



# J/P ALERT

CONFERENCE OF MAJOR SUPERIORS OF MEN JUSTICE AND PEACE OFFICE



*December 2012* ([en español](#))

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## *Pope Benedict's World Day of Peace Message for January 1, 2013*

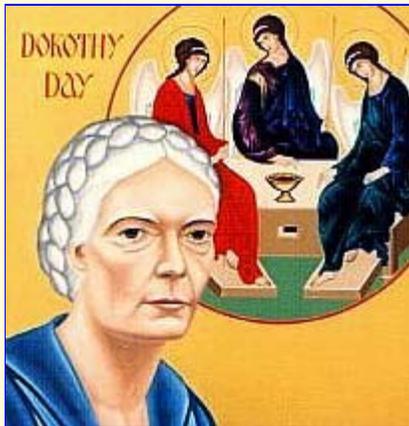
Below are some important quotes, and the message ends with a section on the Pedagogy of Peace.

"To become authentic peacemakers, it is fundamental to keep in mind our

transcendent dimension and to enter into constant dialogue with God, the Father of mercy, whereby we implore the redemption achieved for us by His only-begotten Son. In this way mankind can overcome that progressive dimming and rejection of peace which is sin in all its forms: selfishness and violence, greed and the will to power and dominion, intolerance, hatred and unjust structures" (Par. 3).

"Religious communities are involved in a special way in this immense task of education for peace. The Church believes that she shares in this great responsibility as part of the new evangelization, which is centered on conversion to the truth and love of Christ and, consequently, the spiritual and moral rebirth of individuals and societies. Encountering Jesus Christ shapes peacemakers, committing them to fellowship and to overcoming injustice" (Par. 6).

Read the [full text here](#).



## *Dorothy Day Endorsed for Sainthood*

At their November meeting, the US Catholic Bishops endorsed the [sainthood cause of Dorothy Day](#). This is a pretty amazing moment for the Reign of God and the practices of justice and peace that illuminate it! Let us celebrate, pray in thanksgiving, and have our hearts arise to the grace-filled adventure of our day. Dorothy Day is a great example of keeping justice and peace practices ingrained in mission. Read more [here](#).

## *Israel and Palestine*

Shortly after the UN General Assembly voted overwhelmingly on November 29 to upgrade the Palestinian mission to a "non-member observer state," Israel [announced plans for more settlement construction](#) in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Like many recent settlement expansions, there was widespread international condemnation; however, this move puts the Two-State Solution at serious risk.

Although, we had success in restraining the Senate from voting on amendments to cut aid to Palestine as punishment for their UN move, a recent letter by members of the



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Congress have arisen to close the PLO mission in DC, recall the U.S. Consul General, and cut funding to any other UN bodies that admit Palestine as a member.

**Action Alert:** We encourage you to ask your member of Congress not to sign this letter by [clicking here](#).

## *Global Poverty Action Alert*

These first grade children in a remote village in Mali, West Africa, are waiting on their one nutritious meal for the day made possible by U.S. poverty-focused international assistance. Rather than eating three days a week at school, as they did before this Catholic Relief Services-implemented program started, these children are now eating one meal five days a week. Since this program began overall school enrollment in their community increased by 8 percent for boys and by 16 percent for girls.

***For these children in Mali, cuts will cost lives***



*Photo by Elizabeth Whelan for CRS*

**Action Alert:** [Click here](#) to contact the President and your Congresspersons.

Watch the [new video](#) from Catholics Confront Global Poverty, "Cuts Costs Lives." Post the link on Facebook so you can share it with others and spread the word about the importance of lifesaving poverty-focused international assistance.

## *Killing of Children: People Using Guns and Drones*

My five-year old sleeps in his bed tonight as the deadening tragedy of children six and seven years old stuns our society. The tears pour out across our nation. The questions suffocate. The pattern of similar acts in our country calls our deepest selves to rise up. Some have rightfully called for more gun control, but how can our political leadership with integrity "control" guns while we use drones around the world killing children on a too regular basis? - read my [full reflection here](#).

The United States' secretive, CIA-run drone-strike policy has led to the deaths of 178

children in Pakistan and Yemen, according to data presented by the [Stanford International Human Rights & Conflict Resolution Clinic](#). Those 178 are part of at least 900 innocent civilians who have died from U.S. drone strikes. War Costs' latest video and related report, [Youth Disrupted](#), focuses on the tragic deaths of these children. Select the photo below to watch the video:



On the eve of President Obama's second term and a new Congress, we have an unprecedented opportunity to compel answers to much-needed questions about America's drone policy. Do these drone strikes make the United States any safer, as the government claims is the ultimate goal, or are they a prime recruitment tool that results in more militancy? What happens when the legal and ethical precedents set by U.S. drone strikes are followed by other countries? Is this a short-sighted policy that will have far-reaching effects in the longer term? Are the strikes legal according to American and international standards? What about the fear we cultivate in communities whom gaze up to hovering drones on a regular basis? Is this not a form of "terrorism"?

