

CATHOLIC WORLD LAST WEEK

(CWLW)

11-17 July 2022

11-7-22



Pope urges young to be ‘new face of Europe’

(11-7-22) In a message to the European Union Youth Conference, taking place this week in Prague, Pope Francis called upon participants to “present the world with a new face of Europe.”

The Pope contrasted this “new face” with the European past, saying that “your ancestors went to other continents, not always for noble interests.”

Remarking on the claim that if women ruled the world there would be fewer wars, the Pope said: “I like to think that if the world were ruled by young people, there would not be so many wars.” He encouraged the young Europeans to take as their model Franz

Jägerstätter, who died for his passive resistance to Nazi tyranny.

Pope ‘deeply saddened’ by ‘senseless’ assassination of Shinzo Abe

(11-7-22) Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Holy See’s Secretary of State, has sent a telegram of condolence in the Holy Father’s name following the assassination of the former Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe.

“In the wake of this senseless act,” the Pope “prays that Japanese society will be strengthened in its historic commitment to peace and nonviolence,” Cardinal Parolin wrote in his telegram to Archbishop Leo Boccardi, the Apostolic Nuncio in Japan.

Sri Lanka: cardinal prods president to honor resignation promise

(11-7-22) Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith of Colombo, who last week urged Sri Lanka’s President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to resign, is now insisting that the ousted leader must honour his pledge to step down. Rajapaksa said that he would resign after huge crowds occupied the presidential residence, forcing him to flee. Cardinal Ranjith said that “it was a good thing that the crowds descended on the city,” because the country’s people had lost confidence in the government.

However, the cardinal said, “the leadership in this country has a bad record of promises being kept, so we are all waiting anxiously to see whether he, the president, will keep his promise to resign.”

Vatican trial: defendant says Pope authorized loan for London property

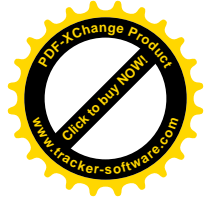
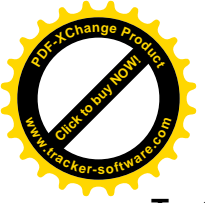
(11-7-22) In testimony before a Vatican tribunal, a former official of the Secretariat of State has confirmed that Pope Francis personally approved a loan to cover the costs of a controversial London real-estate venture.

Fabrizio Tirabassi, who is now a defendant in the landmark financial trial, said that Vatican officials were not properly informed about the details of one agreement in the complex deal—a claim that was promptly denied by another defendant.

Early testimony, as well as a written statement by Cardinal Pietro Parolin, had confirmed the Pope’s approval for the loan in question. But that loan later triggered an inquiry by the Vatican’s Financial Information Authority, leading eventually to the criminal charges now before the court.

Migrants and refugees are ‘fundamental’ to societal growth, Pope says in video

(11-7-22) The Migrants and Refugees Section of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development has released a video highlighting the contributions of migrants and refugees to their new nations. “The contribution of migrants and refugees is fundamental to the social and economic growth of our societies,” Pope Francis said in the video. “It is a potential that is ready to be realized, if only we give it a chance. In your opinion, how can we foster the development of this potential?”



Text from Pontifical Academy for Life questions ban on contraception

(11-7-22) A new volume from the Vatican publishing house, representing the work of a conference sponsored last year by the Pontifical Academy for Life, suggests a fresh look at the Church's condemnation of artificial contraception. The text argues: "There are in fact practical conditions and circumstances that would make the choice to generate irresponsible." While the Church advocates the use of natural means to space births in such cases, the new text concludes that the couple should be "appropriately evaluating all the possible techniques."

SSPX now 5th-largest religious congregation of Catholic priests

(11-7-22) With the ordination of 17 men to the priesthood this summer, the Society of St. Pius X (SSPX) now claims to be "the fifth largest religious congregation of ordained priests among its professed members," with over 700 priests. Only the Jesuit, Franciscan, Benedictine, and Augustinian orders have more members who are priests, the SSPX declares. Although the canonical status of the SSPX is irregular, the group notes that other traditionalist religious orders have also enjoyed a surge in priestly vocations.

Holy See takes part in Ukraine Recovery Conference

(11-7-22) The conference, which took place in Lugano, Switzerland, concluded with the adoption of principles for the nation's reconstruction.

