



J/P ALERT

CONFERENCE OF MAJOR SUPERIORS OF MEN JUSTICE AND PEACE OFFICE



October 2012 (en español)

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Catholics Vote for the Common Good

Catholic voters face critical choices this year. We must decide who will lead our nation, states and communities *closer to a consistent ethic of life and dignity.*

It is a tumultuous time to be Catholic, or any person of faith. There are many people out there who claim to speak for all of us while ascribing to values that are not aligned with Catholic Social Teaching.



We have teamed up with 15 other national Catholic organizations to ask Catholic voters all across the country what was important to them this election year. We used their answers to create a platform for each state. **These platforms represent our values as Catholics, and place Catholic Social Teaching and the common good first.**

So what can you do to help? **Please, lend your voice to ours. Go to www.commongood2012.org and click on your state.** From there, you can read your platform and sign it online. These will be used in direct advocacy with candidates.

"Three national debates have occurred with two parties, but we rarely get exposed to the other parties running for President to assess them on the common good. [Click here](#) to view a debate between the other four parties and [click here](#) for information on an upcoming debate on Tuesday Oct. 30th between the two winners."

Death Penalty and Restorative Justice

Vote in California! "Yes" on

Proposition 34

There is a major opportunity to impact the direction of our country on the death penalty by voting to support [Prop 34 in California](#) this November. As many of you know, our Church has been advocating for ending the death penalty as a clearer reflection of Jesus' way of love.



Supporting this proposition will end the death penalty in California and send a major wave of energy in this direction across the country. If you do not live in California, we encourage you to contact folks you know in the state to support Prop 34.

Juvenile Justice Reform Success!

Sept. 30, 2012, Governor Brown signed CA's Fair Sentencing for Youth Act, SB 9! This bill creates three reviews for people sentenced to life without parole (LWOP) for crimes committed as youth, with the possibility of resentencing by a judge. Congrats to the team in CA, led by the tireless efforts of Elizabeth Calvin!! [Read this article](#) by Don Thomson.

Immigration Mobilization

LCWR's Immigration Billboard Campaign



Read more about this creative initiative and consider how you might participate with our sisters of LCWR. Scroll down to page eight of the [LCWR PDF document](#) to learn more about the campaign.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops



A National Conference entitled "Migration Policy and Advocacy in 2013 and Beyond: New Challenges and New Opportunities."

Purpose: The conference will examine migration from both federal and state/local perspectives and will discuss methods for advancing the migration policy agenda of the Church in 2013 and beyond. Sponsored by USCCB and Catholic Legal Immigration Network-[more details and registration](#).

The [Justice for Immigrants Campaign](#) has been organizing key dioceses for education and advocacy projects on immigration reform. If you are involved with migrant ministry or know of others in your area, we encourage you to see if you are [located in one of these dioceses](#) and consider joining in the collaborative efforts.

Financial Transaction Tax

Treaties of financial disclosure and closing tax loopholes are key initiatives. In addition, many argue that a financial transaction tax (FTT) would raise more revenue than any other revenue proposals, and thus enhance the argument for at least maintaining the responsible programs for the poor and marginalized. The FTT would place a **very small tax (usually between 0.0001% and 0.5%) on different financial transactions.**

The general purpose of a FTT would be to help enhance the financial stability of the existing monetary system by curtailing "undue speculation," creating a long-term benefit by reducing short-term turnovers in financial instruments. **Stability in financial markets helps protect the common good.** The Vatican's Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace has explicitly endorsed the idea.

Action: Sometime **before Dec. 1**, we encourage you to contact any members of the [Domestic](#) and [International](#) USCCB committees, especially those you may know or the religious bishops, and ask them to consider this as an example for revenue enhancement in their policy advocacy. [Sending this one pager is a good introduction.](#)

Research on Distribution of Wealth by Congressional Research Service: [See Table 2](#) on page 4.

Watch Robin Hood Tax, a [four-minute video](#) on the FTT (click on the third "dot"/video). As James Martin SJ encouraged CMSM at our recent national assembly, here is [a related video with a bit of humor!](#) (3 min.)

International Religious Freedom

Consider reading this very thorough and instructional article entitled "The Advocacy of the US Catholic Bishops for International Religious Freedom" by Stephen Colecchi, USCCB Director of the Office of International Justice and Peace. The article explores the "bishops' long history of championing religious freedom around the world, their understanding of religious freedom, and the advocacy strategies they employ in its defence." The article appears in [The Review of Faith and International Affairs](#), vol. 10, no. 3, 2012.