Read [Pax Christi International's statement on Drones](#)

Join others in calling for the U.S. House of Representatives to debate and pass this [congressional bill](#) that calls for more transparency regarding U.S. drone strike policy. Please [sign this petition](#) in this effort to compel more accountability for our government's actions.

***Beyond the direct violence perpetrated on children, let us also take seriously the cultural violence of surrounding them with violent toys which form their imagination for engaging conflict:***



CONTACT: NO WAR TOYS. 238 Harris Avenue, Needham, MA. 02192  
617-449-3890 or 617-444-6565

## *March for Life: January 25, 2013*

The annual March for Life is coming up next month! This is a great time to gather, pray, learn, and mobilize energies for illuminating the sacred dignity of all life. May we cultivate the ***virtue of hospitality*** that welcomes all life (innocent or guilty; young or old; familiar or stranger, etc.) into our midst just as we welcome the child Jesus this Christmas. The national [March for Life in Washington, DC](#), will be held on Friday, January 25, beginning at noon on the National Mall at 4th Street NW. In addition to the usual Masses at the Basilica of the National Shrine, the customary [youth rally will be held at the Verizon Center](#), while on the following day, Saturday, January 26, a symposium on the Right to Life will be held at Georgetown University's [Cardinal O'Connor Conference Center](#).

## *CSMG: Diversity Outreach Initiative*

Thank you to those who have been so supportive of the Diversity Outreach Initiative for the past few years! As many of you know, the [Catholic Social Ministry Gathering](#) (Feb. 10-13, 2013) has served as an avenue to increase diversity in the Church's mission through this important program. Scholarship funds are available to increase diversity at the Gathering. The Diversity Outreach Initiative enables us to invite the participation of Catholics from communities that at times are underrepresented.

In this Year of Faith, the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering continues to strive to serve as a **more credible witness** of the kind of community that we work to encourage in society at large. As you plan for the 2013 CSMG, please prayerfully consider how your organization can support this effort. Find out more about the [DOI](#).

## *Job Opportunities*

### *Director of Development*

The [Center of Concern](#) seeks an experienced Director of Development who will be responsible for all aspects of development and donor outreach, including direct mail appeals, major donor relations, foundation grants, planned giving, and memberships. He/she will work



closely with the Center President, COO, Program staff and Board. More information is [available online](#). Applications are to be submitted to [resumes@coc.org](mailto:resumes@coc.org).

Deadline: January 31, 2013.

## *Social Justice Organizer*

The [Sisters of Mercy of the Americas](#), a Roman Catholic religious order located in Silver Spring, MD, is seeking a full time Organizer as part of its three-person Social Justice Team. The primary focus of the Organizer is to prepare and mobilize Mercy members and partners in ministry to take action to build an effective movement for social change, promoting the Sisters of Mercy justice priorities.

Qualifications include: prior non-profit experience in organizing, coalition work and advocating for justice; working knowledge of Catholic Social Teaching, systemic change and policy advocacy; strong writing and public speaking skills; and capacity for collaboration. Spanish-language skills are helpful, not necessary. [More information](#).

Send cover letter and resume by December 31st to: [personnel@sistersofmercy.org](mailto:personnel@sistersofmercy.org).

## *Managing Director*

[NETWORK](#) seeks a talented Managing Director to run the day-to-day operations of the organization.

The Managing Director must have strong leadership and communication skills and experience addressing organizational challenges quickly and efficiently.



### **About NETWORK**

A Catholic leader in the global movement for justice and peace, NETWORK educates, lobbies, and organizes for economic and social transformation. NETWORK is a progressive voice within the Catholic community that has been influencing Congress in favor of peace and justice for more than 40 years. For more details on the job, [click here](#).

## *J/P Ministry Tip: Immigration Week 2013*

### *Participate in National Migration Week -- January 6-12*

There is increasing energy in Washington about immigration reform policy! So, it's that much more important to energize the grassroots to engage this issue. This year's observance of National Migration Week commemorates the 10th anniversary of the historic joint pastoral letter of the United States and Mexico bishop's conferences, "[Strangers No Longer](#)."

The theme of the 2013 commemoration, "We are Strangers No Longer: Our Journey of Hope Continues," is a reminder of the responsibility to welcome the stranger, help newcomers integrate in ways that are respectful, culturally sensitive, and responsive to social needs and of the obligation to advocate for comprehensive and compassionate immigration reform. [Planning resources are available here.](#)

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

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send an e-mail to [postmaster@cmsm.org](mailto:postmaster@cmsm.org) and you will be removed from the list.