

CATHOLIC WORLD LAST WEEK

(CWLW)

21-27 Nov 2022

21-11-22

At Vatican meeting, ‘moratorium’ on German synodal way process suggested, rejected

(21-11-22) Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Holy See’s Secretary of State, moderated a “frank” discussion between Curial leaders and the German bishops, who were in Rome for their ad limina visit.

“In this perspective of open and fraternal sharing, a number of proposals were made, such as that of applying a moratorium to the German Synodal Way, which was not pursued, and that of encouraging further reflection and mutual listening in the light of the perplexities that have emerged,” according to a joint statement on the meeting.

Cardinals Luis Francisco Ladaria (prefect of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith) and Marc Ouellet (prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops) “spoke frankly and clearly about the concerns and reservations regarding the methodology, content and proposals of the Synodal Way,” according to the statement.

“In concluding, the Cardinal Secretary of State expressed his appreciation for the confrontation, which was not formal, but necessary and constructive ...It was agreed that mutual listening and dialogue should continue in the coming months, so that they may contribute to the enrichment of the German Synodal Way and the universal Synod of the Church.”

‘Do not be afraid to face difficult challenges,’ Pope tells Italian doctors in Africa

(21-11-22) “Do not be afraid to face difficult challenges, to intervene in remote places marked by violence, where populations do not have the opportunity [for] care,” Pope Francis said on November 19 to members of Doctors with Africa, an Italian Catholic organization. “Persevere with dogged service and dialogue, open to all as instruments for peace in overcoming conflicts.”

Pope urges Catholics, Assyrian Christians to continue on common journey

(21-11-22) On November 19, Pope Francis received and addressed Mar Awa III, the Catholicos-Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East. The church ceased to be in full communion with the Holy See following the Ecumenical Council of Ephesus (431).



Cardinal Müller rips German Synodal Path, explains limits of papal infallibility

(21-11-22) Cardinal Gerhard Müller, the former prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, spoke about the limits of papal infallibility and the threat posed by the German Synodal Path, in an interview with the German service Kath.net, now posted in an English translation by *Catholic World Report*.

The German cardinal says that “every every pope must distinguish precisely between his task and himself as a private person.” He explains: He must not impose his preferences on other Christians, like the Chinese, for instance, must study the Mao Bible or the wisdom of their Great Chairman.”

Of the German bishops’ Synodal Path, Cardinal Müller is unsparing:

In Germany, however, the issue is the attempt to take possession of Catholic institutions, church taxes and building stock for an organization that has abandoned the Catholic faith in its essential elements and has definitely left the ground of revelation.

New prefect for Dicastery for Eastern Churches

(21-11-22) Pope Francis has chosen Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti, who is currently serving as apostolic nuncio to the United Kingdom, to become the new prefect of the Dicastery for the Eastern

Churches.

Archbishop Gugerotti will take up his new responsibilities in January 2023. He replaces Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, who is retiring at the age of 79, after 15 years in that post.

Archbishop Gugerotti, who has a doctorate in Oriental Ecclesiastical Sciences, had previously worked in what was then the Congregation for Eastern Churches; he was named secretary of that dicastery by Pope John Paul II in 1997. He then served as papal nuncio in several different countries, including Ukraine, before his current posting to London.

Pope meets leaders of Roman Curia

(21-11-22) Pope Francis met on November 21 the top officials of the Roman Curia, the Vatican announced. The Vatican did not disclose what topics were on the agenda for the meeting.

'God's servant to the suffering people' of Uganda is beatified



(21-11-22) Father Giuseppe Ambrosoli (1923-1987), an Italian Comboni missionary priest and medical doctor, was beatified in Uganda on November 19.

God is love, there are suffering neighbours and I am their servant". With these simple yet profound words he announced his missionary vocation to his mother and his family. After obtaining a degree in medicine and surgery, he went to London to specialize in tropical diseases, then became part of the Congregation of the Comboni Missionaries and on December 17, 1955 he was ordained a priest. In February 1956 he embarked for Africa. He was assigned to Kalongo, a village lost in the savannah, in

Northern Uganda, to manage a small medical dispensary. He remained there until the day of his death, in 1987. Next to the dispensary which grew to be a hospital, he also founded St. Mary's Midwifery Training School, now officially recognized as one of the best midwifery schools in the country. The civil war forced him to evacuate the hospital. In the 44 days that he lived after the evacuation he had the medical staff and the sick and managed to save the midwifery school and allowed the students to finish the school year. Due to his deteriorating health he died on March 27, 1987. He had expressed his wish that his remains be left in Uganda among his people.

Hindus join Christ the King processions for Christ the King

(21-11-22) After almost three years of interruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many Indian dioceses celebrated on 20 November 2022 the feast of Christ the King with processions, a tradition deeply felt by local Catholic communities.

The very public display also saw many Hindus, with an attitude far different from that of Hindu radical groups who often carry out acts of violence and hostility. In Raikia, Kandhamal district (Odisha), thousands of people gathered showing great religious fervour for the occasion.

In Ajmer, Rajasthan, the procession took place in an atmosphere of friendship on the part of Hindus and Muslims. In this state, right-wing Hindu nationalist groups have recently targeted Pentecostal prayer gatherings.

"The administration granted all the necessary permits and people of other faiths welcomed the procession on the street with flowers," said Cosmos Shekhawat, vicar general of the diocese, speaking to *AsiaNews*.

South Sudan - Immediate action to respond to the suffering of displaced persons

(21-11-22) The situation of the internally displaced continues to worsen due to the ongoing conflicts between the Ngok and Twic Dinka ethnic groups in one of the four counties called Aneet Romamer in the administrative area of Abyei. The bishop of the diocese of El Obeid, Yunan Tombe Trily, has shown his total solidarity with the population that is facing a genuine humanitarian catastrophe. The

bishop, who is also president of the Bishops' Conference of Sudan and South Sudan (SSSCBC), after a pastoral visit to the parish of Saint Mary, in the administrative area of Abyei, has launched an appeal to Caritas South Sudan and other United Nations agencies to intervene immediately. The bishop urged the governments of Sudan and South Sudan to ask NGOs and UN agencies for humanitarian aid promptly.

Malaysia - Fragmented political landscape after the vote; Christians committed to the common good

(21-11-22) "Christians are committed to the common good of the country and have no plans to proselytize and Christianize the nation", declared the Malaysian Council of Churches (CCM), while the country receives the results of the general elections, held on November 19, from which a divided parliament emerged without a strong majority. The political landscape, observers note, appears increasingly fragmented.

