

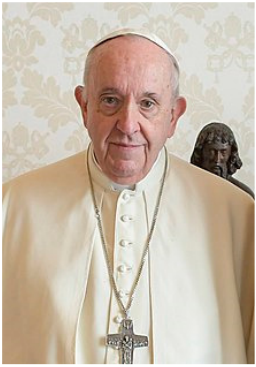
CATHOLIC WORLD LAST WEEK

(CWLW)

3-9 Oct 2022

3-10-22

'Allow your beauty to shine!': papal message to Ursuline Global Education Compact



(3-10-22) On September 30, the Vatican Press Office made public a papal message, dated September 21, to participants in the Ursuline Global Education Compact. The Ursulines are a women's teaching order founded by St. Angela Merici in 1535. Pope Francis first outlined his vision for a Global Compact on Education in a 2019 message.

"The first thing I wish to tell you, dear young people, is allow your beauty to shine!" the Pope wrote in his message. "True beauty, not like that of worldly fashion. In our society, suffocated by so much unpleasantness." "The second thing I wish to tell you concerns doing," he added. "The beauty that Jesus revealed to us is a splendor that communicates itself through action; a beauty that is embodied in order to be shared; a beauty that is not afraid of getting its hands dirty, of becoming disfigured in order to be

faithful to the love of which it is made."

Your mission also has a maternal aspect, Pope tells Thomas Aquinas fraternity

(3-10-22) On September 30, Pope Francis received members of the Fraternidad de Agrupaciones Santo Tomás de Aquino (Fraternity of St. Thomas Aquinas Groups). Founded in 1962, the Argentine Dominican youth organization attained Vatican recognition as an international association of the faithful in 1997.

"It is important that you remember that teaching is precisely one of the works of spiritual mercy," the Pope told members of the association. "Mary teaches us to be evangelizers of culture, youth, and families by bringing divine tenderness."

Pope names new members to commission for protection of minors

(3-10-22) Pope Francis has expanded the size of Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors from 17 to 20 members; 10 of the 20 members are new to the commission. Cardinal Seán O'Malley of Boston, 78, remains the commission's president.

Burkina Faso - Calm returns, the head of the military junta who was deposed leaves the country thanks to the mediation of religious leaders

(3-10-22) Church sources from the capital Ougadougou of Burkina Faso report that Lt. Col. Paul Henri Sandaogo Damiba who came to power in a coup in January, was ousted in a coup on September 30. On Oct. 2, he left for Togo, and Capt. Ibrahim Traore proclaimed himself the country's new leader. The situation in the capital Ougadougou seems to be relatively calm.

Cardinal Philippe Ouédraogo called in a statement on Oct. 2 for prayers as the best way out of the crisis. Cardinal Ouédraogo said the country was confronted with "murderous terrorism" that leaves in its wake bereaved families, with "many men, women and children being direct or collateral victims of this unjust and useless violence." Several people have been killed and thousands forced to flee from their homes since terrorists started attacking the country in 2015.

Ethiopia - "The voice of those who cry in the desert": bombing continues in Tigray and humanitarian aid is completely blocked, Media Blackout

(3-10-22) "The bombings that continue to hit northern Ethiopia are getting stronger, they are annihilating the civilian population. We cannot have data on the exact number of dead and injured due to the communication blockade, but we know that many localities are being affected". This was stated

to Agenzia Fides by a source from the Ethiopian Catholic Church who for security reasons remains anonymous. "The situation is dramatic: it is an unprecedented attack, moreover for three years Tigray has been without medicine, food, schools are closed".

"For eight months there has been no news of the Bishop of the Catholic Eparchy of Adigrat, Tesfaselassie Medhin, who is a diabetic. We know that Adigrat has been bombed in recent days by the Eritreans, like other villages in the Irob area. There are between 70 and 80 Catholic religious and about 30 nuns of whom we know nothing and whom we are unable to contact... Until some time ago, he had launched appeals with requests for help due to the terrible humanitarian situation of the population, but his letters were ignored, without any response, as if he were screaming in the desert". Meanwhile, (4-10-22) Ethiopia is turning into a world war in Africa, with tens of thousands of deaths in recent months, potentially unreported, while Tigray rebels fight against a coalition of armies and militias in a total media blackout.

There are no reports of the conflict after the Ethiopian government cut phone and internet lines in the Tigray region and almost completely blocked media access to hide the extent of the fighting. Most communication with the outside world now has to be done via satellite phones.

As the conflict intensifies in the northern region of the country, experts describe it as the "deadliest war in the world".

Sri Lanka - Church-State dialogue in the midst of the economic and political crisis

(3-10-22) The concerns of the Christian community, the ways to face the economic and political crisis, the contribution of religious communities, and of Christians in particular, to the common good, truth and justice: were the themes at the centre of the conversation that, on October 2, Harold Anthony Perera, Bishop of Kurunegala and President of the Bishops' Conference of Sri Lanka, held with the President of Sri Lanka, at the Bishop's residence in Kurunegala, capital of the homonymous northwestern province. After the meeting, the President and Bishop Perera said they had "a fruitful discussion", in the interest of the nation and the people of Sri Lanka, which is going through a very difficult phase in its history, marked by the economic and social crisis and the lack of basic necessities.



Indonesia - After the tragedy in Malang stadium, Catholics offer moral, material and spiritual support

(3-10-22) The day after the violence and the disaster in the stadium of Malang, in the eastern part of the island of Java, which caused 127 deaths (including a 5-year-old child), the Indonesian Catholic Church offers moral and material support, also to obtain justice, and gives spiritual comfort to the families of the victims. The tragedy was also remembered by Pope Francis after the Angelus on October 2, in St. Peter's Square.

Peru - Mining, with respect for Creation and human rights, builds progress and development not only economic

(3-10-22) Promote responsible practices that aim to care for the human person, correctly using natural resources, according to clear commitments of social responsibility and preferential option for the poor: this is in a few words the call of Archbishop Miguel Cabrejos Vidarte, President of the Peruvian Episcopal Conference (CEP) and the Latin American Episcopal Council (CELAM), in his speech delivered during the most important Mining Conference in Peru, called PERUMIN 2022, which took place in Arequipa from September 26 to 30 .

The Archbishop based his speech on the principles of the Social Doctrine of the Church and the Magisterium of the last Popes on the dignity of the human person, the common good, the universal

destination of goods, participation, solidarity, the option for the poor, gratuitousness and care for Creation. "All these aspects - he underlined - are interconnected, none is autonomous".

Christians split over Pakistan's transgender rights law

(3-10-22) Christians in Pakistan have mixed feelings about the raging opposition to a transgender rights law in the country after an amendment was proposed to help transgender people select their gender with medical help.

While Muslim groups have rejected the law, which allows a person to change one's gender and change the gender in government documents, some Christians reject the law as against God's will while there are others who welcome the law.

