

## CATHOLIC WORLD LAST WEEK

(CWLW)

18-24 July 2022

18-7-22

### **Poll finds US Catholics split on Biden, lax on faith**

(18-7-22) A survey of Catholic voters in the US, conducted by the EWTN network and Real Clear Opinion Research, found that a small majority had an unfavorable opinion of President Biden. But the same poll found that most American Catholics do not attend Mass regularly, do not go to Confession, and do not... and do not accept fundamental Catholic doctrine.

### **Pope warns against 'toxicity' online**

(18-7-22) In a message to a conference in Seoul, Korea, on "Peace in the Digital World," Pope Francis said that although the internet "has proved to be a powerful means of fostering communion and dialogue," many media sites "have become places of toxicity, hate speech, and fake news." The Pope encouraged internet users to "develop a sound critical sense, learning to distinguish truth from falsehood, right from wrong, good from evil, and to appreciate the importance of working for justice, social concord, and respect for our common home."

### **2 more priests abducted in Nigeria, diocese says**

(18-7-22) Fathers John Mark Cheitnum and Donatus Cleopas were abducted during a parish function in Yadin Garu, which is located in Nigeria's Kaduna State. A Lagos newspaper earlier reported that 18 Nigerian priests have been abducted this year.

### **Thousands flee jihadist violence in Cabo Delgado; Christians beheaded**

(18-7-22) An Islamist insurgency began in Mozambique's Cabo Delgado province in 2017. Recently, Islamic State forces attacked six Christian villages there and beheaded several of their victims.

### **Jesuit who was missionary in rural Germany is beatified**



(18-7-22) Father Johann Philipp Jeningen, SJ (1642-1704) was beatified in Ellwangen, Germany, on July 16.

Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich, SJ, of Luxembourg presided at the beatification Mass. Blessed Jeningen "exercised his ministry among the rural populations of the Duchy of Württemberg," Pope Francis said on July 17. "A tireless preacher of the Gospel, he reached people of every social class, inspired by a great apostolic spirit and a

special Marian devotion. May the example of this priest help us to feel the joy of sharing the Gospel with our brothers."

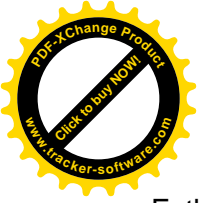
### **Church wants lesson on Indian Catholic saint back in schools**

(18-7-22) The Communist-led government of the southwestern Indian state of Kerala has removed a lesson on St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara (1805-1871) from the school syllabus. "It is a deliberate attempt to ignore the contributions of St. Chavara in reforming the caste-ridden society of Kerala through the light of education," said Father Jacob Palakkappilly, spokesman for the Kerala Catholic Bishops' Council.

### **Cambodian priest named leader of Church jurisdiction for 1st time since Pol Pot**

(18-7-22) Pope Francis has named Father Pierre Suon Hangly, 50, as the prefect apostolic of Kompong-Cham, Cambodia.

Akin to an embryonic diocese and typically led by a priest, an apostolic prefecture is a Church jurisdiction in missionary territory.



Father Hangly is the first native-born Cambodian priest to lead a Cambodian ecclesiastical jurisdiction since the genocidal rule of Communist leader Pol Pot. The appointment is thus “an important step for Cambodia’s Catholic community, which began its rebirth 20 years [ago] and now can count on 20,000 members in a country of 16 million,” according to AsiaNews.

### **South Sudan - The megaphone of the mission: a radio station to spread peace and proclaim the Gospel**

(18-7-22) 'Proclaim the Gospel' is the motto of the radio station Don Bosco 91.0 FM in Tonj, a Salesian mission in South Sudan in the Bahr al-Ghazal region, which has been broadcasting the signal for 12 years. It is a precious tool at the service of the community, which was a dream of the Nigerian missionary Fr. Cyril Odia, made a reality on February 5, 2010 with Fr. Cyril as its first director. According to the note sent to Fides, the Salesian radio station has now become a means that acts as a megaphone for various missionary works: from the parish to primary and secondary schools, from the hospital to the oratory. Its contents are broadcast in five languages (English, Arabic, Dinka, Jur and Bongo) and its coverage currently ranges between 90 and 120 kilometres.

### **China - Beijing Cathedral reopens after 6 months: 101 catechumens receive the sacraments of Christian initiation**

(18-7-22) The Catholic Community of the Archdiocese of Beijing celebrates not only the reopening of the church after six months of closure due to government anti-Covid regulations, but also the sacraments of Christian initiation of 101 catechumens, mostly adults. Before dawn on July 16, the day of reopening, the faithful, both young and old, were waiting outside the gate, rejoicing at being able to resume their spiritual, liturgical and pastoral activities in the presence of their beloved community. The first stop, as always, was prayer in front of the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes and finally in front of the altar to give thanks to the Lord for this moment. At five o'clock in the afternoon of July 16, the participants in the catechism course were baptized and received the other sacraments of Christian initiation, Confirmation and First Communion.

### **Dominican Rep. - The Virgin of Altagracia, "source of unity in difficult times, a sure hand that supports in setbacks"**

(18-7-22) Pope Francis has written a message to the people of the Dominican Republic to mark the Altagracian jubilee year, which commemorates the 100th anniversary of the crowning of the image of the Virgin of Altagracia.

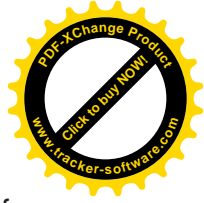
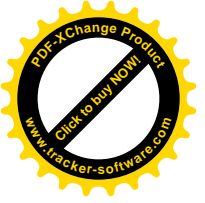
“The loving gaze of the Mother contemplating the Child who sleeps trustfully on her lap is an invitation for us to learn to see, through her eyes, Jesus present in our neighbours, and to remember that we are part of the same human family called to live together in fraternity and solidarity,” the Pope wrote in his message.



“The Virgin of Altagracia has been for the Dominican people a source of unity in difficult moments, a sure hand that supports them in the setbacks that arise in their daily lives,” he added. “With her protection and shelter, she urges us to care for and keep burning the flame of hope that our elders bequeathed to us in faith, and to pass it on to others with humility, trusting in the Lord’s grace.”

### **Cuba - Religious draw attention to 700 people still in prison after clashes a year ago**

(18-7-22) One year after the events of July 11, 2021, the Cuban Conference of Religious (ConCuR) recalls "what we lived and what we are experiencing". First of all, about 700 people are still in prison. "This continues to cause pain and anguish to many, especially the relatives of the detainees", underlines the statement. For some detainees "the trial has not yet taken place, violating the ordinary and extraordinary terms established by law". Furthermore, "in the appeal hearings held, the evidence



presented by the defence continues to be refused and not adequately assessed, to the detriment of the accused". So they reiterate that "We regret that the sanctions and the entire trial of the detainees are used as an intimidating resource". the Cuban religious ask for the "definitive release of the accused who have not been tried, as well as the re-examination of the sentences of the persons tried".

### **Church group lauds Taiwan's move to protect migrant fishermen**

(18-7-22) A Church group has welcomed the Taiwanese government's new policy seeking an increase in the protection for foreign fishermen working their distant-water fishing fleets. "We appreciate this step and the commitment to ensuring its implementation. It will have an impact on improving the lives of the migrant fishermen and ensure that there is serious protection of their rights," said Father Ansensius Guntur, executive director of Stella Maris Kaohsiung, a Church-run organization that provides care for migrants, seafarers and refugees. The priest spoke to UCA News on July 18 in response to a statement from Taiwanese government officials that they would oversee the implementation of the Regulations on the Authorization and Management of Overseas Employment of Foreign Crew Members, which was passed in May and took effect this month. About 21,000 migrant fishermen are employed in Taiwanese fishing boats, the majority from Indonesia and the Philippines, according to Taiwanese authorities.