The Council of Churches - a body that brings together the Protestant Churches and the Orthodox Church of the nation (CCM)- wanted to reiterate that Malaysian Christians, present in all the states of the Federation, are citizens, patriots and work every day for the common good of the nation. The Council has criticized a video in which former Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin told the audience that "Pakatan Harapan (the political opposition that has won 82 out of 222 seats) is supported by a group of Jews and Christians who have a Christianization agenda in Malaysia". The Secretary General of the CCM, the Rev. Jonathan Jesudas, stated that "such a statement is false and irresponsible.. can create racial and religious tensions and conflicts."

Colombia - Dialogue and hope for peace: talks with the ELN resume in Caracas, the IX Reconciliation Congress in Bogota

(21-11-22) The IX National Reconciliation Congress, from November 22 to 24, takes place at a key moment for peace in Colombia, since peace talks between the government and the ELN guerrilla is expected. This was highlighted by Monsignor Héctor Fabio Henao, delegate for Church-State relations of the Colombian Episcopal Conference (CEC), during the presentation of the Reconciliation Congress on the theme "Opening paths of dialogue and hope", organized by the Episcopal Conference of Colombia.



Saudi Arabia to pay Filipino workers owed wages

(19-11-22) Saudi Arabia will compensate 10,000 Filipino workers who lost their jobs in the Gulf country years ago and are still waiting for their salaries, Philippine officials said. The announcement came after Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos met Friday on the sidelines of an Asia-Pacific summit in Bangkok. Philippine Migrant Workers Secretary Susan Ople said the compensation package of two billion riyals (\$532 million) would "help our displaced workers".

Jesuits help bring clean water to Timor-Leste villages

(19-11-22) Jesuits in Timor-Leste are helping to alleviate the water crisis in the Catholic-majority country where a third of the population does not have access to clean water, through empowerment programs that have helped thousands in rural areas.

In a Nov. 17 statement, Jesuit Mission said thanks to the collaboration of many village leaders over the last four years, its partnership with the Jesuit Social Service (JSS) through the Water Project program "has brought clean water to more than 15 rural villages, transforming the lives of over 5,000 people."

"With clean and safe water now nearby, communities have become empowered with more agricultural opportunities, have experienced an improved standard of hygiene and children no longer have to walk great distances to collect water before and after school," it said.

Churches on 'hit list' of Myanmar junta attacks

(21-11-22) Churches, hospitals, and schools in Myanmar's Christian-majority Chin state are on the list of targets as the military junta plans to carry out major air strikes against ethnic rebels, a spokesperson for an armed rebel group claimed, referring to leaked military documents.

Salai Htet Ni, the spokesperson for Chin National Front (CNF), said that they acquired internal military documents earlier this month which show the junta is preparing to hit its headquarters on Mount Victoria, in Thantlang township, *Radio Free Asia (RFA)* reported Nov. 18.

"We cannot reveal where we got this intelligence information, but we are preparing the best we can for the defense against this airstrike," he said.

He claimed that the documents revealed that churches, hospitals, clinics, and schools are also on the list of possible targets.

A civilian leader said the news about the imminent attack has panicked local communities in Mount Victoria.



Probe demanded after Indian woman alleges conversion

(21-11-22) A federal statutory body meant to protect women's rights in India has sought action against two Christian men for allegedly converting a Hindu woman in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh.

A video of the woman from Damoh district claiming she was offered 120,000 rupees (US\$ 1,466) to convert to Christianity was posted on a social media platform on Nov. 18.

The woman, whose identity could not be ascertained, said she was in

dire need of money and agreed. The duo dipped her in a water tank and told her she had become a Christian.

But when she stopped going to Church the men demanded she repay them four times the amount. She paid 90,000 rupees, but they kept insisting on the rest of the amount.

The woman further claimed that five others were also converted along with her.

Taking cognizance of the video, Rekha Sharma, chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW) demanded action against the culprits.

When contacted, Damoh Superintendent of Police (SP) D R Tenivaar told UCA News that no case has been registered yet. "The police are carrying out a preliminary investigation into the allegation and only then the future course of action will be decided," he explained.

Christian leaders in Madhya Pradesh say false charges were being cooked up against the minority community as part of a deliberate strategy to harass them. The campaign against Christians in the guise of alleged conversions may also be part of a strategy for the state elections scheduled for November 2023, a Christian leader said.

Catholic group seeks justice for World Cup laborers' death

(21-11-22) As the soccer World Cup kickstarted in Qatar on Sunday 20 November 2022, an international Catholic group has sought justice and prayers for hundreds of Asian migrants who died as the West Asian country prepared for the once-in-four-year global event.

"Bread 4 Today" prayer group of the Redemptorist Congregation in Oceania published a video titled 'World Cup Prayer' on their YouTube channel, which speaks against migrant worker abuse, discrimination against the LGBTQ community, and CO2 emissions. The prayer released on Nov. 19, includes words of solidarity from the group towards the abused migrant workers and is now promoted on social media with the hashtag #PayUpFIFA. The prayer campaign was launched days after Human Rights Watch (HRW) released a report to point out the abuse meted out to the migrant workers in Qatar.

Michael Page, deputy Middle East and North Africa director at Human Rights Watch

also pointed out FIFA's failure to compensate the workers despite making billions of dollars in revenue. He said that the construction work done by them will become "reminders of the migrant workers who built and delivered the games but did not receive their wages or died with no compensation for their families."

Indian Church's bitter liturgical dispute deepens

(21-11-22) A Catholic archdiocese in the southern Indian state of Kerala could be headed toward snapping all ties with the Vatican over a decades-long liturgy dispute.

The priests and laity in Ernakulam-Angamaly archdiocese of the Eastern rite Syro-Malabar Church have boycotted the Vatican-appointed administrator Archbishop Andrews Thazhath. They also launched a blockade at the Archbishop's House until their demand for a liturgy variant status to their traditional Mass, which involves the priest facing the people, is approved.

The latest provocation came after the administrator issued an order to the parish priest at St Mary's Cathedral Basilica in Ernakulam to facilitate him at the Eucharistic celebration on Nov. 27, which is to be held in the synod-approved format, requiring the priest to face the altar against the congregation during the Eucharistic prayer to Communion.

Around 100 members from different parishes in the archdiocese called on the parish priest and the rector asking them to ignore the communication from Archbishop Thazhath. Both the priests reportedly accepted the request of the laity and pledged their full support to their struggle. The laity later announced the Vatican administrator will not be allowed to enter any Church institution until he withdraws the order. "When more than 99 percent of priests and faithful are in favour of the traditional Mass why is it not accepted?" a priest who did not want to be named said on Nov. 22. The priest also hinted that in case the administrator tried to have his way or initiate action against the parish priest and the rector, it may lead to the archdiocese "going its own way."