Franciscan Brother Khushi Lal, who has ministered to sex workers, particularly those from transgender communities for over three decades, had another opinion. Brother Lal said the nation can pass a law but the real challenge lies in implementing it in a conservative Muslim society, where minorities, religious or sexual, face regular discrimination. "The clergy is feeling insecure and cannot accept transgenders as equals," he said.

Filipino Catholics lobby for animal rights

(3-10-22) Members of the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and hundreds of pet lovers lobbied on Oct. 2 for animal rights after the blessing of pets in churches across the Philippines. PETA, the largest animal rights organization in the world with over nine million members, said Catholics must treat their pets as "members of their family," especially during natural disasters. The group's call came after hundreds of dogs and cats were swept away by flash floods during the onslaught of Typhoon Noru in Aurora and Bulacan provinces in Luzon region.

Pet owners and parishioners of Saint Francis parish in Quezon City also asked clergymen to bless their pets before the actual feast day of Saint Francis of Assisi on Oct. 4. Saint Francis is the patron saint of animal lovers and pet owners.



Timor-Leste nun honored with human rights award

(3-10-22) A Catholic nun in Timor-Leste has bagged a human rights award for her role during the nation's independence struggle and for her service to end violence against women and children and other marginalized groups.

Canossian Sister Guilhermina Marcal was honored with the 2022 Lusofonia Awards on Oct. 1. The award was started in 2017 and is given to people from the community of Portuguese language countries. The 64-year-old nun was the first recipient of this year's newly

introduced category of human rights, which she received in person at a ceremony held in Portugal. The committee said there is "no doubt" about the nun's humanitarian work since Timor-Leste was still under Indonesian occupation. Between 1986 and 1999, she experienced "being a witness, numerous situations in the bush, in the clandestine activities, before the Indonesian invader." "It was at this time that a strong linking activity developed between prisoners, either in Timorese territory or internationally. She was the carrier of clandestine communications and information between Dili and Jakarta, establishing contacts with the prison of Cipinang [Jakarta] and the political prisoners from Timor," it said. "[She] established contacts with Macau, Portugal and the Holy See. She was the carrier of letters addressed by the prisoners of Cipinang to Pope John Paul II," it said, underlining the nun's important role in efforts to end the bloody conflict in Timor and in the struggle for independence. The committee also described her work after the country's independence, in which she "deepened her apostolic actions and experiences and strengthened her international missionary contacts, becoming a moral reference for his country, before the whole world."

Pakistani Christians oppose politicization of their institutions

(3-10-22) Christian leaders have criticized Pakistani politicians for using Christian institutions as campaign platforms, saying it could lead to politicizing of the tiny Christian community in the country. In the latest incident of using a Christian institution, former Prime Minister Imran Khan's party held a political rally on Sept. 30 at Edwardes College of Peshawar, the oldest Christian college in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

There have been allegations that the provincial government, run by Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, pressured the college authorities to host Khan's gathering.

Vietnamese Catholics rush aid to victims of Typhoon Noru

(3-10-22) Catholics in Vietnam's central provinces have reached out with emergency aid to thousands of people, who are badly affected by flooding as tropical storm Typhoon Noru hit the Southeast Asian nation. The storm triggered heavy rainfall, causing landslides and flooding that killed at least eight people including a four-month-old baby, damaged tens of thousands of houses, and destroyed vast swathes of cropland in Nghe An province, state-run *Nghe An* newspaper reported.

Some 1,000 people from Ta Ca commune were still isolated by floods on Oct. 2.

Indian Church opposes top court's ruling on abortion

(3-10-22) Unmarried women in a consensual relationship are entitled to safe and legal abortions, according to a new ruling by India's Supreme Court that was swiftly opposed by the Church. The court on Sept. 29 also emphasized a women's right to bodily autonomy without the need for authorization from a third party to get an abortion.

The Church in India opposed the top court's elaborate 75-page order ruling that the exclusion of unmarried women who conceive out of a live-in relationship from the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Rules 2003 was unconstitutional.

The top court's order followed a petition seeking the inclusion of unmarried women within the ambit of Rule 3B of the MTP Rules amended in October 2021 for abortion between 20 and 24 weeks of gestation - including survivors of sexual assault or rape or incest, minors and women with a change in marital status during an ongoing pregnancy.

"The Supreme Court has upheld the individual bodily right of a woman to make decisions on her life and also of the unborn baby. It is likely to have adverse consequences in regards to the life of a fetus and its right to live," said Father Babu Joseph, former spokesperson of the Catholic Bishops Conference of India.

The Divine Word priest told UCA News on Sept. 30 that the Church has always upheld the right to live and promoted life as a sign of God's continued love for human beings.

4-10-22

Pope tells Vatican security to stay strong in mission of service, faith

(4-10-22) On the evening of October 1, Pope Francis celebrated Mass for the Gendarmerie Corps of Vatican City State. The Mass took place at the Lourdes Grotto in the Vatican Gardens.

Cautioning against lukewarmness, the Pope said, "If you don't revive your vocation, if you don't make it grow every day, that vocation of service, which is very beautiful, eventually — this is not a curse, no, it happens to everybody — eventually the things that don't grow become corrupted."

Witnesses in Vatican mega trial paint bleak picture of how Secretariat managed funds



(4-10-22) Following testimony from defence witnesses in the trial of Cardinal Angelo Becciu and nine other defendants, the Vatican financial trial has resumed with testimony from witnesses for the prosecution.

The RNS coverage summarizes testimony from Revisor General Alessandro Cassinis Righini, appointed by the Pope to oversee Vatican budgets; Nicola Squillace, an attorney charged with fraud, embezzlement and money laundering; and Roberto Lolato, an advisor to the prosecution on the London real estate deal at the center of the trial.

Pope warns Redemptorists against abandoning prayer and community life

(4-10-22) On October 1, Pope Francis addressed participants in the general chapter of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptorists), the religious institute founded by St. Alphonsus Liguori in 1732.

In “re-imagining and renewing the Congregation, three fundamental pillars must not be forgotten: the centrality of the mystery of Christ, community life and prayer,” the Pope said. “The abandonment of community life and prayer is the door to sterility in consecrated life, the death of the charism and closure towards the brothers.”

“Instead, docility to the Spirit of Christ pushes us to evangelize the poor, according to the announcement of the Redeemer in the synagogue of Nazareth (cf. Lk 4: 14-19), concretized in the congregation by St. Alphonsus Maria de ‘Liguori,” the Pope added.

Pope: May sport be home for all, open and welcoming

(4-10-22) On September 30, Pope Francis delivered an address to participants in the international summit “Sport for all: cohesive, accessible and tailored to each person.”

Russian Orthodox spokesman says dialogue with Rome nearly ‘frozen’

(4-10-22) The chief ecumenical official of the Russian Orthodox Church has told a Russian television audience that relations with the Holy See are “practically frozen.”