Cambodia - First ethnic Phnong youth to become a Catholic priest

(11-7-22) The Catholic Church in Cambodia celebrates the priestly ordination of the first young man of the Phnong ethnic group – the 10th Cambodian. With a procession enriched by traditional Phnong music, songs and dances, the population accompanied the young man to the church, for the "gift of a young Phnong to God". "As a priest one is called to serve, to give his life and to distribute the sacraments of God for Catholics," said Bun Hong Prak, the new priest. At the Holy Mass of the ordination rite, Bishop Olivier Schmitthaeusler, Apostolic Vicar of Phnom Penh, said with joy: "The proclamation of the Gospel in a remote area is taking shape". The ordination ceremony took place on June 29 at the Church of St. John the Baptist in the Busra community, in Mondulhiri province, located in northeastern Cambodia, more than 500 km from the capital, Phnom Penh.



Zambia - Sustainable agriculture, village recovery and income-generating activities

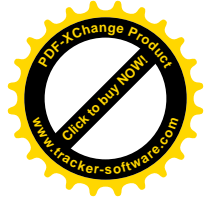
(11-7-22) To improve livelihoods in the Mantapala refugee resettlement camp, Caritas Zambia, through the Diocese of Mansa, continues to carry out a project of sustainable agriculture, village recovery and income-generating activities (IGA).

The centre, which is located in the Nchelenge district, welcomes refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo caused by civil unrest, who number more than 5000.

Eugene N'gandu, the director of Caritas Zambia's livelihood and climate change adaptation programs, states that the project focuses on sustainable livelihoods and durable solutions for young refugees between the ages of 17 and 23. The head of Caritas also explains that the three-year project, which has already entered its second year, has three levels of intervention, which include sustainable agriculture, the rehabilitation of villages and IGA activities. So far 150 people have benefited. In addition, as part of the program there are awareness meetings on justice, peace and care for the environment to address the problems of conflicts and climate change.

Philippines - Fighting poverty: Caritas appeals to new president

(11-7-22) The long-standing problem of poverty in the country must now be urgently addressed says an appeal by the Philippine Caritas to the newly elected President Ferdinand Marcos Jr, urging to face the problems "head on", according to Director of Caritas Philippines, Bishop Jose Colin



Bagaforo. One of the urgent challenges is "poverty, especially in rural areas". The poverty rate in the Philippines rose to 23.7 percent in the first half of 2021, representing 26.1 million destitute residents. In 2018, the poverty rate was 21.1 percent (22.2 million citizens).

Lebanon – Cardinal Rai warns against bid to ‘sabotage’ new government

(11-7-22) Maronite Catholic Patriarch Bechara Rai has warned that the country’s political crisis “could deteriorate further” if political parties continue to delay formation of a new government. Partisan posturing, he said, can only threaten the resilience of the state, fuel the anger of the people and expose Lebanon to interference, manipulation and a new subordination to regional and global geopolitical actors.”

Panama - Bishops’ appeal: "All committed to strengthening the unity and stability of the family, so that it can fulfill its mission"

(11-7-22) "Society, and in particular the State and international Organizations, must protect, defend and promote the dignity and integrity of the family, with political, economic, social and legal measures that guarantee the development, growth and maturity of each member. In this mission we are all committed to seeking to strengthen the unity and stability of the family, so that it can fulfill its mission". This is the appeal launched by the bishops of Panama, at the end of their second Ordinary Annual Assembly of the Panamanian Episcopal Conference.

Korean bishop demands abortion ban after US ruling

(11-7-22) A South Korean the country’s existing policy of on lawmakers to engage in change after the US Supreme abortion ruling.

Bishop Linus Lee Seong-Diocese insisted that the US nation to change its abortion Peace and Broadcasting fetus has never violated a



Catholic bishop has criticized legalizing abortion and called meaningful dialogue for Court overturned a pro-

hyo of Suwon ruling is a clarion call for the policy, reported the Catholic Corporation (CBPC). "The woman's right to self-

determination. Life is innate and is a dignity that no one can invade through any ideology,” said Bishop Lee, chairman of the Committee for Life of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of Korea, during a CBPC interview aired last week.

