

CATHOLIC WORLD LAST WEEK

(CWLW)

16-22 May 2022

16-5-22

Pope rallies from knee pain to proclaim 10 new saints

(16-5-22) “By embracing with enthusiasm their vocation – as a priest, as a consecrated woman, as a lay person – they devoted their lives to the Gospel,” Pope Francis preached at the Mass of canonization on May 15. “They discovered an incomparable joy and they became brilliant reflections of the Lord of history. For that is what a saint is: a luminous reflection of the Lord of history. May we strive to do the same.”



The ten new saints are Saints Titus Brandsma (1881-1942), Lazarus Devasahayam Pillai (1712-1752) (from India), César de Bus (1544-1607), Luigi Maria Palazzolo (1827-1886), Giustino Russolillo (1891-1955), Charles de Foucauld (1858-1916), Anne-Marie Rivier (1768-1838), Anna Maria Rubatto (1844-1904), Carolina (Maria of Jesus) Santocanale (1852-1923), and Maria Domenica Mantovani (1862-1934).

At the conclusion of the Mass, the Pope delivered a brief Regina Caeli address, in which he said, “While sadly in the world distances grow, and tensions and wars increase, may the new saints inspire

solutions of togetherness and ways of dialogue, especially in the hearts and minds of those who hold positions of great responsibility and are called upon to be agents of peace, not war.”

Vatican’s ‘foreign minister’ says Ukraine has right to defend itself, receive foreign weapons

(16-5-22) Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher, the Holy See’s Secretary for Relations with States, made his remarks in an interview with the Italian state television network RAI; (18-5-22) He travelled to Kyiv on May 18 on a 3-day visit. Meanwhile, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Holy See’s Secretary of State, made his remarks during a trip to Croatia, where he also warned of a world crisis of democracy.

Pope urges educators to respond to global crisis

(16-5-22) Meeting on May 16 with the rectors of the Universities of Lazio, Pope Francis said that academic leaders must recognize their role in society today, because “we are in crisis.”

Pointing to the Covid epidemic, the war in Ukraine, and the threat of climate change, the Pope said that current events “challenge us in an unprecedented and accelerated way.” He endorsed the Global Compact on Education, as well as the Abu Dhabi statement on human fraternity, as means by which leaders have responded to the crisis.

Vandals plague Brussels basilica

(16-5-22) Vandals have broken more than 40 windows in the Koekelberg basilica in Brussels recently, and the walls of the building had been sprayed with paint.

The vandals—as yet unidentified—have thrown stones through windows over a period of several weeks. Precious stained-glass windows have been destroyed and, because some of the stones have been thrown during the day, caretakers and visitors to the basilica have been endangered.

Police are now patrolling the area carefully.

Ecumenical Patriarch recognizes Macedonian Orthodox Church in surprise move

(16-5-22) Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, who holds a primacy of honour among the Orthodox churches, has granted recognition to the 1.3-million member Macedonian Orthodox Church.

The church (CNEWA profile) broke away from the Serbian Orthodox Church in 1967. According to the

report, the Russian Orthodox Church, as well as the Serbian Orthodox Church, opposed the recognition.

Egypt - Twelfth General Assembly of the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) kicks off

(16-5-22) "Courage, it's me, do not be afraid!" These reassuring words of Jesus have been chosen as the motto of the XII General Assembly of the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC), which opened in Cairo this morning, Monday, May 16. The four-day assembly is attended by exponents of 21 Churches and ecclesial communities present in the countries of the Middle East and North Africa, called to share information, reflections and decisions regarding the present and future condition of Christians in the Middle East.

The first of its kind takes place in the Arab Republic of Egypt, thanks to the hospitality offered by the Coptic Orthodox Church and its Patriarch, Pope Tawadros II. At least 17 Patriarchs and Heads of Churches and ecclesial communities take part in the Assembly, including the Chaldean Patriarch Louis Raphael Sako, the Greek-Melkite Catholic Patriarch Youssef I Absi, the Syro-Catholic Patriarch Youssef III Younan and the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem Pierbattista Pizzaballa.

The assembly includes reports and working groups on broad-ranging issues, such as diakonia and shared social service, the ecumenical journey as an instrument of common Christian witness and the contribution of Middle Eastern Christians to the processes of reconciliation and peaceful coexistence in Middle Eastern and North African societies.

(16-5-22) Following the May 15 **killing of two Sikhs in Peshawar**, as they were setting up their shops, the alarmed religious minorities have asked the government authorities to work for the protection of minorities living in Pakistan.

Colombia - "Protection, defense and care of life, not its destruction": decriminalization of assisted suicide approved

The Constitutional Court of Colombia has decided to decriminalize medically assisted suicide (SMA) when the patient is diagnosed with a physical injury or a serious and incurable disease, but also when the patient suffers from intense physical or mental pain incompatible with the concept of a dignified life. Declaring the Church's doctrine in favour of life, the bishops reaffirm their closeness to all, exhorting to "translate the love of Christ into concrete gestures of prayer, affection, service and accompaniment in the face of pain", as did the good Samaritan. Life is to be protected, defended and cared and not to be destroyed, they say

Sri Lankans celebrate Buddhist festival at protest site

(16-5-22) Christian and Muslim clergy joined Buddhists in Sri Lanka to celebrate Vesak or "Buddha Day" at Galle Face Green in the capital Colombo where protests continue demanding the resignation of the president and the government. Buddhists celebrate Vesak to commemorate the birth, enlightenment and death of Lord Buddha. "A number of Catholic nuns lit Vesak lamps and prepared decorations and food at the site...many young Muslims joined in preparing decorations and distributing food," Ayodaya Semini, a Buddhist university student said adding that it was an expression of religious unity "not in words but in deeds."



Korean diocese launches restaurant to serve poor

(16-5-22) Chuncheon Diocese in South Korea has launched a restaurant to provide free lunches to poor people three days a week.

Bishop Simon Kim Ju-young of Chuncheon opened the Hansaeng restaurant in the grounds of the Cathedral Church in Jukrim-dong of Chuncheon city on May 15, according to a report on the diocesan website. The restaurant will provide free lunches to anyone every Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.

The project is run by the diocesan Social Welfare Society with funds left by the late Chuncheon bishop, John Chang Yik, who led the diocese from 1994 to 2010. Currently, it does not receive any funding from public institutions but accepts voluntary support from citizens.

Indian Christians' struggle saves church land, school

(16-5-22) A heritage church campus housing a school for the mentally challenged was saved from being acquired for a modern rail station after Christians' three-year battle with authorities in the southern Indian state of Karnataka

The 152-year-old All Saints Church, belonging to the Church of South India (CSI) on Hosur road in the state capital of Bengaluru (formerly Bangalore), faced the prospect of losing over 4,500 square meters of land to an underground metro rail project undertaken by the Bengaluru Metro Railway Corporation Limited (BMRCL). Besides the buildings, the land also has several aged trees.

