

CATHOLIC WORLD LAST WEEK

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Trial opens for Hong Kong's Cardinal Joseph Zen

(19-9-22) The retired bishop of Hong Kong, arrested in May, is charged, along with five other defendants, with collusion with foreign forces. The defendants were leaders of the 612 Humanitarian Fund, which provided legal aid to pro-democracy activists.

(20-9-22) The trial has been temporarily delayed—reportedly because the presiding judge has contracted Covid.

Vatican cardinal escapes gunfire in Ukraine, prays at mass grave site

(19-9-22) Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, the papal almoner, escaped injury when gunmen fired at the vehicle he was using to distribute humanitarian aid in Ukraine on September 17.

Cardinal Krajewski, who is now the prefect of the Dicastery for the Service of Charity, was making his fourth visit to Ukraine since the start of the war in February. He reached the embattled town of Zaporizhzhia with a minibus full of provisions. But unidentified assailants opened fire on the vehicle, forcing the cardinal and his companions to run for cover.

"I didn't know where to run," the cardinal recalled, explaining that he was unfamiliar with the locale and unsure where the gunmen were hidden. He escaped without further incident, however, and continued his mission.

(20-9-22) The Cardinal reported on the discovery of a mass grave, with the remains of about 400 people, outside the city of Izium, which had been besieged and then occupied by Russian troops. Cardinal Krajewski said that he was "dumbfounded by such horror" at the mass grave.

Church burned, priests and religious sister kidnapped in war-torn Cameroon, ransom demand rejected

(19-9-22) St. Mary's Catholic Church in Nchang, a village in the English-speaking part of Cameroon, was burned down in an attack.

Armed militants attacked and set fire to the Catholic church on September 16 evening, and kidnapped five priests, a nun and three lay people (a catechist, a cook and a young girl). Area bishops have deplored the act. Such attacks - the Bishops said - affect the Catholic Church as well as the Presbyterian and Baptist Churches, and oddly enough, some of those viciously attacking the churches are people who belong to those churches or have benefited from their generosity."

(20-9-22) The kidnapers have contacted Church leaders with a ransom demand. Archbishop Andrew Nkea Fuanya of Bamenda confirmed the ransom message, saying that some criminal groups see the Catholic Church as an "easy target."

Catholic peace foundation fears for anarchy in Cameroon as militias get out of control. The Anglophone crisis there has displaced 700,000 people in the Central African nation of 28.5 million.

(22-9-22) "We will not pay a dime" to ransom the nine Catholics kidnapped from a Catholic church on September 16, Archbishop Andrew Nkea Fuanya of Bamenda has announced.

The archbishop, who is president of the Cameroon bishops' conference, said that the payment of ransom "would create a dangerous precedent," possibly encouraging other abductions.

The archbishop said that the September 16 raid on St. Mary's Church in Nchang was carried out by separatist guerillas, who were angry because the Church does not endorse their campaign.

Haitian Church leaders urge action to end unrest

(19-9-22) The Haitian Conference of Religious (CHR) has called for effective government action to end the "unprecedented and random acts of violence" that have shaken the country. The group challenged political leaders to take responsibility for restoring peace, as rioting and looting broke out, following mass public demonstrations demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Ariel Henry.

French bishops' conference leaders travel to Kyiv

(19-9-22) The president and secretary of the Bishops' Conference of France traveled to Kyiv to express their support for the people of Ukraine. On September 17, they met Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk, the head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church.

Pakistan - Bail denied, Christian accused of blasphemy remains in prison

(19-9-22) Anwar Masih, a 57-year-old Christian in prison since June 2020 for blasphemy, "is an innocent man, victim of false accusations. We are surprised by the Court's decision to reject the request for bail". The case concerning him "is a classic case where a dispute between members of the same family is turned into a case of blasphemy", says Joseph Jansen, president of the organization "Voice for Justice", which tracks cases of people victims of judicial errors in Pakistan. "The misuse of blasphemy laws must be discouraged. In this case, as in others, the life of the person and his relatives is turned upside down: everyone enters a state of fear of being killed at any moment." Anwar Masih only learned in 2020 that his wife and daughter had converted to Islam and that his daughter was preparing for an Islamic marriage. When questioned, the wife turned to police for mediation. The police instead filed a case of blasphemy against him.

Bangladesh - The first Jesuit school in Bangladesh: "to educate the mind and heart"

(19-9-22) St. Xavier's International School in Kuchilabari, in the district of Gazipur, near Dhaka, the first Jesuit school in Bangladesh, has just opened its doors and started teaching activities for the new school year with 34 children, but it can host up to 600. The school, whose opening was postponed by two years because of Covid pandemic, is the only English Junior School in Motbari parish area. The motto of the school, says the headmaster, Jesuit Father Probash Rozario, is "One fire kindles other fires".



America - Solidarity of the Youth Ministry of Latin America with the Church of Nicaragua, "the young are the builders of the civilization of love"

(19-9-22) The Youth Ministry of Latin America and the Caribbean expresses to "the pilgrim Church of Nicaragua its feelings of closeness and solidarity in these moments when it suffers the harshest persecutions and repressions for its fidelity to the gospel of life, liberty, justice and peace". These are the words of the message that members of the Latin American and Caribbean youth ministry issued at the end of their programmatic meeting, which ended on 18 Sept. in Lima, Peru. The text expresses particular closeness to Bishop Rolando Álvarez of Matagalpa and President of the National Commission for Youth Ministry of Nicaragua, to priests, seminarians and laity, deprived of their freedom, demanding "their immediate release and the normalization of their pastoral activities". The police did not allow two parishes to conduct processions on their patronal feast days.

Panama - The Bishops announce the second phase of the dialogue, a new step in the fight against inequality, social exclusion and corruption

(19-9-22) Before starting the second phase of the Single Dialogue Table, "which will be decisive in really outlining the path of transformation that our country needs", the Catholic Church team that accepted the role of facilitator in this path reports that "dialogue itself is the main fruit that this first

phase of the Single Table leaves us, the beginning of a culture of peace and dialogue to achieve a true transformation of the country". The bishops exhort the parties to have mutual trust.

Sedition-charged pastor slams HK legal system

(19-9-22) A Christian pastor charged with sedition in Hong Kong for his support of the pro-democracy movement has lashed out at the Chinese-ruled city's legal system, calling it "a hole in a dam." Pastor Garry Pang Moon-yuen, 59, made the remarks on Sept 15 during a hearing in his case in Hong Kong last week. He was arrested on April 4 this year. He is accused of sedition for comments regarding the trial of activists for their participation in a vigil to mark China's Tiananmen massacre in 1989. It is an attempt to crush dissent in the aftermath of 2019 pro-democracy protests, he said.



