

CATHOLIC WORLD LAST WEEK (CWLW)

20-26 June 2022

20-6-22

Theologians must find new ways to express, share the faith, Pope says

(20-6-22) On June 17, Pope Francis received members of the editorial staff of *La Scuola Cattolica*, a theological journal published by the seminary of the Archdiocese of Milan.

“Theological language must always be alive, and cannot help but evolve, while being careful to make itself understood,” Pope Francis said. “Teaching and studying theology means living on a frontier, the frontier where the Gospel meets the real needs of people.”

Bishops warn that Sri Lanka is close to the worst tragedy in its history

(20-6-22) As Sri Lanka faces a national economic emergency, the nation’s bishops called on the government to offer relief for the poor.

“People are stranded ... without basic needs such as food, fuel, and domestic and industrial gas,” the bishops said in a statement. “Patients are left in the lurch without the medicine needed to sustain their life. Parents are yearning to find milk food for infants and children.”

“The tragedy that has struck our nation is in no uncertain terms the worst of our times,” they added.

“There should be a relief package to provide basic food items to the poorest of the poor. The unbridled rise in prices of basic necessities, shortages and hoarding seriously affect the day-to-day lives of people who are forced to stay in long queues.”

German governor, Pope Francis discuss Ukraine, Synodal Way



(20-6-22) The Minister-President of the German state of Saxony, Michael Kretschmer, had an “unusually long” private audience with Pope Francis on June 17, Vatican News reported.

Kretschmer praised the Pope for his “very clear moral standpoint” on Ukraine, particularly for the need for a peaceful solution. “Naturally, the key to this peace lies in Moscow,” said Kretschmer.

Kretschmer, a Lutheran, also spoke of the importance of the German bishops’ Synodal Way as a means to address the sexual abuse scandal. There “will be a

need for much communication, also here with the Holy Father and the Holy See, to come to a conclusion,” said Kretschmer.

Pope encourages Melkites to reflect on synodality

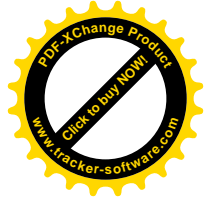
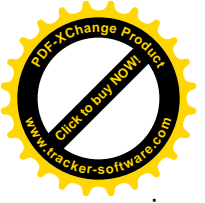
(20-6-22) Meeting on June 20 with members of the Melkite Catholic Synod of Bishops, Pope Francis urged them to “question yourselves on the synodal style of your being and acting.”

During the audience the Pontiff called attention to the continued devastation of Syria—where the Melkite Patriarchate of Antioch is located—saying that the faithful “must not forget what has been going on for twelve years in your land.”

Vatican coin commemorates Covid vaccine

(20-6-22) The Vatican has issued a new series of coins in honour of the worldwide campaign for Covid vaccination.

The coins, issued in various Euro denominations, feature an image of a doctor and nurse administering a vaccination shot to a young person. A Vatican release indicated that the coins were



issued to call attention to the efforts of Pope Francis to promote vaccination as a “moral obligation” and to “continue efforts to immunize even the poorest peoples.”

Synod of Bishops releases 53-page document on spirituality of synodality

(20-6-22) The General Secretariat for Synod of Bishops has published “Towards a Spirituality of Synodality.”

“One of the most significant aspects of the 2021-2023 Synod is the recognition that it is informed and shaped by a spirituality,” the 53-page document begins. “In developing a ‘spirituality for synodality,’ we find that it assists us in integrating our theological reflection and expanding our experience of the Church as we engage more deeply in the synodal process.”

The document, prepared by members of the Synod’s Spirituality Commission subgroup, has three sections: “Spirituality for Synodality – Some Central Themes,” “Practising a synodal spirituality: Developing a Synodal Habitus,” and “Our Lady of the Way —Theotokos Hodegetria” (a reference to a Marian icon).

In Nigeria, gunmen kidnap priest, demand ransom

(20-6-22) Gunmen broke into the home of Father James Kantoma, abducted him, and demanded a ransom of 50-million Nigerian dollars (120,000 US dollars).

Father Kantoma is a priest of the Archdiocese of Jos, a city of 900,000 that is the capital of Nigeria’s Plateau State.

Man paralyzed 12 years ago becomes Italy’s 1st assisted suicide victim

(20-6-22) A 44-year-old truck driver who was paralyzed in an accident 12 years ago has become the first person to die via assisted suicide in Italy. In February, Pope Francis condemned assisted suicide as the nation’s parliament was moving to legalize the practice.

Human rights organization calls on Malta to legalize abortion

(20-6-22) The Council of Europe’s human rights commissioner, Dunja Mijatovic, said in report that “unimpeded access to sexual and reproductive health care” is necessary for “a woman’s right to health and her right to be free from discrimination,” the Associated Press reported.

The Council has 46 member states.

South African Presbyterian to lead World Council of Churches

(20-6-22) Rev. Jerry Pillay, Dean of the Faculty of Theology and Religion at the University of Pretoria a member of the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa, has been elected the new general secretary of the World Council of Churches.

Pillay succeeds Father Ioan Sauca, a Romanian Orthodox priest.

350 Protestant and Orthodox communities are members of the World Council of Churches, which is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. Pope Francis made an ecumenical pilgrimage to Geneva in 2018 for the World Council of Churches’ 70th anniversary.

Italy - Scalabrini: "The image of a saint who knew how to understand and help, can maintain the hope of migrants and refugees"

(20-6-22) Called by the United Nations, World Refugee Day is celebrated on June 20 to commemorate the approval in 1951 of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees by the General Assembly of the United Nations. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the estimated number of refugees this year will be the highest in 50 years: around 100 million worldwide. Wars, the 34 ongoing conflicts on the continents, environmental disasters, hunger, trafficking and exploitation are



forcing more and more people and entire families to leave their country to seek protection and asylum elsewhere.

The Superiors of the three Scalabrinian Institutes in a joint letter for the recent Scalabrinian Year have said: " Blessed Giovanni Battista Scalabrini was a model for the world and still is today, in a global world divided by incomprehensible walls. His passion for migrants is a key to interpreting the contemporary world which has its foundation in the message of Christ."

Malta - Seventh year for the TV marathon which raises funds for the missions

(20-6-22) The television marathon conceived and produced by the Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS) of Malta (Missio Malta) crosses the milestone of 7 years. HOPE #MissioFest, the name of the Maltese television marathon, kicked off in the presence of Bishop Anton Teuma of Gozo and Msgr. Valent Borg, National Director of Missio Malta. The main objective: to collect donations for the needs of the missions in the developing countries and in the territories where the local Churches have identified specific pastoral needs.



Nigeria - New massacre of faithful in Nigeria

(20-6-22) At least three dead and about forty people kidnapped. This is the toll of the assault on worshipers at St. Moses Catholic Church, Robuh, Ungwan Aku, Kajuru Local Government Area, Kaduna State, which took place on Sunday, June 19 . The terrorist commando made up of several armed men attacked the faithful during morning mass, shooting at random. During the shooting, three people were killed while others suffered more or less serious injuries and were all taken to hospital. About 40 people are missing and are believed to have been

abducted by the bandits. According to official sources, the commando arrived on a motorbike and stormed several villages, starting with Ungwan Fada. In the village of Rubuh, the commando attacked the faithful of the Maranatha Baptist Church and the Catholic Church of Saint-Moise. The village of Rubuh had already been attacked on January 5 this year and on April 27, 2020. This is why the faithful of the Catholic and Methodist churches had decided to hold their Sunday religious service at 7 a.m. so that the participants could return home as soon as possible. But this time the attackers came in just after 7 a.m. and struck during both church services. Relatives of abductees are now waiting for ransom demands to be able to find their loved ones, often at the cost of having to sell all their belongings.