It took three years of prayers, peaceful protests and sustained negotiations with the help of local non-government organizations like Environment Support Group (ESG) and Heritage Beku that the authorities finally conceded to acquiring 287 square meters of land temporarily in addition to the 166 square meters it had already taken permanently.

The church is a living heritage of Bangalore, said ESG on its website.

Pakistani Christians resist rally of former prime minister

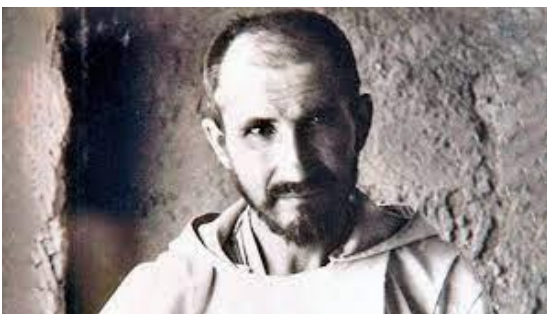
(16-5-22) The Presbyterian Church of Pakistan thwarted an attempt to have a political gathering of the former Prime Minister Imran Khan at its ground in Sialkot, Punjab province, this weekend.

Lahore High Court last Friday directed the deputy commissioner of Sialkot to decide an application of the Presbyterian Board of Education against the use of its ground by Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for its May 14 public meeting without permission.

The management of the Presbyterian Church of Pakistan had filed a writ petition in the High Court contending that the board had no information from the government or the party nor had it permitted anyone to hold political rallies at the Christian Training Institute (CTI) ground.

17-5-22

Pope encourages French youth to build on the heritage of holiness



(17-5-22) "My wish for you today is to learn from Charles de Foucauld, so as to have that experience of God that led him to evangelize by presence," Pope Francis said in an address to young people from the Diocese of Viviers (France). "A discreet form of evangelization, yes, but a very demanding one, because it requires the witness of a coherent life, that is, one that truly conforms to the aspirations of every man who is loved by God and called to something other than fleeting pleasure or immediate and visible results."

The past should be source of inspiration, not the destination, Pope tells moral theologians

(17-5-22) In an address to participants in a moral theology conference on *Amoris Laetitia*, Pope Francis said that "casuistry has been my and my generation's food in the study of moral theology. But it is proper to decadent Thomism. The true Thomism is that of *Amoris Laetitia*. It is the living doctrine of Aquinas, which makes us go forward by taking risks, but in obedience."

Cardinal Parolin: reform of Curia fulfills major aim of pontificate

(17-5-22) The restructuring of the Roman Curia, under the terms of the new apostolic constitution *Praedicate Evangelium*, means that "one of the main objectives that the present pontificate had set for itself from the beginning has been realized," Cardinal Pietro Parolin told a

conference at the Pontifical Lateran University.

The need for reform of the Curia had been a dominant theme during the discussion among cardinals that preceded the election of Pope Francis. The release of *Praedicate Evangelium* in March completed a 9-year process, in which several Vatican offices were merged into new dicasteries. Speaking of his own office, Cardinal Parolin said that the Secretariat of State “retains a special status in law,” with responsibilities that are “substantially the same as before.” To illustrate, he observed that the Dicastery for Communications, which has been an office of the Secretariat of State, will now operate independently—but the Secretariat of State will provide “precise indications that the Dicastery must execute.”

Vatican no. 2 says giving Ukraine weapons legitimate, with conditions

(17-5-22) Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Holy See’s Secretary of State, made his remarks the day after his subordinate, Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher (the Holy See’s Secretary for Relations with States), offered similar comments.

(17-5-22) **Cathedral attacked in Nigeria after arrests over ‘blasphemy’ killing.** The cathedral is located in Sokoto State, a predominantly Muslim state in northwestern Nigeria.

Caritas says it has assisted nearly 1.5 million displaced Ukrainians

(17-5-22) “The Caritas network has been on the frontline since the beginning of the conflict, bringing lifesaving assistance to those who are in Ukraine and for those fleeing their homeland,” said Aloysius John, the secretary-general of Caritas Internationalis, the Church’s federation of relief and development agencies.

Niger - "I have never regretted converting to Christianity"

(17-5-22) "It is not easy to be more so after the jihadism or Boko Haram, present in the priest of the Society for mission. The priest shares the Islam and who is now part of not take me long to find



words and with an intense interior life. He is a treasure in our mission because he takes us directly to the heart of our faith, the love of God and neighbor".

a Christian in Niger today, and even fueled by movements such as Al Qaeda country", writes Fr. Rafael Casamayor, African Missions (SMA), from the Dosso testimony of a Christian who came from the Catholic community of Dosso: "It did Pierre, he is a discreet man, of few

"I am from Filengué, djerma or songhay, as you prefer - intervenes Pierre - and since I was a child I received a Muslim education. After school I went to the Koranic madrasa where I studied Islamic principles with children and teenagers my age. Already at the end of my adolescence I started working as a welder in a workshop where one day I found some books that had been left on the tables. I picked one up and took it home. I started reading it and since then I have not separated myself from it, it was the New Testament", the man points out. "I loved reading that book, there were stories that touched my heart. I liked to talk about it with some of my co-workers, none of whom were Christians, but they knew a few things. They were stories full of tenderness and closeness to the poorest, but I did not know what they corresponded to in real life, I did not know any Christians. Later I was sent to work in Agadez and there I joined the Christian community. I wanted to know more about the Gospels and the lives of Christians".

"My stay in Agadez was a blessing because of everything I learned and experienced with the very diverse Christian community: there were Beninese, Togolese, Burkinabe, French, Nigeriens. I saw reflected the spirit that I thought I discovered in the Gospels that I read in my adolescence in Filengué. During my years in Agadez, I not only discovered the message of Jesus and a community of reference that helped me live it, but also opened a spiritual path for me that responded to my adolescent dreams that had fed my reading of the Gospels".

The lay missionary concludes his testimony by stating with certainty that he has never regretted converting to the Christian faith, "not even for a single day. What I find difficult to accept is that my children are still Muslims even though I have never forced them to follow in my footsteps".

Holy Land - Church officials after Israeli police intervention against funeral procession: "Violation of international norms"

(17-5-22) The attack by the Israeli police on the funeral procession of the Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Aqleh, who was killed on Wednesday 11th May during a raid by the Israeli army on a refugee camp, disregards the sensibilities of the Church and the memory of the victim and constitutes a "grave violation of international norms and regulations". With these words, the Patriarchs, Bishops and faithful of the Churches and Ecclesial Communities in the Holy Land deplore the violent action carried out on Friday, 13 May.