Rain, landslides kill 48 in Nepal and India

(19-9-22) Heavy monsoon rains and landslides have killed almost 50 people in Nepal and India in recent days, authorities said on Sept. 18.

In western Nepal at least 22 people died after landslides buried more than 100 houses on Friday, police official Narayan Dangi told AFP. Eleven people were injured, including three airlifted to hospital by an army helicopter. A major relief operation was underway with the police and army clearing debris and distributing food, tents and

clothes.

Over the border in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, heavy rains have killed 26 people since 16 Sept., officials said. The fatalities included nine laborers buried alive when a wall under construction in the state capital Lucknow collapsed on their huts, according to a government statement.

Vietnam Catholics open new church after two centuries

(19-9-22) Catholics in a northern Vietnamese province have been urged to work for national prospects and evangelization at the inauguration of their new church and parish.

On Sept. 18, Archbishop Joseph Vu Van Thien of Hanoi and Bishop Joseph Chau Ngoc Tri of Lang Son Cao Bang concelebrated a special Mass to inaugurate St. Joseph Church in Hoang Ha parish, till now a sub-parish, based in Kim Dong district of Hung Yen province. Some 100 priests joined the Mass attended by a thousand people.

On Sept. 16, Emeritus Auxiliary Bishop Lawrence Chu Van Minh of Hanoi publicly opened the newly-built convent of the motherhouse of the Lovers of the Holy Cross of Hanoi, replacing the old one.

Two Jesuits suspended in Jakarta archdiocese

(19-9-22) Two Jesuits serving in the Jakarta archdiocese have been suspended from priestly duties for seriously violating religious vows, says Indonesian Jesuit Provincial Father Benedictus Hari Juliawan.

Jesuit Fathers Gerardus Hadian Panamokta and Alexius Andang Listyo Binawan were suspended because of a "serious violation of their religious vows...but I cannot give the details," Father Juliawan told UCA News on Sept. 19. Father Juliawan said the suspension "is temporary" and "can be revoked someday..." "They are banned from administering sacraments and carrying out pastoral service in accordance with the Code of Canon Law.

Father Binawan, one of the suspended priests, an expert in Church laws and an environmental activist, earlier worked as the episcopal vicar of the archdiocese, confirmed that he apologized to Jesuit priests serving in the archdiocese following his suspension.

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Belgian bishops publish liturgical service for same-sex unions

(20-9-22) The Catholic bishops of Flanders, the Flemish-speaking section of Belgium, have made public a proposed service of blessings for same-sex unions.

Led by Cardinal Jozef De Kesel of Brussels, the bishops published a document entitled “Being pastorally close to homosexual persons,” which provides a script for a liturgical service in which a couple can “express before God how they are committed to one another.”

The document appears to be a direct challenge to the Vatican directive, issued last year, that the Church cannot give blessings to homosexual unions. That challenge comes shortly before the bishops of Belgium are due to make their *ad limina* visit to Rome.

Patriarch Kirill declares the futility of attempts to intimidate the Russians

(20-9-22) At a church dedication on September 18, Patriarch Kirill of Moscow, the head of the Russian Orthodox Church, paid tribute to the “willpower, strength of spirit, the ability to overcome difficulties” of workers in northern Russia.

“Then, maybe, they would have thought even more about whether it is worth offending Russians or not,” he added, as he described faith and love of Russia as “two wings on which a person takes off.”

Vatican organizes conference on ‘holiness today’

(20-9-22) At a press conference on September 19, the prefect and secretary of the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints were joined by a Roman sociology professor in discussing an upcoming four-day conference, “Holiness Today.”

The conference, which begins on October 3 at the Augustinianum Patristic Institute, “stems from the need to bring into dialogue with today’s world the themes on which the work for the causes of beatification and canonization is carried out on a daily basis,” said Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, the dicastery’s prefect.

Queen Elizabeth’s role in two churches—Anglican and Presbyterian—recalled, Cardinal prays

(20-9-22) Although the Church of England looked to her as the “Defender of the Faith,” Queen Elizabeth II died a Presbyterian, writes Damian Thompson in *The Spectator*.

When she was in Scotland, where she died, Queen Elizabeth regularly worshipped at a local Presbyterian church. Although she steered clear of theological debates within the Church of England, she appeared comfortable with the “low church” Protestant tradition—particularly in her later years, as she became more public in her statements of Christian faith.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols of Westminster was invited to offer a prayer at Queen Elizabeth II’s funeral. No Catholic leaders were involved in the funeral of her father, King George VI, according to a former royal chaplain.

Meanwhile, “Queen Elizabeth was a courageous peacemaker and a reconciler of difference,” Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh, the Primate of All Ireland, said before the Queen’s funeral. “I will be praying at the funeral in Westminster Abbey that the efforts of Queen Elizabeth, and of so many others who took risks for our peace, will not be forgotten, or allowed to slip away.”

Ukrainian seminarians prepare for priesthood in time of war

(20-9-22) “After the bombardment of cities and civilians, everyone understands they could die any day. Safety does not exist in any part of Ukraine,” said Father Roman Ostrovskyy of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic seminary in Kyiv. “And yet not one seminarian has left the country.”



Iraq - Unity between Chaldeans and Assyrians: "See nothing opposed to a united Church of the East"

(20-9-22) "I have studied our Eastern heritage and the writings of the Fathers of the Church and I see nothing to prevent the union of the Chaldean Church and the Assyrian Church of the East under the name Church of the East", says the Chaldean Patriarch and Iraqi Cardinal Louis Raphael Sako, who wishes to initiate a common and fraternal reflection on the possible restoration of full sacramental communion between the Chaldean Church and the Assyrian Church of the East. He does so in a long and dense speech entitled "The unity and plurality of the Church", in which, among other things, he adds that "the same thing is true for the Syriac Catholic Church and the Syriac Orthodox Church", which according to Patriarch Sako could unite under the name of the "Syrian Church of Antioch", as they share the same roots and the same liturgical, historical, linguistic and spiritual heritage. Cardinal Sako, however, in his contribution, disseminated through the official channels of the Chaldean Patriarchate, also presents these proposals as a mere "personal opinion".

Peru - Migrants: we need complete and fair immigration policies, no to xenophobia and discrimination in society

(20-9-22) "We call on the authorities to implement complete and fair immigration policies, which guarantee the human rights of these people on the move, at the same time we urge Peruvian society to put aside any attitude of rejection, xenophobia or discrimination", is the appeal from the Peruvian Bishops, who on the occasion of the 108th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, Sunday, September 25, will join Pope Francis who in his message invites us to "build the future with migrants and refugees, placing them at the centre of our pastoral action".



