



# J/P ALERT

CONFERENCE OF MAJOR SUPERIORS OF MEN JUSTICE AND PEACE OFFICE



January 2014 (*en español*)

- [Israeli Settlements Alert](#)
- [MLK Day: Transformation at Gunpoint](#)
- [Gun Violence Sabbath](#)
- [Immigration: Bus Tour and Fast](#)
- [March for Life](#)
- [Pope Francis on Corporations](#)
- [Military Pay Spiraling Up](#)
- [Ecumenical Advocacy Days](#)
- [Human Trafficking](#)
- [Death Penalty Organizing](#)
- [Job Opportunity](#)

## Greetings

As the winter months cool us down, let us sense the warmth of God's Love for each of us. In this edition, you'll find an action alert on Israeli settlements, an invitation to participate in an immigration bus tour and Ecumenical Advocacy Days, along with information on the March for Life, human trafficking, poverty, and the death penalty. Spread our wings and lift our spirits, oh God of Promise.

## Israeli Settlements Alert

The U.S. State Department under the leadership of Secretary of State, John Kerry, is working with Israeli and Palestinian officials to develop a framework agreement for peace within the nine-month period set for negotiations that ends in April.



This month, **tell Congress to call for a complete halt to all settlement activity\*** as a show of support for a just and lasting peace for Israelis and Palestinians.

Organizations in the Faith Forum on Middle East Policy are sending out action alerts monthly, focusing on different issues so that members of Congress hear consistently that their constituents support a just and lasting resolution to the Palestinian and Israeli conflict. It is hoped that through a diversity and concentration of many voices, the message will be heard in Congress that U.S. citizens want justice and peace for all in the region.

Days after Secretary Kerry's latest visit to the region, Israel's Housing Ministry issued tenders for more than [1,800 housing units](#) in the West Bank, including East

Jerusalem. And according to the Israeli peace advocacy group, Peace Now, Israel has issued

tenders for [5,349 units](#) east of the 1967 borders since the negotiations started.

[Read this article](#) about the impact of the growing economic boycott and increasing attention by the Israeli Media.

**\*Contact your congressperson [here](#).**

## MLK Day: Transformation at Gunpoint

By *Eli S. McCarthy*

America Magazine Blog, Jan. 17, 2014

"As we once again come together as a nation to honor Dr. and Rev. Martin Luther King's recognition of Jesus' call to [nonviolent peacemaking](#), I offer this reflection on the Spirit-in-breaking story of Antoinette Tuff.

On August 21, 2013 a heavily armed young man broke into a

Georgia elementary school. The children and staff raced outside to avoid the potential shooting as the police and swat teams scrambled feverishly to surround the school. Meanwhile, Antoinette Tuff engaged, defused and offered love to the intruder, saving *everyone*, including the desperate young man, from harm."



[Click here](#) for the full article.

## Gun Violence Sabbath

You're invited to participate in an upcoming Gun Violence Prevention Sabbath Weekend between March 13-16, 2014. Places of worship across the nation are joining the [Washington National Cathedral](#) and [Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence](#), a coalition of 50 national denominations and faith-based organizations, to remember those who have lost their lives to gunfire, pray for those whose lives have been forever changed because of the loss of a loved one, and to continue the discussion on how communities of faith can work together to help reduce gun violence.

The weekend will include events from coast to coast, including a centerpiece kickoff event at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. on the evening of Thursday, March 13.

[Click here](#) for more details and to SIGN UP!

## Immigration: Bus Tour and Fast

### *The Next Phase!*

**Fast4Families:** A Call for Immigration Reform and Citizenship was a huge success in December. Your contribution made an enormous difference in bringing the faith presence and moral voice to this awesome cause. House Leadership is



now drafting immigration principles to orient upcoming legislation. Fast4families did not end on December 12th. As we begin the New Year Fast4families is

making a continued push for immigration reform. They are organizing the **Fast for Families Tour and Caravan: A Call for Immigration Reform and Citizenship**. The tour will stop in close to 130 cities nationwide. Those who led the DC fast for so long will be going city by city to focus on key House of Representatives' districts.

**Jan. 29th:** In-district activity will begin

**Feb. 24th-Apr. 9th** Bus tour from Los Angeles headed all the way to Washington DC with buses traveling two routes, North and South.

#### **Goals of Tour**

- To build on the momentum sparked by the Fast for Families;
- To increase the level of urgency to act to end the moral crisis created by our broken immigration system;
- To be visible in the districts of key Members of Congress so they see that immigration reform is about real people;
- To call to action our communities -- we pray, we fast, we act.
- To go deeper and engage more communities than have previously been engaged--recommitment to action

*\*They are determining how many people are willing to participate (e.g. fast, attend event, lead prayer service, etc.) and where they have numbers to hold events. If you are interested in participating, please [click here](#) and fill out the chart provided by Faith in Public Life. CMSM and LCWR are working with a Catholic coalition of groups, including the Jesuits and Franciscans, to organize the Catholic presence.*

## **March for Life**

The March for Life occurred Wednesday, January 22, 2014, in DC with a pretty large crowd, especially for the intense cold weather. Seán Cardinal O'Malley, OFM Cap., delivered a [powerful homily](#) at the Vigil Mass, January 21. At the march, there was some moving testimony by people who regretted their abortion experience. Some groups promoted the consistent ethic of life and dignity across various social issues. There was also some hopeful dialogue that eventually occurred between some in the march and some who were protesting the position on birth taken by those in the march. This year, I participated with the [DC Peace Team](#), which offered unarmed civilian peacekeeping to defuse hostility, cultivate empathy, and light up the dignity of all people.