Metropolitan Anthony Sevryuk said that the prospects for a “summit meeting” between Moscow’s Patriarch Kirill and Pope Francis are bleak. He attributed the cooling in relations to statements “not only from the lips of the Pope, but also the great part of his aides,” condemning the Russian war in Ukraine and the support that the Moscow patriarchate has shown for that offensive.

Vatican cardinal, unwelcome in Germany, cancels visit

(4-10-22) Cardinal Kurt Koch, the president of the Dicastery for Christian Unity, cancelled plans for a visit to Germany, after the president of that country’s episcopal conference, Bishop Georg Bätzing, said that he would not be welcome because of his criticism of the German Synodal Path.

After Bishop Bätzing reiterated his complaint, organizers of an ecumenical conference at which Cardinal Koch had been scheduled to speak announced that the cardinal had withdrawn “for security reasons.” A local pastor reported threats of violence.



Vatican diplomat calls for enforcement of environmental laws, warns against drug legalization

(4-10-22) On October 3, Archbishop Gabriele Caccia, apostolic nuncio and Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations, addressed a UN committee meeting on criminal law.

“Crimes that affect the environment, although not always given due attention by law enforcement authorities, may cause enormous harm and exacerbate existing crises,” the diplomat said. “Unlawful deforestation, illegal mining, trafficking in wildlife and waste trafficking, and other environmental crimes, have a negative

impact.”

“While mindful of the serious concerns related to incarceration of users and petty traffickers, which

often are themselves the victims of drug trafficking networks, the Holy See is convinced that those issues can, should, and are already being addressed without legalizing drugs," he continued, as he turned to the topic of drug abuse. "Drug use is always destructive and cannot be eradicated without serious efforts made to condemn and prevent not only their use and sale, but also the so-called drug culture and its associated behaviors."

Archbishop Caccia also weighed in on efforts to combat cyber-crimes (such as child pornography and the financing of terrorism). He called for an international treaty that builds consensus on how best to combat these crimes, in a manner that respects "human dignity and universal human rights, including the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion."

Pastoral care of tourism moved to Dicastery for Evangelization

(4-10-22) In an Italian-language rescript, Pope Francis transferred responsibility for the pastoral care of tourism from the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development to the Dicastery for Evangelization.

Welcoming growth as world population hits 8 billion

(4-10-22) With the UN predicting that the world's population will hit 8 billion this month, William McGurn of the *Wall Street Journal* asks: "Are human beings good?"

If human life is a good thing, McGurn reasons, we should celebrate the growth of the species. Citing the work of the late Julian Simon, and a new book entitled *Superabundance*, he makes the case that population growth is not a danger but a blessing.

Cambodia - Missionary month, month of gratitude

(4-10-22) Bishop Olivier Schmitthaeusler (MEP), Apostolic Vicar of Phnom Penh, inaugurated on October 1, the feast of St Thérèse of Lisieux, patroness of the missions, the new Apostolic Prefect of Kampong Cham (in eastern Cambodia), Bishop Pierre Suon Hangly, the country's first indigenous bishop. Bishop Schmitthaeusler has organized a mass of thanksgiving which will be presided over by Bishop Ly in his native parish in the Vicariate of Phnom Penh.

Bishop Schmitthaeusler has said that October, the missionary month, is a month of gratitude for the special grace of God in the person of the new apostolic prefect.

Bolivia - The President of the Bishops' Conference: "We are building a world and also a country upside down"

(4-10-22) "We are building a world upside down and at the same time it seems that we are also building a country upside down, the innocent are condemned and the guilty manage to get free, in our country we do not see a firm decision for reform of justice": said Bishop Aurelio Pesoa, O.F.M. of the Apostolic Vicariate of Beni, President of the Bolivian Bishops' Conference, during the Mass celebrated on Sunday, October 2, in La Paz.

Bishop Pesoa stressed that there is no progress in the area of justice; In the country, dialogue, truth, solidarity, and compassion seem to be moving further and further away, and one has the impression that the bad guys are doing it right, and on many occasions they go unpunished.

However, again referring to the day's Gospel, he called for faith in God's providence.



Concerns over security of Sri Lanka's Cardinal Ranjith

(4-4-22) A Catholic parliamentarian, Kavinda Jayawardane, a Catholic, has expressed concern over the security cover provided to Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith amid claims of a renewed threat.

State Minister of Defence Premitha Bandara Tennakoon said he was not aware of any threat to the head of the nation's Catholic Church but assured to look into the matter in response to a question raised by the opposition in Parliament on Oct. 3

Church opposes gambling law in India's northeast state

(4-10-22) Christians have been at the forefront of opposing the promotion of gambling in the guise of providing a boost to tourism in the state of Meghalaya in northeast India.

The provincial government led by Chief Minister Conrad Sangma, who is himself a Christian, passed a new law in 2021 diluting many stringent provisions in the five-decade-old Meghalaya Prevention of Gambling Act, 1970. The Meghalaya Regulation of Gambling Act 2021 was aimed at introducing legalized gambling activities including casinos among other things to give a new lease of life to the tourism industry in the state, but the Sangma government has met with fierce opposition from different tribal groups in the state including Church groups.

Christian leaders say the new law will promote crime, drugs and other immoralities in the tribal Christian-dominated hill state.

Timorese bishops 'publicize' guidelines after Belo scandal

(4-10-22) Catholic bishops in Timor-Leste have made public the church's guidelines for the prevention and handling of sexual abuse cases of children and vulnerable adults, shortly after a media report accused Nobel-laureate Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo of abusing young boys.

Sources within the church told UCA News that the guidelines were approved by the Vatican last year, but until now have only been disseminated within the church circle in the Catholic-majority country.

UCA News obtained the 75-page document on Oct. 3. It was signed by Timorese Bishops' Conference (CET) President Bishop Dom Norberto do Amaral of Maliana, late Bishop of Basilio do Nascimento of Baucau and Cardinal Dom Virgílio do Carmo da Silva of Dili.

The document states that the Catholic Church unequivocally and clearly opposes the abuse of minors and vulnerable adults. The guidelines include, among other things, a form providing details that need to be reported in cases of clerical abuse. It is mandatory that the documentation relating to the case be sent to the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.



Vietnam Church pushes care for migrants

(4-10-22) Catholic priests from all dioceses in Vietnam attending a major national conference have been told to work together and prioritize care for migrant communities at home and abroad. More than 40 priests in charge of ministries for migrants in dioceses and for religious congregations attended the gathering at Nha Trang Bishop's House in Khanh Hoa province from Sept. 27-29.

Bishop Louis Nguyen Anh Tuan, head of the Vietnamese Bishops' Commission for Migrants, said all pastors should take

on the responsibility of accompanying and taking care of migrant workers and people on the move, especially vulnerable children and women.

Indian Church's bitter liturgical dispute deepens, protests reach the Vatican

(4-10-22) The Vatican-appointed administrator of Ernakulam-Angamaly archdiocese in India's Eastern-rite Syro-Malabar Church faced stiff opposition from priests and laypeople when he tried to introduce uniformity in celebrating Mass.