The Episcopal Conference (CEP) recalls that the world continues to experience the Covid-19 pandemic, which has increased social and economic differences in Peru. In particular, "migrants, refugees and asylum seekers have seen their quality of life compromised, such as their access to rights to health, food, work, among others". The effects of this pandemic have a particular impact on 284 million migrants, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and on the 89.3 million forcibly displaced people in the world (27.1 million are refugees and 4.6 million are asylum seekers), according to data from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Philippine universities remember martial law era

(20-9-22) Three leading universities in the Philippines, the Jesuit-run Ateneo de Manila University, Dominican-run University of Santo Tomas and the state-run University of the Philippines, have organized a series of programmes to pay tributes to the sacrifices of the victims as the nation marks the 50th anniversary of the declaration of martial law – through forums and film shows. Martial law was declared by the father of the present president.

The Jesuit-run Ateneo de Manila honoured Jesuit clergymen who opposed Marcos' rule and stood up against human rights violations. The Jesuits honoured Bishop Francisco Claver, the bishop who condemned Marcos' snap elections due to massive cheating, and Bishop Federico Escaler, a known Marcos critic who was kidnapped by military men. Marcos' henchmen allegedly shot Jesuit Father Godofredo Alingal for defending farmers accused of being members of the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New Peoples' Army.

The Philippine Human Rights Commission recorded more than 11,200 cases of human rights violations during the martial law era. About 3,000 were killed or disappeared, while 2,739 were tortured by security forces during the period.

Indian pastor nabbed in connection with lynching

(20-9-22) A Protestant pastor was one of four people arrested in the northeastern Indian state of Assam on Sept. 18 in connection with the lynching of a tribal Hindu youth after he refused to convert in order to marry his Christian girlfriend.

Pastor Ismail Shabbar, his assistant Niranjan Aian of the Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church, as well as the father and uncle of the girl were detained after Biki Bishal, a tribal youth from Assam's Lakhimpur district, was killed on the night of Sept. 11. His body was found hanging from a tree near his house the next morning.

According to media reports a mob of more than 200 people from a local church lynched Bishal after he refused to convert in order to marry his Christian girlfriend. Bishal was given the choice of converting to Christianity or leaving the girl. According to a report from Firstpost, an online news website, Bishal refused to convert to Christianity and the pastor and his assistant led a mob in attacking his house. But Allen Brooks, spokesman of the Assam Christian Forum, told UCA News on Sept. 19: "The pastor, his assistant and the girl's father and uncle were taken into police custody only on the basis of suspicion because they had visited the boy's house and tried to convince the boy and girl that when their age permits and the boy is settled they will be married."

Vatican official - Sostituto - travels to East Timor, opens nunciature, human fraternity centre



(20-9-22) For at least the third time in the past year, Archbishop Edgar Peña Parra—who coordinates the internal affairs of the Roman Curia, and is typically not involved in foreign relations, the 'secretary of state'—has travelled to a foreign country to inaugurate a nunciature.

The archbishop also opened nunciatures in Armenia and the United Arab Emirates

Archbishop Edgar Peña Parra has also opened a centre for human fraternity in Catholic-majority Timor-Leste aiming to spread the spirit of the Abu Dhabi declaration, signed by Pope Francis and Grand Imam of al-Azhar, inviting all who have faith

in God and human fraternity to unite for peace. The centre is located in the presidential palace. President Jose Ramos-Horta thanked the archbishop for blessing the initiative and said Timor-Leste was not only the first country to adopt the declaration signed in 2019 as its state document, but also the only one to make it part of the curriculum from primary school to university. The event was also marked by the signing of a pact on human brotherhood by Catholic and Muslim leaders in the country.

Caritas tackles food shortage in Macau

(20-9-22) A rising number of people in Macau will need food aid by the end of this year as the city continues to grapple with economic downturns in the aftermath of the pandemic, says a top official of Catholic charity Caritas.

Paul Pun, Secretary General of Caritas Macau said that the agency is expecting an increase in the number of applicants seeking assistance to overcome the food shortage, Macau's Portuguese Catholic weekly *Jornal O-Clarim* reported. Caritas in collaboration with the Macau authorities runs the only public Food Bank in the territory. It offers food aid to people who lost jobs and means of income.

Lights out at Sri Lanka's temples, churches

(20-9-22) Buddhist monks in Sri Lanka have decided to turn off lights at temples across the country on Oct. 9, an important Buddhist feast day, to protest the steep electricity tariff hike. The council of Buddhist monks has decided to keep temples across the island nation without lights on Vap Poya, celebrated on the full moon day of Vap, the seventh month of the Sinhalese calendar. The traffic hike

has “increased the electricity bills in religious places by five to six times.” Ven. Sirisantha Thera said on Sept. 19.

Some temples and churches have already stopped evening services. Religious places in villages are without a sufficient source of income now.

(20-9-22) **Cebu Archdiocese in the Philippines**, with a lay catholic consecrated group, the contemplative community of Padre Pio, **has started construction of a 100-foot-tall statue of Padre Pio** in a sanctuary dedicated to the popular Italian saint.



21-9-22

Pope prays for ‘tormented’ Ukraine, decries ‘madness’ of nuclear threat

(21-9-22) At the conclusion of his weekly audience on September 21, Pope Francis spoke of the “terrible situation” in Ukraine, saying that Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, who is visiting the war-torn country, had reported on “the savagery, the monstrosities, the tortured corpses they find. The Pope told his audience that “some people are thinking of nuclear weapons—that madness.” He was apparently referring to veiled threats by Russian President Vladimir Putin that the use of nuclear weapons in Ukraine could not be excluded.

Pope, at weekly audience, reflects on Kazakhstan visit

(21-9-22) At his regular weekly public audience on September 21, Pope Francis reported on his visit to Kazakhstan, where he participated in the VII Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions.

The Pope praised the government of Kazakhstan for hosting these conferences every three years. That effort, he said, “means putting religion at the centre of efforts to build a world where we listen to each other and respect each other in diversity.”

“This is not relativism,” the Pope continued. “It is listening and respecting.” He said that the conferences are inspired by the Assisi meeting convened by Pope John Paul II in 1986, which was “much criticized by people who lacked vision.”

The Pope also praised Kazakhstan for declining to pursue nuclear weapons.

Pope: May we pray for and help those with Alzheimer’s disease

(21-9-22) “Today is World Alzheimer’s Day, a disease that affects so many people, who are often pushed to the margins of society because of this condition,” Pope Francis said on September 21, at the conclusion of his general audience. “Let us pray for those suffering from Alzheimer’s, for their families, and for those who lovingly care for them, that they may be increasingly supported and helped.”