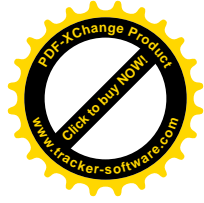
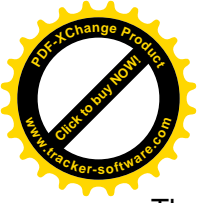
Venezuela - The diocesan phase of the Synod towards its conclusion: the results of 4,000 meetings are processed

(20-6-22) From 13 to 17 June, the National Commission of the Synod on Synodality met at the headquarters of the Episcopal Conference of Venezuela (CEV) to read, reflect and draw up a synthesis of the contributions from the work of the dioceses . According to the note from the CEV, in the country there were about 4,000 meetings of the Synod Assemblies in the diocesan phase, with the participation of 56,000 people, who reflected, commented and expressed their thoughts and proposals.

The diocesan phase is now in its culminating phase, with the elaboration of the synthesis. At the end of the diocesan phase, the synthesis will be presented to the Episcopal Assembly, which will take place in July, where the Bishops will study the conclusions.

Indonesian policeman 'sorry' for outburst against priest

(20-6-22) A senior police officer in Indonesia's Christian-dominated North Sumatra province has issued a public apology to a priest he stopped and berated for trying to pass through a roadblock.



The incident in the town of Tomok on June 16 was captured on video and uploaded on social media, sparking outrage. In the footage, Togap M. Lumbantobing, deputy police chief in Tomok, was seen cursing Capuchin Father Sabat Saulus Nababan, a parish priest. The policeman appeared to lose his temper with Father Nababan for allegedly trying to pass through a roadblock on his motorbike in Tomok. Police had temporarily closed the road to traffic to allow high-ranking police officials to pass. Lumbantobing became angry when the priest asked him to be allowed to pass so that he could attend to a dying parishioner. Taking his motorbike key, the policeman accused Father Nababan of being a fake priest after being shown the priest's ID and robes. He was also recorded saying "You are so arrogant" and "You don't know who I am? I'm the deputy chief of police."

Catholic Youth, a lay group, called for the policeman to be sacked after seeing the footage. "We cannot accept such behavior from a police officer," said Parulian Silalahi, head of the group's North Sumatra chapter. Similar calls came from parishioners and other Catholic netizens.

Responding to the backlash on June 19, Lumbantobing said he regretted the incident. "I have apologized to Father Nababan and he has forgiven and prayed for me," he said in a video in which he was seen sitting next to the priest. "To the community, I repeat again that I have no problem with the father."

Pakistan still failing to protect religious minorities

(20-6-22) Pakistan has failed to protect its religious minorities and their rights as directed by the Supreme Court eight years ago. The apex court in its judgment on June 19, 2014, had ordered the setting up of a national council (commission) for minorities, curbing hate speech, implementing job quotas, developing a curriculum for peace, and inculcating religious tolerance among a host of measures to safeguard minorities.

"The federal and provincial governments have achieved 22 percent compliance in eight years," said Peter Jacob, executive director of the Centre for Social Justice (CSJ), while pointing out that at this rate it would require 24 years to ensure full implementation of the judgment. Punjab province, which is home to 2.06 million Christians, scored a zero for its failure to implement the measures.

Speaking at a media conference organized by CSJ to mark the eighth anniversary of the pro-minority judgment on June 18, Jacob cited "the lack of good governance, indifference towards human rights, non-serious practices and the plight of minorities amongst legal duty-bearers" as the main reasons for the continued failure to protect minorities.



South Korea's euthanasia law dismays Catholics

(20-6-22) A Catholic leader in South Korea has expressed concerns after the nation's parliament introduced a law to legalize doctor-assisted suicide for ending the lives of terminally ill patients with no chance of recovery.

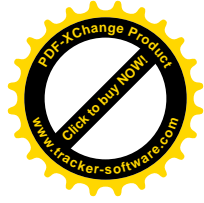
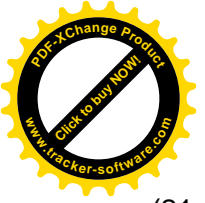
"The committee for life of Seoul Catholic Archdiocese expresses serious concerns over the recently introduced doctor-assisted suicide [euthanasia] legislation. The Church emphasizes on sacredness of human life that cannot be violated, either by itself or by others, until the last minute," committee chairman Archbishop Peter Chung Soon-taick of Seoul said in a June 20 statement.

The archbishop said that instead of ending life society needs to find ways how to reduce the unbearable suffering of terminally ill patients to help them die with dignity.

(20-6-22) The **Islamic State has claimed responsibility for an attack on a Sikh temple in Afghanistan** that killed one community member and a Taliban fighter, saying it was retaliation for insults against the Prophet Muhammad.

21-6-22

Pope repeats condemnation of nuclear arms

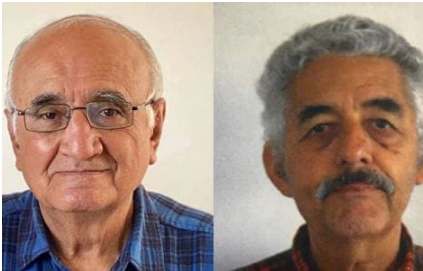


(21-6-22) Pope Francis has repeated his charge that “the use of nuclear weapons, as well as their mere possession, is immoral.”

“The Holy See has no doubts that a world free from nuclear weapons is both necessary and possible,” the Pope said in a message to participants in a meeting of states that have ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. He praised the “ever more timely” effort to rid the world of nuclear arms.

Vatican newspaper responds to new book on Pius XII and World War II

(21-6-22) Responding to *The Pope at War: The Secret History of Pius XII, Mussolini, and Hitler*, Matteo Luigi Napolitano writes that David Kertzer has engaged in “creative historiography,” as well as an “unsatisfactory use of sources and various other problems (omissions and a sometimes-inaccurate critical method).”



Two Jesuit priests killed in Mexico

(21-6-22) Two Jesuit priests were killed in Ceroachui, Mexico, on June 20, as they tried to protect a man who had rushed into a church for protection as he was being chased by an armed assailant. Responding to the deaths of Fathers Javier Campos and Joaquin Mora, Jesuit officials called upon Mexican authorities to protect other Jesuits serving in the region.

Pope pens preface to new book, ‘The Church in the Digital’

(21-6-22) “There is indeed much to be done, to grow together in awareness of the importance but also the risks involved in using these tools,” Pope Francis writes in his preface to Fabio Bolzetta *La Chiesa nel digitale* [The Church in the Digital]. “There is indeed much to be done to learn how to listen; and to engage and train young, digital natives who are able to revitalize parish websites.” The book’s editor is Fabio Bolzetta, a journalist at the Italian bishops’ TV2000.

Wild driver near Vatican prompts fears of terror attack

(21-6-22) Vatican security officials went on high alert on Sunday, June 21, when a man drove an automobile recklessly toward St. Peter’s Square during the time of a papal audience, crashing through police barricades and causing fears of a terrorist attack.

The driver of the car was eventually stopped and taken into custody. He proved to be unarmed, and was described as a “devout Catholic,” but was under the influence of alcohol and other drugs.

Smaller, more low-key World Meeting of Families begins this week in Rome

(21-6-22) There have been 10 World Meetings of Families since 1994, with the eighth held in Philadelphia (2015) and the ninth in Dublin (2018). The theme of the 10th World Meeting of Families is “Family love: a vocation and a path to holiness.”