Currently, the Korean parliament has six bills pending related to abortion. These include a bill seeking complete abolition of abortion as a crime and two bills seeking a ban on abortion after 6 weeks and 10 weeks respectively. Bishop Lee said the Church strongly opposes abortion no matter the age of the fetus. The bishop also criticized Catholic politicians such as US President Joe Biden who opposed the overturning of the Roe v/s Wade decision by the US Supreme Court. President Biden said that he believes that a woman’s right to choose is fundamental.

India’s indigenous president candidate fails to impress tribal Christians

(11-7-22) Tribal Christians in the western state of Gujarat say they are not enthused by a forthcoming visit to their province by India’s first indigenous woman all set to become the nation’s president. Draupadi Murmu is scheduled to be in the home state of Prime minister Narendra Modi on July 13 to pay homage to the late Sardar Vallabhai Patel, an iconic national leader from Gujarat credited with uniting India after independence.

Murmu is the candidate of the ruling alliance led by the pro-Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and is expected to sail through the July 18 contest against Yashwant Sinha, a former BJP veteran politician and ex-federal minister pitted against her by a united opposition.



India's president is not elected directly but chosen by an electoral college comprising parliamentarians and legislators across the provinces.

The tribal people including Christians in Gujarat say they do "feel good that someone amongst them will become India's first citizen." However, they say her visit isn't of any interest to them because they will not be allowed to go near her because of VIP security protocols for important political figures. Gujarat's lone Christian legislator Punja Gamit says Murmu's election as president may help the right-wing agenda of "delisting converts [to Christianity] from the list of Scheduled Tribes recognized officially across India" and thus deprive them of any education, job, social welfare and legislative quotas reserved for them.

Filipino Catholics warned against fake Marian apparition

(11-7-22) Dominican-run University of Santo Thomas (UST) in the Philippines has warned people about the alleged promotion of an apparition of the Virgin Mary that the Vatican had dismissed as "not of supernatural origin."

At the same time, it has reprimanded a Dominican priest for printing novena booklets that promote "unauthentic" miracles attributed to the so-called Marian apparitions at Lipa city in Batangas province, south of Manila, in 1948.

The university issued the warnings to Catholics on July 10, shortly after the Dominican priest and teacher, Father Roland Mactal, was caught linking a novena to the unrecognized Lipa apparitions

The University's Faculty of Theology said Father Mactal's novena violated the "Pastoral Guidelines for Bishops on Private Devotions to Our Blessed Mother Mary, Mediatrix of Grace [All Graces]" issued by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines.



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

(11-7-22) Catholics in the southern Indian state of Kerala have launched a signature campaign against a reported move by its communist rulers to withdraw a government supply of food items to homes for the elderly and orphanages.

"It is a highly condemnable act," said P. P. Joseph, president of the Catholic Congress in Changanassery Archdiocese, after launching the campaign at a local old people's home on July 10. The signatures with an appeal to not abandon the aged and orphans will be handed to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, he said. The signature campaign was initiated in response to an appeal from the Commission for Social Harmony and Vigilance of the Kerala Catholic Bishops' Council.

"More than 100,000 inmates 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.

12-7-22

Pope Francis assures Ukrainian Greek Catholic bishops of prayers, 'involvement' to end war

(12-7-22) Pope Francis has written a letter to the bishops of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, who have gathered for a weeklong synod in Przemysl, Poland.

"I unite spiritually with your suffering, assuring you of my prayers and involvement, which, considering the current situation, do not appear in the media," the Pope wrote. "I pray that your Church and your People, who are animated by the power of the sacraments and look to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, do not lose Christian hope in a better tomorrow."

The Pope also asked the Eastern-rite bishops to remain close to their flock.

China offers women perks for having babies, if they're married

(12-7-22) The Chinese Communist Party “for decades forced abortions and sterilizations on women as part of its one-child policy,” the report notes. “Now, faced with a demographic crisis, it wants women to have more than one baby — and preferably three ... With China’s birthrate at a historical low, officials have been doling out tax and housing credits, educational benefits and even cash incentives to encourage women to have more children.”

Biden says he’s mulling health emergency for abortion access

(12-7-22) President Joe Biden said on July 10 that he may declare a public health emergency in order to free up federal funds to help mothers abort their children.