Pope to new bishops: Be open to dialogue and close to poor

(21-9-22) On September 19, Pope Francis spoke extemporaneously to 200 new bishops participating in a formation course organized by the Dicastries for Bishops and for the Eastern Churches.

Cardinal Parolin, at UN, highlights urgent need for Global Educational Pact

(21-9-22) Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Holy See’s Secretary of State, addressed the United Nations’ Transforming Education Summit.

Pope Francis first outlined his vision for a Global Compact on Education in a September 2019 message. “The Pope has invited everyone (young people, teachers, political leaders, and civil society) to be protagonists of this alliance, making a personal and societal commitment to cultivate together the dream of a humanism in solidarity, responding to human expectations and God’s plan,” Cardinal Parolin said at the UN summit.

Hosts for Matera Eucharistic Congress prepared by prison inmates

(21-9-22) On September 25, Pope Francis will make a pastoral visit to the southern Italian city of Matera to celebrate the closing Mass of Italy's 27th National Eucharistic Congress. "35,000 hosts will be prepared and kneaded by the hands of prisoners; the same hands with which, in the past, they have committed their crimes," said Father Raffaele Grimaldi, Inspector general of chaplains in Italian prisons.



Ethiopia - Tigray: the worst offensive in recent times, an emergency for hundreds of thousands of displaced civilians

(21-9-22) "The Eritrean army is recalling the reservists and recruiting many young people to be sent to the front. They are trying to conquer Axum, Adigrat, Shire and enter Macallè, the situation of the civilian population is dramatic, the worst offensive since the conflict". This is what a source of the local Catholic Church, who remains anonymous for security reasons, told Fides. Since August 24, when the fighting resumed, the humanitarian

situation in Tigray has been worsening day by day. The Amhara and Fano special forces are also involved in the offensive against the Tigrinyan guerrillas, while drone attacks by the federal army are reported. The attacks conducted by the Eritrean army are causing victims among civilians.

Nigeria - Bishop of Orlu: "The military assault on the market of Eke Ututu risks alienating the support of the State from the population"

(21-9-22) "Stop further killing of innocent people and destruction of livelihoods". This is the appeal launched by Bishop Augustine Tochukwu Ukwuoma of Orlu, in Imo State, in southern Nigeria, to the security forces accused of extrajudicial killings and of having devastated the market of a local town. "On Saturday September 17, 2022, armed men alleged to be government security agencies invaded Orsuhiteukwa community in Orsu Local Government Area of Imo State, causing the death of some people and the burning down of Eke Ututu market which is the economic mainstay of the people of Orsu Local Government Area and other surrounding communities", writes Bishop Ukwuoma. "I have already condemned the past violence", recalls the Bishop. "Violence begets violence and the circle continues. Genuine dialogue remains the answer."

Haiti - Poverty, desperation and lack of adequate policies fuel violence even against the Church

(21-9-22) "Solidarity and full communion in this moment of uncertainty and great pain" to the Jesuit brothers of the Jesuit Migrant Service (SJM) for the attack on one of its homes for migrants, located in Ounaminteh, in the north of Haiti, was expressed by Red Clamor, the ecclesial network engaged in the field of emigration, refugees, trafficking and displaced persons. The structure was looted and destroyed in recent days by a group of people, "in the climate of general chaos that does not end in this suffering country".

The message highlights: "We are witnesses of the love they feel and of the high appreciation of the overwhelming majority of Haitians for the work you do, these isolated events are the result of despair and the lack of public policies to guide all Haitians along the paths of integral human development, without anyone being excluded from their right to live with dignity".

Red Clamor joins the prayer so that violence may end and the SJM can continue its work in Haiti in full safety of people's property and life.

Church groups help flood-hit Muslims in Pakistan

(21-9-22) Parishes in Pakistan's Islamabad-Rawalpindi metropolitan area are providing aid to Muslims following unprecedented floods that have ravaged the country.

Father Nasir William, parish priest of St. Peter Canisius Church, handed over clothes and ration bags to 50 people on Sept 17 in Nowshera on the banks of the River Kabul, which surged last month. Missionary Sisters of St. Thomas the Apostle helped the priest in reaching out to burqa-clad Pashtun women. Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Rawalpindi has already handed over relief packages to 350 Muslims.

"It is a gift from the Christian community to our Muslim neighbours in times of need. I felt helpless as more were coming for help. Christian families, who reached out to us, have already received help from other organizations as per the beneficiary list shared by Protestant groups," he told UCA News. "Most local Christians are poor but not affected. We welcome foreign and local help. Humanity comes first."

Homes, roads, railways, crops, livestock and livelihoods have been washed away in the floods, caused by record rainfall during the monsoon season and melting glaciers in the mountains, which have so far killed 1,545 and affected more than 33 million people.

Ethnic minority Christians arrested in China

(21-9-22) The authorities in Yunnan province of southwest China have detained at least five Protestant Christians from ethnic minority communities including a pastor for allegedly refusing to join a state-sponsored church body, says a report.

Pastor Wang Shunping and four Christians were detained at the end of August on charges of "organizing and financing illegal gatherings" and were formally charged this week, reported *Bitter Winter*, a magazine on religious liberty and human rights.

Pastor Wang is an ethnic Nu and the other four hail from Nu and Lisu communities in Fugong county of Nujiang Lisu Autonomous Prefecture in Yunnan.

Pastor Wang is a graduate of Yunnan Theological Seminary. He is a popular musician and preacher who used to teach students for free.

Vietnam legionaries told to pursue evangelization

(21-9-22) Thousands of Legion of Mary members from Vietnam's northern dioceses were set a challenge to evangelize as they marked their centenary this week.

On Sept. 19, over 5,000 members from Hanoi archdiocese and 10 dioceses in the country's north attended a special Mass at Mary's Minor Basilica to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the foundation of the apostolic organization of lay people and the 75th anniversary of their establishment in Vietnam.

"We are invited to set out with Mother Mary's feelings to bring Jesus to all people and that is our lofty ideal," Archbishop Joseph Vu Van Thien of Hanoi exhorted.

11 schoolchildren killed in Myanmar air strike: UNICEF

(21-9-22) At least 11 schoolchildren died in an air strike and firing on a Myanmar village, in Sagaing region in the country's northwest, according to the United Nations children's agency, an attack the country's junta said targeted rebels hiding in the area. The children were among a total of 13 killed.