“Instead of thousands of families flocking to the host city, the WMOF 2022 is by invite only,” the Crux report notes. “Participants are primarily representatives of episcopal conferences and ecclesial movements. An estimated 2,000 families will be attending.”

Citing persecution of Church, UN human rights chief decries oppression in Nicaragua

(21-6-22) “The human rights situation in Nicaragua has continued to decline over the past three months, with detainees being held in appalling conditions, civic space shrinking, and an unprecedented rise in people fleeing the country,” according to Michelle Bachelet, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

“The Nicaraguan police have also resumed harassment of Catholic priests,” her report continued. “The government has also ordered the Catholic Channel to be removed from cable television.” Daniel Ortega, a leader of the Marxist Sandinistas, returned to power in 2007.

Archbishop of Canterbury calls Church of England's slave trade links a 'source of shame'

(21-6-22) "I am deeply sorry for the links with transatlantic chattel slavery that the Church Commissioners has identified," Archbishop Justin Welby, the Anglican primate, said after a three-year investigation resulted in a report.

"This abominable trade took men, women, and children created in God's image and stripped them of their dignity and freedom," he continued. "The fact that some within the Church actively supported and profited from it is a source of shame."

Ukraine - A new "Caravan of Peace" to show the concrete face of solidarity

(21-6-22) On Saturday, June 24, a new caravan of peace will leave Italy for Odessa, as an ideal continuation of the first caravan held in Ukraine last April, when a convoy of more than 60 vehicles arrived at the western city of Lviv. It is - underline the organizers - a choice of testimony and closeness: "We want to be there, with the people of Ukraine, to make them feel that we are close and that our solidarity materializes with a new trip to the places of war" explains Fr. Tonio dell'Olio, of "Pro Civitate Christiana".



Eritrea - Forced recruitment of soldiers for the conflict in Tigray is rampant

(21-6-22) "Thousands of people were forcibly recruited to fight in Tigray, men, women and children were kidnapped and sent to the front lines. The recruitment of children by the Eritrean forces worsened, with witnesses reporting roundups of children as young as 14". This was stated by the special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea, Mohamed Abdelsalam Babiker, at the opening of the 50th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, which

is taking place from June 13 to July 8, 2022 at the United Nations Office in Geneva. The refugees who were taken from the Hitsats and Shimelba camps in Ethiopia at the end of 2020 were also detained, punished and recruited.

D.R. Congo - Controversy over sending a regional military force to pacify eastern DRC

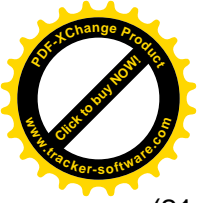
(21-6-22) A regional peacekeeping force to stabilize eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. This was agreed in Nairobi during the June 20 meeting between East African leaders on security in this region of the DRC, also taking into account the recent tensions between Kinshasa and Rwanda, which accuse each other of supporting anti-government guerrilla movements.

The announcement of the dispatch of the regional force to the eastern regions of the DRC provoked strong reactions in Congo. Citizens' movement Lucha said that in fact soldiers from neighboring countries are already present in the DRC "in one form or another".

America - Civil society and religious organizations at the forefront of aid to asylum seekers and migrants

(21-6-22) A request to the main international organizations, in particular the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), to increase their support for projects not only governments, but above all civil society organizations, including religious organizations, because "they are the frontline operators to promote humanitarian, economic, legal and labour assistance to asylum seekers and migrants" . The call was made by Red Clamor, the network of Latin American churches working in the field of migration, trafficking, displaced persons and refugees, on the occasion of World Refugee Day, celebrated every year on June 20.

India - Prayer to St. Devasahayam and consecration of families to the Sacred Heart of Jesus



(21-6-22) The Catholic Church of the Latin Thanksgiving Prayer Service next June Sacred Heart of Jesus, to pay tribute to St. the first lay Catholic saint of India, May 15, and to consecrate all Indian Jesus.



rite in India will hold a National 24, the solemnity of the Lazaro Devasahayam Pillai, canonized in the Vatican on families to the Sacred Heart of

Colombia - Archbishop Rueda Aparicio: "it is important that we look at the present and the future of Colombia"

(21-6-22) The second round of the presidential elections held in Colombia on Sunday, June 19, saw the victory of Gustavo Petro, who obtained 50.47% of the vote, while the other candidate, Rodolfo Hernández, won 42.27% of the vote. Francia Márquez, the vice-presidential candidate, also won. In a short video message, the Archbishop Luis José Rueda Aparicio of Bogotá, President of the Episcopal Conference praised the Colombian people, acknowledging the democratic effort made, "showing responsibility and love for Colombia". "Without ignoring that there will be many aspects to correct, it is important that we look at the present and the future of Colombia, continuing to work for life, peace and integral human development", underlined the Archbishop. Addressing the President and Vice-President, he reiterated the Church's commitment to "continue working and fighting for peace, reconciliation and brotherhood among all Colombians".

Church rushes to help flood victims in Bangladesh

(21-6-22) As Bangladesh reels from the worst flooding in nearly 20 years, Catholic agencies are lending a helping hand to thousands of flood victims. Most areas of Sylhet district have been affected by flooding due to heavy rains over the last week and water coming down from upstream. People – one million in number - in Sylhet and other districts in northeastern Bangladesh, which have been affected for the second time in a month, are unable to reach safe shelters and lack food and drinking water. Oblate Father Johnny Finney, the procurator of Sylhet Diocese, said about 2,000 Catholics out of 20,000 in the diocese lack food and drinking water. "We are providing food, water and some basic medicines to affected people through the parish," Father Finney told UCA News. Caritas Sylhet has appealed for donations to support flood-affected people. "We are helping some people with Caritas funds, but they need urgent financial support in addition to food," said Abu Taher, junior program officer at Caritas Sylhet. Caritas is helping about 20,000 Catholic families affected by flooding in Mymensingh Diocese. "We have so far provided dry food, candles and first aid to 500 families with our own funds and some staff help at the individual level, but it is not enough. We have called on international donors to stand by the flood victims," said Caritas.

Bishops issue plea to help refugees in Papua New Guinea

(21-6-22) More should be done to ease the plight of refugees and asylum seekers in Papua New Guinea (PNG), including those from Indonesia's Papua region who fled their homes because of political and security problems, according to the Bishops' Conference of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.

In a statement to mark World Refugee Day on June 20, signed by the conference secretary-general, Father Giorgio Licini, the bishops said these asylum seekers and refugees have been neglected for years and as such are "vulnerable people exposed to more risks." The priest, a member of the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions (PIME), said about 12,000 Melanesians from Papua are now living in PNG, mainly in the National Capital District (NCD) and in Western and Sandaun provinces, who find it difficult to integrate within society. "Prolonged refugee processing, lack of government-issued identity documentation and, importantly, land concessions" are some of the major issues that continue to hold these people back, he said.



Korean archbishop seeks dialogue to ease border tensions

(21-6-22) As the Catholic Church in South Korea launched a nine-day prayer for the reconciliation and unity of all Koreans, one of the nation's most senior Catholic leaders has insisted dialogue can ease tensions and bring peace on the Korean Peninsula.

The Korean Church kicked off the novena for reconciliation on June 17, reported the Catholic Peace Broadcasting Corporation (CPBC). During an interview with CPBC this week, Archbishop Victorinus Yoon Kong-hi, the former head of the Archdiocese of Gwangju, called

for continuous dialogue for a unified and peaceful peninsula.

"We must accept that South and North Korea are one people and that it is God's will that we live as one people. We should pray that God's will be done and try to do all we can," the archbishop said.