The archdiocese, which is home to around 10 percent of the close to 5 million Catholics in the Syro-Malabar Church, demanded the Vatican accept their traditional Mass as a liturgy variant but the administrator did not agree to it.

"We will not call off our battle until our demand is met," said Father Sebastian Thaliyan, the convener of the Archdiocesan Protection Committee, which claims the support of some 500,000 faithful and 460 priests in the archdiocese.

22-11-22

Pope ousts leaders of Caritas International

(22-11-22) Pope Francis has replaced the top leaders of Caritas International, the worldwide consortium of Catholics charities.

The unexpected move comes after an independent review of Caritas International, which produced a report that "real deficiencies were noted in management and procedures, seriously prejudicing team spirit and staff morale."

Aloysius John, the president of Caritas International, has been removed from office—along with the group's vice-presidents, treasurer, and general secretary. Pope Francis has named Pier Francesco Pinelli as temporary administrator. The Vatican emphasized that the review did not uncover any financial or sexual misconduct. In fact, despite the drastic action to replace top staff, the Dicastery for Integral Human Development insisted that "financial matters have been well handled."



Papal tribute to late founder of Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo

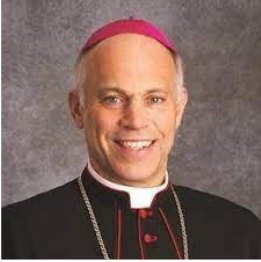
(22-11-22) Born in 1928, Hebe de Bonafini was one of the founders of Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo; the group advocates on behalf of those who disappeared during Argentina's Dirty War.

"Her boldness and courage, at times when silence prevailed, moved her and kept alive the search for truth, memory and justice," Pope Francis wrote.

Jews and Christians should unite for peace, Pope says

(22-11-22) Pope Francis met on November 22 the leaders of the World Jewish Congress, and said that the two faiths have an “incentive to act together” for peace and justice.

The Pope called upon Christians and Jews to “make the world more fraternal, combatting forms of inequality and promoting greater justice, so that peace will not remain an otherworldly promise.” In particular he urged an end to the “great sacrilegious war” in Ukraine.



Archbishop Cordileone calls for respect for life of the unborn, greater Eucharistic reverence

(22-11-22) Abortion “was originally something that people said was a necessary evil, then it became a choice,” said Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco. “And then it became health care. Now they’re calling it reproductive freedom, which can mean all kinds of things. And now it’s celebrated as a good. So I’d say that’s the most, most urgent and critical issue we need to react to.”

Atlético Madrid medic called in for Pope’s knee

(22-11-22) Dr. José María Villalón, the chief physician for the Atlético Madrid professional soccer team, described Pope Francis as a “very charming patient and a very stubborn one in the sense that he does not want certain surgical proposals” for his knee.

Putin: Patriarch Kirill’s ‘wise words’ strengthen the cohesion of society

(22-11-22) “As pastor of the Russian Orthodox Church, you direct your efforts towards preserving traditional spiritual and moral values in society, coordinating interreligious and interethnic relations, and improving cooperation between Church and state,” Russian President Vladimir Putin said in a birthday message to Patriarch Kirill of Moscow. “Your wise pastoral word works to unite the people and support people in difficult times of adversity.”

Leading Sudanese bishop: Abyei faces humanitarian catastrophe

(22-11-22) The Abyei Area Administration, a disputed region, lies on the border of Sudan and South Sudan. Bishop Yunan Tombe Trily, the president of the Bishops’ Conference of Sudan and South Sudan, called on aid agencies to “act immediately to save the population of Abyei, providing food and health services.”

Vatican issues message for World Fisheries Day

(22-11-22) “I would like to invite governments, international organizations, fisheries, faith-based organizations, and in a particular way Catholic institutions such as Stella Maris and Caritas, to join hands in effectively implementing the existing conventions [i.e, treaties] and legislation and in cooperating to find innovative solutions for these inter-connected problems faced by the fishing world in an effort to protect ‘our common home,’” Cardinal Michael Czerny, SJ, the Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, wrote in his message for World Fisheries Day.

Nicaraguan bishops express concern for thousands who are leaving the country

(22-11-22) Since 2018, when the Ortega regime became increasingly repressive, 200,000 people have fled Nicaragua. In their Advent message, the nation’s bishops expressed “the concerns we have about the social, political, and economic events of our homeland—especially, among others, the migratory crisis, which is a reflection of a human drama that challenges us.”

Mali - A White Father of German nationality has disappeared, there are fears of a kidnapping

(22-11-22) “We know that the police have started looking for Fr. Hans-Joachim, but at the moment it is not yet known whether and which group may have kidnapped him”, the Missionaries of Africa (White Fathers) tell *Fides* from their General Curia in Rome, confirming the disappearance of Fr.

Hans-Joachim Lohre. The missionary from Africa of German nationality has been missing since Sunday, November 20.

Known locally by the nickname "Ha-Jo", Fr. Hans-Joachim, 65, had lived in Mali for more than 30 years. "Father Hans-Joachim, from the Institute of Christian-Islamic Formation (IFIC) and head of the Faith and Encounter Centre of Hamdallaye, has been missing since yesterday (20 Nov.) morning", the internal newspaper of the Missionaries of Africa reported. "He had to go to the Kalaban Coura community for Sunday mass and there has been no news of him since then".



His car was found near the institute in the capital, Bamako, and investigators later found the priest's chain with broken cross next to his car. "His car door was open and there were footprints on the ground as if someone had resisted", says Dia Monique Pare, of Ific.

The missionary's nationality may have attracted the interest of some groups operating in the country. In Mali, the Bundeswehr, the German army, participates with some 1,200 soldiers in the UN MINUSMA mission. Germany is one of the few European countries to still have its own military in Mali, after the withdrawal of those of France, while Great Britain also wants to follow suit. Several jihadist groups linked to both Al Qaeda and ISIS operate in the country, and in the past they have been responsible for several kidnappings of foreigners, such as that of Sister Gloria Cecilia Narváez, the Colombian missionary kidnapped on February 7, 2017 near Koutiala (Mali) and released on October 9 last year.

(24-11-22) Even as of 24 November, there was no news about Fr Lohre, said Cardinal Jean Zerbo, Archbishop of Bamako, who asked the faithful to pray for his safety and immediate release.



Asia - Spouses with different faiths: a growing phenomenon, an opportunity for dialogue and love

(22-11-22) Interreligious marriage is a complex reality and is a growing phenomenon in Asia. It should not be demonized, but requires specific pastoral attention, as it represents an opportunity for a dialogue of words, love and life. This is what the Christian Family Movement states, a network of small family groups which, focusing on the Gospel of Jesus Christ, live the spirituality of the couple and family life in Asian countries

such as India and the Philippines (where it started in 1956) and in many other countries of the continent.