Two days earlier, Jen Klein, the director of the White House Gender Policy Council, said that declaring a public health emergency “didn’t seem like a great option. When we looked at the public health emergency, we learned a couple things: One is that it doesn’t free very many resources ... And it also doesn’t release a significant amount of legal authority.”



Pope says he would not stay at Vatican after retirement (12-7-22)

In his latest interview, with a Mexican television network, Pope Francis said that if he retires, he would not plan to continue living at the Vatican, nor would he return to his native Argentina.

Since he would be the “emeritus Bishop of Rome,” the Pope said, he would prefer to live in a parish in Rome, continuing to exercise his priestly ministry.

Papal condolences following death of longtime Angolan leader

(12-7-22) Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Holy See’s Secretary of State, has sent a telegram of condolence in the Holy Father’s name to President João Lourenço of Angola following the death of its longtime leader, José dos Santos, who served as prime minister (1975-78) and president (1979-2017).

Educated in Moscow, dos Santos abandoned Marxism in the early 1990s. He hosted Pope Benedict XVI during his apostolic journey there in 2009.

The southwestern African nation of 33.6 million is 93% Christian (57% Catholic) and 5% ethnic religionist.

Malta archbishop decries abortion, IVF

(12-7-22) Archbishop Charles Scicluna of Malta lamented abortion and in-vitro fertilization after the nation’s parliament passed legislation that will mandate the freezing of human embryos with any of nine genetic conditions.

The archbishop, who also serves as Adjunct Secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, said that “there is nothing worse than this culture of waste.”

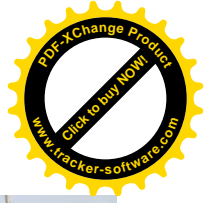
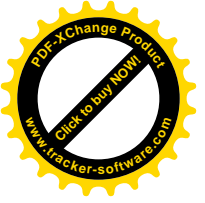
Kenya - The Bishops invite to moderate the tones in the campaign before the vote on August 9

(12-7-22) “We pray for them that they don’t continue like that because everyone from the children are hearing our leaders exchanging words at a time they should be concentrating in building peace”, says Bishop Salesius Mugambi di Maru, referring to the current public dispute between President Uhuru Kenyatta and his deputy William Ruto.

Bishop Mugambi read a statement signed on behalf of the Bishops of Kenya by the President of the Bishops’ Conference Archbishop Martin Kivuva Musonde of Mombasa, in which he urges the two highest levels of the State to act in moderation in view of the proximity of the general elections on August 9.

Ethiopia - Despair, illness, death: an existential threat to the people of Tigray. Appeal from the Diocesan Catholic Secretariat of Adigrat

(12-7-22) “I once again urge all the partners involved to continue supporting humanitarian aid for



people affected by the war in Tigray in order to respond together to the immense humanitarian need of the Tigrinya people". This was stated by Abba Abraha Hagos, diocesan director of the Catholic Secretariat of Adigrat (ADCS). After the humanitarian ceasefire promoted by Prime Minister Abiy, thanks to which the population was able to have minimal access to food and non-food items, medicines and a few other services, from June 21, 2022, air transport is again paralyzed, which aggravates the situation of the Tigrayans. Currently, basic necessities and services are not available on the market or are very expensive and inaccessible to most of the population. In addition, lack of fuel and money, coupled with sanctions imposed by the Ethiopian federal government, have restricted the distribution of humanitarian aid in several districts and cities in Tigray. All basic services such as telecommunications, internet, banking services, transport services and connections between Tigray and other regions of Ethiopia are also blocked.



Syria - Illegal expropriations against Christian landowners in the Kurdish-controlled north-eastern area

(12-7-22) In the north-eastern Syrian region of Jazira, cases of illegal confiscations and expropriations suffered by Christian owners are multiplying, events denounced mainly by citizens who have been forced to leave their homes and emigrate during the years of the recent conflict that has torn Syria apart. This is reported by sources linked to the Assyrian Democratic Organization (Assyrian Democratic Organization-ADO), a historic political formation led by local Christians. By denouncing the phenomenon, the ADO militants confirm that the expropriation of property illegally seized from Christian owners takes place in urban and rural areas controlled by the so-called Northeast Autonomous Administration, also known as Rojava, a region run by the Kurds and de facto subtracted from the domain of Damascus.