Karnataka's upper house approves toughest anti-conversion law

(21-9-22) Adopted by India's Karnataka state's lower house in December, the legislation allows anyone to file a complaint of forced conversion with the burden of proof of good faith on the convert. Conversions now must go through a long bureaucratic process provided no one raises any objections. The Catholic Church in Karnataka deems the new law "bitter, brutal and abrasive in its nature" and will challenge it "in its totality." (cf *Attached file*)

22-9-22



Pope urges business consultants to promote diversity

(22-9-22) Speaking on September 22 to consultants from the Deloitte Global firm, Pope Francis encouraged them to promote cultural responsibility and to enhance diversity. Saying that the world “is suffering from worsening environmental conditions,” the Pontiff told the business consultants that they should “cooperate in reorienting our way of living on this our planet.”

Renew commitment to nuclear test ban, Vatican Secretary of State urges

(22-9-22) Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Holy See’s Secretary of State, addressed participants in a UN meeting on the 25th anniversary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). The treaty, ratified by 175 nations, will not enter into force until eight additional nations, including China and the United States, ratify it.

“The Holy See deplores any resumption of testing and calls upon all States to maintain adherence to the zero-yield moratorium,” said Cardinal Parolin. “As global tensions rise and we hear rhetoric threatening the use of nuclear weapons, it is more crucial than ever to bring the CTBT into force.” Cardinal Parolin also called on nations that rely on nuclear deterrence to assist “those who have suffered due to radioactivity released by nuclear testing, which has a disproportionate impact on women, girls, and the unborn and has contaminated environments across the world.” “While these States do not currently have a legal responsibility to contribute to such efforts, they have [a] moral obligation to redress the harms inflicted by nuclear testing,” he added.

LGBT initiative reflects spirit of Pope Francis, Belgian leader says

(22-9-22) The head of a new outreach to homosexual Catholics in Belgium’s Flanders region has said that he feels confident his work is “in the spirit of our Pope.” Willy Bombeek, the coordinator of a “Homosexuality and Faith” project, spoke out amidst controversy that has arisen since the bishops of Flanders made their project public, including a description of a proposed liturgical service to bless same-sex unions.



Pope receives Ivorian president

(22-9-22) Pope Francis has received Alassane Ouattara, the president of Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) since 2010. In the Vatican statement that followed the September 17 audience, there was a brief reference to the “reconciliation process” in Côte d'Ivoire. The 2010–2011 Ivorian crisis erupted after a disputed presidential election. The West African nation of 28.1 million is 42% Muslim, 35% Christian (16% Catholic), and 22% ethnic religionist.

Bishop meets priests in troubled French diocese

(22-9-22) Bishop Dominique Rey of Fréjus-Toulon, France, met last week with his priests, for a candid conversation about the direction of the diocese in the wake of a Vatican investigation that produced an unprecedented order suspending all priestly ordinations.

“Since the suspension of ordinations in June, no new information has come from Rome and the diocese still does not know when priests and deacons can be ordained again,” the diocese announced.

The Vatican order evidently reflected concerns that Bishop Rey had brought disorder to the diocese by welcoming different sorts of active and growing Catholic communities—notably including traditionalist groups. Bishop Rey reported that the Vatican’s investigation had shown him his “errors of appreciation and discernment in the reception and follow-up with certain communities.” Nevertheless, he told his clergy that he was impressed with “the missionary fruits and the fruitfulness of the various charisms and pastoral initiatives of the diocese.”

Pope encourages Norbertines to 'rethink history,' be missionaries

(22-9-22) At a September 22 audience with Canons Regular of Prémontré—commonly known as Norbertines—Pope Francis said: "The presence of a community of sisters or brothers is like a shining beacon in the surrounding environment."

The Pope encouraged the Norbertines to imitate the missionary impulse of St. Norbert. In Europe particularly, he said, religious orders are "invited to rethink their history." He added that religious communities should "cultivate a fraternal interest in all other communities," and learn the benefits of federation.

Pakistan - The Bishops: the floods have swept away houses, but not faith

(22-9-22) The Pakistani Bishops of the three dioceses most affected by the recent floods that have caused extensive damage in the country, say that "the floods have destroyed homes, but not the faith of Catholics, who are suffering in the midst of the crisis". Speaking in recent days at a media forum, followed by Fides, Archbishop Benny Trivas of Karachi, Bishop Samson Shukardin of Hyderabad (two cities in the Sinh province) and Bishop Khalid Rehmat OFM Cap of Quetta (capital of the province of Baluchistan) stated that "people continue to depend on international aid, but show great generosity and solidarity is moving and encourages a lot of hope".

The Bishops of Pakistan renew their appeal for greater support from the local and international community for people affected by the floods.

Vatican - prayer, call for solidarity for victims of Hurricane Fiona

(22-9-22) Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Holy See's Secretary of State, has sent a telegram in the Holy Father's name calling for solidarity for the victims of Hurricane Fiona. The telegram was addressed to bishops in the Dominican Republic and in Puerto Rico.

Hurricane Fiona, which hit the Caribbean with torrential rains and very strong winds, caused catastrophic damage and at least two deaths in Puerto Rico on Sunday, September 18, before hitting the coast of the Dominican Republic two days later, putting out of use the island's power plants. More than a million people were left without electricity and two hundred thousand without water. Landslides, blocked roads, fallen or damaged trees and power lines are part of the destruction.



Haiti - radio hosts call for attacks on Catholic institutions

(22-9-22) Claiming that the Church is involved in arms trafficking, some radio hosts in Haiti have called for attacks on Catholic institutions, the Fides news agency reported.

The Church "is not involved in the arms trade," the Caribbean nation's bishops said in response. "Stop sowing confusion among the population. Defamation and slander are serious sins."

"The situation of poverty and insecurity that is rampant everywhere clearly shows that our state authorities do not have the ability to bring the country back to normal," the bishops also said in their recent statement. "The people need to live and have every right to live with respect and dignity."

Indian fishermen refuse to abandon anti-port protest

(22-8-22) Indian fishermen protesting against a mega port project in southern Kerala state have refused to vacate the site in defiance of an order issued by the district authorities.

"We are ordered to vacate the venue of protest, but we have not complied with it," Father Michael Thomas said while adding that they will challenge the eviction order in the high court, which is already seized of the matter

The protest against the Adani port project at Vizhinjam coast near capital Thiruvananthapuram entered its 65th day on Sept. 22. The fishermen and their families under the leadership of bishops and priests of the Latin Archdiocese of Trivandrum launched the indefinite protest on July 20.

Against this background, the district authorities ordered the protestors to remove their tent and vacate the site by Sept. 21 and present their case before an additional magistrate who signed the order.

Church in Bangladesh welcomes child safety initiatives

(22-8-22) The Catholic Church in Bangladesh has welcomed a government initiative to better protect children by recruiting 6,000 new social workers, bringing the workforce from 3,000 to 9,000.