Police officers intervened while the coffin was being carried on their shoulders from St. Joseph's Hospital to the Melkite Greek Cathedral Church in Jerusalem's Old City. The Israeli police - reads the statement by church leaders in Jerusalem, who deplored the incident, "broke into a Christian health facility, disregarded the sensibilities of the church, the health facility and the memory of the deceased, and nearly forced the coffin bearers to almost let it fall". The Israeli police "attacked the mourners, hit them with batons, used smoke grenades, fired rubber bullets and frightened the hospital patients". The raid - points out the text also released on behalf of Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, and the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem, Theophilos III, "is a serious violation of international norms and regulations, including the fundamental human right of freedom of religion, which must also be observed in a public space".

Paraguay - Bishops on National Day: "Independence is neither complete nor possible without charity"



(17-5-22) In his message on May 15 on the occasion of the 211th anniversary of independence from Spain in 1811, Archbishop Adalberto Martínez Flores of Asuncion and the President of the Paraguayan Bishops' Conference, recalled that around 90 percent of the population are Christians and stressed that "the social and political reality of Paraguay challenges us as Christians" because the country is plagued by multiple forms of violence, emigration, poverty, corruption and characterized by impunity. He called for mutual love between Paraguayan brothers and sisters.

Church grows in North Korea despite persecution: Korean archbishop

(17-5-22) Archbishop Victorinus Yoon Kong-hi, the former head of the Archdiocese of Gwangju in South Korea says he believes Catholic Church in communist North Korea is growing although Catholics live in hiding and endure persecution.

He has made the remarks in a recently published book on the history of the North Korean Church.

The Story of the North Korean Church is a Korean-language, comprehensive book on the history of the Catholic Church in the northern part of the Korean Peninsula based on eight interviews of the 98-year-old archbishop taken last year.

In the book, the churchman, who was born in an area now covered by North Korea, gave vivid testimonies of how the church thrived in the territory before the Korean Peninsula was divided between the democratic South and communist North, and the eruption of the deadly Korean War. The archbishop recalled how Catholic clergy, religious and laypeople were gripped by fear as the communist forces attacked churches as the war broke out in 1949.

In January 1951, he was appointed the chaplain of the UN Concentration Camp for war refugees in Busan. In 1963, he became the first bishop of the Suwon Diocese. He was appointed archbishop of Gwangju in 1973 and served until 2000. He believes the "Church is growing in hiding, just like the

trees of Tokwon Seminary (where he studied)." "The Catholics who are hiding somewhere in the North are also growing," he said.

Indonesian clerical body 'sorry' for false apostasy claims

(17-5-22) A provincial branch of Indonesia's highest Muslim clerical body was forced to apologize on May 17 after coming under fire from local authorities and Christians for indirectly accusing religious minorities of apostasy.

The row began several days earlier when the North Sumatra branch of the Ulema Council (MUI) claimed that a district in the province had a very alarming rate of apostasy cases, i.e. conversion of Muslims to other faiths. The North Sumatra chapter of the MUI finally issued a clarification on May 17 following the criticisms and its chairman, Zulkifli Ahmad Dian, apologized for the confusion and said the district had in fact recorded no mass apostasy attempts.

18-5-22

Pope speaks on Book of Job, 'tenacity for awaiting God's tenderness'

(18-5-22) At his weekly public audience on May 18, Pope Francis spoke on the Book of Job, "a universal literary classic," saying that Job is rewarded because "he understood the mystery of God's tenderness hidden behind his silence." Here below is the summary of his talk.

In our continuing catechesis on the meaning and value of old age in the light of God's word, we now turn to the great biblical figure of Job. Job's persevering faith amid profound suffering led him to understand that God, who often appears silent in the face of evil, is nonetheless mysteriously present with his redemptive mercy and love. In his affliction, Job rejects the facile explanations of evil offered by his friends and pours out all his violent pain and protest before God. At the same time, he expresses his trust in God's justice, to be revealed in due time. All of us know situations where good people endure sufferings that appear unjust and unbearable, yet, like Job, continue to put their faith in God's promises. The elderly, with the vision born of faith and long experience, can offer a privileged witness in this regard. By their example of trusting prayer, they can teach us to unite ourselves to the crucified Jesus, who on the cross surrendered himself completely into the hands of his heavenly Father, whose infinite love transforms death into life and the greatest evil into abundant good.

Tackle poverty to protect children from child labour: papal message

(18-5-22) Pope Francis has sent a message to Guy Ryder, Director-General of the International Labour Organization, for the 5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour. The May 15-20 conference is taking place in Durban, South Africa.

Follow Pauline Jaricot's example, Pope tells Pontifical Mission Societies

(18-5-22) Emphasizing missionary conversion, prayer, and the "concreteness of charity," Pope Francis encouraged the Pontifical Mission Societies to "walk the path traced" by Venerable Pauline Jaricot (1799-1862), the laywoman from Lyon, France, who founded the Society of the Propagation of the Faith and the Association of the Living Rosary.

The four Pontifical Mission Societies are holding a general assembly from May 16-23 in Lyon, and Jaricot will be beatified there on May 22.

In a message dated May 12 and published May 16, Pope Francis wrote that "Pauline Jaricot liked to say that the Church is missionary by nature and that therefore every baptized person has a mission, indeed, is a mission. Helping to live this awareness is the first service of the Pontifical Mission Societies."



To be a teacher is to live a mission, Pope tells Filippini Sisters

(18-5-22) "God is only communicated if He dwells in our lives, if He fills our affections, if He unites our thoughts and inspires our actions," Pope Francis said in an address to pilgrims from the Institute of the Maestre Pie Filippini, and of the Dioceses of Viterbo and Civitavecchia-Tarquinia, on the occasion of the 350th anniversary of the birth of St. Lucy Filippini (1672-1732).

Pope expresses closeness to people with Cornelia de Lange Syndrome

(18-5-22) A genetic condition, Cornelia de Lange syndrome "causes discomfort and great difficulties for those who are affected by it and for their family members," Pope Francis said in an address to members of the Cornelia de Lange Association.

"I would like to express my appreciation to the volunteers of your Association, who caringly stand beside these most fragile of our brothers and sisters, supporting those who look after them," he continued. "In volunteering, the fundamental dimension of the Christian image of God and man is involved: love of God and love of neighbor."

The Church is a 'field hospital for vulnerable,' Pope tells French organization

(18-5-22) "When Étienne Villemain [the executive director], the 'enfant terrible,' who brought this project together with so many others, first told me about it, I could not help but tell him that I was wary of what the Holy Spirit might inspire in him," Pope Francis said in an address to members of Village de François.

"The Village de François was conceived on the basis of the conviction that 'everything is linked,' and you experience this concretely by associating the environment and respect for human life from conception to natural death, prayer and fraternity, and also by bringing different generations together," the Pope continued. "I count on your testimony to show that life according to the Gospel is found in the balanced consideration of all these aspects."

