



J/P ALERT

CONFERENCE OF MAJOR SUPERIORS OF MEN JUSTICE AND PEACE OFFICE



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Greetings

As the thaw of winter begins in some areas, we are invited into the possibilities of new life in the spring. Below you'll see recent advocacy success, a faith turn to expose money in politics, a campaign on nonviolence, and an Archbishop's call to halt

deportations. May your hearts be warmed for the gift of participating in God's transformative activity.

Advocacy Success

In late 2013, we worked with a coalition involved in sending out several action alerts urging members to contact Congress to support peacebuilding funding in three different areas: **Complex Crises Fund (CCF)**, **Conflict Stabilization Operations (CSO)** and the **U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP)**. Your efforts paid off! The thousands of messages and calls they received from us and other groups helped not only keep funding, it actually grew.

This is significant since many parts of the Federal Budget saw radical cuts this year, and the U.S. House of Representatives had been consistently voting to completely eliminate funding for these peacebuilding priorities. Thanks for all you did to help.

We received our full requested ask for CSO, bringing it up to \$45.2 million (up from \$27m in 2013), CCF received the full \$40m (up from \$36m in 2013) and there was also an additional \$6,016,000 for U.S. Institute of Peace, bringing their total up to \$37m. You can learn more [about these three agencies here](#).

CSO: \$45,200,000

USIP: \$37,000,000

CCF: \$40,000,000

We would of course like to see our nation invest much more broadly in peacebuilding work, and we have work to do in each of these agencies to get them even more focused on the more leading-edge peacebuilding work, but this is very encouraging news. Let's stay vigilant in our efforts.



Money in Politics

A coalition of religious advocacy groups is releasing 3 op-eds on how money too often distorts our political discourse and policy. The first one on the general issue is [here](#). The sign-on letter by religious groups is [here](#). Future op-eds will address specific issues such as how money impacts gun violence legislation and immigration reform.

Animation: Post to Facebook or Tweet about the article.

*Please use this tiny URL for tweeting: <http://bit.ly/1jHdrgO>

Income Inequality and Trade Policy

As Pope Francis illuminates the issue of income inequality, this article shows the problem with Obama's push for the latest "free trade" agreement, i.e. the Trans-Pacific Partnership and how it will increase income inequality. A similar agreement called NAFTA has been one of the major drivers of poverty in pockets of Latin America as well as migration into the U.S. from Latin American countries.

Read the article [here](#).



Campaign for Nonviolence

Join Franciscan Action Network, Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, Catholic Coalition on Climate Change, etc., in participating in the Campaign for Nonviolence! The campaign is a new, long-term movement to mainstream active nonviolence -- making nonviolence an obvious and natural way of living and of fostering a world that works for all.

Campaign Nonviolence invites all of us to:



- Practice active nonviolence toward ourselves, toward all others, and toward the world.
- Join in building a culture of active nonviolence through [education](#), training, and

organizing.

- Take nonviolent action together connecting the dots between peace, economic justice, and the environment.

***Sign up** for Mar./Apr. Regional Trainings in Chicago, Berkeley, or Cambridge [here!](#)

***Sign the pledge** as an individual and/or become an **organizational endorser** [here](#).

In 2014, Campaign Nonviolence will take nonviolent action -- nonviolent civil resistance, rallies, marches, interfaith services, or other forms of public peaceful witness -- **September 21-27, 2014**, in hundreds of cities, congressional districts, and Washington, DC.

Launched on the International Day of Peace, Campaign Nonviolence Week 2014 will **call for concrete policy shifts toward reversing the climate crisis, ending poverty and abolishing war, with a first focus on banning military drones**. Beyond 2014 Campaign Nonviolence will continue to build this people power movement for peace, economic justice, healing the planet, and for the well-being of all.

Peacebuilding in US Gov.

CMSM and other NGO's sent [this letter](#) to Assistant Secretary Rick Barton of the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations (CSO) within the U.S. Dept. of State. The subject is the expansion of peacebuilding expertise in the CSO.