"I applaud the government," Father Liton Hubert Gomes, secretary of the Catholic Bishops' Justice and Peace Commission told UCA News referring to the announcement by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina emphasizing the importance of making child protection services available at the community level.

Hasina was speaking at the first-ever "National Symposium on Child Protection in Bangladesh" jointly organized by UNICEF and the European Union in the capital Dhaka on Sept.19.



Teachers recount carnage of Myanmar school attack

(22-9-22) Teachers at a Myanmar school hit by a military helicopter attack last week have spoken of the terrifying horror of the onslaught -- including watching a wounded child screaming in agony, begging to die.

The violence on 16 Sept. at a school in Let Yet Kone village, Sagaing region, killed 14 people -- 12 of them children, the youngest aged seven. The United Nations, the European Union and rights groups have condemned the incident, in which the Myanmar military said it targeted rebels who were using civilians

as human shields.

Some children were playing outside while others attended classes as two helicopter gunships flew in and opened fire with machine guns and heavy weapons, one teacher said. "One girl was hit on the back of her head... there was a lot of blood coming out," the teacher said in a phone interview with AFP, describing frantic efforts to perform first aid. Students scrambled to take cover under tables as smoke billowed around, added the teacher, who is not named because of security concerns. The helicopters then touched down and troops poured out, storming the school grounds and ordering everyone inside to come out, the teacher said. Some children, their legs badly wounded, left a trail of blood as they crawled out, the teacher said, while others were too badly injured to move from their hiding spots.

Myanmar has been in chaos since the military seized power in a coup in February last year, with nearly 2,300 civilians killed in a crackdown on dissent, according to a local monitoring group.

The Sagaing region in the country's northwest has seen some of the fiercest fighting, and entire villages have been burned down during clashes between anti-coup fighters and the military.

The mother of a wounded student pleaded with soldiers to let her into the classroom where her seven-year-old son was bleeding to death, the teacher said. "The soldier shouted at her: 'do you want me to shoot and kill you?'," the teacher said. Her son was bleeding so much it was almost "like he was drowning in water", they added. Later, the mother and her dying son reunited -- he was missing a hand and leg. "The boy was still alive and he said: 'Mummy, it's very painful, kill me, kill me, I can't stand the pain'," the teacher said. The tearful mother begged the soldiers not to take away her son's body, but they insisted he was not dead and took him to hospital, the teacher said.

The teacher later watched as soldiers tossed children's severed body parts and bloody clothing into rice sacks.

A second teacher described rushing children indoors as the helicopters approached, only for the building to be hit by a large explosion. "I saw one child was hit, and he shouted for help. He was covered in blood and he kept shouting, asking for help but I did not dare to walk out to help him," the second teacher told AFP by phone. As the firing continued, the second teacher decided to get out of

the building, taking 20 students to hide under a large tamarind tree as the wounded boy continued to scream for help. The military accused the rebels of using civilians as human shields, and said it had seized mines and explosives from the village.

Bishops urge Filipinos not to forget martial law era

(22-9-22) Church leaders in the Philippines have asked Catholics not to forget the atrocities committed during the dictatorship of former President Ferdinand Marcos, father of the current president, under the martial law imposed 50 years ago. Manila Archbishop Cardinal Jose Advincula issued a statement on Sept. 21 describing the martial law period as “turbulent times” in Philippine history. The Cardinal said Filipinos learned lessons after experiencing oppression of freedom and free speech. He said Catholics cannot learn lessons of martial law if they forget the past.

Indonesian minister sticks to his guns on church permit

(22-9-22) Indonesia's minister of religion affairs remains defiant after a Muslim group sued him for calling a city in Banten province intolerant for not allowing the construction of a church. Minister Yaquut Cholil Qoumas, a member of Nahdlatul Ulama, Indonesia's largest moderate Islamic organization, said he felt no guilt about his recent statement related to the denial of a building permit to the Batak Society Christian Church (HKBP) Maranatha for constructing a church at Geram village in Cilegon city.

Al-Khairiya, a Muslim organization based in Cilegon filed a lawsuit on Sept. 16 against the minister. “He called Cilegon city as intolerant because of refusing permission to the HKBP Maranatha church.”

23-9-22

Pope Francis to International Thomistic Congress: Go to Thomas

(23-9-22) On September 22, Pope Francis received participants in the 11th International Thomistic Congress, organized by the Pontifical Academy of Saint Thomas Aquinas and the Angelicum Thomas Institute.

“We’re seeing a modest renaissance of Thomism in the Church, particularly in the English-speaking world,” said Father Thomas Joseph White, OP, rector of the Angelicum. “I think it’s the most important Thomistic conference internationally to take place in decades.”



Commented [H1]:

Vatican's top prosecutor resigns

(23-9-22) The Vatican's top prosecutor has resigned, midway through the most important criminal trial in Vatican history.

Gian Piero Milano, who has held the office of “Promotor of Justice” since 2013, has stepped down, several weeks before his 75th birthday. He will be replaced by Alessandro Diddi, who has been an assistant prosecutor. Diddi has supervised the investigation that led to the trial of Cardinal Angelo Becciu and nine other defendants on financial-misconduct charges. That trial is ongoing.

The brief Vatican announcement of the change did not provide any reason why Milano stepped down before reaching the ordinary retirement age for Vatican officials, or whether his departure—and Diddi's promotion—is related to the financial trial.

Pope Francis extends a hand to China

(23-9-22) “The Holy See extends a hand, but it knows that on the other side there is a knife, and the blade is directed toward our hand,” said one person involved in the Holy See's negotiations with

China. "Every time we reach out our hand, our hand bleeds. And yet, we must continue to extend our hand."

Cardinal Parolin meets Russia's foreign minister

(23-9-22) Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Holy See's Secretary of State, met Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in New York. The Cardinal participated in a UN conference, where he called for a renewed commitment to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

Papal preface to Argentine book

(23-9-22) Pope Francis has written a preface for *Por qué Patria Grande*, a recent book by Miguel Ángel Barrios on Latin American politics in the time of pandemic. In his preface, the Pope discussed facets of Latin America's Christian identity and recalled Alberto Methol Ferré, a Uruguayan thinker who influenced both Barrios and the Pontiff.

Cardinal Müller: Vatican 'should not sacrifice Cardinal Zen for China'

(23-9-22) Cardinal Gerhard Ludwig Müller, who served as Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith from 2012 to 2017, said recently that the August 28-30 consistory of cardinals, from which Cardinal Joseph Zen of Hong Kong was absent, "would have been an opportunity to declare full solidarity" with him.