In the recent Asian convention of the Movement, held at the Diocesan Pastoral Center of Bangkok, in the presence of more than 100 delegates from Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam, the focus on interreligious dialogue within family life, with a reflection that, considering Asian pluralistic societies, aimed at understanding how to build bridges with people and communities of other religions, starting from family life.

Chile - Christians are called to be active protagonists of the changes that Chile needs

(22-11-22) "We want to encourage all initiatives that lead to social dialogue, civic friendship and the common good, especially the constituent process, which requires recognition and listening to all sectors. Those of us who profess the Christian faith are called to be active protagonists of the changes that Chile needs, encouraging the instances of solidarity present in society that work for social justice". This is the exhortation of the Chilean Bishops at the end of the plenary Assembly of the Episcopal Conference, which was held from November 14 to 18 in Lo Cañas.

Philippine women urge president to reconsider divorce bill

(22-11-22) A Philippine women's rights group has urged President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. to support a pending divorce bill.

Gabriel Women's Partylist, a nationwide grassroots network of groups advocating for women's rights, felt boosted by the UN's call for the Philippines to pass pro-women and gender-sensitive laws. The group urged Marcos, Jr. on Nov. 21 not to "immediately" reject the United Nations Human Rights Council's recommendations such as the passage of laws legalizing divorce as well as same-sex marriage.

Marcos' justice secretary recently commented that the UN's recommendations were "unacceptable" to the Filipino people "as of the moment." "It's a matter of [public] policy whether we accept it or not and I think we know as a country, we are not ready for that," Remulla told reporters on Nov. 21. "We have to reject it. Culturally, our values may conflict with many of the values that they [Western countries] want to impose upon us. We are not ready for that, culturally we are not ready for that. That is our position right now," Remulla added.

Catholic divorce advocates, however, advised the clergy not to dip their fingers in political matters such as the passage of divorce law.

Indonesian Catholics rush aid for quake victims

(22-11-22) Indonesian Catholics have taken the initiative in providing assistance to victims of the earthquake in West Java that killed more than 250 people and displaced over 7,000.

Caritas Indonesia is coordinating with teams from the Catholic charity in three dioceses – Bogor, Bandung, and Jakarta – along with other Catholic organizations to provide assistance to victims across four districts.



Fredy Rante Taruk, executive director of Caritas Indonesia, said the coordination was under the control of the Caritas Bureau of Bogor diocese, which oversees the affected areas.

"The team has gone to the field to collect data and determine the response [required] from the Church network," he told UCA News. Bogor diocese also assists government medical team.

The 5.6-magnitude earthquake struck 10 kilometers southwest of the Cianjur district at 1:21 pm on Nov. 21.

23-11-22

Pope links plight of Ukrainians today to Stalin's genocide

(23-11-22) Pope Francis made his strongest statement to date against the war in Ukraine during his public audience on November 23, comparing the conflict to the genocide of the Stalin era.

"Saturday begins the anniversary of the terrible genocide of the Holodomor, the extermination by starvation artificially caused by Stalin between 1932-1933," Pope Francis said on November 23. "Let us pray for the victims of this genocide and let us pray for so many Ukrainians — children, women, elderly, babies — who today are suffering the martyrdom of aggression."

Pope, at audience, speaks of spiritual consolation

(23-11-22) At his regular weekly public audience on November 23, Pope Francis continued his series of talks on discernment, speaking about the gift of spiritual consolation.

In our continuing catechesis on discernment, we now consider the experience of spiritual "consolation", that sense of deep inner joy, a gift of the Holy Spirit, which enables us to sense God's comforting presence and providential care in all things, even in moments of trial and difficulty. Saint Ignatius compares this grace-filled movement of the heart to a drop of water on a sponge: quietly and in full respect for our freedom, the Lord confirms us in faith and hope and confident trust in his undying love. In the lives of great saints like Ignatius, Edith Stein and Therese of Lisieux, we see how experiences of spiritual consolation not only bring profound interior peace and conviction, but also grant the strength to accomplish extraordinary things in God's service. The sign of an authentic consolation is precisely the serene, fruitful and lasting peace that it brings. Discernment is needed to

distinguish true consolations from those that are false, shallow and self-indulgent; in our spiritual journey, may we always heed the sound advice of Saint Bernard, who urges us to seek the consolations of God, and not the God of consolations.

Consolation, he explained, is “a profound experience of interior joy, consisting in seeing God’s presence in everything.” He spoke about how great saints have experienced consolation, and how that experience “reaches out to the future, puts us on a journey, allows us to take the initiative that had always been postponed or not even imagined.”

German bishops’ president: ‘We want to be Catholic in a different way’

(23-11-22) Following a frank discussion between the German bishops and Curial leaders over the German Synodal Way, the president of the bishops’ conference said, “We want to be Catholic in a different way.”

“The Pope is a clever Jesuit,” said Bishop Georg Bätzing of Limburg. “He let us wrestle with one another as brothers.” Bishop Bätzing expressed gratitude that no clear limits on the German bishops’ actions emerged from their visit to Rome, which included a meeting with the Pope.

On the other hand, Bishop Stefan Oster of Passau emphasized that the prefects of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith and the Dicastery for Bishops made “no concessions.” Irme Stetter-Karp, co-president of the Synodal Way, said that the “fundamental criticism of the Synodal Way” at the Vatican “not only snubs the German bishops, who overwhelmingly consider reforms necessary,” but “also disregards the impatience of many Catholics with their Church.”

Catholic participants weigh in on results of UN climate change conference

(23-11-22) The UN Climate Change Conference in Egypt, COP27, recently concluded with the establishment of a fund for poorer nations, and with no new emissions cuts.

“This is a great success for all people of goodwill who wanted COP27 not to end in words without concrete actions,” said Father Vitalis Anaehobi, the secretary general of the Regional Episcopal Conference of West Africa. Other Catholic participants were less sanguine in their assessment.



Vatican - Bishop Arrieta: the Agreement on the appointment of Chinese Catholic Bishops is not new in the history of the Church

(23-11-22) The so-called "sinicization" of the Catholic Church in China, that is, the adaptation of the forms of ecclesial life to the Chinese cultural and social context, in itself "is not a problem". The important thing is that in this adaptation the "essential things" that characterize the very nature of the Church are preserved, and that in reality "are few". The Spanish Bishop Juan Ignacio Arrieta, Secretary of the Dicastery for Legislative Texts, affirms this with determination in the video interview conducted for Agenzia Fides by Teresa

Tseng Kuang yi.

The Catholic Church, in carrying out its mission - adds Bishop Arrieta - has always recognized the legitimacy and also the need to incorporate elements taken from the context of each country, and traditional expressions of each culture. The only condition is that such adaptations do not compromise and do not obscure the "essential things", the constitutive genetic factors that shape the identity of the Catholic Church, and the performance that is proper to it.