The Kerala-based Church's decades-old liturgical dispute took a dramatic turn as Archbishop Andrews Thazhath revoked the dispensation which so far allowed the priests to say Mass facing the people.

The archbishop attended a priests' council meeting on Sept. 30 and directed them to start offering Mass in keeping with the liturgical pattern approved by the 1999 bishops' synod requiring priests to face the altar against the congregation during the Eucharistic prayer to Communion.

Priests, however, refused to follow the directive saying the decision was taken without consultation with the clergy and laypeople of the archdiocese, a priest who attended the meeting told UCA News. Lay people gathered on the premises of the archbishop's house as the archbishop met the priests and explained the circular revoking the dispensation. As things appeared beyond control, police were called since there was fear that the archbishop could be attacked. The police advised him, for security reasons, to take a taxi to his Trichur archdiocese rather than use his official car.

Meanwhile, (5-10-22) close to 100 faithful including women from the Kerala-based Church tried to grab the pope's attention on Oct. 5 by displaying placards demanding to allow their priests to say Mass facing the congregation, rather than facing the altar. At least 48 of the protesters were on a pilgrimage to the Vatican while the rest were part of the Indian community in Italy.

"As he (Pope) moved on while accepting the salutations of the people, the Pope stood still for a second and noticed us holding the placards in silence," Josemon Kammattil, one of the protestors, who is based in Italy, said.

5-10-22

Know yourself, Pope urges faithful

(5-10-22) At his weekly public audience on October 5, Pope Francis said that knowledge of oneself is a key to discernment. Here is the summary of his talk.

In our continuing catechesis on spiritual discernment, we have considered the essential importance of growth in prayer. Today we consider, as a necessary complement to prayer, our need to grow in *self-knowledge*. Coming to know ourselves is not easy; it requires honesty and a patient descent into the depths of our heart. Self-knowledge is itself a fruit of God's grace, whereby we are led to abandon our illusions, to understand who we really are, and to embrace the things that can bring us genuine happiness. In effect, we learn the "passwords" that open the portal to our deepest self and the paths that can lead us to lasting spiritual joy and fulfilment, in obedience to God's gracious will. A great help to such prayerful insight into ourselves, and thus to authentic discernment, is the traditional practice of the nightly examination of conscience. Through daily prayer and self-knowledge, may we more readily discern the Lord's plan for our lives, and come to appreciate more fully our dignity and freedom as beloved children of our heavenly Father.



'Proclaim the Gospel of hope,' Pope tells Oblates of Mary Immaculate

(5-10-22) On October 3, Pope Francis addressed participants in the general chapter of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. St. Eugène de Mazenod founded the missionary institute in 1816.

"May your founder, the charism he transmitted to you, and his missionary vision be and remain points of reference for your life and your work; to stay rooted in your missionary vocation, above all by living the testament of your founder, in mutual love among yourselves and in zeal for the salvation of souls," the Pope said in his address. "It is the heart of your mission and the secret of your life, and this is why the Church still needs you."

Pope recognizes 'countless acts of kindness and charity' of Stella Maris, Apostleship of the Sea

(5-10-22) In a message to participants in the 25th World Congress of Stella Maris (the Apostleship of the Sea), Pope Francis expressed his hope that "Stella Maris will never waver in drawing attention to the issues which deprive many within the maritime community of their God-given human dignity."

Some maritime workers, the Pope said, "continue to suffer from a variety of unjust working conditions and other deprivations, aggravated not least by the effects of climate change. Moreover, damage to marine environments, as to others, disproportionately affects the poorest and most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters, whose very livelihoods are even threatened with extinction."

Papal nuncio asks Timorese to accept discipline of Nobel-laureate bishop

(5-10-22) The Vatican's representative in East Timor has urged the country's Catholics to accept the disciplinary penalties imposed on Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo because of his "serious crimes" of sexual abuse.

Msgr Macro Sprizzi, an official of the apostolic nunciature in East Timor, said that the Vatican's actions reflected the fact that Bishop Belo, had been tried and found guilty of abuse charges. Bishop Belo, who won the Nobel Peace Prize for his defence of human rights in East Timor, has been ordered by the Vatican not to return to the country.

Pope Francis YouTube documentary launches from Vatican City

(5-10-22) On October 4, the global premiere of *The Letter*, a film featuring Pope Francis, took place at the Vatican.

"The Letter"—a reference to the encyclical *Laudato si'*—includes conversations between Pope Francis and an Amazon tribal chief, a climate activist from India, a climate refugee from Senegal, and two US scientists. The film, directed by Nicholas Brown, is a YouTube Original documentary.

Strife in Cameroon has become 'a question of money,' bishops' spokesman says

(5-10-22) The violent conflict launched by separatists in Cameroon, which has caused at least 4,000 deaths in the past several years, has now become a question of money, according to Father Humphrey Tatah Mbuy, a spokesman for the country's episcopal conference.

He explained that guerrilla now frequently seize hostages and demand ransom, and "it is very difficult to separate a person from his source of income, even if that source is human blood." The separatists are not alone in kidnapping for profit, he said; government troops have been guilty of the same practice.



Pakistani Christians protest rape, abduction, forced conversion of teenage girl

(5-10-22) Christians in Pakistan are calling attention to the case of a 15-year-old Christian girl who was kidnapped, raped, and forced to marry her assailant and convert to Islam, as they plead for government action to prevent such violations.

The girl, identified as "Saba," was able eventually to escape from her captor. But her case illustrates the danger to young Christian women who are wanted by Muslims as wives.

Kidnapping, followed by forced marriage and conversion to Islam, rarely results in criminal penalties.

Zelensky advisor meets Pope

(5-10-22) Alona Verbytska, plenipotentiary advisor to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, met recently with Pope Francis. Neither the Vatican press office nor the Ukrainian government released a statement on the details of the meeting.

Bahrain papal visit furthers outreach to Muslim world, bishop says

(5-10-22) The Pope's upcoming visit to Bahrain "is like a dream come true," said Bishop Paul Hinder, and the announcement "has caused great excitement, not only among the Catholics, but even among people of other faiths who live in the small island nation."

Blessed Sacrament found intact in tabernacle of church burned by armed men in Cameroon

(5-10-22) St. Mary's Catholic Church in Nchang, a village in Cameroon, was burned down in a recent attack. Bishop Aloysius Fondong of Mamfé found the Blessed Sacrament intact when he went to the site and opened the tabernacle.

Italy - An academic conference on Mary Mother of God brings together Russian and Ukrainian scholars in Milan

(5-10-22) While in the heart of Europe death and destruction continue to be sown among peoples united by the same faith in Christ, in Milan a study conference dedicated to His Mother, the Virgin Mary, will see the participation of speakers and scholars from Slavic and Western European countries, including Russia and Ukraine.