Communion restored between Serbian, Macedonian Orthodox churches

(18-5-22) Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, in a surprise move, recently granted recognition to the 1.3-million member Macedonian Orthodox Church.

The church broke away from the Serbian Orthodox Church in 1967.

South Sudan - "The work of formation of priests is a global and continuous effort on the part of the whole community"

(18-5-22) After five years of closure, Saint Joseph Minor Seminary, a secondary school in the Catholic diocese of Tombura-Yambio, reopened its doors on May 11. The minor seminarians number 92. Bishop Eduardo Hiiboro Kussala of the diocese, addressing priests, nuns and lay people during the blessing in the company of a group of new students, insisted: "The formation of our seminarians belongs to all the faithful of this diocese. History teaches us that many of the young men whom we have trained have become great leaders. The work of training priests is a global and continuous effort on the part of the entire seminary community". "The training program, explains Bishop Hiiboro, includes personal prayers with the Holy Scriptures, music school, agriculture, skills of all kinds, including cooking, public speaking, Latin, Pazande, Kiswahili and Arabic languages, design and innovation schools, etc!"

Nigeria - "How can you preach love in a country where violence has become a rule?" asks the Bishop of Nsukka

(18-5-22) "How can you preach love in a country where violence has become a rule?", asks Bishop in the State of Enugu (south-shocked by the murder, on May Samuel at the hands of an angry mob against the prophet Muhammad.



love in a country where violence has become a rule?", says he was 12, of the young student Deborah mob who accused her of blasphemy The girl, originally from Tunga

Magajiya, in the local government area of Rijau, in the state of Niger, was studying at the Shehu Shagari College of Education, in the northern state of Sokoto.

"My dear friends, I must be honest with you, today, I would have preferred to lock myself up in my chapel to pray and to weep for my nation where darkness has descended", said the Bishop of Nsukka. "To weep and pray for my church that is being folded out of existence in the world and Nigeria, to weep and pray for Deborah Samuel who was killed because she found herself in a part of the country where she thought was a home but it was not".

Monsignor Onah also recalled the recent attacks against Bishop Mathew Hassan Kuka of Sokoto, after the arrest of some people who are believed to be responsible for the death of the young student. "Nigeria is a country where corruption has become a norm and tradition, where impunity has become law, where the government feels so helpless that it is now appealing to religious leaders to talk to non-state actors not to make the security situation in our country worst."

China - Everyone has the right to a better life: the commitment of the "Nanjing Ark Charity Foundation" for the disabled

(18-5-22) "For a pair of chopsticks" is the theme of the charity campaign launched in 2021 by the "Nanjing Ark Charity Foundation", the charitable foundation of the Catholic community of Nanjing, capital of Jiangsu province, one of the many Catholic charities spread across mainland China. On May 6 alone, they raised 80,000 yen (equivalent to 11,500 euros). Since the beginning of the campaign, they have already offered 313,200 yen (44,750 euros) for 78 disabled guests from the different reception centers to be used for people with mental disabilities, autism or Down syndrome.

Costa Rica - Bishops' appeal: "The wave of corruption and criminality that is devastating our society is unacceptable"



(18-5-22) "As Pastors of the people of God, we launch a vehement appeal to stem the tide of violence and delinquency that affects our nation": this is what the Bishops of Costa Rica ask in the declaration published on May 17, signed by the President and the Secretary General of the Episcopal Conference. In the statement, reference is made to the violence that has taken place in recent hours in the province of Limon, denounced by the local bishop Javier Román Arias: "facts that we condemn and which must call us

all to act". The acts of violence involved a priest, in the parish where he officiates, and a murdered person in an educational centre. The bishops said: "The wave of corruption and criminality that is devastating our society is unacceptable."

Bangladesh - The lay faithful participate in the synodal journey and in the evangelizing mission of the Church

(18-5-22) Lay Catholics in the city of Dhaka enthusiastically participate in the different groups organized by the Church for the synodal journey. Recently, more than 40 Christian lawyers participated in a meeting in the Cathedral of Dhaka. During meetings organized beforehand, nuns, teachers, NGO leaders, young people and lay leaders took part in exchanges and discussions, answering questions about the synodal process. Albert Rozario, president of the Christian Lawyers Association of Bangladesh, said, "During the synodal meeting, Christian lawyers expressed their desire to offer their professionalism free of charge to obtain justice for Christian victims in need."

Brazil - "Sister Churches": collection of Pentecost for the mission in Mozambique

(18-5-22) The Church of Rio Grande do Sul (Regional Sul 3) took over the project of Mission Ad Gentes in the Archdiocese of Nampula, Mozambique, 28 years ago. Since 1994, nearly 70 missionaries have been sent to this African country through the "Sister Churches" project, while thousands of others have ensured, through their prayers and their sharing, the continuity of the

mission. The Pentecost collection on June 4 and 5 offers everyone the opportunity to contribute to the mission in Mozambique.

Global forum seeks week-long prayers by Christians for China

(18-5-22) An online global forum has appealed to Christians around the world to come together internationally for a week-long prayer for the Church and the people of China.

The Global Prayer for China made the appeal in response to a request from Cardinal Charles Bo, president of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC), for a week of prayers across the globe for China starting from May 22.

"We are incensed and aggrieved by the oppression and persecution of China's Christians and other religious minorities, some of whom are even suffering genocide. We pray for the government of China to govern with respect for universal and immutable human dignity and freedom of conscience and religion," the group said in a press release.

Church teachings help resolve marital conflicts

(18-5-22) Catholics in South Korea observe May 21 as "Couples' Day" and May is designated as the Month of the Family. The day for couples was initiated in 2007 with an aim to awaken conscience on the importance of marital relationships and to promote harmony in the family. It also seeks to diagnose social problems that affect families at home and how couples can find permanent solutions for their troubles.

Pope Francis has paid great attention to the crisis that today's families face. His apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love, 2016) is a guiding light on marital relationships.
19-5-22



Becciu: Pope ordered firing of auditor

(19-5-22) Cardinal Angelo Becciu testified at a Vatican trial on May 18 that Pope Francis ordered the ouster of Libero Milone, the Vatican's auditor general, in 2017, "because Milone had hired an outside investigative firm to spy on Vatican hierarchs like himself," in the words of the AP report.

Milone was the Holy See's auditor-general from 2015 until his 2017 resignation. Milone and Becciu clashed during Milone's tenure.

Look at suffering, sickness with the eyes of Jesus, Pope tells Camillians

(19-5-22) Pope Francis has received participants in the general chapter of the Order of Ministers of the Infirm, also known as the Camillians, after their founder, St. Camillus of Lellis (1550-1614). The "style of life and apostolate of yours, dedicated especially to the service of the sick and to the weak and elderly, seems to me to combine well two essential dimensions of the Christian life: on the one hand the desire for an outgoing and tangible witness to others, and on the other the need to understand oneself according to the canons of evangelical smallness," the Pope said in his address. "I therefore invite you to draw ever anew from the lifeblood of the Beatitudes, to take, with meekness and simplicity, the good news to the poor and least of today's people," he added.