"In this case, I wonder why not criticize Beijing," the prelate said. "Zen is a symbol [of defiance] and he was arrested on a pretext, he did nothing. He is authoritative, courageous, and much feared by the [Chinese] government. He is 90 years old, and we left him alone."

Argentine imam meets Pontiff

(23-9-22) On September 22, Pope Francis received Abdul Karim Paz, a Catholic convert to Islam and one of Argentina's leading Shiite Muslim figures. The Vatican did not release a statement on the topic of the meeting.

Results of Vatican's synod session with the disabled presented to Pope



(23-9-22) In May, officials of the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life and the Synod of Bishops held an online listening session with 30 persons with disabilities from 20 countries.

On September 21, participants in the session met Pope Francis and presented him with the results of their deliberations. They called for greater accessibility, said that no one should be denied the sacraments because of disability, and called for an "us, not them" mentality when speaking of persons with disabilities. They also requested that at least one person with disabilities take part in the Synod on Synodality.

Nigerian bishop deplures military attack on city market

(23-9-22) Bishop Augustine Tochukwu Ukwuoma of Orlu, in Nigeria's Imo State, denounced a military attack on a market. Orlu is the site of an insurgency that began last year.

"I still maintain the view that human life is sacred and should be respected," said Bishop Ukwuoma. "The inhabitants of this area are petty traders and subsistent farmers who live basically from hand to mouth ... Did they think of the number of children who will have nothing to eat because their parents have lost their sources of income?"

Malta - Soccer schools "workshops" of missionary animation

(23-9-22) Soccer schools for children, the mission and a "sock-ball", a ball created with "socks", that is with the most varied recycled material, are the elements that will give life to the initiative

"Socktober" made possible thanks to the collaboration of Missio Malta, the direction of the Maltese Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS), the Maltese Football Federation (Malta FA) and the Inhobb il-

Futbol Foundation.

The "Socktober," with its origins in Australian schools, does so in the football "quarries" with a view to Missionary October and World Mission Day. The aim of "Socktober" is to help children take into account the different social contexts in which many other children their age live, encouraging them to cultivate a look that goes beyond their own horizon and is attentive to the needs of others. The "Socktober" is aimed at all children attending football schools in Malta and Gozo, and is scheduled for October and November.

Mozambique - The forgotten conflict in the north is increasingly at the centre of the interests of African and non-African powers

(23-9-22) Northern Mozambique where the Comboni missionary Sister Maria De Coppi, among others, was killed on September 6 during the attack on the Chipene mission, is increasingly at the centre of the interest of various States.

The provinces of Cabo Delgado and Nampula (where Chipene is located) are threatened by the insurrection of jihadists affiliated with the Islamic State's Central Africa Province (ISCAP – Mozambique). The conflict has so far displaced more than 800,000 people, according to the latest figures from the International Organization for Migration, and killed 4,000 people.

On September 21, Tanzania and Mozambique signed an agreement for the joint fight against jihadists, who also hit some Tanzanian border towns. An intervention force of the SADC (Southern African Development Community) called SAMIM (SADC Mission in Mozambique) and a Rwandan military contingent are already deployed in northern Mozambique.

African forces deployed in Mozambique receive financial assistance from non-African powers.

Myanmar - Bishops, priests, religious: always and in all cases at the side of the people, with a strength that "only God can give"

(23-9-22) "A year and a half after the coup of February 1, 2021, when violence is raging especially in certain areas, it is difficult to see a way out of this conflicting situation. But we believers, we have the Lord God on our side, we trust in Him and we encourage the faithful not to lose hope and trust", says in an interview with Agenzia Fides the Archbishop of Mandalay, Marco Tin Win, still afflicted, like the whole local community, by the massacre of Sagaing, a town in his diocese where, on September 16, at least 11 children died following an airstrike by the regular army on an area populated by civilians.



The Archbishop notes that "the conflict continues: on the one hand, the army has strategic capabilities and heavy weapons, on the other hand, there is strong resistance from the population expressed in the People's Defence Forces. I can say that half of the territory of the Archdiocese of Mandalay is affected by the fighting. The people are suffering. There are many internally displaced people, Christians and Buddhists, and we have set up five centres for displaced persons in five Catholic parishes; we are doing what we can to help alleviate the suffering... People today understand and share the suffering of others, which generates empathy and solidarity."

The Archbishop continues: "People go to church and pray intensely, feeling a deep spiritual comfort that only God can give. The faithful gather to pray the Rosary every day, and are busy serving others, especially the sick, the wounded or the most vulnerable. This strength comes from the Lord. Priests and religious accompany families and communities in their precarious condition, they walk with them, they are like Jesus with the disciples of Emmaus."

Peru - Bicentennial of the Congress: "Do not abruptly dismiss, without hope, the possibility of building a future together"

(23-9-22) "A few days ago, also from this pulpit, we dedicated a special reflection on the ability to generously build the Homeland. And it is a task that all of us who have a position of responsibility, are expected to live intensely as a service, especially in these times when we see enormous institutional disloyalty, a tendency to use institutions for particular interests and not in favour of the general interest which is the common good of the country". These are the words pronounced by Monsignor Carlos Castillo, Archbishop of Lima and Primate of Peru, during the solemn Mass which he presided over for the Bicentennial of the Congress of the Republic, on September 20, which was attended by the Vice President of the Republic, Dina Boluarte, the President of the Congress of the Republic, José Williams Zapata, ministers, parliamentarians, civil, political and police authorities. At the end of his homily, the Archbishop of Lima invoked the blessing of the Lord on the congressmen, so that they are united on the fundamental issues, proposing "to think of a common program of fundamental points to be resolved, where we all agree", and all the social and institutional realities, as well as the Church, can collaborate to solve them, especially hunger, which is one of the most serious current realities. "United in elementary things - he concluded -, we can better understand each other in things that have to do directly with the theme and the difficulties of the national leadership".



UN expert slams upcoming 'fraud' election in Myanmar

(23-9-22) A UN expert dismissed on Sept.22 as fraudulent an upcoming election in Myanmar, accusing the junta of looking for a veneer of legitimacy and rebuking the international community for not doing enough to challenge the regime. "The junta is preparing for what it describes as an election," Thomas Andrews, the UN's special rapporteur on the rights situation in Myanmar, told reporters in Geneva. "This is not going to be an election. It is a fraud."

Myanmar's military seized power and toppled the democratically elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in February 2021. The country has been in turmoil ever since, with fighting across swathes of the country and the economy in tatters even as the junta says it plans to hold fresh polls next August. The military had led a bloody crackdown against their opposition, with nearly 2,300 civilians killed and 15,000 more arrested, according to a local monitor.