The symposium is entitled 'The Mother of God in Slavic cultures', and will be held from October 6 to 8, at the initiative of the Slavistics class of the Ambrosian Academy of Milan, which thus celebrates its eleventh Dies academicus.

Niger - The difficult testimony of missionaries in the Sahel

(5-10-22) For just over ten years the population of the Sahel has been living in an extremely delicate situation due to the presence of radical movements close to Al Qaeda that have created great insecurity and fear throughout the area. There are currently several hundred thousand displaced people in Niger who have had to leave their homes, fields and villages to take refuge in the slums of various cities. Fear and distrust have appeared in society and there is great uncertainty among the small Christian communities in this Muslim country.

The missionaries cannot enter the city for security reasons, visit the scattered Christian communities, which began their journey a few years ago and of which nothing is known, if they continue to meet, if they pray, if they are still alive. "We Western missionaries cannot leave the countries in which we live without being accompanied by an escort of armed police in their cars, without any discretion," says Father Rafael Casamayor, a priest of the African Mission Society, from Dosso.

China - "Lord, it is good that we are here". The "Feast of the Elderly" celebrated in Chinese Catholic churches

(5-10-22) "Lord, it is good that we are here!" (Mt 17.4): with this motto, taken from the Gospel account of the Transfiguration of the Lord, the Catholic cathedral in Beijing, dedicated to the Holy Saviour, hosted on October 4, the celebration of the "Feast of the Elderly". The feast provided an opportunity to celebrate the beauty of the bond of love that united so many elderly people to Jesus during the long years of their lives. By a happy coincidence, the feast that Chinese tradition dedicates to the elderly, established from year to year following the lunar calendar, this year coincided with the day on which the Catholic Church celebrates the liturgical memory of Saint Francis of Assisi. A large group of elderly people who during their long life have generously dedicated their energies to witnessing faith in Jesus to the younger generations and to supporting ecclesial works, took part in the Eucharistic celebration, during which the sacrament of the anointing was also administered.



Syria - The rebirth of the Mar Elian Monastery. A Christian story

(5-10-22) In August 2015, when the black flags of the Caliphate flew over much of Syria, the militiamen of the self-proclaimed Islamic State sowed ruin and devastation in the ancient Syrian monastery of Mar Elian. The jihadists of Daesh had brutally desecrated the same tomb of the Saint, as if they wanted to erase what they had also recognized as the beating heart of the monastic complex.

Today, seven years later, the lives, expectations and gratitude of Christians in the region are once again gathering around the relics of Mar Elian. A miracle can be glimpsed that will allow a place of prayer and peace to flourish again around the relics of the Saint for Syrian Christians, but also for their Muslim compatriots.

Today, as the community of Deir Mar Musa has regained control of the monastic complex devastated by the jihadists, Father Jacques Mourad, a Syrian monk from Deir Mar Musa, kidnapped on 21 May

2015 by a jihadist commando, recounts the intense work accomplished in recent months in the hope of seeing Mar Elia flourish again.

India's Hindu nationalists disrupt Catholic youth meet

(5-10-22) In the latest attack on Christians in central India, suspected Hindu groups stopped a Catholic youth programme, accusing the Church of trying to forcibly convert gullible tribal people in the Khandwa area of Madhya Pradesh state.

The intimidatory tactics forced the Khandwa diocese to cancel the Oct. 3-5 convention of some 200 Catholic youth it had planned inside one of the diocesan schools that were closed because of the popular Hindu *Dussehra* festival, said Father Jayan Alex, diocesan public relation officer. "As our young people started to arrive in vehicles at St. Pious School from different parts of the diocese, a group of young people blocked their vehicle. They alleged that the youths were being brought there for religious conversion," Father Alex told UCA News on Oct. 5.

The Hindu activists believed to be members of the hardline Vishwa Hindu Parishad or World Council of Hindus, and its militant youth wing, Bajrang Dal, also called in the police and sought action against Church authorities for violating the provision of a state law that prohibits conversion by fraud or allurement.

Father Alex said police promptly arrived and took statements from the 200 youth present on the campus seeking to know who they are and why they came to the school campus. The Hindu activists dispersed only after the police assured them that a complaint has been registered and investigations will be conducted.

A police officer, who is part of the team probing the case, however, told UCA News on condition of anonymity that the conversion charge would not stand. "All the young people present there were Catholics. There wasn't a single person from any other religion," he said. Father Alex said the Church officials are not worried about the case. "We are more worried about how such events tarnish the image of the Church. Our program was disrupted. It gives an impression that the Church is bent on violating laws and fraudulently converting the poor," he said. "Besides incurring financial loss to the diocese, it also creates an impression that Christians are incapable and weak," he added.



Removing Satan from Pakistan parishioners' pockets

(5-10-22) The colourful posters advertising the annual Marian pilgrimage are plastered across Tera village in Pakistan, but they come with an unusual prohibition. "Photographing or videotaping on mobile phones is prohibited. We are all obliged to respect the holy venue. The incoming guests for pilgrimage are requested to observe the SOPs [standard operating procedures]," state notices said.

The prohibition on mobile phones aims to keep people away from distractions. It also wants to avoid photos of

young women being recklessly circulated on social media in the Muslim-majority country where young Catholic women are frequently kidnapped, and forcefully converted to marry Muslims.

The coronation of a Marian statue by young girls is the main attraction of Marian fests, such as the one on Oct. 1 at Saint Mother Teresa Church Tera village in Punjab province.

Hundreds of parishes across Pakistan hold such coronations during October, the month dedicated to Mary and the rosary in the Church calendar. Pre-teen Catholics, dressed as brides, walk gracefully towards the grotto or stage holding a gold or silver crown and place it on the Marian statue amid applause and cheers. These girls, referred to as queens, are usually chosen from a rosary group or Sunday school through a lucky draw. Two children, dressed as angels, help them in holding the crown tray.

Vatican urges Timorese Catholics to accept decision on Belo

(5-10-22) The Vatican representative in Timor-Leste has urged Catholics to respect the sanctions that have been imposed on Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo for “the serious crimes” he has committed and asked them to maintain loyalty to the Church amid heated debates over the issue.

Bishop Belo's case is no longer just an accusation, but it has been decided, Monsignor Marco Sprizzi, charge d'affaires of Apostolic Nunciature in Dili, said in an interview broadcast on the state television RTTL on Oct. 4.

Indonesian Catholics raise funds for Sister Cargo's shelter

(5-10-22) Catholic groups in Indonesia have raised more than 1.2 billion rupiah (US\$80,000) to help renovate a shelter managed by the Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence for victims of human trafficking in the country's East Nusa Tenggara province.

The funds raised by the Community of Cana Marian Grotto and Sahabat Insan, consisting of Catholics, Buddhists, Muslims, Protestants, as well as followers of other religions, through the fourth charity golf tournament in North Jakarta were handed on Oct. 4 over to Sister Laurentina Suharsih.