Eswatini - Bishop of Manzini: “Media are used as weapons. Who fuels the violence?”

(23-11-22) "Fear seems to be another element that has become part of our daily lives", writes to Agenzia Fides Bishop José Luis Ponce de León, IMC, of Manzini, in the kingdom of eSwatini (formerly Swaziland), in offering testimony on a crisis largely ignored by the rest of the world.

The crisis is exacerbated by the lack of dialogue, the opposition and civil society, says the bishop.

"The arson attacks and killings are attributed to the Swaziland Solidarity Forces (SSF), an armed opposition group which claims to "want to free the country from King Mswati", says Bishop Ponce de

León. Therefore, the population is caught between two fires: the police and the members of the SSF. "Both sides say things on social media that have not been proven and which – the other side – denies being true: "mercenaries have come into the country" and "there are foreigners among the soldiers in our army" are two familiar examples".

"Violence and the media seem to go hand in hand", underlines the bishop. "Information can be used as a weapon to instill anger, fear and violence. Even here one needs to ask: who is paying for it? It is all set up with one goal: to support one side or the other and to influence the way people read the situation", says Bishop Ponce de León who wonders why the global media are now silent about eSwatini.

Indonesia - Serving the poor, in harmony with Muslims: living faith in Christ in Indonesia

(23-11-22) In the city of Yogyakarta, a city where universities and educational institutes flourish, Catholic and Muslim students share paths of study and experiences of solidarity towards the poorest. On the island of Flores, the "Catholic heart" of Indonesia, the Camillian religious carry out food assistance programmes for hundreds of families with economic difficulties.



In Indonesian Borneo, in the West Kalimantan province, a new Trappist monastery is being built, which will join three others already present in the Asian nation. In Bandung, on the island of Java, Sr. Gerardette Philips, a missionary of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, who has been in Indonesia for 22 years, as a sign of spiritual communion, shares the fast lived by Muslim believers during the month of Ramadan, sacred in Islamic tradition. In Jakarta, the organization "Sahabat Insan" ("Friendship and Humanity"), founded by Indonesian Jesuits, assists migrant workers and victims of human trafficking, restoring their dignity and freeing them from slavery. There are many more such endeavours. "Indonesian Catholics live the mission of Christ showing the face of the Catholic Church", explains Antonius Subianto Benjamin, OSC, Bishop of Bandung, recently elected president of the Indonesian Episcopal Conference.

Colombia - Thousands of Venezuelans, Haitians and Ecuadorians face "the hell of Darién" in order to escape poverty and violence

(23-11-22) "The migrant community, which brings together various nationalities, has shared with us all the vicissitudes they have to face to reach Necocli, and the fears of crossing the so-called 'Darién hell', due to situations of illness, theft, violations, accidents and exploitation by those who see in them an opportunity for great economic gains, without any institutional, local or national control".

The dramatic denunciation comes from the Bishops representing the Presidencies of the Episcopal Conferences of Venezuela and Colombia, who met on November 21 and 22 to address the migratory crisis of thousands of Venezuelans, Haitians and Ecuadorians, who cross the dangerous Darién jungle on their way to the United States. The meeting took place within the framework of the campaign "At the feet of the migrant", organized annually by the diocese of Apartadó. This is the second such meeting in the course of one month.

Timor-Leste holds first festival to promote tourism

(23-11-22) The government in Catholic-majority Timor-Leste hosted the first music and cultural festival involving participants from across the country, part of an effort to promote tourism and diversify income sources.

The festival held on Atauro Island, north of Dili, from Nov. 21 to 24 is being attended by President Jose Ramos-Horta and Prime Minister Taur Matan Ruak along with 14 ambassadors from various countries, such as the United States, Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Brazil, Thailand, France and the European Union. More than 3,000 people from 13 municipalities are also present along with representatives from Indonesia's East Nusa Tenggara province who inhabit the western part of Timor island and share cultural similarities.

In addition to promoting cultural and nature tourism, the government is also exploring the potential of religious tourism, for which it has extended support to the Timor-Leste Religious Tourism Association.



Indian Church-run prison ministry calls for penal reforms

(23-11-22) A Catholic Church-run prison ministry in India has appealed to provincial governments to speed up reforms and adopt a rehabilitative view of prisoners and jails in the country.

The Prison Ministry India (PMI) wants authorities to address issues such as overcrowded prisons, delays in court trials, and inadequate health and hygiene facilities among other things to help transform the lives of prisoners.

"The governments with a view to providing better amenities to the prisoners have formulated policies and programs, but often the benefits are not reaching those languishing behind bars," says Father Francis Kodiyan MCBS (Missionary Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament).

24-11-22

South Sudan – Promote reconciliation between communities for sustainable peace

(24-11-22) The civil war that has lasted for years continues to cause the death of thousands of people, the displacement of different areas and the destruction of infrastructures. Failure to comply with the 2018 peace treaty fuels political instability that gives rise to violence and inter-ethnic conflict. The archrivals Salva Kiir, the country's president and Riek Machar the first vice-president cannot reach an accord.

The Archbishop of Juba, Stephen Ameyu Martin, launched an appeal to promote peace and unity in the East Central African nation. The occasion was a thanksgiving mass celebrated on November 21 in the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul on the occasion of the centenary of the diocese of Torit. "Be pillars of stability, peace and unity in your communities and work for the good of your people", said the archbishop, noting that members of the clergy must be aware of the role they have before the people of God. "You must be an instrument of reconciliation between people of the community, it is your role as priests as messengers of God. We priests must promote reconciliation between communities for a sustainable peace".

Syria - Armenian Catholic Patriarchate: let us pray for the end of Turkish military operations in north-east Syria

(24-11-22) The Armenian Catholic Patriarchate has issued an invitation to pray during the Advent season, asking the coming Saviour Jesus, to also bring peace, the end of suffering and danger to the population of northeastern Syria. Area that has long been the target of shelling and military raids carried out by the Turkish armed forces against Kurdish targets. This is the request, of a spiritual nature made primarily to the communities scattered in the Middle East and the rest of the world, by the Armenian Catholic Patriarchate, while aerial bombardments, attacks with drone strikes and artillery attacks carried out at the instigation of the Turkish government against the cities of Hassaké and Qamishli and against the peoples of the Syrian provinces of Aleppo, Raqqa, Deir ez Zor and Hassakè continue. The military attacks - reads the call to prayer issued by the communication office of the Armenian Catholic Patriarchate - affect the infrastructure and thus block the supply of water and electricity, to the detriment of local populations.