Pope: Like St. Charles de Foucauld, return to the essentials of Jesus and charity

(19-5-22) Emphasizing "essentiality" and "universality," Pope Francis spoke with members of the Charles de Foucauld Spiritual Family Association on May 18, three days after the canonization of St. Charles de Foucauld (1854-1916).

'Politics is encounter, reflection, action,' Pope tells Chemin Neuf's political fraternity

(19-5-22) “Encounter, reflection, action: this is a political programme in the Christian sense,” Pope Francis said in an address to members of the Political Fraternity of the Chemin Neuf charismatic community.

“From joining in prayer to the Father from whom all things proceed, from imitating Jesus Christ, and from listening attentively to the Holy Spirit, your concern for the common good gains a powerful interior incentive,” the Pope continued. “For in this way, politics can be practised as ‘the highest form of charity,’ as it was defined by Pope Pius XI.”

Pope authorizes non-clerics to be major superiors in certain cases

(19-5-22) With the Pope’s approval, the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated and Societies of Apostolic Life has issued an Italian-language document outlining potential dispensations from Canon 588 §2. The dispensations would authorize a religious brother who belongs to a male religious institute of priests and brothers to become a superior in certain circumstances.

Moscow Patriarch rips Ecumenical Patriarch, calls on belligerents in war to avoid killing civilians

(19-5-22) Patriarch Kirill, the head of the Russian Orthodox Church, strongly criticized Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople for his 2019 recognition of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, which is independent of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate).

Patriarch Kirill added, “The exception of prohibited methods of military actions, protection of the civil population, observance of the international humanitarian law, respect for captives and the injured—this is what I as Patriarch of All Russia call upon the parties of the conflict and ask them to do all that is possible to avoid victims among civilians.”

Papal condolences following death of United Arab Emirates leader

(19-5-22) Pope Francis has sent a message of condolence to the new president of the United Arab Emirates following the death of Sheikh Khalifa ibn Zayed Al Nahyan, president from 2004 to 2022. Pope Francis made an apostolic journey to the nation in 2019.

Vatican Secretary of State launches Catholic app for military personnel

(19-5-22) “I believe that the app will be immensely helpful to all military personnel and, in a particular way, to young men and women who in this important sector of civil service, seek to grow in personal friendship with Jesus Christ and in the understanding and appreciation of the beauty and richness of our Catholic faith,” Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Holy See’s Secretary of State, said of the Catholic Military Connect app.

French archbishop takes on role of parish priest

(19-5-22) Facing a severe priest shortage, Archbishop Hervé Giraud of Sens, 65, has appointed himself a parish priest for a year while continuing to lead his French archdiocese.

There are 24 churches in Archbishop Giraud’s rural parish; he is assisted by a priest from the African nation of Togo and by a deacon.

Macao - The Year of the Amoris lætitia Family in the diocese of Macao: many initiatives in the wake of the synodal path

(19-5-22) Within the framework of the year of action for marriage and family proclaimed by Pope Francis, “Year of the Family – Amoris Letitia”, the Catholic Church in Macao has launched numerous initiatives, including the charity sale of face masks, family workshops, the basketball competition with teams of parents and children, a study seminar on the history of the

Church in Macao. On April 24th, the sale of masks was intended to raise funds for various projects to bring the diocese together as a family in the spirit of charity.



Pakistan - "Year of Catechists" in the diocese of Faisalabad to strengthen missionary vocation

(19-5-22) "Catechists are skilled collaborators of priests, they help them in carrying out the mission of Christ and the mission of the Church. We have declared the year 2022 as the 'Year of Catechists' to be united with the Pope in highlighting the vocation of the catechist, to appreciate the services of our catechists in the diocese and to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the formation centre for catechists existing in our diocese. All the lay faithful are called to appreciate and support the vocation of our catechists": this is what Bishop Indrias Rehmat of the Catholic diocese of Faisalabad, in the Pakistani province of Punjab, says.

Holy Land - "Justice and Peace" Commission: the occupation of Palestine is the primary cause of violence in the Holy Land

(19-5-22) The main cause and primary context of the perpetuation of violence in the Holy Land is "the occupation of Palestine", an occupation that "has been going on for fifty-five years". The Justice and Peace Commission of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem clearly and directly emphasizes this in a document released as a contribution to the reflection on the latest spiral of violence that hit the land where Jesus lived his earthly life. The document represents a close examination of the recent bloody events that have marked the news of recent months in Israel and Palestine, retraced in the light of the recent and long-standing causes that have fuelled pain and mourning among the peoples of the Holy Land.

Paraguay - After the latest attack, the Bishops call for three days of prayer, fasting and common gestures for peace and respect for life

(19-5-22) A week after the assassination of prosecutor Marcelo Daniel Pecci Albertini (see Fides, 12/5/2022), another attack took place in the town of Pedro Juan Caballero, where Mayor José Carlos Acevedo was seriously injured by seven shots, and is now struggling between life and death, with little chance of survival. The Paraguayan Episcopal Conference expressed its solidarity with the mayor, his family and the people accompanying him.

The Episcopal Conference proposes, from May 20 to 22, three days of prayer, fasting and common gesture for peace and respect for life: "all people are invited to offer these actions as an expression of sadness, penance, of supplication and commitment for true peace between brothers and sisters. During these days, at every Mass, we will pray for peace and respect for life".

Indigenous peoples march for their rights in Bangladesh

(19-5-22) Indigenous peoples including Catholics in Bangladesh held rallies across the country to demand constitutional recognition of their minority status and promotion of human rights and rights for land, and education in their mother tongues among others.

The rallies were held in 13 districts on May 18 and a memorandum of 16 demands addressed to the prime minister was handed over to the local authorities. The Bangladesh Adivasi Parishad, a national network of indigenous people, organized rallies, claiming the participation of 38 indigenous communities.

Bangladesh is home to more than 54 indigenous tribes who speak at least 35 languages.



Exhibition promotes pro-life ideology in Macau diocese

(19-5-22) The Macau diocese has opened a fortnight-long exhibition illustrating the journey of human life from conception to childbirth as part of its efforts to promote pro-life ideology among people.

Bishop D. Stephen Lee of Macau opened the exhibition titled 'Fortnight for Life' which will be open at the premises of the Cardinal Newman Culture and Performing Arts Center until May 23.

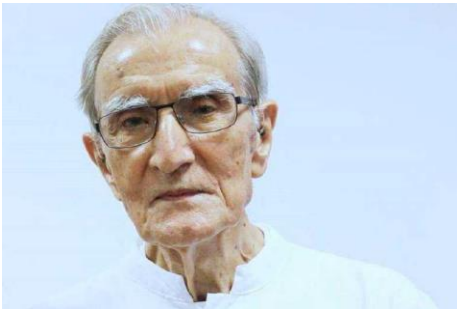
Bishop Lee, while speaking at the opening function, recalled that “each stage of life is beautiful and precious.”