The nun said the funds will be utilized to renovate the shelter in November to enable the accommodation of 10 more victims.

Sister Laurentina is better known as ‘Sister Cargo’ for helping repatriate hundreds of corpses of illegal Indonesian migrant workers mostly from Malaysia since 2017 when she was sent by the Congregation to help victims of human trafficking.



6-10-22

In historic first, Pope Francis approves an ‘ecclesial conference’ instead of bishops’ conference

(6-10-22) The newly approved Ecclesial Conference of the Amazon (CEAMA) “involves bishops, priests, women and men religious and the lay faithful from the nine countries of the Amazon region,” said Peruvian Cardinal Pedro Barreto, SJ.

“It is the first of its kind in the history of the Church,” said the cardinal, who predicted that “bishops’ conferences will have to transform themselves into ecclesial conferences,” which he sees as “centred on the people of God in accordance with the Second Vatican Council.”

CEAMA is “discussing the question of ministries...their service in the Church and, more specifically, the ministry of women and the service women are already giving in Amazonia,” he continued. “Inside Amazonia, but also outside the region, women religious celebrate baptisms, weddings, liturgies and some even hear confessions for people who confide personal problems to them although they cannot give [sacramental] absolution.”

Pope addresses Vatican conference on holiness, saints

(6-10-22) Speaking on October 6 to participants in a conference organized by the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints, Pope Francis said that holiness “is not a program of effort and renunciation,” but rather “first and foremost the experience of being loved by God—of receiving his love, his mercy, freely given.”

The Pope spoke about how the faithful recognize the virtues of saints, and their acclaim—as well as miracles attributed to the intercession of candidates for canonization—confirm the Church’s judgment of their holiness. The Pontiff added that one characteristic of saints is a sense of humour. “A sad saint is a poor saint,” he said.

Pope, in video, comments on synodality

(6-10-22) The October papal prayer intention is “we pray for the Church; ever faithful to, and courageous in preaching the Gospel, may the Church be a community of solidarity, fraternity and welcome, always living in an atmosphere of synodality.”

“What does it mean ‘to synod’?” Pope Francis asked in the video that accompanies the intention. “It means walking together: syn-od. This is what it means in Greek: ‘to walk together’ and to walk on the same road.”

“And this is what God expects of the Church of the third millennium –that it regain its awareness of being a people on the road and of having to travel together,” he continued. “A Church with this synodal style is a Church that listens, that knows that listening is more than just hearing. It means listening to each other in our diversity and opening doors to those outside the Church.”

“It’s not about gathering opinions, nor holding a parliament,” he added. “The synod isn’t a survey; it’s about listening to the protagonist, the Holy Spirit. It’s about praying. Without prayer, there will be no Synod.”

Opus Dei calls special meeting to adapt to Pope’s directives

(6-10-22) The prelate of Opus Dei has announced a general congress of the group, to take place early in 2023, to adapt the statutes of the prelature so that they conform to the standards set by Pope Francis in his *motu proprio Ad Charisma Tuendum*.

Msgr. Fernando Ocariz emphasized that the extraordinary meeting would not be normal planning session for Opus Dei; it will be devoted to “complying with what the Holy See has indicated, not of proposing any change that might seem interesting to us.”



Holy See diplomat: All of society is harmed when women’s dignity is not respected

(6-10-22) Msgr. Janusz S. Urbanczyk, the Permanent Representative of the Holy See to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), made his remarks at the OSCE’s Warsaw Human Dimension Conference.

Extreme hurricanes show time of climate change denial is over, Vatican cardinal says

(6-10-22) “The environmental crisis of our common home has worsened drastically” since *Laudato si’* was released in 2015, Jesuit Cardinal Michael Czerny, prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, said at a press conference on a papal YouTube documentary.

“The time is over for speculation, for skepticism and denial, for irresponsible populism,” Cardinal Czerny added. “Apocalyptic floods, mega-droughts, disastrous heatwaves, and catastrophic cyclones and hurricanes have become the new normal in recent years; they continue today; tomorrow, they will get worse.”

Bishop reports massacre of Christians in Mozambique

(6-10-22) Bishop Alberto Vera Aréjula of Nacala, Mozambique, has revealed that Islamic terrorists killed eleven Christians in a September massacre.

The bishop reports that men disguised as members of the military rounded up a group of people, identified the Christians in the group, and slit their throats. One Christian escaped and reported the massacre.

Man topples ancient Roman busts in Vatican museums

(6-10-22) Two busts in the Chiaramonti Museum were “damaged but not severely,” an anonymous source told Reuters. Police have taken a suspect into custody.

Iceland - The contribution of the Catholic dioceses of the countries of Northern Europe to mission and young Churches

(6-10-22) Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, in a word *Missio Nordica* - the “unitary direction” of the Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS) present in those countries - met for the first time at

a regional level in Iceland, a country with a suggestive missionary history, where about 15 thousand Catholics live today. It was an unprecedented meeting, where the diocesan directors of Missio Nordica were able to meet in person on the theme of mission and on how to collaborate to proclaim the Gospel together in their lands and to support the work of younger Churches. The meeting was hosted by the bishop of Reykjavik, David Tencer OFM Cap, who was present throughout the meeting with the national director of Missio Nordica, Ivan Sovic.

Ethiopia - Peace talks in South Africa for the largest ongoing war on our planet right now

(6-10-22) While the death toll of the drone attack against internally displaced people in Adi Daero, in western Tigray, registered on October 4, 2022, continues to increase, the president of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki, has addressed an invitation to the representatives of the Ethiopian federal government and to the separatists of the Tigray region for a peace meeting convened in South Africa on Sunday, October 8, 2022.

DR Congo - The UN prepares to invade eastern DRC, ceding ground to African initiatives

(6-10-22) "We are ready and willing to withdraw". Thus, the head of the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO), Bintou Keita, affirmed to the United Nations Security Council his willingness to work closely with the government of Kinshasa to accelerate the pace of the withdrawal of the UN force composed of 14,000 soldiers and policemen, deployed in the east of the DRC. The decision, Keita specified, was determined by the worsening of the "crisis of confidence" towards MONUSCO by the local population, especially after the reappearance of the M23 rebel group in recent months.

Bangladesh - With the sacrament of Confirmation, 224 young people are "missionaries of the Gospel"

(6-10-22) In Dhaka 224 adolescents and young people have received the sacrament of Confirmation and have declared themselves ready to proclaim God's love in the family and society. In the celebration that took place a few days ago in Dhaka in the parish of Tejgaon, one of the largest in all of Bangladesh, with more than 12,000 Catholics, the Archbishop of Dhaka, Bejoy N'D Cruze, OMI, celebrated the solemn Eucharist in the presence of an assembly of more than 1,500 faithful.