### **Korean religious groups call for abolition of death penalty**

(18-7-22) Catholic Church in South Korea joined other religious groups to call for the abolition of the death penalty terming it unconstitutional and ineffective in curbing criminal offenses in the country. Korean Bishops' Justice and Peace Committee made the appeal as the nation's Constitutional Court holds the third hearing to debate whether the existing moratorium on the death penalty should be upheld or overturned in the East Asian nation. The committee had joined in a petition filed by a person who is accused of killing his parents in February 2019. The prosecution had demanded the death penalty, but the court sentenced the convicted person to life imprisonment, reported Dong-A Ilbo. The petitioners have appealed to the judges for the need to see the dignity and value of life in punishments meted out by the judicial system. Seven major religious groups have issued a joint communique to call for the abolition of the death penalty.



### **Christian journalists seek Church support in Pakistan**

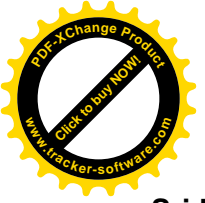
(18-7-22) Church of Pakistan Moderator Bishop Azad Marshall has announced the setting up of a committee to address the grievances of Christian journalists who face discrimination in newsrooms.

Bishop Marshall made the announcement at a meeting on the "Role of Christian media to strengthen the Church in Pakistan" organized by the Church of Pakistan's coordinating office in Lahore on July 15. Bishop Marshall urged reporters to serve the voiceless community and avoid being personal.

"Some instances of blackmailing have caused mistrust between the Church and the journalist community. Both continue the fight against discrimination. Christian journalists must represent Church with dignity and respect," he said.

More than 15 journalists, all members of the Christian Journalists Association of Pakistan (CJAP), were present at the meeting and raised the issue of the indifference of local bishops toward them. They also raised other issues like the absence of a national Christian daily, lack of revenue from advertisements and the hostility from their Muslim colleagues.

Pakistan has been ranked the fifth most dangerous place for the practice of journalism by the International Federation of Journalists.



## **Sri Lankan bishops want tainted politicians away from power**

(18-7-22) Sri Lankan bishops have urged politicians to not entrust the reins of the crisis-ridden nation into the hands of leaders already rejected by the people.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of Sri Lanka (CBCSL) in a statement on July 17 said rejected leaders should not be entrusted with governance as the country is in an unstable situation politically, economically and socially.

The parliament of the island nation will be voting on July 20 to elect a new president.

## **Catholic villagers flee as Myanmar military escalates attacks**

(18-7-22) Thousands of people from a historic Catholic village in conflict-torn Myanmar have been forced to flee their homes as the military ramps up air strikes and artillery shelling.

When people learned about the military raid on a nearby village on July 17, almost all the inhabitants of Monhla village in the central Sagaing region fled into the nearby jungle and other safe areas.

While some villagers used motorcycles and small trucks, others including the elderly and children fled on bullock-drawn carts, according to local sources. Priests and nuns were among the thousands of people who fled the village. Sources said three helicopters flew over several villages including Monhla early on July 18. "We had to hide in the trees as we heard the junta's air strikes," says one villager.

19-7-22

## **Vatican unveils new policy for all investments**

(19-7-22) The Vatican's Secretariat for the Economy has announced a new policy that will govern all investments by offices of the Roman Curia. The policy will take effect September 1.

All Vatican offices will be required to turn their investments over to the care of APSA. (APSA is the Administration of the Patrimony of the Apostolic See, the office that handles Vatican investments.)

APSA will set up a single investment fund, with accounts in that fund for each Vatican office.

The APSA fund will be invested under the guidance of an expert committee, which will weigh not only the returns on capital but also the principles of Catholic social teaching. A Vatican statement explained:

The new Investment Policy aims to ensure that investments are aimed at contributing to a more just and sustainable world; protecting the real value of the Holy See's net worth, generating a sufficient return to contribute sustainably to the financing of its activities; and are aligned with the teachings of the Catholic Church, with specific exclusions of financial investments that contradict its fundamental principles, such as the sanctity of life or the dignity of the human being or the common good. In this sense, it is important that they be aimed at financial activities of a productive nature, excluding those of a speculative nature, and above all that they be guided by the principle that the decision to invest in one place rather than another, in one productive sector rather than another, is always a moral and cultural choice.

The new policy will be in place on an experimental basis for five years.

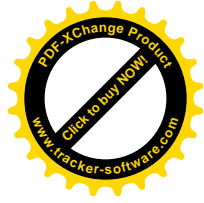
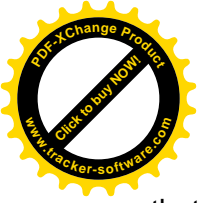
## **Ukrainian Catholic archbishop sees 'disaster' if Pope visits Moscow**

(19-7-22) Archbishop Mieczyslaw Mokrzycki of Lviv, Ukraine has warned of "disaster" if Pope Francis fulfills his ambition to travel to Moscow before he visits Ukraine.

Archbishop Mokrzycki, the leader of Ukraine's Latin-rite Catholics, reported a visit to Moscow would reinforce concerns that the Pontiff is taking a neutral attitude toward the conflict in Ukraine, rather than condemning Russian aggression. He said that "our faithful say that one must first turn to the victim, to the one who suffers, and only then to the one who caused it."

The archbishop added that the nation's larger Byzantine-Catholic community is particularly dismayed by the Pope's attitude. Ukrainian Catholics have long complained





that the Vatican neglects the concerns of Byzantine Catholics, because of a fear of offending the Russian Orthodox who claim ecclesiastical jurisdiction over Ukraine.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian Catholic leader warns of new wave of refugees. "I would invite all of you to pray especially for those who are leaving their homes today, because the increase in the intensity of hostilities causes a new wave of refugees and internally displaced persons in Ukraine," Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk, the head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, said on July 18.

### **Nigerian prelate sees attacks on Christians as part of broader government failures**

(19-7-22) Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, "has not become a failed state in the true sense of the word," said Archbishop Ignatius Kaigama of Abuja, the nation's capital. "But all the indices are there that it has now become a very fragile polity."

Commenting on the 2023 presidential election, the archbishop said that "so far, we have seen little in the conduct and disposition of a greater majority of the candidates to inspire confidence."

### **Ethiopian cardinal condemns migration as a hindrance to integral human development**

(19-7-22) Cardinal Berhaneyesus Demerew Souraphiel of Addis Abeba "strongly condemns the death and terrible disappearance of human beings caused by migration, which is the main cause of the hindrance to the integral development of mankind," according to a news release by AMECEA, the Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa.

### **Papal encouragement for Pan-African Catholic Congress**

(19-7-22) "Africa is poetry," Pope Francis said in a video address to the Pan-African Catholic Congress, meeting in Nairobi this week. The Pope congratulated participants on their efforts "not only to meet challenging needs with certainty, but also to make African dreams come true."