Venezuela - Missionary parishes and the exercise of synodality: a contribution of Catholics to civil and public life

(12-7-22) "The parish we dream of is called to evangelize and be evangelized, to be a community of communities, sustained by the spirituality of communion, to celebrate the mysteries of faith as a source of communion and mission, in solidarity and commitment to all, especially with the most needy, carrying out works of charity, paying attention to cultural changes, encouraging human promotion and integral development, influencing the transformation of the excluding and predatory structures of the Common Home". It is one of the points (n.7) of the final message of the II National Pastoral Assembly, which was held from July 8 to 10, on the theme "A missionary parish that goes forth for the new times".

India's top court delays hearing anti-Christian violence plea

(12-7-22) The Supreme Court of India has postponed the hearing of a plea seeking protection from and investigations into rising attacks on Christians and their institutions across the nation. A bench headed by Justice D. Y. Chandrachud on July 11 adjourned the matter to a later date as the documents related to the plea were not circulated among the concerned parties to the case. "We will take it up on Friday," Justice Chandrachud told Advocate Colin Gonsalves, who is appearing for the petitioners that include Archbishop Peter Machado of Bangalore, the National Solidarity Forum and the Evangelical Fellowship of India. Gonsalves, in a June 27 petition, had sought an urgent listing of the matter arguing violent attacks against Christians and their institutions were on the rise with an average of 45 to 50 incidents (in May 57) reported in the country every month. The petitioners have sought immediate action against the "sinister phenomena of violence" and "targeted hate speech" against the Christian community by alleged vigilante groups.

Christians make up 2.3 percent of India's 1.3 billion people, some 80 percent of who are Hindus.

Philippine bishops pledge to prioritize poor

(12-7-22) Catholic bishops in the Philippines have vowed to accelerate evangelization by being with the poor and reaching out to all sections of society but lay Catholics remain skeptical in the absence of a concrete plan of action.

"We open doors for us all to go out and set forth once again for mission – to seek out those who are far, different, excluded; to encounter, listen and dialogue with our brothers and sisters of different denominations and faith; to explore possibilities for positive engagement in the areas of ecumenism, interreligious dialogue, politics and social media," said the bishops in a statement on July 11 after National Synodal Consultation (4-7 July).

Some Catholics, however, felt that the bishops' statement seemingly lacked concrete details on how Catholic leaders could be with the poor, especially those victimized by graft and corruption.



Timor-Leste urged to preserve sites for religious tourism

(12-7-22) The interfaith organization for religious tourism in Timor-Leste has urged the government to draw up special rules to preserve sacred places that will become religious tourism sites.

Father Angelo Salshina, chairman of the Timor-Leste Religious Tourism Association (ATR-TL), said such regulations are essential to ensure that such places are well-maintained to serve the tourism industry that is being developed.

He said there are no binding regulations for religious tourism sites, for example regarding what is allowed and what is prohibited at them, as well as the responsibility for their maintenance.

US envoy in Hong Kong rebukes China's crackdown in farewell speech

(12-7-22) Washington's top diplomat in Hong Kong said China should not be "terrified of dissenting opinions" as he used a farewell speech on Monday to rebuke Beijing's crackdown on freedoms in the business hub.

Hanscom Smith's three-year term as consul general was caught in mounting challenges as Beijing and Washington took opposing sides on the city's huge, sometimes violent pro-democracy protests in 2019. China imposed a sweeping national security law on the city following the protests and Washington implemented sanctions against top Hong Kong officials. US officials confirmed privately that since then city officials refused to meet with Smith.

The consul general complained that routine diplomatic activities were characterized as "interference" and diplomats have been threatened under the security law. "Strong nations are not terrified of dissenting opinions. An exchange of views is not collusion. Attending an event is not interference. A handshake is not 'a black hand'," Smith said in his farewell speech at the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong. He reaffirmed that Washington did not support Hong Kong independence and "we simply ask Beijing to ... give the city the autonomy Beijing promised".

Archbishop launches Indian edition of 'Desiderio Desideravi'

(12-7-22) Cardinal-Elect Filipe Neri Ferrao of Goa and Daman launched the Indian edition of *Desiderio Desideravi*, Pope Francis' apostolic letter on the liturgical formation of lay people on July 9.