Venezuela - Month of the Bible: walking together on the rock of the Word of God to announce the love of Jesus

(6-10-22) According to a very ancient tradition, in Venezuela the month of October has always been dedicated to reflecting with greater attention on the centrality of the Word of God in the life of every Christian and in evangelization. The Venezuelan Church also celebrated in July its second National Pastoral Assembly on the theme "A missionary parish that goes forth for the new times", and Pope Francis has asked the universal Church to reflect on the theme of synodality. For these reasons, the motto chosen for this month of October is "Let's walk together in the parish community with the Word of God". "This Month of the Bible must induce us to leave, to walk together, leaving everything else behind" is written in the handout prepared for this circumstance. A number of activities are proposed.

IDPs fear forced return under Myanmar's junta

(6-10-22) Christians are among the thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Myanmar's Shan state who fear being forced by the military junta to return from the camps to their homes amid a worsening conflict.

Local authorities met committees of various IDP camps in the region and reportedly ordered the people to return home by the end of October, according to local sources.

Swiss Cardinal Kurt Koch apologizes for Nazi reference

(6-10-22) In a meeting in Rome on Oct.4 with Bishop Georg Bätzing, the president of the German bishops' conference, Swiss Cardinal Kurt Koch apologized for offending people and said he never intended to imply that supporters of the German church's Synodal Path were doing something similar to what a group of Christian supporters of the Nazis did in the 1930s.

7-10-22

Pope Francis meets Methodist-Catholic dialogue team

(7-10-22) On October 5, Pope Francis received members of the Methodist-Roman Catholic International Commission.

The Pontiff, according to the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity, “reflected on the parable of the prodigal son, underlining ... that both Catholics and Methodists are ‘sons’ who, by sin, have wandered from the Father’s house, and who both need to return to the Father to find unity in faith and sacramental life.”

Papal telegram following Thai mass murder

(7-10-22) Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Holy See’s Secretary of State, has sent a telegram of condolence in the Holy Father’s name following the Nong Bua Lamphu attack, which left 38 dead. The telegram deplored the attack, which took place at a childcare center, as “an act of unspeakable violence against children.”

Ukrainian Catholic leader deploras Russian annexation of territory

(7-10-22) Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk, the head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, described the Russian annexation of four Ukrainian regions as “an unprecedented event in the history of modern mankind—shameless theft at the state level.”

The Major Archbishop continued, “The Lord God commanded man: ‘do not steal! When theft becomes the policy of some state, moreover, it is presented as a great victory. Such a state and such a policy, according to the words of Saint Pope John Paul II, become structures of sin.”

Pope’s Bahrain trip blends Muslim outreach, Catholic ministry

(7-10-22) The Vatican has released the program for the Pope’s four-day apostolic journey to Bahrain, which begins on November 3. The nation of 1.5 million, located in the Persian Gulf, is 81% Muslim, 12% Christian, and 6% Hindu. Islam is the state religion.



Priest describes Iran’s ‘continuous bombardment’ of Iraqi Kurdistan

(7-10-22) Since the death of a young woman, Mahsa Amini, in Iranian police custody, Iran has “continuously bombed” Iraqi Kurdistan, according to Father Samir Youssef, a parish priest there. Many Iranian dissidents have fled to Iraqi Kurdistan, as have Iraqi Christians, especially during the ISIS conquest and rule of parts of Iraq (2014-17).

South Sudan - Vocation is a mystery: sharing the Word of God with those who have never heard it

(7-10-22) Simplicity and kindness, a sense of belonging and above all, the way of welcoming people, listening to them and trusting them are some of the characteristics that inspired a young missionary to join the Comboni.

Tap Simon Yomkuey is a Comboni missionary from South Sudan who made his first religious vows on May 23, 2020. “Why did I decide to become a Comboni Missionary? A vocation is a mystery”, he said. “I always perceived from the Comboni Missionaries that I met in my parish in Bahry, an element of equality, no one considered themselves greater than the others, and this motivated me to join them.

My dream is to share the Word of God with those who have not yet had the opportunity to hear it. Reach out to those who are abandoned and disowned, such as those living in slums. We must help them resolve their condition of abandonment and confront those who seek to isolate them from society. People must understand that we are all the same, although with different talents. The only difference is how we use them. Those who consider themselves superior to others must understand that God is behind their success".

Nigeria - The remaining 23 hostages of the Abuja-Kaduna train attack released after more than 6 months

(7-10-22) The remaining 23 people who were still held by the terrorists who attacked the Abuja-Kaduna train on March 28 have been released. This was stated by Nigerian authorities, according to which the hostages were released on October 5, thanks to an unspecified "military operation". A spokesperson for the families of the victims of the train attack said they had not paid any ransom for the release of their loved ones.

According to the local press, nine passengers were killed in the attack on the Abuja-Kaduna train while at least 168 people were reported missing. Of them, 63 were officially declared kidnapped by the attackers.

Prior to the release of the remaining 23 hostages, some forty hostages were released in groups, some after the payment of a ransom amounting to hundreds of millions of Naira.

Hundreds flee as Philippine army fights Communists

(7-10-22) Hundreds of villagers have fled their homes in two provinces in the Visayas region of the Philippines as deadly clashes erupted between the military and Communist rebels.

The rebels from New People's Army (NPA), the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines and military forces have started exchanging fires in the provinces of Negros Occidental and Samar on Oct. 6, security officials said.

At least two soldiers were killed and another two wounded in the clashes, while a child was allegedly hit by a stray bullet in Samar province.

Vietnamese bishops draw up national synodality plan

(7-10-22) Catholic bishops in Vietnam have launched a three-year action plan to foster a spirit of synodality across the country at their national congress.

Archbishops and bishops from the country's 27 dioceses attended the National Congress on Oct. 3-7 at the Archbishop's House in the capital, Hanoi. "Although the 2023 Assembly of the Synod of Bishops at the diocesan level has been completed, we would like to unveil a pastoral plan to keep up and foster a spirit of synodality in the life of the local Church in the next three years," they said.

The bishops called on them to read the Bible individually and share divine words in their families and groups so that it can penetrate deep into their life. They need to take an active part in Mass to bolster their community with God and one another, they added.

Koreans run to renew friendships, tackle loneliness

(7-10-22) Hundreds of Catholics in South Korea joined a "Love of Life" marathon that sought to promote better relationships among family members and neighbours while reducing loneliness among individuals.

The run, organized by Suwon diocese, drew 1,200 people from 37 parishes at Mirinae Catholic shrine in Anseong of Gyeonggi province on Oct. 3, the Catholic Peace Broadcasting Corporation (CPBC) reported. The shrine holds the tomb of St. Andrew Kim Tae-gon, the first Korean Catholic priest, martyr, and one of the country's most revered saints.



Auxiliary Bishop Linus Seong-hyo Lee of Suwon presided over the event and said it was meant to help people realize the value of one another. "Most of the time parents and children are all busy, so it's difficult to be together, but this competition is really meaningful in that walking like this, we can confirm our love for each other and realize the importance of each other," Bishop Lee said. The marathon had three parts — a 10-kilometer marathon race, a five-kilometer race and a five-kilometer walk.