### **Kenya - Consecrated women in Africa: "A precious role for the Church"**

(19-7-22) "The Association of Consecrated Women of Central and West Africa (ACWECA), in the midst of the Synod on Synodality, wishes to reiterate the importance of the role of religious women and the attention that congregations must devote more and more to this question. In the recent past, Pope Francis has appointed women, consecrated and lay, to key roles in the Roman Curia. Women are called to play decisive roles in

the Church and if this is possible it is because they are highly trained and specialized. We are talking about economists, teachers, sociologists, people who have dedicated their lives to studies".

This is what Sister Agnes Lucy Lando, of the Sisters of Mary of Kakamega, a congregation rooted in central-eastern Africa that has its mother house in Kenya, affirms in an interview with Agenzia Fides. Sister Agnes Lucy Lando is the, Associate Professor of "Communication and Media Studies" and president of the Ethics Review Committee at Daystar University.

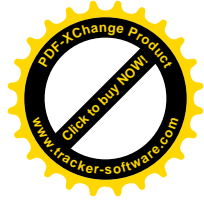
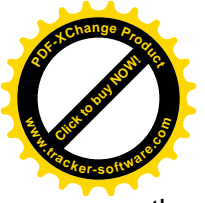
### **Indonesia - In Flores, 62 ordinations in one diocese in the 'little Vatican', despite pandemic**

(19-7-22) On the Indonesian island of Flores, Bishop Ewaldus Martinus Sedu recently ordained 16 new priests and 46 transitional deacons for 15 religious orders. Bishop Sedu, 58, was appointed bishop of Maumere, one of four dioceses on the island of 1.8 million, in 2018.

The Camillians, founded by St. Camillus de Lellis in 1582, were blessed with a new priest, two new deacons, "ten first professions, two perpetual professions, 18 renewals of vows, and four new novices" in the diocese, Fides reported.

When the Diocese of Maumere was founded in 2005, from territory of the Archdiocese of Ende, it had 60 diocesan priests and 60 religious-order priests; in 2019, it had 60 diocesan priests and 150 religious-order priests.

The growth in vocations on Flores is not limited to the Diocese of Maumere. The number of priests in



the Archdiocese of Ende rose from 164 to 222 between 2005 and 2019; in the Diocese of Larantuka, the number rose from 123 to 139 between 2003 and 2019; and in the Diocese of Ruteng, the number rose from 199 to 279 between 2004 and 2020, despite a scandal involving a former bishop.

### **Nicaragua - The Bishop of Matagalpa invites a "Crusade of prayer for our Church, our priests, our beloved Nicaragua"**

(19-7-22) "On behalf of all my brother priests of our blessed and beloved diocese of Matagalpa, I want to invite each of you to a crusade of prayer and adoration for our Church, our priests and our beloved Nicaragua". This was requested by Bishop Rolando José Álvarez Lagos of Matagalpa, during the mass celebrated on Sunday, July 17, in the diocesan Sanctuary of the Divine Child Jesus, in Fuente Pura, after the 12-kilometre pilgrimage from the Cathedral, which was attended by a multitude of faithful in prayer. According to the news released by the diocese, referring to the Gospel passage proclaimed, the Bishop underlined the fundamental message: "in the midst of the anxieties and concerns that all Nicaraguans have, we have chosen the best part (a reference to Jesus' words to Martha), because we always turn our gaze and our hearts to the Lord Jesus and his mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary".

### **Ecuador - The dialogue tables start, the Episcopal Conference guarantor of the process**

(19-7-22) The Bishops' Conference of Ecuador (CEE) announced the conclusion, yesterday afternoon, July 18, of dialogue table number 2, called "Public and private bank". "These have been four days marked by intense listening, a high technical level and a clear desire to find solutions that benefit the entire country" affirms the statement from the General Secretariat of the CEE sent to Agenzia Fides. Representatives of the largest organizations in the sector and of the three associations of indigenous communities have participated and will communicate to the country the fruit of these joint work sessions.

### **Bangladesh government 'failing to protect minorities'**

(19-7-22) Hindu victims of an Islamist mob attack recall how they were forced to flee from their homes in Narail district. Leaders of the minority Hindu community have accused the government in Muslim-majority Bangladesh of failing to provide security and to protect them from Islamist mob attacks.



The accusation came after another incident of Muslim mob violence against the Hindu community over an alleged blasphemous post on social media, which left a temple, houses and businesses of Hindus destroyed, forcing dozens of Hindus to flee.

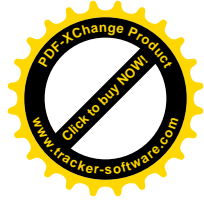
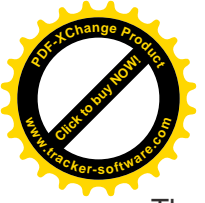
On July 15, a mob vandalized a temple, several homes and businesses belonging to Hindus in the Dighalia Bazar area in Narail district alleging a local Hindu boy Akash Saha had hurt Muslim sentiments in a post on Facebook. He has been arrested by the police.

Amid the uproar over the attack on social media, from civil society and protest rallies from minority groups, the police have arrested five Muslims for their alleged involvement in instigating violence.

### **Myanmar bishop urges respect for human dignity, property**

(19-7-22) Archbishop Marco Tin Win of Mandalay has called for human dignity and property to be respected as Myanmar's military junta attacks on civilians in several villages.

"I am deeply disheartened to learn about the suffering of thousands of people, especially from villages including Catholics whose homes were burned, properties looted and who have become homeless, displaced and in dire need of food and shelter," Archbishop Tin Win said in a video message on July 17. "Their villages are becoming a land of ashes lacking homes, trees and birds. I am also deeply sorrowful over thousands of our brothers and sisters who can't live in their own homes and instead live in makeshift camps who are facing acute hunger," the archbishop said. "Food, clothing, shelter and healthcare are basic rights of all human beings so they need to be prioritized."



The 60-year-old bishop appealed to concerned parties “not to burn and destroy civilian homes and respect their properties”.

### **UN questions rights violations in Macau during pandemic**

(19-7-22) The United Nations Human Rights Committee (UNHRC) has raised alarm over alleged crackdown on pro-democracy activists in Macau under the pretext of Covid-19 restrictions. The UN body expressed concerns over the crackdown during a review of the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in Macau via video conference on July 15, Portuguese news agency Hoje Macau reported. The UNHRC officials have quizzed the government of the former Portuguese colony, now a Chinese-ruled autonomous territory, and said that Covid-19 restrictions in Macau were not “compatible with the rights guaranteed by the Basic Law and the ICCPR.”



### **Indonesian Catholics oppose commercialization of Komodo Park**

(19-7-22) Residents on Indonesia’s Catholic majority island of Flores are up against a government move that allegedly aims to commercialize and establish a monopoly in the growing tourism business in the protected area of Komodo National Park. They are also protesting the decision to make available entrance tickets to the park through an online application controlled by the provincial government company, PT Flobamora. The ticket prices also have been raised to US\$ 250 per person, both for domestic

and international tourists, from the current US\$ 10 per ticket, available through local tour agents and guides.

Nearly 1,000 locals staged a protest against the new policies at Labuan Bajo, the capital of West Manggarai district in East Nusa Tenggara province, on July 18.

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### **Vatican publishes ‘Keys to Bioethics: A Manual for Youth’**

(20-7-22) The Dicastery for Laity, Family, and Life has released Keys to Bioethics: A Manual for Youth, a free e-book prepared by the Jérôme Lejeune Foundation.