Chile - Card. Aós: The University and the "dialogue for unity". A lot of prayer is needed "if we really want dialogue"

(24-11-22) There are two very useful instruments in democracy to confront and present ideas: debate and dialogue. The debate has one goal, which is to win. One wants to win an argument, so he tries to

convince the other, he opposes, he looks for the opponent's weak argument. Dialogue is very different, because the goal is not to win, but to understand. One tries to find a way to explain himself and asks the other to explain himself, he looks for a way to listen and for the other to listen. It takes self-discipline, tolerance, and resilience to listen to things that can be quite uncomfortable. These are the concepts highlighted by Alfredo Zamudio, director of the Chile Mission of the Nansen Centre for Peace and Dialogue, at the inaugural conference of the VI Social Congress UC (Catholic University of Chile), organized by the Directorate of Pastoral Care and Christian Culture.

The meeting, oriented to the "Dialogue for Unity," in the light of the social doctrine of the Church, was attended by about 300 people from 100 civil society organizations. Cardinal Celestino Aós, Archbishop of Santiago and Grand Chancellor of the UC, led the recitation of the Prayer for Peace attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, and underlined: "If we really want to dialogue, we have to start spending a lot of time looking at Jesus on the cross, praying. Without this, we will not be able to open our hearts".

The mission to rectify illicit unions in Bangladesh

(24-11-22) Each year their Dinajpur diocese rectifies dozens of illicit marriages, following the process of a Church law, to bring Catholics back to sacramental life and build up Catholic communities, officials said.

12 couples had their marriage rectified by the Church on November 7. All of them are Catholics whose ancestors converted to Catholicism from lower-caste Hindu groups. One common reason for not being married in Church earlier could be that the girl was under aged.

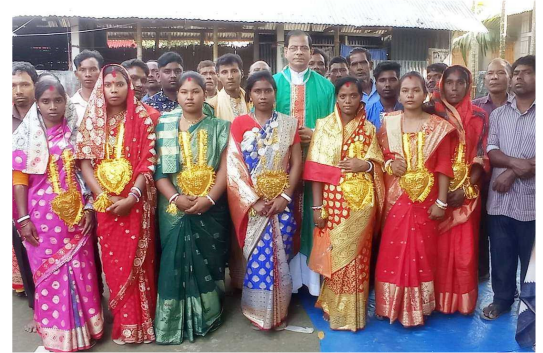
The tendency of contracting illicit marriages is more common among Catholics in Dinajpur, Rajshahi and Sylhet dioceses, which are dominated by ethnic indigenous communities, says Father Mintu L. Palma, a canon law expert and marriage counselor from the Archdiocese of Dhaka.

"Because tribal customs are still strong among them, many still prefer marriage in their own traditional way rather than following a Church-mandated marriage process. However, this trend is changing and such unions are becoming less," Father Palma told UCA News.

Father Palma estimated that roughly 5 percent of some 400,000 Catholics still need their marriage rectified following canonical procedures. It was 8 percent some ten years ago, the priest noted.

As part of the canonical process of marriage rectification, the priest prepared the couples through counseling sessions on Church laws on marriage and the responsibilities of Catholic couples after marriage.

All eight Catholic dioceses in Bangladesh have Catholics living in illicit unions, Church officials said.



Indian authorities act against Church-run medical college



(24-11-22) The Indian government has seized the bank account of a Protestant Church-run medical college for allegedly duping students and their parents to the tune of millions of rupees by falsely promising admissions to courses.

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED), a federal agency dealing with economic offenses, in a statement on Nov. 22, said it had "provisionally attached movable properties worth Rs. 9.5 million [US\$ 1,16,713] in the form of balance in the bank account" of Dr. Somervell Memorial Church of South India Medical College,

Karakonam, in southern Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram district.

It further stated that this amount was "an equivalent amount of proceeds of crime in the case of cheating of parents in the pretext of giving admission to their wards to graduate and post-graduate degrees in medicine seats in the medical college.

The federal agency had initiated a money laundering investigation on the basis of multiple cases registered by the Kerala police and found that the Church-run institution had collected money from parents but instead of granting admissions had used it for developing infrastructure for the medical college and diverting the rest of the amounts to its parent body, the South Kerala Diocese. Church officials refused to comment on the government's action, which came close to four months after it detained Bishop Dharmaraj Rasalam of the South Kerala Diocese of the Church of South India (CSI) at the Thiruvananthapuram international airport on July 26. The ED also conducted raids on the offices of the bishop and other office-bearers of the diocese and the medical college.

Indian tribal family attacked for embracing Christian ways

(24-11-22) Tribal families were attacked by their fellow villagers for embracing a Christian way of life and refusing to follow indigenous traditions in the central Indian state of Chhattisgarh. Some 15 people were injured and three people, including two women, who sustained serious injuries in the Nov. 22 attack in the Bhisabod in Kondagaon district are being treated at a government hospital. A man injured in the attack said on condition of anonymity that eight tribal families in the village have been following "Christian practices" like praying daily in the evening and on Sundays along with other observances for quite some time. "None of us have converted to Christianity, but we follow its practices," he said. The families even stopped participating in traditional rituals, which caused a rift with their fellow villagers. Speaking to UCA News on Nov. 23, a family said that all those who follow Christian practices might have to leave the village.

25-11-22

Cardinal Zen found guilty in Hong Kong trial

(25-11-22) Cardinal Joseph Zen, was found guilty on November register a charitable fund that defendants accused of violating law.



the retired Bishop of Hong Kong, 25 on charges of failing to provide legal help for China's draconian new "security"

The cardinal and five co-pay a fine equivalent to \$500. activist and singer Denise Ho, barrister Margaret Ng.

defendants will be required to Among Zen's co-convicted were and veteran human rights

After his conviction, Cardinal Zen said that the case should not be seen as a violation of religious freedom. But the 90-year-old cardinal, an outspoken supporter of democracy, hinted that the conviction was a violation of other human rights. He identified himself as "a Hong Kong citizen who strongly supports providing humanitarian assistance."

The Vatican had avoided comment on Cardinal Zen's case. But after the verdict was released, the Vatican News service issued a carefully worded report, pointing out that the law under which the cardinal and his co-defendants were sentenced allowed an exemption for organizations "exclusively for religious, charitable, social or recreational purposes."

The Vatican News story concluded with a noteworthy statement, acknowledged Cardinal Zen's fight for religious freedom but muting his accusations against Beijing by using the word "allegedly": In the past, Cardinal Zen has also criticized the Chinese Communist Party for allegedly persecuting religious communities.

Cardinal Zen's arrest earlier this year, for "colluding with foreign forces", shocked the city's Catholic community. He and his associates are yet to face charges under that law, which can carry a sentence of up to life in jail.

