March 2013

Pope Francis

"At the election I had the archbishop emeritus of Sao Paulo next to me. He is also prefect emeritus of the Congregation for the Clergy, Cardinal Claudio Hummes OFM: a dear, dear friend.

"When things were getting a little ‘dangerous’, he comforted me. And then, when the votes reached the two-thirds, there was the usual applause because the Pope had been elected. He hugged me and said: 'Do not forget the poor.' And that word stuck here [tapping his forehead]; the poor, the poor.

"Then, immediately in relation to the poor I thought of Francis of Assisi. Then I thought of war, while the voting continued, until all the votes [were counted]. And so the name came to my heart: Francis of Assisi. For me he is the man of poverty, the man of peace, the man who love and safeguards Creation. In this moment when our relationship with Creation is not so good -- right? -- He is the man who gives us this spirit of peace, the poor man.... Oh, how I wish for a Church that is poor and for the poor!" March 16, 2013.

Immigration: Key moments

We are entering a critical time for immigration reform. The word in DC is that the Senate Gang of 8 plans to introduce legislation around April 10-soon after the Easter recess. Our Senators and Representatives need to know that their constituents care deeply about compassionate
immigration reform that includes a commonsense path to citizenship, prioritizes family, addresses the root causes of illegal immigration and includes funding for integration of new Americans.

**Please call or email** your local congressional offices and **schedule appointments** to talk with your Senators and Representative while they're in your neighborhood. They'll be "home" and meeting with constituents from March 25-April 5.

The Interfaith Immigration Coalition Neighbor to Neighbor toolkit, [click here](#), has lots of helpful resources including: talking points, sample scripts, etc. You will find additional resources at Justice for Immigrants (JFI): [click here](#), including the ongoing post-card campaign if you haven't already used it.

Once you've completed your in-district visits, **please register your visits online here**. That will enable us to follow-up on your visits with staff in DC. I'd be most grateful if you would send me a quick email with information about your visit.

--- **Immigration March in DC**<br>**Wed. Apr. 10th: Save the Date!**<br>For more details and to register [click here](#). For a point of contact from the Interfaith Immigration Coalition, contact Noel Andersen at <<n andersen@churchworldservice.org>>.

--- **The Plight of Immigrant Workers**<br>**Sat. Apr. 20 in Chicago**<br>Br. Brian McLauchlin SVD and the Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants group invites you to attend a morning event with workshops from community leaders on engaging worker rights issues for immigrants in Chicago: for more details [download a PDF flyer and registration form](#).

--- **Immigration Advocacy Day**<br>**May 20-21 in DC**. The USCCB and CLINIC are also sponsoring an advocacy day in DC on immigration reform. For details and registration: [click here](#).

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**Federal Budget: Sequestration**

The sequestration went through on March 1. On the one hand we worked with interfaith coalitions on advocating for a "sequestration" level of Pentagon cuts, but on the other hand we were advocating for not cutting funds to those in urgent need. Nevertheless, some groups continue to profit while the poor face life-altering cuts.

*Wall Street making record profits:* [click here](#)

*Active duty military get pay raises:* [click here](#)

Some concerns about "job loss" have arisen for those working in industries supporting the Pentagon. Leaving aside the question whether these are healthy jobs to promote, as well as the striking wage gap between CEO's and average workers in these (and other) companies and the option of distributing the wages more equitably, and thus, not cutting jobs; there
are feasible ways such communities can transition. Click here for more details.

**Global Day of Action on Military Spending:** Monday, April 15, 2013. For more details click here.

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**Gun Violence**

The Senate is preparing to vote likely in mid to late April on the bills passed by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Our attention and engagement is very important at this stage. Read this article about our religious coalition activity.

Here is another example of recent actions on Gun Violence worth reflecting on: On March 18th, Occupy the NRA launched a long-term social action campaign to hold Wall Street firms accountable for their investments in gun manufacturers. The group plans to push these firms to divest their stocks from companies that manufacture guns.