“With this Manual we wish to offer young people around the world a practical and up-to-date tool to answer some of the questions that clutter their minds when faced with the great challenges generated by scientific and technological progress,” said Cardinal Kevin Farrell, the Dicastery’s prefect.

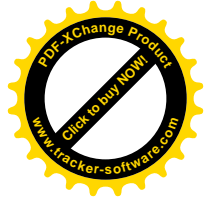
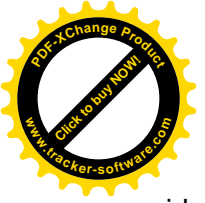
The Manual states that human life begins at fertilization and that IUDs, RU-486, and the morning-after pill can induce abortions—and that the regular birth control pill can have an abortifacient effect. Other topics covered include the contraceptive mentality, genetic screening, reproductive technology, eugenics, stem-cell research, euthanasia, organ donation, and gender.

Discussing gender identity, the Manual states that “in fact, there is no way to change one’s sex. To try to do so is to mutilate the body and to create a lie within the human person, who may be altered to look like the other sex but can never truly be the other sex.”

The Manual is also critical of homosexual parenting: “Recent research has shown that a loving mother and father in a stable relationship are essential to the healthy development of children. The desire of homosexual couples to override the biological constraint on their ability to have children is not a sufficient reason to place children in a same-sex household.”

### **Pope praises outgoing African Church, ‘discerning what God is telling us today’**

(20-7-22) “Coming together to discern what God is telling us today, not only to meet challenging needs with certainty, but also to make African dreams come true (social, cultural, ecological and ecclesial dreams) is already a sign of an outgoing African Church,” Pope Francis said in a July 19



video message to the 2nd Pan-African Catholic Congress on Theology, Society and Pastoral Life. "Bring out the best of you in these reflections so that the result will be a surprise, so that that African creation that surprises us all can be born," the Pope added. "Because Africa is poetry."

### **US House passes measure to protect same-sex marriage**

(20-7-22) The US House of Representatives on July 19 passed legislation that would ensure federal recognition for same-sex marriage. The "Respect for Marriage Act" passed by a vote of 267—157. The bill is highly unlikely to gain approval in the Senate and become law. But Democrats pressed for a vote to put members on record in advance of midterm elections. The legislation would repeal the Defense of Marriage Act, passed in 1996, which defined marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

### **Lebanese military court detains, questions archbishop for 8 hours**

(20-7-22) The Maronite Catholic Archbishop of Haifa and the Holy Land was detained and interrogated at the Lebanon-Israel border for eight hours.

Samir Geagea, a former Lebanese Minister of State, said that the Lebanese military court's detention of Archbishop Moussa El-Hage was payback for Maronite Patriarch Bechara Boutros al-Rahi's frequent criticism of current political leaders.

### **English woman, fined for praying at abortion clinic, wins appeal**

(20-7-22) An English woman has won a court case challenging a fine that had been imposed on her for praying outside an abortion clinic. Rosa Lalor of Liverpool was cited by police for breaking Covid-lockdown restrictions while she was "walking and praying" outside a local clinic. A court found that since walking was allowed, the fine was unjustified.

### **Edmonton's Indigenous church reopens for Pope's visit next week**

(20-7-22) The Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples in Edmonton, Alberta, was rededicated on July 17, two years after a fire caused by improperly discarded materials destroyed the church's interior.

### **Equatorial Guinea - Archbishop Rugambwa to Bishops of Central Africa: "Bishops should be the mouthpiece and defenders of youth in governments and societies"**

(20-7-22) "The Episcopate of Central Africa should be the mouthpiece and tireless defender of youth in their respective governments and societies, drawing attention to the reality of the migratory phenomenon which sees young people at the forefront, especially as victims". This is the invitation launched by Archbishop Protase Rugambwa, who spoke on behalf of the Section for the First Evangelization and the new Particular Churches of the Dicastery for Evangelization, to the Plenary Assembly of ACERAC (Association of the Regional Episcopal Conferences of Central Africa).



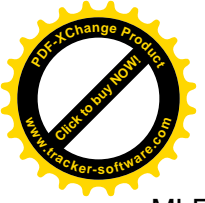
ACERAC, founded in 1989, brings together the Bishops of Cameroon, Chad, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Central African Republic and Congo.

The 2022 Annual Assembly, to be held in Mongomo (Equatorial Guinea) from July 17 to 24, will address the central theme: "The Phenomenon of the Youth Migration: The case of Central Africa", a theme considered "essential and current" by the Archbishop.

### **Rwanda- Water supply: Access to clean water for 50,000 people**

(20-7-22) "How can you wash your hands in a context of health emergency without water?" asks Omar Fiordalisio, head of the office in Rwanda of the Italian charity Movimento Lotta Fame nel Mondo (MLFM), based in Kigali with reference to a project in which he worked together with the local population to implement a water supply system in Gatsibo. "We have finally officially completed the





MLFM's largest water supply project to date," reads his report, "It's been three intense years of work, hard work and big and small difficulties". "The main obstacle was the COVID pandemic: the unforeseen increase in costs and a forced break of several months threatened to delay the construction of the aqueducts. Fortunately, after discussions with the local authorities, we were included in the Rwandan government's list of priority projects and the works were rescheduled. In the three years on site, we involved up to 700 Rwandan workers, to whom we taught the trade and guaranteed a salary. We provided 10,000 families with clean drinking water. In total, we helped more than 50,000 people".



### **Nigeria - One of the two priests kidnapped has been murdered**

(20-7-22)"It is with a deep sense of sorrow and pains that the Bishop, Clergy, Religious and Laity of the Diocese of Kafanchan announce the gruesome murder of Very Rev. Fr. John Mark Cheitnum.

Fr. John Mark, who was abducted from the rectory of Christ the King Parish Yadin Garu, Lere L.G.A of Kaduna State, was brutally killed by his abductors on the same day of his abduction; Friday 15th July, 2022", the Chancellor of the Nigerian Diocese Fr. Emmanuel Uchekukwu Okolo

has announced. The body of Fr. John Mark was later discovered already decomposing on Tuesday 19th July, in the forest not far from the place of the kidnapping. His funeral was on 21 July.

Fr. John Mark Cheitnum and Fr. Denatus Cleopas were abducted at around 5:45 p.m. on July 15 at the rectory of Christ the King Catholic Church in the town of Lere in Nigeria's northern Kaduna State. Fr. Cleopa managed to escape from the kidnappers.

### **Indonesia - The Church honors a German nun who spent her life among lepers**

(20-7-22) The Catholic Church in Indonesia honours and celebrates a German nun who pioneered working among lepers on Flores island of Indonesia died on June 27. She was 93. Sr Virgula Maria Schmith, a member of the Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit, also known as Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters passed away in Steyl, Netherlands.

The nun started St. Damian and St. Rafael Rehabilitation and Leprosy Rehabilitation Centres in Cancer and Binongko on Flores Island. Born in 1929 in Germany, she started her career caring for the poor and the sick and switched over to leprosy care when by accident she had to take care of a leper in 1966.

