#) after attending the Just Sustainability Conference at Seattle University.

### Free Course on Sustainable Development

Taught by Prof. Jeffrey Sachs, Columbia University, with contributions from John Converset, Comboni Missionaries, "The Age of Sustainable Development" gives students an understanding of the key challenges and pathways to sustainable development; that is, economic development that is also socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable.

NOTE: Course will launch at noon on September 2, 2014. For more details and to register: [click here](#).

## *Ferguson and Restorative Justice*

The recent crisis in Ferguson has once again invited us to risk



the vulnerability of engaging systemic racism and violence. Many Catholics who attended the Social Action Summer Institute in St. Louis this July learned about restorative justice. They are now working to organize restorative circles in the area to go deep and help heal the wounds in Ferguson. If you're interested in being part of this, contact Meg Olson who works with Catholic Charities in St. Louis: <[molson@ccstl.org](mailto:molson@ccstl.org)>.

Meanwhile in Massachusetts, a bill is moving through to support scaling up restorative justice practices. The Restorative Justice Coalition is working hard on this issue. The share the following resources and action alert.

#### As promised we wanted to follow right up with key items:

- [Audio from the Town Hall](#) (download and/or stream online; creative commons content)
- [Easy Action Tool](#)--Take 2 minutes now to use our pre-fab tool to write your senator/rep urging them to **support SB 2078 now!**

#### Highlights from MA Restorative Justice efforts include **jaw dropping stats**:

- There are **higher satisfaction rates for victims** vs. to those proceeding through traditional court (89% vs. 57%)
- **Reduced recidivism for offenders** (16% vs. 39%)
- **Cost savings is six times that of traditional methods** (a University of Massachusetts study in 2012 demonstrated that restorative justice is nearly six times more cost-effective than traditional justice methods).
- [Read the Full Report Here on SB 2078.](#)

To be part of monthly conference call presentations/discussions on RJ, contact: Restorative Justice on The Rise <[mali@malirowanpresents.ccsend.com](mailto:mali@malirowanpresents.ccsend.com)>.

## *Gaza and Israel*

As the war and [talks](#) continue, here are some recent moves to transform the conflict.

The Presbyterian Church USA divests from companies profiting off settlements: Caterpillar, Hewlett-Packard, and Motorola Solutions. More details [click here](#).

#### August 2014

The latest conflict between the Israeli military and Palestinian groups in Gaza has claimed the lives of more than 2,100 Palestinians, mostly civilians, and has resulted in the displacement of hundreds of thousands more. 69 Israeli's have also tragically died. The destruction of Gaza has been catastrophic.



A durable ceasefire is necessary for the welfare of all. In addition, it is abundantly clear that the underlying causes of this human tragedy must be addressed.

#### Thank the White House for good news

There is good news about recent steps taken by the Administration. According to [Newsweek](#), U.S. officials have put on hold the transfer of Hellfire missiles to Israel, and the

White House has issued instructions that additional requests for transfers must be cleared through the Administration.

Your support is needed to keep these policy changes in place. [Call the White House](#) to thank them for these steps.



## *Redemptorist Priest on Religious Freedom*

Fr. Anton Ngoc Than, CSsR, has been working and praying hard in Vietnam for religious freedom. He is a priest-blogger and manages both the *Vietnamese Redemptorists' News* website and the Catholic radio station. For more details, [click here](#).

## *Money in Politics*

### **Coalition Urges Support for Udall Amendment**

Members of the "Faithful Democracy" coalition, an interfaith group working on the issue of money in politics from a legislative perspective, met with a representative from many Senate offices.



Consistently, they have been told that each Senator was interested in the issue of money in politics, but would not yet support **SJ 19**, the proposed [Udall Constitutional Amendment](#), which allows for Congress to regulate political spending, because the Senator has not heard from constituents on the issue. **A vote is scheduled for Sept. 8th!**

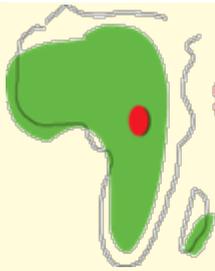
**Action:** Please consider contacting [your Senator](#) about SJ Res. 19 being passed with

bipartisan support.

We'll keep you updated on what happens with the Udall Amendment, as they're bringing it to committee next month. In the meantime, take a look at an op-ed that our coalition got [published in The Hill](#) and check out some [pictures](#) from our standing room only, interfaith, bipartisan congressional briefing on money in politics.

## *South Sudan Update*

"South Sudan has been named the world's 'most fragile' state. The report, issued by the United States-based Fund for Peace (FFP), blames chronic instability,



## SOLIDARITY with South Sudan

fractured leadership and growing ethnic conflict for South Sudan's poor ranking.

....The top six countries on the index are all in sub-Saharan Africa, with Afghanistan listed seventh most fragile state followed by Yemen, Haiti, and Pakistan.... Annually produced by FFP, the report highlights global political, economic and social pressures experienced by states and is widely considered a critical tool in... identifying pressures pushing a state towards the brink of failure." *Sudan Tribune*

Yet, *Solidarity with South Sudan* has 32 religious sisters, brothers and priests, and a couple of lay people, from 20 countries living and working in South Sudan. We thank you for helping us respond and ask you to continue supporting *Solidarity* through the sharing of your "widower's mite" in financial contributions and personnel, especially, at this time, tutors and those with administrative and financial skills. For more information contact Joan Mumaw IHM at <[jmumaw.solidarity@gmail.com](mailto:jmumaw.solidarity@gmail.com)>.

### *J/P Ministry Tip*

2014 Feast of St. Francis program, "From St. Francis to Pope Francis to You! Creating a Climate for Solidarity." [This link](#) has all of the relevant information, signup details, etc.

**CMSM**



- *assists major superiors in their role as leaders;*
- *promotes dialogue and collaboration with the conference of bishops and other major groups in church and society;*
- *provides a corporate influence in church and society.*

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