The prelate further said that physical disabilities do not jeopardize human dignity and called for the protection and defense of life.

Christians feel betrayed as Indian state criminalizes conversion

(19-5-22) Christians in India's Karnataka state feel betrayed and hurt after their government criminalized religious conversions ignoring concerns, says Archbishop Peter Machado of Bangalore, who heads the regional bishops' forum.

“The Christian community feels betrayed when its sentiments are not taken note of and its selfless services in the fields of education, healthcare and other social areas for the welfare of all communities are not taken into consideration,” said on May 18. The pro-Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) local government promulgated the ordinance on May 17 with the signature of the state governor. He ignored a plea from Archbishop Machado, who had, just hours earlier, presented him with an explanation of how the legislation would harm religious minorities.



Elderly Jesuit priest wins Timor-Leste's highest honour

(19-5-22) A 100-year-old Portuguese Jesuit priest who has spent more than half his life working in Timor-Leste has been awarded the country's highest honour.

Father Joao Felgueiras, who turns 101 next month, was one of several people to be awarded the Order of Timor-Leste by President Francisco Guterres on May 18.

The award, introduced in 2009, is aimed at honouring individuals “who in their professional, social activity or even in a spontaneous act of

heroic or altruism, have contributed significantly for the benefit of Timor-Leste, the Timorese or humanity.”

Father Felgueiras, who received an award in the insignia category in 2016, will now receive the higher collar-grade prize. President Guterres said Father Felgueiras was being recognized for making important contributions to society and the development of Timor-Leste.

Pope invites Muslim governor from Indonesia to Vatican

(19-5-22) An Indonesian provincial governor, Ridwan Kamil, the Muslim governor of West Java, has been invited to meet Pope Francis at the Vatican in recognition of his efforts to promote interreligious dialogue.

Human trafficking is a modern burning bush, says Myanmar cardinal

(19-5-22) Cardinal Charles Bo of Yangon has decried the scourge of modern-day slavery as it happens all over the world including in war zones where millions are fleeing.

Spiraling conflicts in places like Ukraine and Myanmar have infused “a new and desperate urgency into this issue,” said Cardinal Bo, also president of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences.

“The moral holocaust of the commodification of human fragility rages. It is compounded by unscrupulous monetizing of human tears and vulnerability,” Cardinal Bo said in a keynote address of the Santa Marta Group's meeting at the Pontifical Academy of Sciences in the Vatican on May 18.

"Lay brothers" can now head clerical religious orders

(19-5-22) Pope Francis has decreed that non-ordained brothers can, with Vatican approval, become provincial superiors and even superiors general of religious communities that include ordained priests. The Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CICLSAL), in a "rescript" (official edict) published on May 18, announced that the pope has given it the faculty to depart from Church law prohibiting "lay brothers" from being a superior over clerics. The rescript

states that Francis has granted this Vatican dicastery "the power to authorize, in a discretionary manner and in individual cases, non-clerical members to be conferred the office of major superior in clerical religious institutions".

20-5-22 Holy See is 'completely committed' to Ukraine's territorial integrity, Vatican foreign minister says

(20-5-22) Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher, the Holy See's Secretary for Relations with States, visited Ukraine and blessed the Ukrainian people on behalf of Pope Francis.

"I can assure you that [the Pope's] pronouncements about atrocities, about the suffering that he has been aware of in the country, are most sincere," Archbishop Gallagher said. "He's trying to be as forceful as he can to defend the Ukrainian people, to point out the fact that they have their freedom, that the integrity of this country has been transgressed."

"In our contacts with others, we have always said the Holy See remains completely committed to the territorial integrity of Ukraine," he added. "That is our bottom line."



To bear fruit, be true to your roots, Pope tells Romanian seminarians

(20-5-22) On May 19, Pope Francis delivered an address to the seminarians of the Pio Romanian College in Rome on the 85th anniversary of its foundation.

Recalling persecuted Romanian "pastors who were materially poor, but rich in the Gospel," Pope Francis told the seminarians, "Be like this, joyful apostles of the faith you have inherited, willing to keep nothing for yourselves and ready to reconcile with all, to forgive and to weave unity, overcoming all animosity and victimhood. Then your seed will also be evangelical and bear fruit."

At conference involving Church leaders and police, Pope condemns human trafficking

(20-5-22) The Santa Marta Group, which fosters cooperation between bishops and law enforcement in combating human trafficking, organized a three-day conference in Rome entitled "Catalysts to ending modern slavery: from intention to action."

According to tweets from the May 17-19 conference, Cardinal Vincent Nichols of Westminster (England) said that "a priority is to break the financial model" that funds human trafficking. Cardinal Charles Maung Bo of Myanmar spoke about organ trafficking and called it the "new organized crime." "I thank you for your commitment in seeking to eradicate this criminal activity that violates the dignity and rights of men, women and children and leaves long-lasting effects upon individual victims and the broader society," Pope Francis said in his address to participants in the conference. "The Church remains grateful for every expression of fraternal charity and care shown to all who have been enslaved and exploited, for in this way, God's loving mercy becomes visible and the fabric of society is strengthened and renewed,"

Holy See continues to work for peaceful solutions to conflicts, Pope tells new ambassadors

(20-5-22) On May 19, Pope Francis received new ambassadors to the Holy See from Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates, Burundi, and Qatar.

"The Holy See continues to work through numerous channels to bring about peaceful solutions to situations of conflict and to alleviate the suffering caused by other social problems," the Pope said. "You know all too well that war is always a defeat for humanity and runs contrary to the important service that you provide in trying to build a culture of encounter through dialogue and encouraging mutual understanding among peoples while also upholding the noble principles of international law." The Pope also referred to "numerous other conflicts going on in the world that are receiving little or no attention, especially from the media. We are one human family and the degree of indignation expressed, humanitarian support offered and sense of fraternity felt for those who are suffering must not be based on geography or self-interest."

Papal encouragement for Pontifical Gregorian University's psychology institute

(20-5-22) Pope Francis has written a message of encouragement, dated May 14 and released May 19, to participants in a conference ("Adam, where are you?" The anthropological question today) marking the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Institute of Psychology at the Pontifical Gregorian University, the Jesuit institution founded by St. Ignatius of Loyola as the Roman College.

Editors of 10 Jesuit magazines meet Pope

(20-5-22) "There was no speech, but a simple and informal dialogue, with questions and answers focused on the war in Ukraine and the difficult situation the world is experiencing at this time, as well as on the life of the Church, the current synodal journey, and the mission of Jesuit magazines," according to the Vatican's news service. Editors of 10 Jesuit magazines from different parts of the world met the Pope on 20 May.