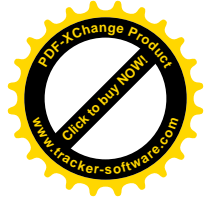
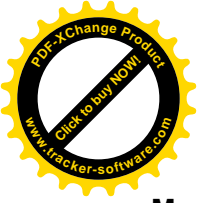
### **Brazil - Joint Statement of Seminarians: Challenges and Dreams of a Missionary and Synodal Church**

(20-7-22) "We reflected on the realities that challenge society and the Church in Brazil and in the world, in the context of wars, poverty, hunger, misery, geographical and existential peripheries and also the challenges imposed by COVID-19. This is the message shared by the more than 330 diocesan seminarians and Brazilian religious (from 134 dioceses and 6 religious congregations) who attended the 4th National Missionary Congress of Seminarians (4Cominse) last week

The seminarians expressly undertake to make the most of their study and formation time, to pay close attention to the ecclesial and social reality of the regions from which they come and to redesign it with a renewed missionary spirit and to spend more time reading the missionary documents of the Church and for research into the missionaries ad gentes who worked in Brazil.

### **Chile - About 1,500 university students bring Christ's message of joy and hope to 52 locations**

(20-7-22) About 1,500 students are visiting hundreds of people and families in 52 Chilean communities to bring the message of Christ's hope to them. The young volunteers of the projects "Misión de Vida", "Trabajo País", "Siembra UC" and the members of the choir "Misión País" made their way from the "San Joaquin" campus of the Catholic University of Chile (UC) with backpacks, bags, building materials and tools and sleeping bags... to share the faith of a living Church to the 52 Chilean locations.



### **Myanmar military 'committing war crimes with landmine use'**

(20-7-22) Myanmar's military junta is committing war crimes by using anti-personnel landmines on a massive scale in and around villages in predominantly Christian Kayah state, according to an Amnesty International (AI) report.

The group released the report on July 20 which said anti-personnel landmines are inherently indiscriminate and their use is internationally banned. It said the landmines laid by the Myanmar military have killed and seriously injured civilians and will have significant long-term consequences, including on displaced people's ability to return home and farm their lands.

The Karenni Human Rights Group has documented at least 20 civilians killed or seriously injured by landmines in Kayah state since June 2021.

### **Timor-Leste president backs Indonesia's moderate Muslim outfits for Nobel**

Timor-Leste President Jose Ramos-Horta has said he will be nominating two moderate Indonesian Muslim organizations for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Ramos-Horta, himself a Nobel peace laureate, said two Muslim groups in Indonesia--Nahdlatul Ulama and Muhammadiyah--deserve international recognition for their contribution to promoting tolerance in the world's most populous Muslim-majority country. The Timor-Leste president made the remarks while visiting the Nahdlatul Ulama headquarters in Jakarta on July 20, as part of a week-long visit to Indonesia.

"I will also propose these two organizations for another very prestigious award, namely the Zayed Award for Human Fraternity," he added. The international award was established to mark the historic meeting of Pope Francis and the grand imam of Al-Azhar, Ahmad At-Tayyeb, in February 2019 in Abu Dhabi.

### **Indian Catholics seek withdrawal of 'misleading' lesson on Hagia Sophia**

(20-7-22) Catholics have questioned the distorted version of the history of Istanbul's ancient Cathedral Hagia Sophia being taught in schools in communist-ruled Kerala state in southern India.

Father Jacob G Palakkappilly, spokesman of the Kerala Catholic Bishops Council (KCBC), said "it is quite disturbing to note that students in Class Seven were being taught a false history of one of the world's greatest Byzantine monuments originally built as a church."

The Hagia Sophia was built in the 6th century and is also known as the Church of the Holy or Divine Wisdom, and in subsequent centuries became a mosque, a museum, and a mosque again two years ago.

The textbook for Class Seven in Kerala has a lesson under the title, "Europe in the path of transformation," which described the ancient cathedral as a "historical monument" but hid the fact that it was originally a Christian church that was turned into a mosque, the priest told UCA News on July 20.

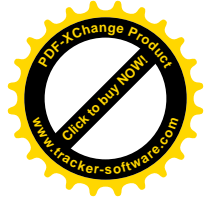
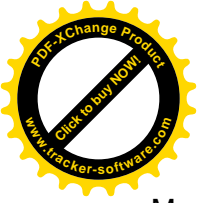
### **Sri Lankan Church calls halt to politicizing Easter attack probe**

(20-7-22) The Sri Lankan Church officials have dismissed a proposal from the acting president Ranil Wickremesinghe to invite the UK police to conduct an impartial investigation into the 2019 Easter Sunday attack.

"We vehemently reject the statement of Acting President Wickremesinghe. He is trying to come to power by talking about Easter Sunday victims," said Father Cyril Gamini in Colombo on July 19.

Father Gamini, who is a member of Colombo Archdiocese's proclamation committee on the search for the truth on the Easter Sunday attack, accused the acting president of attempting to "misuse" the tragedy ahead of the July 20 vote in parliament to elect a new president.





Meanwhile, the parliament announced on July 20 that Wickremesinghe had been re-elected as the president of Sri Lanka.

21-7-22

### **Vatican issues caution on German 'Synodal Path'**

(21-7-22) The Vatican has issued a cautionary statement about the German bishops' Synodal Path, saying that the initiative does not have authority to change Catholic doctrinal or moral teachings. Without the approval of the universal Church, "it would not be permissible to initiate new official structures or doctrines in the dioceses," the Vatican statement notes, adding that such unilateral changes would "represent a wound to ecclesial communion and a threat to the unity of the Church. The statement expresses the hope that the Synodal Path "will converge with the synodal path being followed by the universal Church."



### **Vatican foreign minister: Results of agreement with China 'not terribly impressive'**

(21-7-22) Commenting on the 2018 provisional agreement with China on the appointment of bishops, the Holy See's Secretary for Relations with States said in an interview that "the balance sheet, I suppose, is not terribly impressive. We've had six episcopal appointments, and there are some others in the pipeline."

"If we can work successfully with the Chinese authorities on the appointment of bishops, then that obviously helps both parties to begin to examine other questions as well," Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher added. "I think the Chinese are in agreement that there should be a gradual raising of the level of direct contact between us."

Commenting on the May arrest of retired Hong Kong Cardinal Joseph Zen, Archbishop Gallagher said, "I think his arrest was something that for us was very surprising, and we hope that the matter can be resolved satisfactorily in the near future."

Asked to comment on current Hong Kong Bishop Stephen Chow's concerns about the decrease of religious freedom there, Archbishop Gallagher said that "the Holy See is committed to the defense of religious freedom. If the bishop feels that the space for Hong Kong Catholics is diminishing, we obviously regret that."

### **Pope seeks 'covenant with environment'**

(21-7-22) Pope Francis called for "a covenant between human beings and the environment" in his statement for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.

The World Day of Prayer—an ecumenical project, originally conceived by Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople—will be observed September 1, with a campaign continuing through October 4. Pope Francis lauded the project as "a special time for all Christians to pray and work together to care for our common home."

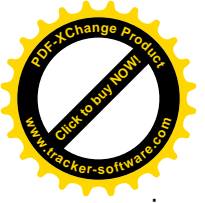
The Pope said that "we can hear in the voice of creation a kind of dissonance. On the one hand, we can hear a sweet song in praise of our beloved Creator; on the other, an anguished plea, lamenting our mistreatment of this our common home."

### **Myanmar: Cardinal Bo's home village hit by airstrike**

(21-7-22) The military regime in the Southeast Asian nation of Myanmar (map) has increasingly targeted Catholic villages. On July 18, military helicopters attacked Monhla, the village of 700 where the nation's leading prelate was born.