With the announced elections, the junta is looking "to create the sense of legitimacy and inevitability", Andrews said.

Church demands justice for Indonesian Catholic's murder

(23-9-22) Church officials in Indonesia's Central Java province have condemned and demanded a fair probe and justice for the gruesome murder of a Catholic government official who was a key witness in a corruption case.

Paulus Iwan Budi Prasetyo, 51, an employee of the Semarang City government went missing on Aug. 24, a day before he was scheduled to give witness to a probe body investigating alleged corruption in land acquisition at the Semarang City Financial and Asset Management Agency, where he worked. A local NGO first reported about the corruption case in April, which triggered a police investigation. Iwan's charred body was found by workers who went to clear the bushes on the city's outskirts on Sept. 8, police said. His body was mutilated, and his both hands and right leg were found after a police search around the location. Police said that Iwan had provided preliminary information on the corruption case and had stated that he was willing to provide further information needed by investigators.

Father Aloysius Budi Purnomo, chairman of the Commission for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation of the Semarang Episcopal Vicariate under Semarang Archdiocese, said that the case must be thoroughly investigated, especially since it is suspected to be related to his being a key witness in the alleged corruption case.

Vietnamese Catholics commit to evangelization

(23-9-22) Over 500 people including 60 priests and religious attended the national congress for the laity on Sept. 19-22 at the National Shrine of Our Lady of La Vang in Quang Tri province.

The congress with the theme 'Laypeople in the Synodal Church' was organized by the Episcopal Commission for the Laity of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Vietnam.

Peter Da Cat Ha Duong, a lay leader from Da Long Mission Station in Lam Dong province, said five laypeople including himself regularly traveled 130 kilometers through forests to receive the Eucharist from Lang Biang parish and then administered it to local people for two decades. Duong, an ethnic K'hor who embraced Catholicism in 1987, said he was detained for "illegal evangelization," but "I remain resolutely determined to be true to my apostolate mission that is to bring the Good News to my people." Since a new tarmac road connecting his area with other places in 2017, he said, many local people use tractors to carry others to Da Tong Church to attend Sunday Mass. Old people and children gather to pray at their homes.

"We wish priests from other places pay pastoral visits to us in the future," Duong said, adding that the mission station is home to 500 K'hor Catholics.

Korean Catholic nuns live 'Laudato Si'

(23-9-22) The Notre Dame Eco-Spirituality Center in Gyeyang-gu district of South Korea's Incheon city has become an embodiment of love and care for the earth that Pope Francis called for in his environmental encyclical *Laudato Si*, thanks to a group of nuns.

Since last year, the Sisters of Notre Dame here have adopted organic farming methods and an eco-friendly lifestyle to protect the environment from pollution and attain ecological spirituality, the *Catholic Times of Korea* reported.



The centre gets power from a solar power plant and the nuns use organic compost generated from food waste and animal excrement for the plants in the garden. Its buildings are made of eco-friendly raw materials like soil and rice straw, which in the event of its future demolition will create zero residual waste. Besides, the nuns harvest rainwater and use the water for consumption after filtering. All these activities are part of *Laudato Si 7-Year Journey Action Plan* adopted by the Catholic Church in Korea to implement the spirit of the pope's ground-breaking apostolic letter of 2015.

24-9-22

Chad - The Bishop of Sarh on a solidarity visit to the victims of the clashes between farmers and shepherds

(24-9-22) "Once again blood has been shed on our land. Once again innocent people have died or been hurt by the wickedness of a few armed people. Once again the destruction of the assets of a population that already lives in poverty has taken place" says Bishop Miguel Angel Sebastián Martínez, Bishop of Sarh, in southern Chad, on his return from his visit to Kyabé after the inter-community clashes that caused a ten dead and twenty injured a few days ago

Bishop Sebastián invoked justice: "God listens to the cries of the unfortunate and one day he will do justice. Be sure ". He called on the government to get to the truth and do justice. Conflicts between farmers and shepherds are recurrent in the province and often result in deaths. The violence broke out on 13 September, following a quarrel between a farmer and a breeder, accused of having led his herd to his field. Since then, several villages located in five cantons of the Lac Iro department have been attacked. The toll of the clashes is 19 dead, 22 injured, as well as 18 arrests by both sides, according to the provincial prosecutor.

Vietnam - Attention to young people and prevention of drug addiction: the social commitment of the Church

(24-9-22) Helping young people to acquire the necessary knowledge on the harmful effects of drug use and accompanying them in the prevention of drug addiction: with this aim the Catholic Church in Vietnam collaborates with the Vietnamese Research Institute for Drug Prevention, organizing seminars dedicated to adolescents, Catholics and non-Catholics. In Hanoi, in the parish of Thach of Bich, a recent seminar involved over 200 young people in group discussions and workshops, while scholars, biologists and psychologists explained how to identify the various types of drugs and how to deal with situations related to the use of drugs, drugs and addictions.

Costa Rica - The transit country for thousands of migrants exposed to a humanitarian crisis that cannot leave indifferent

(24-9-22) "We cannot remain indifferent in the face of a possible humanitarian crisis if we do not fully address what is happening in our country. In addition to the already complex situation of Nicaraguan migration, groups from other parts of the continent are added, among them the situation of Venezuelans is critical, but also groups from other parts of the world that use our country as a transit territory to the United States." Bishop Daniel Blanco Mendez Auxiliary Bishop of San José, Executive Secretary of the Pastoral Care of Human Mobility, writes this on the occasion of the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, which is celebrated on Sunday 25 September.

25-9-22

Pope at Eucharistic Congress: Bread must be shared on the table of the world

(25-9-22) Pope Francis celebrated Holy Mass in the city of Matera in Southern Italy at the conclusion of the 27th National Eucharistic Congress reminding Christians there is no eucharistic worship without compassion for the poor.

Pope Francis invited Christians to "return to the taste of bread to remember that while this earthly existence of ours is being consumed, the Eucharist anticipates the promise of resurrection and guides us towards the new life that conquers death."

Before the Angelus, appeal for Myanmar, Ukraine and Cameroon

(25-9-22) He appealed to the world not to forget or ignore the suffering of the population in Myanmar where violence continues to cause death even to children and displacement.

The Pope also reiterated his concern and closeness with the people of Ukraine and called for solutions to the seven-month war.

Pope Francis also said he joins in the appeal of the bishops of Cameroon for the liberation of eight people kidnapped in the

diocese of Mamfe, including five priests and a religious sister.

"I pray for them and for the populations of the ecclesiastical province of Bamenda: may the Lord give peace to hearts and to the social life of that dear country."