Buddhist monk arrested after protest in Sri Lankan capital

(21-6-22) Twenty-one protesters including a Buddhist monk were arrested by Sri Lankan police following a protest by thousands of students from state universities and religious leaders held opposite the presidential secretariat and the Ministry of Finance on June 20. They demand the president and prime minister resign over the worst economic crisis since independence in 1948.

(21-6-22) The **heaviest rainfall in decades has triggered floods and landslides in southern China's** Guangdong and Guanxi regions, forcing the evacuation of hundreds of thousands of people, state media has reported.

Japan court rules same-sex marriage ban constitutional

(21-6-22) A Japanese court has ruled that the country's failure to recognize same-sex marriage is constitutional in a setback for activists after a landmark verdict last year found the opposite.

"From the perspective of individual dignity, it can be said that it is necessary to realize the benefits of same-sex couples being publicly recognized through official recognition," the court ruling said.

Crisis-hit Sri Lanka added to human rights watchlist

(21-6-22) Sri Lanka has been added to a watchlist of countries that have seen a rapid decline in civic freedoms.

In recent months, as the country suffers its worst economic crisis in decades, authorities have responded to anti-government protests with restrictive emergency regulations and the use of excessive and even deadly force against protesters. Journalists have also been targeted, while pro-government mobs have attacked protest sites with impunity.

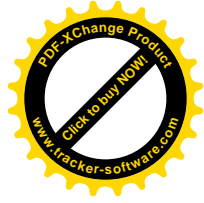
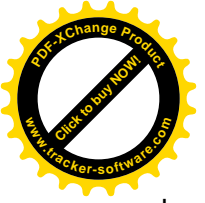
The new watchlist is released by the CIVICUS Monitor, an online platform that tracks the latest developments to civic freedoms, including freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, across 197 countries and territories.

22-6-22

Elderly can find strength in weakness, Pope tells audience

Pope Francis continued his series of talks on old age at his weekly public audience on June 22, reflecting on the words of Jesus to St. Peter recorded in the last chapter of St. John's Gospel ("but when you are old..."). Here is the summary of his talk:

In our continuing catechesis on the meaning and value of old age in the light of God's word, we now consider the words of the Risen Jesus to Peter at the Lake of Tiberias (*Jn* 21:17-18). Peter reaffirms his love for Christ and receives the command to feed the Lord's sheep. Jesus adds, with a reference to Peter's eventual martyrdom: "When you were younger, you used to go wherever you wished; but when you grow old, another will take you where you would not go". These words have a particular meaning for the elderly, since the passing of the years naturally entails physical frailty and heightened



dependence on others. At the same time, however, old age can be a time of renewed love for the Lord, hope in his promises, and growth in spiritual wisdom. Jesus goes on to tell Peter not to concern himself with John, the younger disciple, but with persevering in fidelity to his own calling and mission. His words remind us of the need, in life's later years, to make room for the younger generations and to respect their place in the unfolding of the Lord's saving plan. For Christ's disciples, old age can thus be a fruitful season of contemplation, gratitude and witness to the grace of God constantly at work in our lives and in the world around us.

Pope's Concern: Earthquake tragedy in Afghanistan, Murder of two Jesuits and a layman in Mexico, Remember Ukraine

(22-6-22) After giving his message, the Pope expressed his sadness at the devastating earthquake in Afghanistan. He hoped that "with everyone's help, the suffering of the dear Afghan people can be alleviated."

The Pope also expressed his "sorrow and dismay at the killing, in Mexico on June 20, of two Jesuit priests – my confreres – and a layman. How many killings there are in Mexico! With affection and prayer, I am close to the Catholic community affected by this tragedy. Once again, I repeat that violence does not solve problems, but increases unnecessary suffering."

Informing the pilgrims that the children who were seated with him the Popemobile before the audience were Ukrainian children, he pleaded: "Let us not forget Ukraine. Let us not forget the suffering of that martyred people."

Pope to Syro-Malabar youth: Walk along Jesus' path of love

(22-6-22) "In today's 'fluid', even 'frothy' culture, our lives find substance and meaning whenever we say 'yes' to Jesus," Pope Francis said to participants in the Syro-Malabar Youth Leaders Conference. "Don't be afraid to rebel against the growing tendency to reduce love to something banal, without beauty or genuine sharing and lacking in fidelity and responsibility."



The Syro-Malabar Catholic Church <https://cnewa.org/spotlight-on-the-eastern-churches-the-syro-malabar-catholic-church-52561/> is among the Eastern Catholic churches in full communion with the Holy See.

Evoke hidden thirst for God through all media, Pope tells Society of St. Paul

(22-6-22) Blessed James Alberione founded the Society of Saint Paul in 1914. The theme of the institute's 11th general chapter was "Let yourselves be transformed by renewing your way of thinking" (Rm 12:2): Called to be artisans of communion to prophetically announce the joy of the Gospel in the culture of communication."

"Our mentality must first of all be changed, converted, and assimilated to that of Jesus our Teacher, in order to contribute to spreading in society a way of thinking and living based on the Gospel," Pope Francis told participants in the chapter. "Integrate the message itself into the new culture created by modern forms of communication."

Pope pays tribute to Zaire Use as 'the only inculturated Roman missal'

(22-6-22) In 1988, the Vatican approved the Roman Missal for the Dioceses of Zaire (the Zaire Use). Ahead of the Pope's since postponed apostolic journey to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (as Zaire is now known), the Pope wrote a preface to the French translation of Sister Rita Mboshu Kongo's "Le Pape François et le Missel Roman pour les diocèses du Zaïre" ("Pope Francis and the Roman Missal for Dioceses in Zaire").

"In its triple fidelity to the faith and to the apostolic tradition, to the intimate nature of the Catholic liturgy itself, and finally to the religious genius and the African and Congolese cultural heritage, the



Roman Missal for the Dioceses of Zaire is the only 'inculturated' Roman missal, born of the liturgical reform of Vatican II," Pope Francis wrote in the preface.

Australian public and Catholic school teachers hold 'historic' joint strike over pay

(22-6-22) Teachers at 550 Catholic schools in New South Wales have joined their public school counterparts in a strike for higher pay. It is the second time the Catholic teachers have gone on strike in the past seven months.

Nigeria - "The Nigerian State seems to be on the verge of collapse"

(22-6-22)"The Nigerian state seems to be on the verge of collapse", says a statement on the presidential and parliamentary elections to be held in 2023, signed by the Secretary General of the Catholic Secretariat of Abuja, Fr. Zaccaria Samjumi; by the Director of Pastoral Affairs, Fr. Michael Banjo; and by the Director of the Church and Society section, Fr. Uchechukwu Obodoechina. The statement recalls the existence everywhere "of conflicts of varying magnitude and importance: from attacks by unknown gunmen throughout the southeast, to the insurgency in the northeast with the killing of innocent civilians which continues unabated". The massacre at St. Francis Church in Owo, Ondo State, committed on Sunday, June 5 "has given a new dimension to the massacre taking place in our country", it is emphasized.

Added to the massacres are kidnappings for the purpose of extortion, of which several priests and religious are also victims, instability in the "Middle Belt", "food shortages and growing inflation" which lead to "hunger and misery everywhere", and strikes in universities which leave young people "without direction or purpose".



Indonesia - Consecrated life promotes authenticity and integrity, to fight corruption

(22-6-22) The nuns and all the members of religious institutes in Indonesia are ready to get involved and fight against the social scourge of corruption in everyday life and on a cultural level: this is what the nuns who participated in the recent seminar said in Semarang, in the province of Central Java. Consecrated life in Indonesia intends to contribute to bearing witness, raising awareness and discouraging corruption in the coming years,

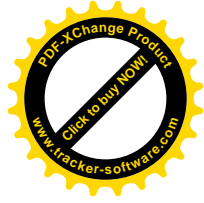
promoting, in its daily mission, values and practices of integrity and transparency at all levels.