### **Cardinal Pell affirms central role of celebrating Mass**

(21-7-22) Cardinal George Pell, who was forbidden to celebrate Mass while imprisoned on abuse charges that were ultimately overturned, reflects on the importance of the Mass in the life of a priest,



in an interview with *Catholic World Report*. The Australian cardinal recalls that he was only able to attend Mass five times during more than 400 days of confinement.

Speaking more generally about the Eucharistic liturgy, Cardinal Pell remarks that he sees “a correlation, probably a causality, when the liturgy is poor in the true spiritual sense then almost certainly the Christian life of the parish is poor.”

The cardinal also remarks that liturgical unity within the Church “does not have to mean uniformity or the suppression of traditional and established and indeed beautiful forms of worship.”

### **Lebanese prelate blasts detention of archbishop**

(21-7-22) Maronite Catholic has described the detention and Moussa el-Hage as a “security, and hinted that the military the archbishop was prompted by The detention of the archbishop, eight hours, was a grave offence Church, the Lebanese Patriarch released after top judicial officials intervened on his behalf.



Patriarch Bechara al Rai questioning of Archbishop legal, and political farce,” tribunal that questioned the Hezbollah movement. who was questioned for against the integrity of the said. The archbishop was

The Maronite leader also demanded the release of funds that were confiscated by the military tribunal from the archbishop. The funds were gifts from families in Israel to relatives in Lebanon; the military tribunal accused Archbishop el-Hage of violating Lebanon’s boycott of Israel.

### **Indian Catholics oppose move to stop rations for the aged, orphans**

(21-7-22) “More than 100,000 inmates [i.e., residents] in 1,800 old people’s homes and orphanages in the state are going to be deprived of food supplied through the public distribution system,” said Father Michael Pulickal, CMI, secretary of the Commission for Social Harmony and Vigilance of the Kerala Catholic Bishops’ Council.

Father Pulickal was commenting on reports that the Communist-led government in the southwestern Indian state of Kerala will cease distributing food to these residences.

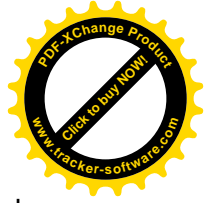
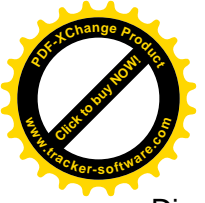
### **DR Congo - The Bishop of Boma invites prayers for newly ordained deacons and priests to be "good Samaritans"**

(21-7-22) "The Church with which you are committed, and which you want to serve, is like an inn of Kangu (northwest of the province of Kongo Central, Democratic Republic of the Congo). On this occasion, the Bishop of Boma invited the assembly to pray for these priests and deacons who were ordained, so that "they may be good Samaritans at the service of the people of God, and not corrupt mercenaries, profiteers without shame or scruples, who exploit naive people with expensive prayers and blessings; traffickers Christ; a place of hospitality, healing and communion. Be careful not to turn it into an inn for bandits or thieves to rob, extort, exploit, mistreat and harm the people of God, your brothers and sisters, to whom, on the contrary, you should be close. This is the exhortation of Bishop José-Claude Mbimbi of the Diocese of Boma, to the 3 priests and 9 deacons that he ordained on Sunday, July 10, 2022, in of the sacred, charlatans, even adventurers or simply bandits".

The territory inhabited by the "Family Church of God" in Boma began its evangelization in 1880., and became an apostolic vicariate in 1934 and a diocese in 1959. For this reason, it is considered the "first-born daughter" of the Church of the Republic Democratic of the Congo. It has 333 priests.

### **India - Camillians help flood victims in Assam**

(21-7-22) Brother Babu Madhu, a Camillian missionary (MI) who works in the Camillian task force (CTF), reports following the floods that have seriously affected the state of Assam, in India: "The recent floods have been a severe blow to the people and the state as a whole: the incessant rains and landslides have created havoc across the state. According to a report by the Assam State



Disaster Management Agency (ASDMA), the affected population in the last few hours has increased from over 250,000 to over 300,000 in the last few hours. Many people have fled to high places, including school buildings and embankments". The death toll from the floods is over 200 so far. "We set out immediately," explains Brother Madhu, "to improve the living conditions of the poor people in the state of Assam. In cooperation with St. John's Medical College Hospital and the Guwahati Gana Sevana Society, we have organized medical relief camps in the most affected districts of the state."

### **Mexico - The 44th edition of CLAEM is underway**

(21-7-22) More than 80 students from different Latin American countries are taking part in the 44th edition of the Latin American Course on Missionary Animation and Spirituality (CLAEM), which is being held for the second consecutive year. Promoted by the Pontifical Mexican Missionary Union (PMU) in collaboration with the Pontifical Urbaniana University, the course began on July 1 and will run until the 29th of this month on the ZOOM platform. It consists of 120 teaching hours, 80 of them face-to-face and 40 of collective or individual work. The general objective is to train missionary animators theologically, spiritually and methodologically: specifically, it is about deepening missionary spirituality in order to respond in the most appropriate way to the needs of the Church and the world of today.

### **Guatemala - The bishops invite "not to lose the illusion of building peace, seeking justice, defending life"**

(21-7-22) We invite the Guatemalans not to lose the illusion of building peace in our country. God calls us to seek justice to defend human life in all its moments and people, especially the most vulnerable. This is the exhortation of the Bishops of Guatemala, at the end of their July meeting, sharing their reading of "the signs of the times" to see the reality of our country in the light of faith. The time of transition that we live in, they write, is marked by the pandemic and other international events such as war, economic crisis, natural catastrophes... while hegemonies prevail in geopolitics that do not favour the common good or the minimum well-being of the people and their human dignity. "Guatemala continues to be in a bad situation and in many ways it is deteriorating" the bishops note, who continue: "The problem in our country is that the corruption, irresponsibility, interests and political short-sightedness of the officials in all the organs of the State have corrupted the system, they have abused it, and created a dysfunctional State incapable of fulfilling its function of creating the common good". The consequence is that Guatemala ranks last in Latin America in terms of human development, and although many of the problems are historical, aggravated by the current situation, the governments have made plans to solve them in the short term and for electoral purposes.



### **Korean Catholics pay tribute to 19th century martyrs**

(21-7-22) Hundreds of South Korean Catholics have visited a major Catholic shrine to pay tribute to 19th-century martyrs who sacrificed their lives for their faith.

Archbishop Thaddeus Cho Hwan-Kil of Daegu Archdiocese led the memorial programme including a Holy Mass at Hanti Martyrs' Shrine on July 17. Archbishop Cho urged the faithful to draw inspiration from the martyrs and become good witnesses for the love for God, according to a report on the archdiocesan website. "For the martyrs of Hanti, it must have been the most important thing to love God. That is why, while living in this barren mountain valley to escape persecution, they sacrificed their lives," the archbishop said in his homily.

Hanti village in Gyeongsangbuk-do province in the eastern part of South Korea contains the graves of 37 martyrs killed during the Mujin Persecution of 1868. Church records say the family members of Catholics who were killed and imprisoned by the Buddhist rulers of the Joseon dynasty had fled a series of violent crackdowns on Christianity in the 19th century including the Eulhae Persecution

(1815), the Jeonghae Persecution (1827), and the Gyeongsin Persecution (1860). Thus, Hanti became a large Christian village.