We are calling for the CSO to gather and utilize experts in the following areas:

- **Restorative Justice Practitioners**
- **Civilian, Nonviolent Resistance Strategists**
- **Unarmed Civilian Peacekeeping Partners**
- **Civilian Harm Mitigation Experts**
- **Religious Facilitators**
- **Women, Youth, and Minority Leaders.**

Want to help increase peacebuilding in our foreign affairs? Please join us by [adding your name to our petition](#) to Secretary Barton, which will also be delivered to **Secretary John Kerry**.

Stop Deportations!



Archbishop José Gomez, chair of the USCCB's Committee on Migration, calls for **moratorium on deportations!** [Click here](#) for the article.

Sandra's Story:

Sandra Lopez, age 22, a lifelong Tucson resident who was brought to the U.S. as a three-week-old infant by her immigrant parents, is a graduate of Amphitheater High School in Tucson, where she was an honors student. She is one of the two million undocumented immigrants who were deported under the Obama Administration over the last five years, despite the fact that she would have been eligible for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status, a program that allows people who

were brought to the U.S. at a young age (called DREAMERS) to apply for work permits and a guarantee against deportation for two years.

Deported without any of her money, her cell phone or her personal belongings, Sandra spent five days living on the streets of Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, dodging sex traffickers and sleeping in a railroad car. When she asked a Mexican police officer for help in finding safe shelter, he also tried to recruit her for prostitution.

On her last day in Nogales, Sandra was accosted by an armed man who tried to drag her off the street. She ran up lanes of traffic at the U.S. DeConcini Port of Entry to ask for help from U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBE). They told her that an asylum officer would talk to her about what happened to her in Mexico. Instead, she found herself facing felony charges for illegal re-entry to the U.S. after a deportation. She was convicted of the felony and transferred to a private, for-profit federal prison in Florence, Arizona.

After spending four months in Florence, Sandra was transferred to the Eloy Detention Center in Arizona, where she spent the next two years fighting for asylum in the U.S. from within the privately-run, for-profit prison. She is sharing her story with the larger immigrant rights community so that people will know the stories of the 2 million immigrants, many of whom were brought to the U.S. as children and whose husbands, wives, children and extended families have lived in the U.S. and worked here for 20 or 30 years.

What we are seeing is the second generation of immigrants; only unlike our own ancestors, this second generation has no way to gain legal residency or citizenship under our broken immigration system today. More than 75 percent of the children of undocumented immigrants are U.S. citizens by birth, yet our immigration system has no provisions for any sort of "family unity waiver" to allow their undocumented parents to remain here to support and provide love and nurturing to their children, giving them a chance to build a brighter future without the threat of violence. More than 6,000 migrant men, women and children have died of exposure, severe dehydration, heat stroke and resulting liver and kidney damage while crossing the Arizona desert.

[Infographic on Deportations.](#)

Call the President to stop Deportations now! [Click here.](#)

Ecumenical Advocacy Days

March 21-24, 2014, National Gathering Jesus Weeps – Resisting Violence, Building Peace

EAD 2014 National Gathering in Washington, D.C. to focus on the ways various forms of and policies promoting violence can be transformed to policies which enable peace



**Friday, March 21 – Monday, March 24, 2014
Doubletree Hotel, Crystal City, Virginia | Washington, D.C.**

Come to the 12th annual Ecumenical Advocacy Days and join hundreds of other Christians in "**Resisting Violence, Building Peace.**" Guided by the image of Jesus weeping over a capital city that turned from the true way of peace (Luke 19:41-42), we will expose the violence that pervades our culture and world.

[Download](#) and share the EAD 2014 printed brochure (PDF).

**Dr. Maryann Cusimano Love & Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson
to Highlight 2014 National Gathering Policy Plenary**

As people of hope, we are consoled by the promise that "justice and peace shall embrace" (Psalm 85:10), and are reminded that **justice requires peace-making and that peace requires justice-making**. Through prayer, worship, speakers, and advocacy training we will discover a faith-based vision for national policies that "guide our feet into the path of peace" (Luke 1:79), all culminating with **Monday's Congressional Lobby Day** on Capitol Hill.

Registration: [click 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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