Here is an [article](#) about some of the changes made this year at the rally.

## **Pope Francis on Corporations**

"Pope Francis and the Social Responsibility of Corporations"

By Seamus Finn, OMI

"The recent distraction about the purported "Marxist" beliefs of Pope Francis pronounced by people who have obviously not taken the time to read his recent exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, (The Joy of the Gospel) is just that, a distraction. And the labels of Socialism, Marxism, and Capitalism, employed to describe economic theories, rarely serve to educate or enlighten and are mostly just labels used to discredit and marginalize -- not to promote constructive conversation.

The real news, intentionally buried by this distraction, is that a growing portion of the business community acknowledges that their "social license to operate", their corporate charter and their commitment to "good citizenship" demands that they integrate the social values and policies that the Holy Father and others in the faith community espouse into their business models. This trend becomes immediately evident when one completes a quick scan of the number of companies and leaders who are actively promoting and measuring their social and environmental impacts. In 2012, for instance, more than 50% of S&P 500 companies published sustainability or corporate social responsibility reports."

Read the full article in the [Huffington Post](#).

## Military Pay Spiraling Up

"America's support for its military comes with a hefty and growing price tag: \$413 billion in 2013 pay and benefits for service members and retirees. That's about twice as much as in 2001. Even after adjusting for inflation, military pay and benefits are up 30 percent during the past 12 years." [Click here](#) for the full article.

## 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.**  
**Early [Registration](#) ends February 21, 2014!**

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:

- *Nearly 3,000 children in the U.S. killed by guns each year;*
- *A quarter of U.S. women experiencing domestic abuse at some point in their lives;*
- *A decade of war, nearly 1,000 civilians killed by drones, and Pentagon spending dominating our federal budget over poverty protections, healthy job creation, economic revitalization and true international human security;*
- *More than 45 million people worldwide uprooted from their homes by persecution and armed conflict; and*
- *Deadly conflicts over natural resources erupting around the world.*

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

### **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**. We will confront and imagine how to transform the violence in our world, and together will seek a vision of **peace in the community, peace among the peoples, peace in the marketplace**, and **peace with the earth**. 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.

[Read a comprehensive description](#) of EAD's 2014 National Gathering theme.

## *Human Trafficking*



The Vatican released this [statement on trafficking in human beings](#) (Nov. 2013). Please consider reflecting on it.

Nix Conference and Meeting Management is very excited to announce that they have started a new national initiative to fight sex trafficking. It is called the [Exchange Initiative](#). The first order of business for Exchange Initiative will be hosting the IGNITE Conference, Sparking Action Against Sex Trafficking at the St.

Louis Union Station Hotel, a DoubleTree by Hilton. The conference dates will be Sunday, March 2 – 4, 2014. They are encouraging all stakeholders to attend from across the nation.

They are engaging the following stakeholders to network and create action: Criminal Justice Professionals; First Responders; Corporations; Non-Profits and Faith-Based; Educational Administrators and Counselors.

Please find some helpful links below:

[Conference Information](#)

[Exhibitor Information](#)

[Sponsorship Information](#)

## **Death Penalty Organizing**

Catholic Mobilizing Network to End the Use of the Death Penalty...A sponsored ministry of the Congregation of St. Joseph and a lay collaborative of the USCCB, CMN works to educate Catholics about our Church's teachings on the death penalty and restorative justice. We have numerous resources, free and downloadable on our website, at [www.catholicismobilizing.org](http://www.catholicismobilizing.org), including Respect Life Month, Advent and Lenten materials, resources for teachers, youth ministers, lay leaders, clergy, social justice volunteers, and anyone interested in learning more about these important pro-life issues.

At present, CMN is working to identify consecrated religious across the country - in every state - who are working to end the use of the death penalty and/or are working to promote restorative justice (including reaching out in prison ministry). **Do you, or does someone in your religious community, work in advocacy or education in one of these social justice areas? If so, would you kindly provide the contact information for him/her so that CMN may reach out to offer help, and include him/her on our "mapping" of those consecrated religious active in these areas?**

Please send the information to <[sr.ilaria@catholicismobilizing.org](mailto:sr.ilaria@catholicismobilizing.org)> or <[cathy@catholicismobilizing.org](mailto:cathy@catholicismobilizing.org)>. Working collaboratively and magnifying the work is the key to making systemic change which is exciting.

## Job Opportunity

### *Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns (MOGC) Faith, Economy, Ecology (FEE) Project Coordinator*

**Summary of position responsibilities:** Responsible as part of a team for advocacy, collaboration, networking, communication, social analysis, research, policy formation and recommendations on assigned issues with a particular focus on MOGC's Faith, Economy, Ecology project. Write articles for *NewsNotes*, *World Watch*, [MOGC webpage](#) and other publications produced by MOGC or by Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Maryknoll Sisters and Maryknoll Lay Missioners as requested. Work with interns/volunteers assigned to issue area.

[Click here](#) for a full job description.

**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.*

[Eli McCarthy PhD](#), Justice and Peace Director

8808 Cameron Street, Silver Spring, MD 20910-4152

Tel: 301-588-4030 x236 • 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. If you fall into the last category and no longer wish to receive this newsletter, send an e-mail to [postmaster@cmsm.org](mailto:postmaster@cmsm.org) and you will be removed from the list.