Between 1866 and 1886, about 9,000 Catholics, half of the total Catholic population of Korea at the time, were brutally murdered during the Byeongin Persecution. An estimated 10,000 Korean Catholics were killed for their faith in various bouts of persecution that lasted about 100 years

It is believed that Christianity came to Korea during the Japanese invasion in 1592 when some Koreans were baptized, probably by Christian Japanese soldiers. It then started as an indigenous lay movement.



### **Karachi Christians left reeling from floods, evictions**

(21-7-22) More than 500 Christians in Pakistan's financial capital Karachi are living on edge amid flooding while surviving forced eviction by the provincial government.

"These include families with partial and completely demolished houses along nullahs [narrow waterways] that criss-cross St. Judes, St. Michael and St. Philips parishes. They are among 6,000 families who still live in slums on three nullahs despite an anti-encroachment drive last year," Mansha Noor, executive secretary of Caritas Pakistan

Karachi (CPK), told UCA News.

Challenges have increased for survivors in Sindh and Balochistan provinces which saw higher than 30-year average rainfall earlier this month.

Caritas Pakistan is working alongside the government in supporting affected communities as the death toll nationwide has reached 238 with 187 injured as a result of flash floods.

### **Vietnamese clergy play soccer to 'live spirit of synodality'**

(21-7-22) A large number of people, including Church and government leaders, have been attracted to the first soccer matches among priests at a public stadium in northern Vietnam.

On July 19, Archbishop Joseph Vu Van Thien of Hanoi, Bishop Dominic Hoang Minh Tien of Hung Hoa, priests from four dioceses and officials from Ha Nam province were among the spectators at two matches at Phong Phu stadium. There are four groups with 20 teams competing for the first-ever National Synodal Cup organized by Vietnamese bishops.

It was the first time that football fans, players and guests have solemnly prayed as a group at a public stadium in the Southeast Asian country. Archbishop Thien said the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Vietnam launched the synodal cup to partly live the spirit of synodality in faith, pastoral ministries and charity. All people walk together on a path to achieve the main purpose of glorifying God and bringing happiness to people.

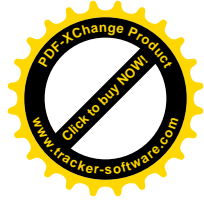
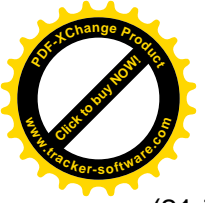
### **Church protests India's apathy toward coastal erosion**

(21-7-22) Archdiocese of Trivandrum has launched an indefinite protest against delays in rehabilitating fisher folk in southern Kerala

Two Catholic bishops led some 100 priests and thousands of lay people as they launched an indefinite protest against government apathy toward the rehabilitation of families affected by coastline erosion in the Archdiocese of Trivandrum in the southern Indian Kerala state. The life of common people, especially the fisher people, had become miserable due to the continued onslaught of natural calamities and disasters, said Archbishop Thomas J Netto of Thiruvananthapuram while leading the protest in front of the state secretariat on July 20.

Archbishop Netto lamented that the communist-led state government ignored their pleas for rehabilitation of the affected people and a permanent solution to coastline erosion.

### **Pakistan Church seeks roll back of 'Islamized' school curriculum**



(21-7-22) Catholic bishops Pakistan's government to stop revised school curriculum instruction a significant part of including languages and social The Catholic Bishop's National Justice and Peace (NCJP) concerns about the Islamic under the country's Single (SNC) at a press conference at Club on July 20. Education should be in line with national rights framework, say Catholic bishops.



have appealed to the imposition of a making Islamic compulsory subjects, sciences. Commission for expressed its content in textbooks National Curriculum the Lahore Press policy and curriculum and international

22-7-22

### **German Synodal Path leaders 'astonished' by caution from Vatican**

(22-7-22) German Catholic leaders of the "Synodal Path" have said that a rebuke from the Vatican is "a source of astonishment to us."

Bishop Georg Bätzing, the president of the German bishops' conference; and Irme Stetter-Karp, the president of the Central Committee of German Catholics—the co-sponsors of the Synodal Path— issued a strong statement on July 21, reacting to the Vatican warning that the German initiative could cause a "wound to ecclesial communion" by endorsing changes in Church doctrine and moral teaching.

The German Church leaders said that they had sought to engage in dialogue with the Vatican about their plans. "We regret with irritation that this direct communication has not yet taken place," they said.

### **Vatican cardinal, at press conference, calls for 'immediate end' to coal, oil, and gas production**

(22-7-22) During a July 21 Vatican press conference, the Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development called for an immediate end to new coal, oil, and gas production.

"All new exploration and production of coal, oil, and gas must immediately end, and existing production of fossil fuels must be urgently phased out," said Cardinal Michael Czerny, SJ, as he presented the Pope's Message for the 2022 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.

There "must be a just transition for impacted workers into environmentally sound alternatives," Cardinal Czerny continued. "The proposed Fossil Fuel Nonproliferation Treaty holds great promise to complement and enhance the Paris Agreement."

### **In 2 months, 68 Christians are killed in Nigeria's Benue State**

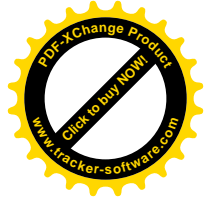
(22-7-22) Benue State is located between the largely Muslim northern area of the nation and the largely Christian southern area.

"The scale of killings, displacement, and wanton destruction of property by these Fulani jihadist militia only buttresses the now revealed agenda to depopulate Christian communities in Nigeria and take over lands," said Bishop Wilfred Chikpa Anagbe of Makurdi. (The Fulani are predominantly Muslim.)

"Tellingly, the government in power in Nigeria continues to do nothing about these persistent attacks, save to give laughable reasons like 'climate change' or to say that some Muslims too are sometimes killed in attacks by so-called bandits," Bishop Anagbe added.

### **'In persona episcopi': diocesan consolidations accelerate in Italy**

(22-7-22) Continuing a trend that has accelerated in recent years, Pope Francis on July 21 united two Italian dioceses *in persona episcopi* [in the person of the bishop].



While continuing to govern the Archdiocese of Siena-Colle di Val d'Elsa-Montalcino (which was formed from the 1986 merger of three dioceses), Cardinal Augusto Paolo Lojudice will also govern the Diocese of Montepulciano-Chiusi-Pienza (also formed from the 1986 merger of three dioceses). Such arrangements for Italy's 227 dioceses have become increasingly routine, not only in Italy, also in Canada and Spain. It was done also by Popes Innocent X, Pius XI, John Paul II and Benedict XVI.

### **Pope Francis attends funeral of Jesuit Father Diego Fares**

(22-7-22) Pope Francis left the Vatican on July 21 to take part in the funeral Mass of Father Diego Fares, SJ in the chapel of the general curia of the Society of Jesus in Rome. The Argentine Jesuit, whom the future Pope Francis received into the Society of Jesus in 1976, died on July 19 at the age of 66.

### **Papal decree alters status of Opus Dei**

(22-7-22) Pope Francis has issued a *motu proprio* changing the juridical status of Opus Dei.

The document *Ad Charisma Tuendum*, released on July 22, amends the apostolic constitution *Ut Sit*, with which Pope John Paul II established Opus Dei as the first (and to date only) personal prelature in the Church in 1982.

Under the terms of the new document, Opus Dei will be responsible to the Vatican's Dicastery for Clergy, rather than (as at present) the Dicastery for Bishops. The prelate of Opus Dei will no longer be eligible to become a bishop.