Occupy the NRA will use direct actions against Blackstone, Cerberus & Owl Creek Asset Management (OCAM). The group selected these firms because they either own millions of dollars of holdings in gun manufacturers’ stock or bought stock as a direct result of the Sandy Hook massacre.

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**Climate Change Arguments**

Have you ever struggled at articulating arguments about climate change? Caring for God’s Creation is a basic response of love to what God loves. There are also other good reasons. Click here for a "cheat sheet."

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**Ecumenical Advocacy Days Conference**

**AT GOD’S TABLE:** Food Justice for a Healthy World

Join 1,000 Christian advocates at the 11th annual Ecumenical Advocacy Days to seek Food Justice for a Healthy World!

In a world that produces enough food for everyone, EAD will explore the injustices in global food systems that leave one billion people hungry, create food price shocks that destabilize communities everywhere, and undermine God’s creation.

At God’s Table, all are invited and fed, and the poorest in our midst are given a special place. Together we will seek the abundance and equality that we find reflected in the biblical image of God’s great banquet table (Exodus 16:16-18 & Luke 14:12-24). Inspiring speakers will offer a faith-based vision for fair and humane food policies and practices, along with grassroots advocacy training, all culminating with Monday’s Lobby Day on Capitol Hill. Click
**CMEP Advocacy Conference, May 20-21, 2013**

**Churches for Middle East Peace**

Secretary of State John Kerry and President Obama both visited the Holy Land in March 2013. We need to activate this political energy with peacemakers from across the United States by joining together at Catholic University in Washington, DC, May 20th and 21st, to pray and learn to advocate effectively for peace in the Holy Land at the annual Advocacy Conference.

Two hundred CMEP* advocates are expected to gather at the Edward J. Pryzbyla Center at Catholic University, Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church, and throughout Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. [Click here](#) for more details and to register.

*Another organization worth looking into that is working on this issue: [Friends of Sabeel](http://www.fosna.org).*

**Social Action Summer Institute**

**Many Borders, One Body in Christ**

June 16-20, 2013, University of Arizona, Tucson

Bishop Gerald Kicanas of the Diocese of Tucson and Archbishop Jose Ulises Macias of the Archdiocese of Hermosillo will take part as well as Rev. Daniel Groody, Kevin Appleby of USCCB, and Jeff Korgen who will focus on border push factors.

The Social Action Summer Institute 2013 is sponsored by the Roundtable Association of Catholic Diocesan Social Action Directors. For more information on the event, [download the PDF flyer](#) or contact Adam Brown at 202-635-2757 ext. 133 or [coordinator@catholicroundtable.org](mailto:coordinator@catholicroundtable.org).

**Director of the Office for Global Concerns**

**Maryknoll Fathers & Brothers * Maryknoll Lay Missioners * Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic**

Washington, D.C.

Job summary: The Director of Office for Global Concerns coordinates Maryknoll's work for peace, social justice and the integrity of creation.

Responsibilities include:

- Ensuring the implementation of mission statement and strategic plan.
- Supervising Maryknoll and salaried staff and managing staff evaluation process.
- Assuming ultimate responsibility for accountability to approved budget.
- Managing advocacy, collaboration, networking, communication, social analysis, resources, policy formulation and recommendations in one or more major issue areas.
- Representing Maryknoll on appropriate occasions related to peace, social justice and...
Maryknoll offers an outstanding work environment, opportunities for career development and competitive benefits. EOE. For more details on the job [click here](#).

Qualified candidates should forward their resume including published writing samples and salary requirements to:

Director Search  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns  
200 New York Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
Email: <ogc@maryknoll.org>  
Fax: 202-832-5195

Applications will be accepted until March 29, 2013.

**JP Ministry Tip: Parish Assessment Tools**

Parish Assessment and Analysis Tool: [click here](#)  
Justice and Peace-Social Ministry Parish Inventory Tool: [click here](#)  
Examining How Integrated Social Ministry is in the Parish: [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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