Ecuador - Protests increase, state of emergency in six provinces, Bishops call "to build bridges"

(22-6-22) The government of Ecuador, led by the President of the Republic Guillermo Lasso, has extended the state of emergency from three to six provinces, giving greater powers to the police and restricting freedom of movement. The decision was made following the violent protests and strikes that are spreading in several areas of the country, including the capital Quito – for reasons of corruption, the inefficiency of the health system, unemployment, disregard for human rights, injustice in allocation of subsidies to families in difficulty etc; they also demand respect for fundamental rights and the allocation of subsidies to families in difficulty.

Mexico - Two Jesuit priests are murdered in a church and their bodies are taken by armed men

(22-6-22) On the afternoon of June 20 in Cerocahui, Tarahumara, Jesuit Fathers Javier Campos Morales, SJ, (79 years old) and Joaquín César Mora Salazar, SJ, (80 years old) were killed while trying to defend a man who was seeking refuge in the church and was being chased by an armed person. This happened in the context of the violence that the country is experiencing. This is what Fr. Luis Gerardo Moro Madrid SJ, Provincial Superior of the Jesuits of Mexico, writes in a statement. The Provincial Superior is worried about the safety of other Jesuits and the pastoral team of the parish.



Fr. Arturo Sosa, Superior General of the Society of Jesus, said in a message: "I am shocked and saddened by this news. My thoughts and prayers are with the Jesuits in Mexico and the families of these brothers. We must stop the violence in the world and so much unnecessary suffering".

Along with the two Jesuit priests, a third person was also killed. The bodies of the two priests were taken away by armed persons, for which the Jesuits of the Mexican province demand their return. (24-6-22) The bodies of the two priests and the third person, the tour guide Pedro Palma, killed on June 20 by gunmen inside the church of Cerocahui, have been recovered. After the triple murder, the group had taken the bodies. The police believe the man responsible for the murder is José Noriel Portillo Gil, aka "El Chueco", head of the local cell of the Sinaloa drug cartel.

Australia - Support continues for Ethiopia to combat the consequences of drought

(22-6-22) "The generosity we have witnessed in recent weeks has been a blessing. The donations will support our projects around the world and help families in need". This was stated by Father Brian Lucas, director of Catholic Mission, the national directorate of the Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS) in Australia, which this year has paid particular attention to Ethiopia. The Catholic Mission focuses on development and assistance projects in this country which has been severely affected by a long-lasting drought and which has caused serious economic hardship to families already in precarious conditions.

Journalists, police urged to attend Philippine rights seminar

(22-6-22) A Catholic media station in the Philippines has urged law enforcers and media workers to attend a United Nations sponsored webinar on the protection of press freedom and freedom of expression July 1-2.

Church-run Radyo Veritas said on June 21 that journalists and policemen must grab the opportunity to know the importance of press freedom and freedom of speech in a democratic society. "There have been many abuses by police enforcers of journalists in the last two years mainly because they did not know the importance of a free press in a democratic society. The media is the watchdog in the country. Journalists are not the enemy of the state," said Catholic media spokesman Father Jun de la Paz of Virac Diocese in the Bicol region.

Indonesian Catholic school transforms to transform others

(22-6-22) A Catholic philosophy school in Indonesia's East Nusa Tenggara province has changed its name and expanded its study program to increase its contribution to society and improve local education.

The Ledalero Catholic Philosophy School (STFK) on Catholic-majority Flores island said in a June 22 statement that it had officially changed its name to the Ledalero Institute of Philosophy and Creative Technology following the issuing of a government decree on June 16.

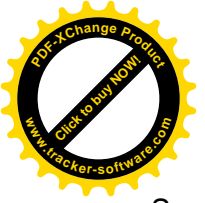
"Besides changing the name, we also received permission to introduce two new courses — entrepreneurship and visual communication design," it said.

Indian archbishop leads farmers' protest against eviction threat

(22-6-22) Farmers led by a Catholic archbishop in the southern Indian state of Kerala are opposing a Supreme Court order that imposes a ban on human activity in buffer zones extending one kilometer around protected forests. They fear the June 3 judgment will lead to mass evictions from agricultural land located in the buffer zones.

"We will not let anyone take away our agriculture land," warned Metropolitan Archbishop Joseph Pamplany of Tellicherry while addressing agitating farmers at Cherupuzha in Kannur district on June 21.





Sporting a cap made of areca nut leave, traditionally used by farmers at work, he said on June 22 the court order raises a serious question mark over the survival and future of close to two million farmers who may have to part with agricultural land that provides their only source of income.

Father's Day celebrations at Lahore Cathedral

(22-6-22) Archbishop Sebastian Shaw joined parishioners for Father's Day celebrations on June 19 at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Lahore, Pakistan. The archbishop urged fathers to spend more time with their children, review their family budget and focus on real needs amid rising inflation. The federal government last week announced a massive increase in prices of all petroleum products, the third such rise in three weeks.

23-6-22

Pope renews condemnation of anti-Semitism

(23-6-22) A 30-member delegation from the Simon Wiesenthal Center met Pope Francis on June 22 and presented the Pope with a copy of a 1919 document by Adolf Hitler calling for the destruction of the Jews. Emphasizing the importance of “the fight against anti-Semitism, bigotry and genocide,” Rabbi Marvin Hier told Pope Francis that “our world needs your leadership now more than ever.” The Pontiff “denounced the current wave of anti-Semitism” and “urged the [Center] to continue to serve as a bridge between the past and the future,” according to the Center.

Family life is not an unattainable ideal, Pope tells World Meeting of Families

(23-6-22) “Family life is not a unattainable in reality,” Pope the 10th World Meeting of “Marriage is not a formality to married to be Catholic with the because the Church says so, Pope told an audience of gathered from around the meeting. Fortified by the grace he said, “God makes it a taken together with Him, never alone.”



beautiful ideal, Francis said as he opened Families on June 23. be fulfilled. You don't get label, to obey a rule, or or to throw a party,” the about 2,000 families, world for the three-day of sacramental marriage, wonderful journey—to be

Cardinal Parolin dismisses rumors of papal resignation

(23-6-22) Cardinal Pietro Parolin has scoffed at media reports that Pope Francis may resign, saying that they are “just rumours.”

When asked to comment about stories on a possible papal resignation, the Vatican Secretary of State replied: “There is nothing to comment on.”

Vatican confirms schedule for Pope's July trip to Canada

(23-6-22) The Vatican has confirmed plans for a papal visit to Canada late in July, easing fears—at least for now—concerns that the trip might be postponed because of the Pope's health problems. The schedule released by the Vatican on June 23 calls for Pope Francis to visit Edmonton, Quebec, and the northern city of Iqaluit, in Nunavut territory, where he will meet tribal elders and former students at one of Canada's residential schools.

The Pope is scheduled to fly to Edmonton on July 24, and leave from Iqaluit on July 29, arriving in Rome the next morning.

Just ten days ago, the Vatican announced that the Pope's plans for a trip to Africa earlier in July would be postponed “in order not to jeopardize the results of the therapy that he is undergoing for his knee.” That announcement came two weeks after the Vatican had released a full schedule for the African trip, and less than a month before the trip was to take place.

With 200 witnesses on docket, Vatican finance trial likely a marathon

(23-6-22) Vatican prosecutors have indicated that as many as 200 witnesses may be called before the tribunal hearing the landmark financial-misconduct case.