Papal message to 'martyred' people of Ukraine

(25-11-22) In an open letter to the people of Ukraine, written nine months after the start of the Russian invasion, Pope Francis expresses his sympathy and promises his prayers.

“There is no day when I am not close to you and do not carry you in my heart and in my prayers,” the Pontiff writes. “Your pain is my pain.”

In the letter the Pope again condemns “the absurd madness of war.” He also voices his admiration for the people of Ukraine: “a strong people, a people that suffers and prays, cries and struggles, resists and hopes: a noble and martyred people.

”Pope names two women to high Vatican posts



(25-11-22) Pope Francis has named two women to take ranking positions in the Roman Curia. Raffaella Giuliani, who has been serving as an official on the Pontifical Commission of Sacred Archeology, was named secretary of that Commission—which will now be headed by

Msgr. Pasquale Iacobone.

Antonella Sciarrone Alibrandi, the vice-rector of the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, was named undersecretary of the Dicastery for Culture and Education.

Pope: Women can give more ‘flavour’ to theology

(25-11-22) On November 24, Pope Francis received members of the International Theological Commission, an advisory body of theologians led by the Prefect of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Warning against “backwardism,” the Pope called for “creative fidelity to Tradition,” collegiality, and openness to other disciplines. Women can make theology “more profound and more ‘flavourful,’” he added.

French lawmakers approve bill enshrining abortion in the constitution

(25-11-22) In a 337-32 vote, France’s National Assembly (lower house) has approved a constitutional amendment that states that “the law guarantees the effectiveness and equal access to the right to voluntarily end a pregnancy.” The measure now faces a vote in the Senate.

Abortion has been legal in France since 1974.

Court dismisses Becciu’s lawsuit against Italian magazine

(25-11-22) Cardinal Giovanni Angelo Becciu oversaw the internal affairs of the Roman Curia as Substitute (Sostituto) of the Secretariat of State from 2011 to 2018. Pope Francis created him a cardinal in the 2018 consistory and named him Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. In 2020, Becciu resigned from the “rights connected to the cardinalate.”

Becciu then filed a lawsuit against *L’Espresso*, alleging that its coverage “contributed unfairly to the Pope’s decision to fire Becciu, damaged his reputation, and cost Becciu the chance of being elected Pope in a future conclave.” A court has dismissed the lawsuit and ordered Becciu to pay the magazine’s legal costs.

OAS leader meets with Pontiff

(25-11-22) On November 24, Pope Francis received Luis Almagro, the Secretary General of the Organization of American States. The pair discussed education and democracy, according to Almagro.

Ethiopia - Peace talks raise hope: 'But people are exhausted and need help'

(25-11-22) "Despite the enormous difficulties caused by the crisis, the effects of the conflicts, climate change and the severe drought that are afflicting our country, the population at least finds relief in the fact that a 'climate of peace' is beginning. We have followed with confidence the development of the

peace agreements and now we wait with hope that they will produce effects. People are exhausted by the war, which has destroyed lives, property, relationships between communities", said Father Teshome Fikre Woldetensae, General Secretary of the Ethiopian Episcopal Conference to Fides on the sidelines of the Caritas Internationalis Conference.

Bolivia - Strike in Santa Cruz: "That the problem be solved once and for all and that daily life be resumed immediately"

(25-11-22) "The Pastors of the Catholic Church of Santa Cruz, stand in solidarity and echo the cry of the people, asking that, once and for all, the problem be solved and that the City and Department can resume activities, jobs and daily life immediately". This is the latest appeal launched by the bishops to unblock the situation. In fact, for 34 days, the department of Santa Cruz, the largest and most economically important in all of Bolivia, has been carrying out a general strike with roadblocks to demand that the Government carry out the Population Census in 2023 and not in 2024, since the postponement would cause the region economic damage and political representation in the next elections.

Iraq - Around 20 families a month: Patriarch Sako laments the emigration of Iraqi Christians

(25-11-22) Iraqi Christians, living mainly in the cities of the Nineveh Plains and other areas of northern Iraq, continue to leave the country. This is happening "at a rate of around 20 families a month," said Iraqi Cardinal Louis Raphael Sako, Patriarch of the Chaldean Church, in a reflection on the situation of Christians in Iraq.

Nigeria - New kidnapping of a priest together with a group of faithful; released another priest kidnapped last week

(25-11-22) Father Peter Abang Ochang, parish priest of the St. Stephen Roman Catholic Mission (RCM) church in the diocese of Ogoja, in the state of Cross River, has been kidnapped in a still undefined area of the state of Nasarawa, along with several members of the St Jude Society. The priest and an unknown number of members of the Society of St Jude were on their way to Abuja on November 24, to attend some ecclesiastical functions when they were attacked and taken by force to the bush.



Meanwhile, Fides Agency has received news of the release of Fr. Victor Ishiwu, parish priest of St. Jude Church in Eburummiri, Ibagwa-Aka, Igbo-Eze South local government area of Enugu State, who was kidnapped in the early hours of November 19, while officiating adoration prayers.

According to the testimonies collected, the kidnappers broke into the place of worship after midnight and began shooting into the air. Father Ishiwu, along with the worshipers, had managed to escape and hide in different places. However, the bandits, who spoke both Pidgin English and Fulani languages, followed the cleric to the rectory and threatened to burn down the parish premises if he refused to leave, and then broke into the rectory and forcibly kidnapped the priest.

Indian Churches concerned over false conversion claims

(25-11-22) Representatives of different church denominations in India's northeastern states have expressed concern over the misleading campaign by certain people on the issue of religious conversions.

Around 30 Christian leaders in the region, which has a sizeable presence of Christianity, had gathered in Guwahati, the state capital of Assam, for their annual meet. The meeting representing all church denominations in the region voiced concern about the recent "painful developments" that falsely victimized Christians, including foreign tourists.

Religious conversion has become a very hot topic of late but there is no truth to it and nobody including governments has any data to back any of the claims, said Archbishop John Moolachira of

Guwahati. "The Church never indulges in such activities nor supports it. Some groups from other parts of the country come here and try to divide people in our region, which we condemn," he told UCA News on Nov. 25.

Allen Brooks, spokesperson for the United Christian Forum of North East India (UCFNEI) said that "we have been the first to denounce any sort of 'forced' conversion. At the same time, we also affirm the right of every citizen to choose and profess any religion of his/her own choice." People in the northeastern states have always been open-minded and liberal, with an eagerness to promote enlightened thinking and refined relationships, he said.

UCFNEI, in a press release on Nov. 24, said its members were pained at the unpleasant incidents that have been reported in the recent past and expressed their solidarity with all those who are trying to settle the problems amicably.