Archbishop Ferrao, president of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI), released the book urging Catholics to celebrate the liturgy in a proper, effective and relevant manner.

“The faithful will celebrate liturgy better if they understand more adequately what they are doing and why they are doing it. Advanced liturgical catechesis for all faithful is needed to see that our liturgical celebrations are more active and meaningful,” said the prelate.

13-7-22

Pope names three women to Vatican panel choosing bishops



(13-7-22) Pope Francis has appointed three women to the Dicastery for Bishops, giving women a direct role for the first time on the body that selects candidates to become bishops. Last week the Pope revealed that he planned to appoint two women to the Dicastery for Bishops—a body that in the past has been composed only of bishops. But a July 13 announcement from the Vatican indicated that in fact three women had been named: two religious and one lay women. They are: (1) Sister Raffaella Petrini, FSE, who is already the top-ranking female at the Vatican, having been appointed last November as the secretary-general of the Vatican City

Governorate, and has been a member of the Congregation for Evangelization since 2005; (2) Sister Yvonne Reungoat, FMA, the former superior general of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, who in 2019 became one of the first women to serve on what was then the Congregation for Religious; and (3) Maria Lia Zervino, an Argentine lay woman who belongs to an association of consecrated virgins, and is president of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations and has been a consultant to the Pontifical Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue.

While the two women religious have experience working in the Roman Curia, Dr. Zervino—who is known as a close friend of Pope Francis—brings a new perspective. Last year she wrote an open letter to the Pontiff, published in *America* magazine, in which she urged him to give women greater influence, particularly in “exercising ministries such as listening, spiritual direction, pastoral health care, care for the planet, defence of human rights, etc., for which, by our nature, women are equally or sometimes better prepared than men.” While praising the Pontiff for bringing change to the Vatican, she said “that as a woman I feel that something is owed to us.”

Palestinian leader calls Pope to discuss Israeli measures in Jerusalem

(13-7-22) The president of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, spoke with Pope Francis by telephone about “the attacks on Christian and Muslim holy sites, especially in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the Al-Aqsa Mosque,” according to the Palestinian news agency Wafa.

Abbas also spoke with the Pope about the “forced expulsion of Palestinians from their homes in East Jerusalem neighbourhoods and sabotaging of their properties, and daily killings, particularly the case of slain Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh.”

In May, Patriarch Pierbattista Pizzaballa, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, deplored the use of force by Israeli police during the funeral of Akleh, a Catholic laywoman.

Pope encourages Catholic-Pentecostal dialogue

(13-7-22) Pope Francis has written a message, dated July 8 and published July 12, to the members of the Commission for Catholic-Pentecostal Dialogue in commemoration of the dialogue's 50th anniversary.

“Over the past fifty years, the Commission, through dialogue and reflection, has journeyed together in order to build bonds of friendship, solidarity and mutual understanding between Catholics and Pentecostals,” Pope Francis said. “It is my hope that this important anniversary will strengthen these bonds and renew your zeal to proclaim, as missionary disciples, the joy of the Gospel in the ecclesial community and in society as a whole.”

Pope repeats call for 'ecological conversion'

(13-7-22) Pope Francis renewed his call for "ecological conversion" in a July 13 message to participants in a Vatican conference on "Resilience of People and Ecosystems under Climate Stress." "The phenomenon of climate change has become an emergency that no longer remains at the margins of society," the Pope said. He emphasized the need for wealthy nations to reduce their emissions; for broader access to clean water and renewable energy; for a move toward "climate-resilient agriculture;" and for adoption of a simpler life that would preserve natural resources.

Pope committed to Ukraine trip; date uncertain

(13-7-22) Pope Francis definitely plans to visit Ukraine, hoping to advance the cause of peace there, but "the when and how we do not know," Archbishop Paul Gallagher, Vatican's Secretary for Relations with States has disclosed. The archbishop said that the war in Ukraine represents a failure in diplomacy.

18 Nigerian priests kidnapped in 2022

(13-7-22) There is no doubt "no doubt that Nigeria is in trouble with arms-bearing actors running across the country, seizing and killing Nigerians with reckless abandon," the Lagos-based newspaper reported. "The ransom-hungry terrorists recently have fallen in love with Catholic priests."