The tribunal will continue questioning defendants at the next session on July 7, then begin hearing other witnesses. But the tribunal's summer hiatus—as well as the large number of witnesses—guarantees that the trial will continue for months.

Myanmar diocese warns priest on political activism

(23-6-22) A priest in Myanmar has been cautioned against “active participation in politics,” and online criticism of both the government and the Church leadership.

The Keuntung diocese instructed Father Dominic Wun Kyaw Htwe to avoid partisan politics, saying that his comments on social media have caused divisions among the country's Christians. The priest, who has called for international attention to human-rights abuses in Myanmar, had been active in protest groups after the country's military coup, and eventually fled to neighboring Thailand, where he serves in a local parish but continues to comment on the situation in Myanmar.

Vatican official calls for greater pastoral care of families



(23-6-22) As the 10th World Meeting of Families began in Rome, Gabriella Gambino, the Undersecretary of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, said that “today, one of the greatest challenges for us parents is precisely that of transmitting to our children the awareness, and also the courage to proclaim Christ present in our families.”

“We must ‘accompany’ couples, so that they know how to live crises as opportunities for growth and not as moments that mark insuperable wounds,” she added. “It is also important that

we learn to transmit the faith to young people starting from the reality in which they are inserted, therefore also having the courage to address issues that are very difficult for us today, on which we are sometimes poorly prepared.”

2 kidnapped Chibok girls freed in Nigeria after 8 years

(23-6-22) In 2014, members of the Islamist terrorist group Boko Haram abducted 276 students in the Chibok schoolgirls kidnapping.

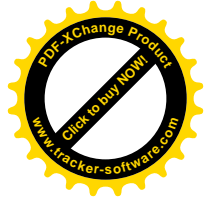
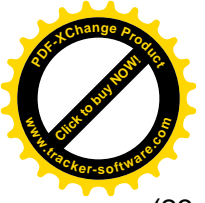
Nigerian troops have found two of the young women, as “thousands of Boko Haram fighters and families have been surrendering over the last year, fleeing government bombardments and infighting with the rival group Islamic State West Africa Province,” Agence France-Presse reported.

Uganda - Evangelization through education, health and socio-economic development

(23-6-22) The Ugandan bishops recently gathered in Plenary Assembly focused on the process of evangelization that must be carried out in the country through education, health and socio-economic development. “The Bishops were provided with the opportunity to share their concerns for the economy, industrialization, youth unemployment, refugees and migrants, climate change and its effects in light of the encyclical *Laudato Si'* as well as instability and insecurity in some parts of the country”, reads the statement signed by the President of the Ugandan Bishops' Conference (UEC), Archbishop Joseph Antony Zziwa.

UEC resolved “to focus their attention” on the ongoing preparations for the Synod on Synodality that is scheduled to take place in October 2023 in Rome. The bishops further called for “recognition of the dignity of the human person in accordance with the National Constitution, human rights and the teaching of the Church”.

Mozambique - Attacks on civilians move to the south of the province of Cabo Delgado



(23-6-22) More than 784,000 have been displaced in northern Mozambique due to violence perpetrated by non-state armed groups, mainly by the self-proclaimed Mozambican Province of ISIS. This is reported by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which reiterates its concern for the protection and humanitarian needs of the displaced and the host communities in Cabo Delgado and neighbouring provinces.

Bangladesh - Men of service and proclamation of the Gospel: 13 new deacons for the Church, seven of them tribal

(23-6-22) The 13 new deacons who enrich and give hope to the Catholic Church of Bangladesh will be men dedicated to ecclesial and pastoral service and to proclaiming the Gospel, especially to the poorest. In two distinct celebrations - 10 of them were ordained in Holy Spirit Major Seminary in Dhaka at the end of May; another 3 at the end of April in St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican - Bishops, priests, religious and Bangladeshis faithful rejoiced over the journey of these young people who, hopefully, before the end of 2022 will become priests to give their full and generous contribution to the mission of the Church in Bangladesh.



This contribution, already now, as deacons, is precious for the dioceses of Dhaka, Mymensingh, Rajshahi, where they are called to work and carry out pastoral service. Seven among these deacons are Garo tribals.

Brazil - The Bishops: "let's raise our voices again to denounce violence and cry out together for peace"

(23-6-22) "Faced with so many situations that embarrass us, we, bishops of the Permanent Council of the Brazilian Episcopal Conference, once again raise our voices to denounce violence and cry out together for peace. We join all the people and realities that, with a sincere heart, strive in this direction". This is stated by the Permanent Council of the National Conference of Bishops of Brazil (CNBB), which on June 22 unanimously approved a message to the Brazilian people entitled "A cry for peace". The Bishops affirm that in these times "it is urgent to listen to the voices of so many who, victims of various forms of violence, cry out for justice and peace".

China jails young Tibetan activist for 'separatist acts'

(23-6-22) Chinese authorities have jailed a young Tibetan writer and activist for four years and five months after he was convicted of "separatist acts and creating social disorder." Thupten Lodoe, a man in his 30s and known by his pen name Sabuche, was arrested last October and convicted last week, Radio Free Asia (RFA) reported, quoting a friend who declined to be named for safety reasons. His family members and friends are still in the dark about where he has been detained. Following his arrest, Lodoe was reportedly taken to Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan province in southwest China.

Priest accuses Philippine govt of betraying health workers

(23-6-22) A Catholic priest well known for speaking out on human rights issues in the Philippines has accused the government of betraying more than 126,000 medical workers by not paying them promised pandemic and health benefits. Father Robert Reyes of Cubao Diocese in Manila said there was no reason why authorities should delay the release of a 7.9-billion-peso (US\$158 million) Covid fund to help health workers in the private sector. The government had promised to pay them in October 2020 amid the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Indian court grants bail to priest, nun serving jail term for nun's murder



(23-6-22) A top court in the southern Indian state of Kerala has granted bail to a Catholic priest and nun serving a life term for murdering a junior nun three decades ago.

A Kerala High Court division bench ordered them to execute a bond of 500,000 Indian rupees (US\$6,380) before being released on bail on June 23. The court has directed Father Thomas Kottoor, 72, and Sister Sephy, 59, not to leave the state. Their appeals in the higher court are pending.

The bail order came as a major relief to the Catholic Church in Kerala as it had refused to accept their conviction because it believed they were innocent.

A special Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) court had sentenced Father Kottoor and Sister Sephy to life imprisonment on Dec. 23, 2020, for the 1992 murder of 19-year-old Sister Abhaya. The federal probe agency told the court that the priest and nun had committed the crime to cover up their sex act, which the younger nun accidentally saw while collecting drinking water on the morning of March 27, 1992. Sister Abhaya's body was found in the well of St. Pius Convent in Kottayam district that same morning. The priest and nun were also found guilty of destroying evidence. The priest was sentenced to double imprisonment.

Sri Lankan monk, activists detained by police

(23-6-22) Seven prominent youth activists including a Buddhist monk were detained by police when they reported to a police station on June 22.

The suspects, who were arrested for allegedly damaging public property during a protest in front of the police headquarters, will be remanded to July 1. Among those remanded are Ven. Rathkarawe Jinarathana Thera, actor Jehan Appuhamy, social media activists Rathidu Senaratne, Dhammika Munasinghe and Lahiru Weerasekera, Catholic actor Jagath Manuwarna and Eranga Gunasekera. Actor Appuhamy recently completed a three-day walk to Galle Face Green carrying a wooden cross and demanding justice for victims and families affected by the 2019 Easter Sunday bombings. He covered a distance of 40 kilometers and was welcomed by thousands of people who have been protesting against the government and demanding the resignation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa for mismanaging the economy.