Split fears over liturgy row force Indian bishops to talk

(25-11-22) The top decision-making body of the Eastern rite Syro-Malabar Church has formed a team of three bishops to dialogue with warring priests and the laity of an archdiocese amid threats of them breaking away from the Catholic Church over a protracted liturgical dispute.

The permanent Synod of Bishops of the Church based in southern Indian Kerala state formed a panel consisting of Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt, Archbishop Joseph Pamplany and Bishop Jose Chittooparambil at an online emergency meeting on Nov 24. The panel has been authorized to dissuade the more than 500,000 faithful and 460 priests of the Archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly from exiting the global Catholic Church. "The panel was scheduled to meet the leaders of protesting priests and lay people on Nov. 25," an official statement said.

The protesters had declared a boycott of Archbishop Thazhath in October after he unilaterally ordered priests to comply with an August 2021 decision of the Synod of Bishops to adopt a uniform Mass – the priest facing the altar against the congregation during the Eucharistic prayer to Communion - over traditional liturgical practices in the church. The protestors also petitioned the Vatican seeking its intervention, but to no avail.

The Vatican appointed Archbishop Thazhath on July 30 with a mandate to settle the dispute, in place of Metropolitan Vicar Archbishop Antony Kariyil who had saved the archdiocese from breaking away by invoking his power of dispensation.

Cardinal's village hit as Myanmar junta steps up attacks

(25-11-22) Hundreds of homes in the Catholic village of Mon Hla in central Sagaing — the home of Cardinal Charles Bo — have been burned down by junta forces as the regime steps up attacks in Myanmar's Bamar-majority region, which according to the junta supports the rebel forces.

Villagers said the homes were torched on Nov. 24 during a raid on Mon Hla village where Catholics and Buddhists have lived in harmony for decades. The exact number of houses destroyed remains unclear and it is not known whether St. Michael Church, the convent and the priest's house in the village were set on fire.

The latest attack on the Catholic village came a day after fighting broke out near Mon Hla where scores of junta troops were killed.



26-11-22

Vatican - The Holy See: "surprise and regret" over installation of Chinese Bishop which did not take place in conformity with the Provisional Agreement

(26-11-22) The Holy See took note "with surprise and regret" of the news of the "installation ceremony" that took place on November 24, in Nanchang of "His Exc. Msgr. Giovanni Peng Weizhao, Bishop of Yujiang (Jiangxi

Province) as 'Auxiliary Bishop of Jiangxi', a diocese not recognized by the Holy See".

"This event", reads the statement of the Holy See released on November 26, "has not taken place in conformity with the spirit of dialogue that exists between the Vatican parties and the Chinese parties and what was stipulated in the Provisional Agreement on the Appointment of Bishops of 22 September 2018. Furthermore - the text of the statement continues - "the civil recognition of Bishop Peng was preceded, according to the news received, by prolonged and intense pressure by the local Authorities". The Holy See - the statement concludes - "hopes that similar episodes will not be repeated, and awaits appropriate communications on the matter from the Authorities and reaffirms its full willingness to continue the respectful dialogue concerning all the issues of common interest".

Pope: The world needs consecrated persons as artisans of peace!

(26-11-22) To be peacemakers is a particularly urgent call in a world fragmented by wars and division. "It is the responsibility of each and everyone" Pope Francis said to the religious men gathered in the Vatican on Nov 26 morning, pointing out that it especially concerns consecrated persons. In prepared remarks he noted that the theme of the just ended Assembly of the Union of Superiors General (USG) was "Called to be artisans of peace" and that reflection was based on the encyclical *Fratelli tutti*, the Pope spoke about the peace that Jesus gives and how it differs from the peace that the world gives. "*The world needs us consecrated persons as artisans of peace!*" he said.

Pope: Violence against women must be addressed through a joint effort

(26-11-22) To counter violence against women public institutions and social actors need to network together, Pope Francis told members of an Italian law enforcement agency dealing with organised crime on November 26. "We need to unite, collaborate, network:, what we need is not just a defensive network, but above all a preventive network", the Pope said as he received the 170 staff of the Central Anti-Crime Directorate (Direzione Centrale Anticrimine – DIA).



"Unfortunately, women very often not only find themselves facing certain situations of violence, but then, when the case is reported, they do not get justice, or the times of justice are too long. We need to be vigilant and improve on this, without falling into vigilantism," the Pope said.

Drawing attention to domestic violence against women and the role of the media in indirectly encouraging violence against women, he called for an education that places the person and his/her dignity at the centre.

27-11-22

Pope: May Advent awaken us to God's presence in our daily lives

(27-11-22) Welcoming pilgrims in Saint Peter's Square on the first Sunday of Advent, Pope Francis offered his customary reflections and catechesis before leading the recitation of the Angelus prayer. Today's Gospel, he recalled, reminds us that the Lord is coming to be with us, marking the "foundation of our hope," a fact that should give us consolation even in the most difficult times of our lives.

The Pope pointed out that the Lord always visits us in our lives, "makes Himself close, and will return at the end of time to welcome us in His embrace." We become "distracted" by the many concrete aspects of our daily lives; or perhaps we only look for spectacular and miraculous signs of the Lord's presence. God will come when we least expect it. The Pope underscored that "God conceals Himself in the most common and ordinary situations in our life," and we need to be constantly aware of this reality, not awaiting extraordinary events.

The Pope said Advent is the time we can be “shaken out” of our lethargy and awakened “from our slumber” to be vigilant always. We can ask ourselves if we are alert and vigilant, and if we “recognize God’s presence in daily situations,” saying that if we are unaware of this reality today, we will be unprepared when He arrives at the end of times.

Pope Francis appeals for Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, remembers Ischia flood victims, women suffering violence



(27-11-22) After the Angelus, expressing concern over the increase in violence and clashes taking place in the State of Palestine and Israel, Pope Francis called on authorities there to find ways to move dialogue forward to build mutual trust for a lasting peace.

The Pope asked everyone to remember in their prayers the people of the Italian island of Ischia recovering from heavy rains that caused flooding and mudslides killing two persons with eleven others missing, according to latest reports. The Pope said he is praying for the

victims, those suffering, and all the rescue workers.

The Pope also greeted participants taking part in a march this morning to denounce sexual violence against women, noting that unfortunately it is a widespread reality everywhere, and is even used as a weapon of war. On that issue, he also encouraged everyone to be tireless in saying no to war, no to violence, but yes to dialogue, yes to peace, especially for the martyred people of Ukraine, recalling yesterday’s anniversary of the tragedy of the Holodomor.

The Pope also remembered Burkhard Scheffler, a homeless man who died from the cold three days ago in the colonnade of Saint Peter’s Square.

It is full time now for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. (Rom 13:11)