Food for Priests Appeal

I am writing you from the National Pontifical Mission Societies office in Sudan, known as PONTIFICAL MISSIO SOSAYAMBI. It serves the eight dioceses that form the Sudan Catholic Bishops Conference (SCBC).

The whole Sudan is in transition from war to peace. The big challenge for all stakeholders in the Sudan is to make real the formula for peace and the New Sudan as provided for in the 2012 Comprehensive Peace Agreement. The SCBC contributes to the whole mission of rebuilding the Sudan and the Nuba Mountain Region.

As you know, for several years we have been in a war that caused our people to become very poor. We are serving the poorest people who have passed through many sufferings of war and, currently, severe drought that has left our people with great hunger. THE ONLY

major challenge our dioceses face is lack of food in our daily mission. I have received many letters from parish priests that appeal for food, especially in the dioceses in south Sudan. Priests are in need, and we have to support them so they may survive in their daily lives and mission.

We are all called to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This most important role continues to be fulfilled through our diocesan priests, the religious priests, sisters, and lay persons who are missionaries throughout the country. Our office needs your financial support since we are going through hard times to support our missionaries currently in our dioceses where 82% of the population are Muslim. Our priests need your support. Priests are walking more than twenty kilometers in the desert in their daily mission. Let us encourage them and give them hope as they are preaching the Good News.

1. Support our priests in their daily mission of serving these forgotten and poorest people in our country who have been going through war and hunger. As we all know, a mission priest will celebrate Mass for those who make an offering for themselves, or for their friends, or their family member, living or deceased. As the mission priest celebrates Mass for the intentions given by the donors, he unites them with himself and his congregation -- a clear sign of the universality of the Church! Your Mass Offering is a special help to a mission priest, poor himself and serving among the poorest of the human family. For many mission priests in Sudan, Mass Offerings are a substantial means of day-by-day support.
2. The drought which has caused lack of food in many countries in Africa has also hit Sudan especially southern Sudan. Priests, sisters, seminarians, and other vulnerable groups like children and the disabled are in need, too.

I ask you to offer what you can to these who serve others and currently are in desperate need. I believe you will respond positively to our needs and support us during this difficult time we are passing through. Your donation will help our poor priests who serve poor parishes in our conference.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop Akio Johnson Mutek
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Catholic Social Ministry Gathering

Save the dates: **Feb. 10-13, 2013**, in Washington, DC, for the next opportunity to learn and advocate on key policy issues with many of your peers in Catholic social ministry around the country!

CMSM and LCWR will host a joint session for any religious on Sunday, Feb. 10, 1-2:15 p.m.

Catholic Peacebuilding Network

Hold the Dates: April 11-12, 2013
The Catholic University of America

Conference on Pacem in Terris at 50

On April 11-12, 2013, the CPN and more than a dozen Catholic universities and agencies will sponsor a major conference on peace to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the encyclical, *Pacem in Terris*. In addition to commemorating the encyclical as a living document that remains fresh today, this conference is intended to contribute to animating peacebuilding as a priority for Catholics in the United States and to focus attention on ways in which Catholic perspectives on peacebuilding can contribute to the wider debate on the responsibilities and opportunities for peacebuilding in U.S. policy.

Subscribe to the [Catholic Peacebuilding Network E-letter](#).

Workshop on Peace Studies for Leaders of Catholic Universities in Africa

On June 18-23, 2012, in Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Fr. William Headley, CSSp (University of San Diego Kroc School of Peace Studies), Professor Laurie Johnston (Emmanuel College), and Professor Daniel Philpott (University of Notre Dame Kroc Institute) presented a workshop on teaching peace studies from a Catholic perspective and integrating peace and justice themes across the curriculum for the General Assembly of the Association of Catholic Universities and Institutes of Africa and Madagascar.

Check out the [outlines of the presentations and background materials](#).

JP Ministry Tip: Consistent Ethic of Life and Dignity

Sign up for the weekly e-letter called [Peace and Life Connections!](#)

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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This newsletter is sent to members and associate members of CMSM.

It is also sent to justice and peace directors of CMSM member organizations, and to others who have expressed an interest.

If you fall into the last category and no longer wish to receive this newsletter, send an e-mail to postmaster@cmsm.org and you will be removed from the list.