Police said the seven suspects, who were wanted for illegal assembly opposite the police headquarters on June 9, had surrendered to Maradana police via counsel.

Some 21 protesters including a Buddhist monk were arrested by police following a protest held opposite the presidential secretariat and the Ministry of Finance on June 20. The symbolic protest marked President Rajapaksa's 73rd birthday.

A Catholic priest said Buddhist, Christian and other religious leaders have come up with various solutions to the economic and political crisis but the rulers do not listen. Catholic bishops urged the government to provide a relief package for the poor and liberate the people from their day-to-day sufferings.

24-6-22

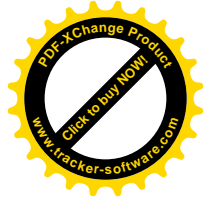
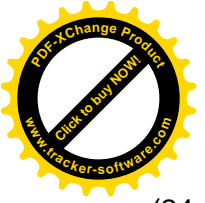
Supreme Court overturns Roe v. Wade

(24-6-22) The US Supreme Court has overturned the *Roe v. Wade* ruling of 1973, restoring the authority of individual states to regulate abortion.

The Court's decision does not outlaw abortion, but allows for individual states to make their own laws regarding the practice. Pro-life leaders have emphasized the importance of political action at the state level to protect life, while pro-life jurists have argued that the courts should take the next logical step and recognize that unborn children should receive Constitutional protection.

Leaders of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops welcomed the Supreme Court ruling.

Pope: 'The drama of Cain and Abel unfolding in Ukraine'



(24-6-22) “we have returned to the drama of Cain and Abel; a life-destroying violence has been unleashed, a Lucifer-like, diabolical violence, to which we believers are called to react with the power of prayer, with the concrete help of charity, with every Christian means so that weapons give way to negotiations,” Pope Francis said in a June 23 address to participants in the Reunion of Aid Agencies for the Oriental Churches (ROACO).

Resist fear spread by organized crime with healthy, hopeful roots, Pope says

(24-6-22) “We must also resist Mafia cultural colonialism through research, study and formative activities aimed at attesting that civil, social and environmental progress springs not from corruption and privilege, but rather from justice, freedom, honesty and solidarity,” Pope Francis said in a June 23 address to members of the Pontifical International Marian Academy and the Anti-Mafia Investigation Directorate.

Pope Francis: Catholics, Oriental Orthodox should examine more sacramental sharing

(24-6-22) On June 23, Pope Francis received members of the Joint International Commission for Theological Dialogue between the Catholic Church and the Oriental Orthodox Churches. The six Oriental Orthodox churches ceased to be in full communion with the Holy See following the Ecumenical Council of Chalcedon (451).

During his address, Pope Francis emphasized that “ecumenism is essentially baptismal,” “ecumenism always has a pastoral character,” and “ecumenism already exists as a primarily local reality.”



After referring to previous agreements that allowed Catholics to receive some of the sacraments from Oriental Orthodox priests (and vice versa), Pope Francis said, “Now, on the basis of the theological consensus noted by your Commission, would it not be possible to extend and multiply such pastoral agreements, above all in those situations in which our faithful are a minority and in the diaspora?”

“This question is a challenge,” the Pope continued. “May the Holy Spirit inspire ways of moving forward on this path, which regards the good of persons, the good of souls, the good of the people of God, our people, not to moral, theological or ideological distinctions.”

Without Jesus, we can do nothing, Pope tells Comboni Missionaries

(24-6-22) Pope Francis received participants in the general chapter of the Comboni Missionaries of the Heart of Jesus.

“We can do many things: initiatives, programs, campaigns,” the Pope said, “many things; but if we are not in Him, and if His Spirit does not pass through us, everything we do is nothing in His eyes, that is, it is worth nothing for the Kingdom of God.”

Pope orders public release of archives from World War II

(24-6-22) Pope Francis has ordered the release of material from the Vatican archives covering World War II, the reign of Pope Pius XII, and the Vatican’s efforts to shield Jews from the Holocaust. The Pope said that the archival material, which has been opened to scholars, should now be made available online. The move comes amid new controversy over the wartime role of Pope Pius XII. Meanwhile, referring to Pope Venerable Pius XII, Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher, the Holy See’s Secretary for Relations with States, said that “people in the corridors of the institution at the service of the Pontiff worked tirelessly to provide Jewish people with practical help” during the Holocaust.

Council of Cardinals, Pope hold online meeting

(24-6-22) At an online meeting, Pope Francis and members of his advisory Council of Cardinals discussed the application of Praedicate Evangelium (the March apostolic constitution on the Roman

Curia), as well as the agenda for the August 29-30 meeting of the world's cardinals.

World Meeting of Families looks at how families protect life, pray, connect generations

(24-6-22) A "key dimension of the family vocation" is "to be guardians of the sacredness of human life from the first moment of conception to natural death," Cardinal Kevin Farrell, Prefect of the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life, preached at the 10th World Meeting of Families on June 23. "The life of each child must be defended and protected precisely because God has great plans for that child's goodness and holiness right from the very beginning."

The World Meeting began the previous evening with a speech by Pope Francis.



Nigeria - Ondo state authorities announce the arrest of suspects in the Pentecost massacre

(24-6-22) The commander of the agency of the Ondo State Security Network, known as the 'Amotekun Corps', the police in Ondo State, South West Nigeria, announced the arrest of some suspects in connection with the massacre of Sunday June 5 in the Catholic Church of St. Francis Xavier in Owo. At least 40 people lost their lives in the massacre and 70 others were injured. The Ondo state police

chief did not give the number of those arrested but assured that all those responsible for the massacre would be brought to justice.

Pakistan - Civil society calls for the release of a Christian falsely accused of blasphemy

(24-6-22) "We ask for the release of a Pakistani Christian, 44-year-old Rehmat Masih, who has been in prison for five months. He is innocent and is falsely accused of having desecrated the pages of the Koran. So asks an NGO, the Voice of Justice.' Its president Joseph Jansen says: "In this case there is no evidence against him; the man was beaten and tortured in order to confess a crime he did not commit. At the same time, his family is about to move to a safer city, due to stress and poverty". Rehmat Masih was accused of blasphemy on January 3, 2022 for having contaminated and desecrated the pages of the Koran and Islamic books at the publishing house Zam Zam Publishers" in Karachi where he had worked as a cleaner for about twenty years.

The story began when city police officers received a video showing pages from the Koran in a sewage drain on December 25, 2021. When they arrived on the spot and found those pages, police officers filed a First Information Report (FIR) against unknown persons, pursuant to article 295 paragraph B of the Penal Code of Pakistan, in which the act of profaning the Koran is punished.

On December 28, when Rehmat Masih returned to work after the Christmas celebrations, the company's management asked him about the pages of the Koran found in the sewer. The man said he did not know anything. The company's management alleged, lying, that Rehmat Masih had admitted to his crime. On January 3, 2022, police officers arrested Rehmat Masih and tortured him to admit the desecration of the pages of the Koran.

On January 24, 2022, the judge of the Court of First Instance rejected the bail for Rehmat Masih; in the May 31, 2022 hearing Rehmat Masih pleaded "not guilty" with respect to the charges brought against him.

Ecuador - A truce to start dialogue and get out of the crisis: The bishops offer themselves as observers of the process

(24-6-22) As the 10-day disquiet in the country goes unabated, the bishops of Ecuador have said various civil society organizations have offered to initiate a dialogue between the government and the indigenous and social movements to bring about a truce. The bishops say they are ready to be observers of the process. The present-day social picture, they point out, is one of severe economic crisis because of lack of work, education, food, health care, housing, aggravated by human trafficking, drug trafficking and arms trade.