At massacre site, Salvadoran cardinal condemns vengeance, exalts peace

(20-5-22) Cardinal Gregorio Rosa Chávez, the auxiliary bishop of San Salvador in the Central American nation of El Salvador, honoured the victims of the Sumpul River massacre (1980), which took place less than two months after the martyrdom of St. Óscar Romero.

Nicaragua bishops vow to fight 'social structures of sin' as government crackdown grows

(20-5-22) Daniel Ortega, a leader of the Marxist Sandinistas who overthrew the authoritarian regime of Gen. Anastasio Somoza Debayle, ruled Nicaragua from the 1979 Sandinista takeover until his loss in the 1990 presidential election. He returned to power in 2007.

"The Church will continue announcing the Gospel, denouncing the social structures of sin, accompanying the people, especially the poor and the weak," the Archdiocese of Managua said after police surrounded a parish. "The mission of the Church will always provoke contradictions in this world, where along with the light there is also the darkness of evil."



South Africa - The drama of Durban, hit by floods in April, has consequences for all of southern Africa

(20-5-22) The exceptional rains that hit the province of KwaZulu-Natal in eastern South Africa in April claimed more than 400 lives across the country, causing landslides and floods. The city of Durban was badly affected. Its port, the busiest in sub-Saharan Africa and gateway to the industrial heart of South Africa, has been forced to reduce its activities due to the damage suffered. The reduced functioning of the port of Durban has serious repercussions not only on the South African economy (about 60% of South African exports

pass through the port of Durban), but also on that of neighboring and distant countries. Over a hundred families received food parcels donated by Caritas Durban on 14 May.

Egypt - The World Council of Churches in the Middle East: the storms of history will not extinguish the presence of Christians in the lands of Jesus

(20-5-22) Within the framework of history, the Christian narrative cannot be separated from the lands where Christ was born, lived, died and rose again. Christians have also made an important contribution to Arab civilization for the development of present-day societies in the Middle East, and, trusting in the grace of Christ, they will be able to remain rooted in these lands and offer a precious contribution to the rebirth of the countries of the Middle East. Confidence in the future and freedom from self-pity was the 12-point final message from the 12th General Assembly of the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC), held from 15 to 20 May in Egypt.

Costa Rica - Meeting of the Bishops with the President of the Republic: "Listening is essential to perceive reality"

(20-5-22) The Bishops of the Episcopal Conference of Costa Rica met yesterday in the Presidential House, together with the new President of the Republic, Rodrigo Chaves Robles, and some government ministers. "With a listening attitude, we had a frank and sincere dialogue, seeking to unite our efforts for the common good of our society", said Monsignor José Manuel Garita Herrera, President of the Episcopal Conference of Costa Rica, after the meeting.

Nicaragua - "Justice and Peace": "the Church will continue to proclaim the Gospel, denouncing the social structures of sin"

(20-5-22) "Faithful to the mandate of the Lord and faithful to its vocation, the Church will continue to proclaim the Gospel, denouncing the social structures of sin, accompanying the people, especially the poor and the weak": reiterates the "Justice and Peace" Commission of the Archdiocese of Managua. The Commission continues: "We are concerned about the situation in the country we love as children of God, as Nicaraguans and as Christians. We join in prayer so that God may transform hard hearts into sensitive hearts with love for one's neighbor, free from feelings that prevent normality that leads to authentic social peace."

20-5-22

Christian shrines attacked in India, Myanmar

(20-5-22) Marian shrines have been attacked in India and Myanmar. In the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh statues of Mother Mary, Infant Jesus and the Sacred Heart of Jesus were destroyed on May 15.

The Guntur located shrine's in-charge, Father Bala Subash Chandra Bose, said the local Christians marched on the streets as police failed to arrest the attackers three days after the incident.

Another rally is to be held on May 22 Sunday protesting the slow pace of the investigation. The assault came as a shock as the recently built shrine complex was being readied for inauguration. A pro-Hindu Bhartiya Janata Party leader claimed the shrine complex was being illegally built on a spot sacred for Hindus.

He claimed a carving of the Hindu deity and footprints of Hindu goddess Sita originally existed on the hillock. However, police dismissed the claim saying the two spots are located on two different hillocks around half a kilometer away from each other.

In neighboring Myanmar it was the soldiers who destroyed a statue of Mother Mary inside a Catholic chapel and carried out raids in Tada-ku village in Shan state. It was the latest assault on Christian places of worship in the conflict-torn country.

The violence-hit village falls under the Pehkon Diocese in the Christian-majority southern state. The destroyed statue was erected three years ago near the village populated by the ethnic Kayah community.

The attack was part of a military offensive against a local militia group thought to be hiding in the church. Pehkon Diocese and neighboring Loikaw Diocese have been among the worst affected since fighting erupted last May, forcing thousands to flee their homes.

Sri Lanka: Justice for war-victims

(20-5-22) In crisis-ridden Sri Lanka, ethnic minority Tamils have called for justice for those who were killed and went missing during the nation's three-decades of civil war. Tamils in northern part of the country joined religious observances to mark the 13th remembrance on May 18 Wednesday.



The day marks the official declaration of an end to the civil war in 2009 after the Sri Lankan military shot dead Velupillai Prabhakaran, the leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam or LTTE. The call for justice comes at a time when nationwide protests have engulfed Sri Lanka due to the worsening economic crisis.

At least 100,000 people were killed, and thousands went missing during the war. At least 10 Catholic priests died and three disappeared during the conflict that lasted three-decades.

Jubilation in India for Devasahayam sainthood, in B'desh for Foucauld

(20-5-22) Christians in India celebrated as Pope Francis declared the country's first lay Catholic, Blessed Lazarus Devasahayam, as a saint in the Vatican. Devasahayam was canonized along with nine others on Sunday May 15. Churches across India, especially in the southern states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala, organized celebrations to mark the occasion.

The saintly lay man, a convert from Hinduism, was martyred by a Hindu king for refusing to renounce his faith in 1752. The Vatican declared him a blessed in 2012 and cleared him for sainthood in 2020.



In neighboring Bangladesh, the nuns from the Contemplative Missionary Movement of Charles De Foucauld, locally known as the "blue sisters," celebrated the sainthood of their French patron. The nuns along with local Catholics joined a special Mass on Sunday.

The blue sisters have been working in improving healthcare, education and developing handicrafts for poor people in Bangladesh since 1978.

Charles de Foucauld was a French explorer, priest, geographer and hermit. He led a contemplative and missionary life until death in 1916.

Vietnam Catholics join Vesak celebrations

(20-5-22) Buddhists across the world celebrated Vesak, the largest Buddhist festival commemorating the birth, enlightenment, and death of the Buddha.