South Sudan - In Lui, the dream is of going from weapons to hoes to books

(13-7-22) True revolutions are born sowing day after day, in the midst of commitment", declared Don Dante with Africa CUAMM, on the ceremony of eight young men and Hospital School in South Sudan. about community, about wanting to poorest is a revolution for South Before the ceremony, the



from tenacious work, from of efforts, sacrifices and Carraro, director of Doctors occasion of the graduation two women at the Lui "To hear about service, respond to the needs of the Sudan", adds Don Dante. procession of

undergraduates went through the streets of Lui, to make the community participate in the celebration. "On the side of the road, the children armed with hoes, looked ecstatic: in their eyes the dream of going from weapons to hoes to books!

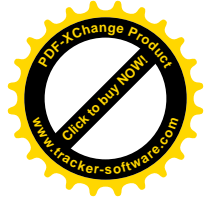
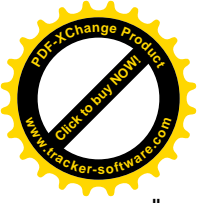
China - "To live in frugality and refrain from extravagance" according to the Word of God and the encyclical Laudato Si

(13-7-22) "Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted" (Jn 6:12): the words of Jesus addressed to his disciples after the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fish, together with the teaching of Pope Francis in his Encyclical Letter Laudato Si on the care of our common home (May 24, 2015), were the guiding thread of the meeting which took place on July 8, in the Major Seminary of Shaanxi, in mainland China, on the theme "To live in frugality and refrain from extravagance".

A month ago, the five largest religious communities in China (Buddhist, Taoist, Islamic, Catholic and Protestant) launched this joint initiative. The Catholic community welcomed it by promoting various activities, starting from the reflection on the texts of the Holy Scriptures, from the Old Testament to the Gospel, to the Magisterium of the Church and of the Popes, but above all keeping in mind the example of Christ himself and of Pope Francis, who lives in evangelical simplicity.

Brazil - Leader of indigenous peoples of 6 countries at the Human Rights school

(13-7-22) The Pan-Amazonian Ecclesial Network (REPAM), through the section of Human Rights and International Advocacy, started the third edition of the School for the Promotion of Human Rights on July 4, in Manaus (Brazil), which will last until July 29. This project has as its main objective that of



"providing educational tools that help formalize complaints about human rights violations that have occurred in the Amazonian territory". 24 leaders of indigenous peoples and traditional communities from Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, Venezuela, Colombia and Brazil gathered for this occasion. The modules of the contents have been elaborated according to the specific needs of the territories.

Catholic youths tell Marcos to defend Philippine waters

(13-7-22) A Catholic youth group in the Philippines has urged President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos, Jr. to fulfill his promise of defending the country’s territorial waters in the West Philippine Sea. The San Lorenzo Group-Manila, inspired by the first Filipino saint, Lorenzo Ruiz, says the new president should not waste the opportunity to reclaim the waters from China for the nation’s fishermen and next generations.

On July 12, 2016, the Permanent Court of Arbitration invalidated China’s historic 9-dash-line, affirming the right of Filipino fishermen to fish in the West Philippine Sea. The youth group said, “We are holding Marcos accountable for his promise to protect the rule of law.”

Indonesian Catholic lawyer calls for stricter action against child abusers

(13-7-22) A Catholic lawyer has called for stricter punishment for those guilty of child sexual abuse after Indonesian police arrested and charged yet another Quran teacher with raping at least four girls at his home in the country’s Central Java province.

Azas Tigor Nainggolan, who deals with cases of sexual violence against children, said on July 13 law enforcement officers must ensure strict punishment – even life imprisonment - for the perpetrators of such heinous crimes. He further appealed that Catholics in the country must file police reports if they know of any cases of sexual violence against children.

Indian cardinal receives some solace in diocesan land row

(13-7-22) Indian Cardinal George Alencherry has received relief of sorts with the communist government in southern Kerala state saying an allegation over a diocesan land scam involving him is “unfounded.”

In an affidavit filed before the Supreme Court of India on July 12, the government said: “It was found in the investigation that the deals regarding setting up of the medical college at Mattoor and the sale of 301.76 cents of land belonging to the archdiocese [of Ernakulam-Angamaly] were done after proper consultation as prescribed by the canon laws governing the Roman Catholic Church and statutes of the archdiocese.”