Caritas India extends helping hand to Assam flood victims

(24-6-22) Caritas India and its partner organizations have been carrying out relief operations in India's northeastern state of Assam after it was devastated by floods.

The social development wing of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India has been engaged in the worst-affected districts of Karbi Anlong, Hojai and Cachar, falling in the jurisdictions of the Archdiocese of Guwahati and the dioceses of Diphu and Aizawl, said Jonas Lakra, team leader for disaster management at Caritas India.

Lakra said flood relief operations were launched two weeks ago by extending food and nutrition, water sanitation and hygiene besides shelter and non-food item support in Hojai district. The distributed kits include food, water, dry rations and medicine along with an emergency shelter.

The death toll due to the floods since mid-May had touched 101.



Sri Lankan Buddhist monks call for new constitution

(24-6-22) Buddhist monks have come out against abolishing the executive presidency and called for a new constitution in Sri Lanka.

"The executive presidency should not be abolished except by repealing the 13th amendment and correcting the electoral system in Sri Lanka," said the Buddha Sasana Task Force in a statement on June 23.

25-6-22

Pope at WMOF Mass: 'God bless and keep all the families of the world'

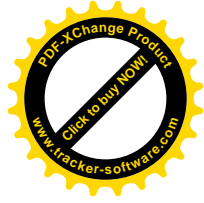
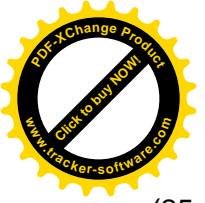
(25-6-22) The five-day 10th World Meeting of Families on the theme: *"Family Love: a Vocation and a Path to Holiness"* concluded in Rome on Saturday June 25 with the celebration of the Holy Mass presided by Cardinal Kevin Farrell in the presence of Pope Francis. During the homily, the Pope notes that "the family is the first place where we learn to love." The event was organized by the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life. The Pope described the moments of reflection and sharing, with their rich variety of experiences, plans and dreams, concerns and uncertainties, which have taken place during the World Meeting of Families, describing it as "a kind of vast constellation." Turning to married couples, he praised their courageous decision to build a family and *"to use your freedom not for yourselves, but to love the persons that God has put at your side."*

He prayed: *"May God bless and keep your families and all the families of the world."*

Chad - Salesian missionaries: with the compassion of Jesus, alongside families impoverished by the food crisis

(25-6-22) "How will families without work survive in the face of the serious food emergency that affects the country? This was the general concern and at the same time the impulse that motivated us to act: to experience closeness and compassion as Jesus did. After a year and a half, our work not only continues, but has also increased. With the commitment of thousands of volunteers throughout the country, this project will allow immediate access to food, with the distribution of essential products, giving relief to thousands of families in this dramatic situation". This is what Father Benoit Nzie, Salesian and parish priest of Doba in the small complex of San Domenico Savio reports, speaking of the new project for the protection of the right to food that the Salesian missionaries have promoted in favour of families affected by the consequences of the food crisis affecting many African countries, including Chad.

Kenya - Peace and reconciliation: the priority work of the Church



(25-6-22) "The world belongs to everyone and we must be compassionate with everyone", said the president of the Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Seafarers at the Bishops' Conference of Kenya (KCCB), Bishop Virgilio Pante of Maralal, suffragan of the diocese of Nyeri.

On the occasion of the recent celebration of World Refugee Day (WRD), Bishop Pante, a Consolata missionary who has been involved with refugees for over two decades, wanted to remember those who have been forced to flee their countries or their homes due to various challenges. "Peace and reconciliation must be the priority work of the Church because it is a ministry that God has entrusted to us to reconcile ourselves with God and with ourselves", he said, underlining that "the virtue of peace is a mission that must be continuous."

Singapore - New missionary impetus for the faithful of the city-state



(25-6-22) In the 2022 Singapore Archdiocesan Assembly, delegates representing different parishes, organizations and religious orders, met to reflect on the synodal path which began last year. Commenting on the event, Archbishop William Goh said: "As part of the discernment process, many shared their joys, sorrows, aspirations, frustrations, failures and successes, both in ecclesial groups and individually. Many delegates told me that they learned a great deal from listening to group members, as they have understood the broader needs and challenges of the Church, beyond the boundaries and

interests of their parish, ministry or organization to which they belong". "What consoles me even more and made me cry is the fact that, despite all the imperfections and scandals of the Church, people desire to collaborate and be co-responsible for the Church as members of the Body of Christ and continue to believe and hope in a better Church, because it is Christ who guides it", he affirms.

Brazil - A podcast answers the fundamental questions of Venezuelan refugees in Brazil

(25-6-22) People who have emigrated from Venezuela and have sought refuge in Brazil often raise questions about access to services, their rights and seek the information they need to live with dignity. The proposal of the Orinoco Project: "Waters that cross borders", from the Caritas network, with the podcast "Migre, y ahora?" launched in recent days, aims to provide answers to questions and many other doubts.

Bangladesh Church kept away from drafting education policy

(25-6-22) Church officials in Bangladesh say they have been sidelined while drafting the nation's education policy despite managing one of the largest networks of institutions, second only to the government.

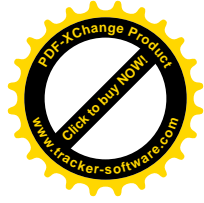
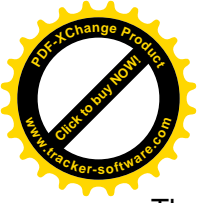
More than 100,000 students, mostly non-Christians, study in the single university, 17 colleges, 43 secondary schools and 278 primary-cum-junior high schools run by the Church, according to the Catholic Directory of 2019.

"The government should involve academics and those who are involved in education. Education policy is not done only by government bureaucrats," Jyoti Gomes, secretary of Bangladesh Catholic Education Board Trust (BCEBT), told UCA News. He said the Catholic Church is a key part of education in Bangladesh but was not a part of the proposed education policy.

26-6-22

Pope at Angelus: Respond to opposition with firm decision to do good

(26-6-22) Jesus's decision to go to Jerusalem was a turning point, Pope Francis said at the Midday Angelus on Sunday, because He knew it meant facing rejection, suffering, and death.



The Pope pointed out that we, too, are called to make a firm decision for our lives “if we want to be disciples of Jesus.” Sunday’s Gospel passage, he said, can help us see what this decision involves; because “we must be disciples of Jesus in earnest, with real determination, and not—as an elderly lady I knew used to say—‘rosewater Christians.’ No, no, no! [We must be] serious Christians!” The Holy Father insisted that when we meet opposition, we must, like Jesus, “turn toward doing good elsewhere, without recrimination.” He invited everyone to “ask Jesus for the strength of being like him, of following him with a firm decision, not to be vindictive and intolerant when difficulties present themselves, when we spend ourselves in doing good and others do not understand this.”

Pope Francis praises work of nun killed in Haiti

(26-6-22) Pope Francis expressed family and to the religious Luisa Dell’Orto, who was killed in 25.

Just last year, in a letter to a Sister Luisa had written of her her work in Haiti, the Pope was a member of the Little Sisters religious community inspired by St and had lived in Port-au-Prince for more than two decades, “dedicated above all to the service of street children,”



his condolences to the community of Sister Haiti on Saturday June

missionary group, decision to continue recalled. Sister Luisa of the Gospel, a Charles de Foucauld,

On Saturday, Sr Luisa was seriously injured during an armed attack in the streets of the Haitian capital, Port-au-Prince. She was rushed to hospital, but died shortly afterwards, just two days shy of her 65th birthday.