Catholic leaders in Vietnam visited Buddhist leaders at their pagodas during the festival to promote social harmony and inter-religious dialogue. On Friday, May 20, Archbishop Joseph Nguyen Nang of Ho Chi Minh City and members of the archdiocesan Interfaith Dialogue Committee visited the Vietnam National Pagoda.

the Catholic delegates were welcomed by Most Venerable Thich Tri Quang, head of the executive committee, and seven other pagoda officials.

Pakistan Church condemns killing of Sikh traders

(20-5-22) Catholic and Protestant leaders in Pakistan's militancy-hit northwest have strongly condemned the killing of two Sikh traders and called for the protection of religious minorities. Two men on a motorbike opened fire on Suljeet Singh, 42, and Ranjeet Singh, 38, at their shops in the Batta Tal Chowk area of Peshawar, capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province, on May 15. Members of the Sikh community, carrying black flags, later staged a sit-in on the Grand Trunk Road. "We want justice," they cried under the scorching sun.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif assured the victims' families of the federal government's full commitment to arresting the killers.

'Year of the Family' comes alive in Macau Diocese

(20-5-22) The Macau Diocese has launched a series of activities to strengthen marriage and family life for local Catholics in the former Portuguese colony to observe the "Year of the Family" declared by Pope Francis.

Among the major activities are family workshops, a study seminar on the history of the Church in Macau, a basketball competition between teams of parents and children, and a charity sale of face masks to raise funds for various church-run projects, reports the Vatican's Fides news agency. The Year of the Family will end on June 26, 2022, at the 10th World Meeting of Families in Rome to be attended by Pope Francis.

21-5-22

Pope to De La Salle Brothers: World needs a new education pact

Pope Francis on Saturday May 21 addressed the Lasallian Brothers, formally known as the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, gathered for their 46th General Chapter.

The congregation was founded in France in the 17th century by Jean-Baptiste de La Salle and is the largest order of religious brothers dedicated to education in the Catholic Church.

Talking of their educational service, the Pope said: "The constant relationship with educators, parents, and especially with children and young people is an ever-living source of humanity, despite all the hardships and problems that it entails." Pope Francis further highlighted that with their work, the Brothers of Christian Schools offer the values of their rich pedagogical tradition.

He remarked that the Christian community is aware of "Educational Emergency," thanks also to the pandemic, "You are on the frontline in educating to pass from a closed to an open world; from a throwaway culture to a culture of care; from pursuing partisan interests to pursuing the common good."

Pope Francis encouraged the De La Salle Brothers to continue "evangelizing by educating and educating by evangelizing."

Pope Francis approves canonization of two Blessed

(21-5-22) In decrees approved on Saturday, Pope Francis approved the canonization of Blessed Giovanni Battista Scalabrini and Blessed Artemide Zatti.

Bishop Giovanni Battista Scalabrini, is already recognized throughout the world as a patron of migrants. Scalabrini, an Italian of the 19th century, is the founder of the Congregations of the Missionaries of St Charles, which have as a special charism the mission of serving migrants.

Pope Francis also approved the canonization Artemide Zatti, an Italian layman who emigrated with his family to Argentina in the late 1800s, and who became a Salesian co-worker and missionary in Patagonia.

Vatican - Pontifical Society of St. Peter the Apostle: to train native priests, men and women religious for evangelization

(21-5-22) "The work of evangelization cannot be carried out effectively without the help of priests, men and women religious totally consecrated to this task. How can we find these Priests, Male and Female Religious if the Church does not take care of their formation? How can it take care of their formation if the Work of St. Peter the Apostle, which it has as an instrument fails to play its role? How can this Work play its role without the



contribution of all the faithful? How can the faithful support this Work if they do not know it? " These are some of the questions that Fr Guy Bognon, PSS, Secretary General of the Pontifical Society of St. Peter the Apostle (POSPA) posed in his annual report to the General Assembly of the Pontifical Mission Societies, underway in Lyon, before the Beatification at Lyon on May 22 of Pauline Jaricot, the foundress of PMS.

Colombia - The Bishops: "The power of hope must push us to participate responsibly in the democratic process"

(21-5-22) "The Catholic Bishops of Colombia, on the occasion of the presidential elections, invite all Colombians to actively and consciously participate in the approaching rallies": this is how the message of the Episcopal Conference begins in view of the first round of the presidential elections to be held on Sunday 29 May. "Distinguishing, weighing and valuing the various options for exercising this right is what we call the art of the democratic search for the common good", the Bishops write. They invite everyone to participate, since "the vote is the most powerful tool without violence that a democratic society has to determine its future; when we vote, we make our voices heard".

22-5-22

Pope at Regina Coeli: Ask the Lord for the Spirit of peace

(22-5-22) Speaking to pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square for Sunday Angelus prayer, Pope Francis recalled the Gospel of the day's liturgy when Jesus bid farewell to his disciples at the Last Supper, saying "Peace I leave with you," and immediately adding "My peace I give to you."

These words express Jesus' affection and serenity, despite the moment being anything but serene, since Judas left to betray him, Peter is about to deny him and almost others will abandon him, the Pope observed, yet the Lord remains calm and kind to the end.

These last hours of Jesus' life sum up the essence of his entire life, the Pope explained, and while he feels fear and pain, he does not give way to bitterness or anger; "He is at peace, a peace that comes from his meek heart accustomed to trust." "You cannot leave others peace if you do not have peace within yourself, the Pope added.

Peace "is first of all a gift of God," the Pope said recalling how Jesus said: "My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you." This peace that the world does not know that the Lord gives us is the Holy Spirit, the Pope explained, the same Spirit of Jesus.

We must continually ask for the gift of peace from the Holy Spirit, the Pope explained, especially when our hearts are upset, impatient or angry, "the more we need to ask the Lord for the Spirit of peace."

Pope expresses closeness to pastors and faithful in China

(22-5-22) After the recitation of the Sunday, Pope Francis turned his Marie Jaricot, founder of the Work of Faith, who was to be beatified on Lyon for the support of the missions. "this faithful laywoman, who lived in century, was a courageous woman, changes of the times with a universal mission". The Pope asked that her everyone the desire to participate, with prayer and charity, in spreading the Gospel throughout the world.



Regina Coeli on thoughts to Pauline the Propagation of the Sunday afternoon in The Pope noted that the first half of the 19th attentive to the vision of the Church's example bring about in



Pope Francis then recalled that Sunday marks the opening of Laudato si' Week, "to listen ever more attentively to the cry of the Earth, which urges us to act together in caring for our common home".

Finally, Pope Francis looked ahead to Tuesday, 24 May, the Memorial of the Blessed Virgin, Mary Help of Christians, whom the Pope noted is "particularly dear to Catholics in China who venerate Mary, Help of Christians as their Patroness in the Shrine of Sheshan in Shanghai, in many churches throughout the

country, and in their homes".