Pope Francis explained that the new canonical structure was designed to ensure "a form of governance based on charism more than on hierarchical authority." He encouraged Opus Dei to be guided by the charism of its founder, St. Josemaria Escriva, in spreading "the call to holiness in the world, the sanctification of work and family and social commitments."



### **Guatemala's bishops lament dysfunctional government**

(22-7-22) "The problem in our country is that the corruption, irresponsibility, interests and political short-sightedness of the officials in all the organs of the State have corrupted the system, they have abused it, and created a dysfunctional state incapable of fulfilling its function of creating the common good," the nation's bishops said in a Spanish-language statement on July 20.

The nation's current president, Alejandro Giammattei, assumed office in 2020. The Central American nation of 17.4 million is 97% Christian (and 66% Catholic).

### **Bucharest mayor orders demolition of office building that threatened cathedral**

(22-7-22) In 2009, Latin-rite Archbishop Ioan Robu of Bucharest, Romania, vigorously protested the construction of a 19-story office building that threatened the foundations of his cathedral.

Over a dozen years later, the city's mayor, Nicușor Dan, has ordered the demolition of the office building.

### **Colombia - Joyful in hope, patient in suffering, persevering in prayer to build reconciliation**

(22-7-22) The truly profound reconciliation that Colombia needs, and that the history of this nation needs, is based on "love for enemies, active non-violence, responding to war with forgiveness, in opening our hearts to reconcile, in practicing mercy with joy, in persevering walking along the paths of respect for life, of justice, of all life, life from the womb to the life of the elderly terminally ill". This is the exhortation of Archbishop Luis José Rueda Aparicio of Bogotá, the president of the Colombian Episcopal Conference, during the Eucharistic celebration in the cathedral for the National holiday of the 212 years of Colombian Independence, on July 20.



## **Cameroon - The Imam of Bamenda: "God is never on the side of those who kill; it is urgent to open a path of dialogue"**

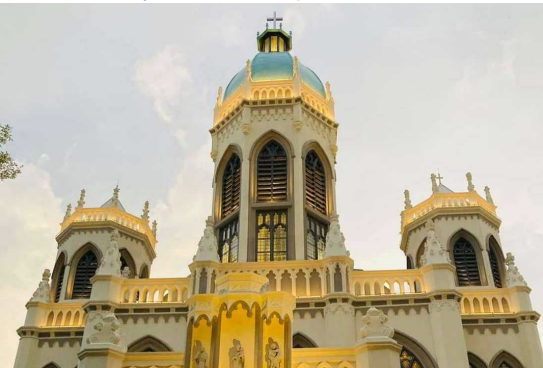
(22-7-22) Imam Tukur Mohammed Edi, head of Bamenda's Central Mosque expresses his concern over the prolonged conflict between the Francophone and Anglophone regions in his country and his hope that the religious leaders, with their well-known unity of intentions, can play an even more decisive role for peace. He says after the death of the Cardinal Tumi, they lack leadership though "we meet and talk regularly between Muslims, Catholics and Protestants."

The Imam says, "As Muslims, we do not in any way accept that murder, destruction, fighting can be the solution to problems, and ancient wisdom teaches us a simple but fundamental thing: when two factions are in dispute, it is decisive that whichever of the two calls a dialogue, the 'other does everything possible to consider it. To put an end to this very serious conflict, the factions must meet to discuss the roots of the crisis and find a point of agreement. God is never on the side of those who kill, of those who use violence; according to the tradition of the Koran, whoever kills one person kills the world, and whoever brings peace in a peaceful situation brings it to the whole world".

## **Japan defence report sounds alarm on Russia**

(22-7-22) Japan's defence ministry said on 22 July it was alarmed at fresh threats from Russia and had growing worries about Taiwan, in an annual report that comes as Tokyo weighs significantly increasing military spending.

The document includes a chapter on Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which it says risks sending the message "that an attempt to unilaterally change the status quo by force is acceptable". It expresses concern that Russia could further enhance and deepen relationships with China. It also warns Moscow may increasingly lean on its nuclear capacity as a deterrent, which could mean an uptick in activity around Japan, where Russian nuclear submarines are routinely active.



## **Visitors throng century-old renovated church in Singapore**

(22-7-22) A century-old Catholic Church in Singapore, a national monument, attracts hundreds of Catholics and visitors since it was reopened last month after a five-year-long renovation.

Since the reopening of the 110-year-old St. Joseph's Church "we have discovered, so to speak, the history of faith of this community," Archbishop William Goh of Singapore, a Cardinal-elect, said during the reopening Mass on June 30. The number

of visitors to the church has increased after regular week-day Masses began on July 4. The Gothic Revival Style church can accommodate 1,500 people at one time.

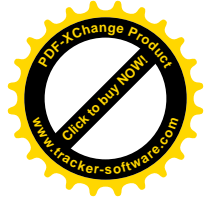
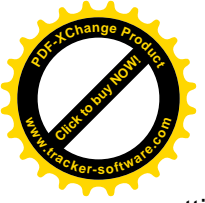
The Portuguese missionaries built the San Jose Church in 1853 and it came to be known as the "Eurasian Church" as it served Portuguese and Malaccan Eurasian Catholics in Singapore in its early days.

## **Japan's baby hatch facility offers mothers 'vital safety net'**

(22-7-22) When the alarm sounds at Jikei hospital in southern Japan, nurses race down a spiral staircase. Their mission: to rescue an infant left in the country's only baby hatch. The baby hatch is modelled on a German scheme to prevent child abuse and deaths.

For 15 years, the clinic has been the only place in Japan a child can be anonymously and safely abandoned. The pioneering hospital in the Kumamoto region also offers a 24/7 pregnancy support hotline and the country's only "confidential birth" programme.

These have made it the target of criticism, but head doctor Takeshi Hasuda sees the facility as a vital safety net. He told AFP, "For the women who are ashamed that they did something horrible (by



getting pregnant), a place like ours that bars no one and makes them think 'even I will be welcome' counts a lot, I think."

### **Ukraine - Orionines: "no one can deny us the right to build where others destroy"**

(23-7-22) "In recent months, especially since May 8, almost all the refugees we hosted here, in the monastery and at Casa Cafarnao, have returned to their towns and cities (also in Kharkiv) or have reached Italy or other places abroad. To this day we still host two families, one from Kharkiv and the second from Dnipro, for a total of 8 people". This is what Fr. Moreno Cattelan, a priest of Don Orione's Little Work of Divine Providence, from Lviv reported.

"The war continues, fear looms, the future is still marked by black clouds - said Fr. Cattelan - but no one can deny us the right to build, where others destroy or to spend a few days in joy and fraternity, playing, singing, running and above all having fun. On these two fronts we will always be present".

### **Ivory Coast - Conclusion of the national consultations for the Synod on synodality wanted by Pope Francis**

(23-7-22) Last May the national phase of consultations on the Synod of "walking together" ended in the Church of Ivory Coast, the process of which was initiated by Pope Francis at the universal Church level.

"At the end of the works of national consultations on the Synod of "walking together", the Family of God Church in Ivory Coast rejoices at this synodal experience initiated by Pope Francis - reads the summary of the national synthesis of diocesan consultations presented on July 21 to the faithful from the Ivorian episcopate.

In general, it emerged that the concept of "walking together", supporting each other and making communion is very present in the culture of the four ecclesiastical provinces of the Country. One of the points strongly debated during these consultations was pastoral co-responsibility which implies an indispensable participation of the laity in the mission of the Church.