Floods, extended monsoon hit Cambodia after drought

(7-10-22) At least 20 people died, and more than 1,700 families have been evacuated in Cambodia following devastating floods triggered by torrential rain after the end of a drought in the Southeast Asian nation.

About 70,000 families have been impacted by floods so far, reports say.

In many parts of the country provincial schools have closed, celebrations marking the annual water festival in November were canceled, and land mines were unearthed, shifted or washed down to rivers. The flooding has reportedly destroyed almost 30,000 hectares of rice fields across the country.

8-10-22



Russia - In Moscow people pray for peace, according to the intentions of the Pope

(8-10-22) "Bringing peace does not mean smoothing out all the roughness and leveling the differences. Bringing peace means accepting everyone, even those who think differently from us. Peace is above all the ability to forgive". Thus Monsignor Paolo Pezzi, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of the Mother of God in Moscow, introduced on Friday evening, October 7, the recitation of the Holy Rosary in the Catholic cathedral in Moscow, on the

occasion of the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. In communion with Pope Francis, the Archbishop led the prayer before the Eucharist exposed and, afterwards, he celebrated mass, with the intention of the gift of peace.

Nigeria - The remaining 23 hostages of the Abuja-Kaduna train attack released after more than 6 months

(8-10-22) The remaining 23 people who were still held by the terrorists who attacked the Abuja-Kaduna train on March 28 have been released. This was stated by Nigerian authorities, "military operation". No ransom was paid for their release.

According to the local press, nine passengers were killed in the attack on the Abuja-Kaduna train while at least 168 people were reported missing. Of them, 63 were officially declared kidnapped by the attackers. Earlier, some forty hostages were released in groups, some after the payment of a ransom amounting to hundreds of millions of Naira.

On October 6, 20 inhabitants of the villages Danzama and Dargaje in the north-western state of Zamfara were kidnapped.

Italy - October 11 is a special day of fasting and prayer for peace announced by the Franciscan Family

(8-10-22) "We ask that you join with the Franciscan Family in observing a special day of fasting and prayer on October 11, 2022. While with evil we see the mystery of immorality in action, we respond to it with penance and prayer, by promoting reconciliation and peace, and by raising awareness among ourselves and many others regarding this fundamental issue": this is the appeal released by the Conference of the Franciscan Family (CFF), the body that unites the General Ministers of the male, female and lay religious orders who, all over the world, are inspired by the Saint of Assisi.

Mozambique - Bishop of Nacala: "Terrorists want us to believe that this is a religious war, but it is not"

(8-10-22) "Terrorists want us to believe that this is a religious issue, but it is not", says Bishop Alberto Vera Aréjula of Nacala, in northern Mozambique, where since 2017 armed groups sow death and destruction.

"International opinion has established the idea that this is a war of religion, a war of the Islamic State. Here we think this is not the case, even if it is true that there are jihadists", explains Msgr. Vera in an interview with InfoCatòlica. "Although there may be 50 fanatics and, among them, 10 or 15 who lead or manage the entire terrorist network in Cabo Delgado and now in Nampula, terrorists want us to believe that this is a religious issue, but it is not the case", says the Bishop who recalls the various interests - gas and mineral exploitation, drug trafficking etc - at stake in northern Mozambique that contribute to fueling the violence.



Pakistan - Bringing God's merciful love and alleviating the suffering of the victims affected by the monsoon floods

(8-10-22) The Pakistani government has officially declared 66 districts of the country, submerged by the monsoon floods at the end of August 2022, and which have involved more than 33 million people 'affected by calamities'. There are currently 31 in Balochistan, 23 in Sindh, 9 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and 3 in Punjab, but the situation is evolving and the number of districts declared calamitous is expected to increase if the rains continue to fall.

The Lay Camillian Family (LCF) and the Camillians in Pakistan have responded promptly to this serious humanitarian crisis by providing first emergency assistance to people affected by the flood in the dioceses of Hyderabad and Faisalabad. The local partners in this task include the parish priest, catechists, the Youth Group of St. Francis and the Daughters of the Holy Cross.

Argentina - "Responsible parenthood" does not mean harming the dignity or freedom of the person

(8-10-22) The promotion of responsible parenthood "should never pave the way for methods that undermine the dignity of the person, that limit the notion of human freedom or that make decisions for people who have not yet reached the necessary maturity to decide on irreversible processes". The Episcopal Commission for Life, the Laity and the Family of the Argentine Bishops' Conference observes "with concern the new advertising campaign of the Ministry of Health aimed at adolescents and young people, including minors, on access to practically irreversible methods of contraception and sterilization". The bishops term the government move as "progressive weakening of conscience about life and the human condition."

9-10-22

Pope canonizes founder of Scalabrinians, Salesian brother – a pharmacist



(9-10-22) Pope Francis presided over the canonization Mass of Bishop Giovanni Battista Scalabrini and Salesian Brother Artemide Zatti, in Saint Peter's Square on Sunday. He recalled how these holy men lived as examples of an inclusive Church and encouraged the faithful to relearn how to humbly give gratitude for our lives and God's presence in it. Recalling the examples of the two newly-named Saints, Pope Francis said both dedicated their lives to a Church that was inclusive and without barriers, as Saint Scalabrini cared a great deal for migrants and Saint Zatti cared greatly for the sick, taking upon himself the wounds of others.

The Pope said: "With great vision, Scalabrini looked forward to a world and a Church without barriers, where no one was a foreigner. For his part, the Salesian Brother Artemide Zatti was a living example of gratitude."

The Pope noted how today, here in Europe, there is one migration causing "so much pain:" the migration of Ukrainians fleeing the war. In conclusion, the Pope encouraged everyone to ask the Saints to help us "walk together, without walls of division" in order to be able to "cultivate that nobility of soul," that is, gratitude.

Pope prays for an end to the threat of nuclear warfare, sympathy for Thailand, thought on Blessed Maria Costanza Panas

(9-10-22) At the conclusion of the Eucharistic Celebration, Pope Francis recalled the beginning of the Second Vatican Council 60 years ago. He stressed that "we should not forget the danger of nuclear war that menaced the world right at that time". "Why don't we learn from history"? asked the Pope, noting that "even at that moment, there were conflicts and huge tensions, but the way of peace was chosen". Pope Francis then turned his thoughts to Thailand, where three days ago, "a mad act of violence took place". 37 people, most of whom children, were killed in an attack on a nursery in Uthai Sawan Child Development Centre in northeastern Thailand in a gun and knife attack. "With deep emotion, I entrust their lives to the Father, especially the little children and their families", said the Pope. The Holy Father also asked the faithful gathered for the canonization to turn their thoughts to Fabriano, where Maria Costanza Panas, a Capuchin Poor Clare nun, will be beatified. "May Blessed Maria Costanza help us to always be trustful in God and welcoming toward our neighbour", he added.