



# J/P ALERT

CONFERENCE OF MAJOR SUPERIORS OF MEN JUSTICE AND PEACE OFFICE



*January 2013* ([en español](#))

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## *Transforming Gun Violence*

In the U.S. we own about 90 guns per every 100 people. The next closest country is Yemen at about 60 guns per 100 people.

The epidemic of gun violence in the U.S. has

finally led to action as President Obama is now proposing stricter gun control measures, background checks, mental health resources, etc. The USCCB, CMSM, LCWR, and other [Catholic groups have signed](#) an interfaith letter to Congress calling for more stringent gun control laws as a first step toward transforming our culture. **We will need more** than this such as peace education in our schools, restorative justice programs in our schools/courts/families, ongoing nonviolent conflict intervention trainings in our communities, development of local peace teams to provide unarmed civilian peacekeeping.

**FAITHS UNITED TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE**  
*working together for safety and peace*

**Join a Faith Coalition:** Join the Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence coalition by [clicking here](#).

**Participate in the Feb. 4th National Call-In Day:**

**[Faiths Calling – Interfaith Call-in to Prevent Gun Violence](#)**

Ensure that the voice of faithful Americans rings throughout the halls of Congress. On February 4th, call your Senators and Representative and insist that they act to prevent gun violence. Consider mentioning the "more" items above and the [Youth Promise Act](#) as one way to get there in your call.

**Further Reading on Gun Violence:**

"[US preoccupation with guns is the enemy within](#)" by Sr. Joan Chittister OSB

"[Three Ways Sensible Gun Control Could Have Prevented Aurora Shootings](#)"

National Catholic Reporter Editorial explains how [gun control is a pro-life issue](#).

Boston researcher: [Public health strategies could help reduce gun violence](#)

*Global Poverty Webcast*

Please join Catholic Relief Services and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for an online *Catholics Confront Global Poverty* discussion: "New Year, New Congress and New Opportunities to Confront Global Poverty" Jan. 31, 2013, 1-2pm Est. [RSVP Now](#)

**Background:** "The world's 100 richest people earned a stunning total of \$240 billion in 2012 – enough money to end extreme poverty worldwide four times over, [Oxfam has revealed](#), adding that the global economic crisis is further enriching the super-rich."

As the 113th session of Congress begins, there is a great deal of work legislators must deal with right off the bat. The fiscal cliff still needs to be addressed, as well as finalizing fiscal year 2013 appropriations to keep the government running past the end of March. Negotiations for fiscal year 2014 appropriations follow quickly. We cannot forget that all of these issues will have enormous consequences on our brothers and sisters who are poor and marginalized. We must continue advocate on their behalf and urge our legislators to protect life-saving poverty-focused international assistance.

**Join us for:**

- An opportunity to hear about the Church's ongoing work to support programs that protect life and human dignity through advocacy, ask questions and engage in dialogue; and,
- Ideas on how Catholics in the United States, through the *Catholics Confront Global Poverty* initiative, can make a difference for our brothers and sisters living in poverty.

**For more information:**

- Watch the [Careless Cuts Cost Lives video](#) about poverty-focused international assistance.
- [Read](#) the latest news and letters from the International Justice and Peace Office, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.
- Learn about the [Catholics Confront Global Poverty](#) Initiative and how you [can join](#).

## *Immigration Reform*



Immigration reform has risen to the headlines recently and up the priority list for the President. Earlier this month, the JPIC Animators of the U.S. Franciscan provinces sent a letter to President Obama encouraging him to advance comprehensive immigration reform in his second term. Click [here for the letter](#).

With the Justice for Immigrants Campaign, CMSM is participating in many congressional visits over the next couple weeks to advocate for comprehensive immigration reform. Read and feel free to use these [talking points](#) that we will be drawing from.

Some key things to notice and challenge in the [political frameworks offered](#) so far by the Senate and the President are:

1. the exclusion of root causes policy,

2. the emphasis on perceived U.S. interest rather than at least equal if not more attention to those who are in urgent need, the human dignity of all people, and the common good,
3. the prioritizing of securing the border and it being done in a retributive justice framework rather than restorative justice, and
4. the perpetuation of the "brain-drain" from developing countries by making it easier for "skilled" workers to come to the U.S.

## *Torture: "Zero Dark Thirty?"*



*Zero Dark Thirty* is a critically acclaimed film nominated for many awards. Unfortunately, the filmmakers chose to imply – inaccurately – that torture led to critical intelligence in the hunt for Osama bin Laden. The movie opened in theaters nationwide on Friday, January 11, 2013.

Torture is immoral, illegal, and counterproductive. Read about how you can respond to this movie and get involved in the "[Fact Not Fiction](#)" campaign with the National Religious Coalition against Torture.

## *JP Ministry Tip: Care for Creation Lenten Program*



Lent begins early this year. Some Congregations are preparing materials to live it in harmony with creation. The Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus propose using ***Spirituality of Soil: A Lenten Journey from Cosmic Dust to Easter Garden***, a five-week program for groups or individuals. Grounded in Lenten themes, Scripture, and the Universe Story, participants will deepen their appreciation of Mother Earth and the gift of soil. Each week contains a closing activity and suggestions for earth-care action. Users can adapt the material in any way that will deepen

participants' consciousness of the interconnectedness of all lives and our part in co-creating a sustainable future. [This program is available free as a PDF document.](#)

## *Sign-ons*

Some of the recent letters and sign-ons CMSM has participated in include:

- [Letter to President on Israel and Palestine](#)
- [Letter to Ugandan religious and political reps](#) on proposed [Anti-Homosexuality Bill](#)
- [Letter to President on U.S. Militarism in Africa](#)

· *assists major superiors in their role as leaders;*

CMSM



- *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.*

8808 Cameron Street, Silver Spring, MD 20910-4152

Tel: 301-588-4030 • Fax: 301-587-4575 • [www.cmsm.org](http://www.cmsm.org)

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.

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