The affidavit signed by Xavier K. K, undersecretary to the Kerala government, further said that a probe found no misappropriation of money in the deeds. “The allegation regarding misappropriation was found to be unfounded,” it said.

The government’s affidavit came in response to a notice issued by the top court after accepting an appeal filed by Cardinal Alencherry in April seeking the dropping of criminal charges.



Melting glaciers threaten Pakistan's north

(13-7-22) Rising global temperatures linked to climate change are causing glaciers in Pakistan – home to more than 7,000 of them - to rapidly melt, creating thousands of glacial lakes.

The government has warned that 33 of these lakes — all located in the spectacular Himalaya, Hindu Kush and Karakoram mountain ranges that intersect in Pakistan — are at risk of bursting and releasing millions of cubic meters of water and debris in just a few hours, like in Hassanabad.

At least 16 such glacial lake outburst floods linked to heatwaves have occurred this year already, compared with an average of five or six per year, the Pakistani government said earlier this week. Melting glaciers have caused heavy floods damaging a number of houses.

14-7-22

Co-leader of German ‘Synodal Path’ calls for abortion access

(14-7-22) The co-leader of the “Synodal Path” promoted by the German bishops’ conference has said that “a nationwide provision of the medical intervention of abortion must be ensured.”

Irme Stetter-Karp, the president of the Central Committee of German Catholics—an organization that has co-sponsored the Synodal Path—said that abortion should not be considered a “regular intervention,” but should be available as an option. She lamented: “This is not the case at present because gynecological care is lacking in rural areas in particular.”

Pope, in interview, confirms plans to meet Russian Patriarch in Kazakhstan

(14-7-22) The Holy See Press Office has also confirmed that Pope Francis will visit Kazakhstan in September, to take part in the 7th Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions.

Pope Francis made his remarks during a Spanish-language interview with Univision, in which he also commented on what he would do if he should retire and weighed in on President Biden’s “incoherence” in supporting abortion.

New headquarters should serve those on peripheries, Pope tells CELAM



(14-7-22) Pope Francis has written a letter, dated June 24 and published July 12, to the president of the Latin American Episcopal Council (CELAM) on the occasion of the inauguration of new CELAM headquarters in Colombia.

“Let us not forget that our material structures only have meaning when they are destined to serve, above all, our sisters and brothers who live on the most extreme peripheries of life,” Pope Francis wrote.

“And let us remember to be alert to the three idolatries that always threaten the progress of the faithful People of God: spiritual

mediocrity, the pragmatism of numbers, and the functionalism that leads us to be enthusiastic about the road map rather than the road,” he added.

Cardinal Parolin confirms plan for Pope to visit Ukraine

(14-7-22) Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican Secretary of State, during an exchange with reporters on July 13, confirmed plans for Pope Francis to visit Ukraine. “The Pope wants to go to Ukraine and he will go as soon as possible,” Cardinal Parolin said.

Evangelize as the saints taught, Pope tells religious orders

(14-7-22) At a July 14 audience with members of male religious orders, Pope Francis said that all Christians have a duty to evangelize, but religious communities have a special duty, defined by their particular charisms.

In seeking ways to evangelize, the Pope said, “there is no need to dwell on abstract theories, but rather it is better to learn from the saints.” The founders of religious orders, he said, show the way that community should pursue its mission. The Pope also warned the men against gossip in religious communities. He said that “chit-chat destroys—not only the community, it destroys itself.”

Pope Francis remarked that his address was a break from summer schedule. He explained that he made time for this audience—although he had cancelled most audiences during the month of July—because of the importance of meeting religious who are in Rome for their general chapter meetings.

Iraqi patriarch seeks coexistence with Shi’ites

(14-7-22) Chaldean Catholic Patriarch Louis Raphael Sako has told Shi’ite Muslims that people of different faiths must learn to live together amicably in Iraq.

At a two-day conference on Catholics and Shi'ites, the Iraqi prelate said: "We must commit ourselves to promoting dialogue and friendship." He added: "Citizenship and coexistence are a natural right, not a secondary element to be tolerated."

Fire destroys half of the Chapels of Light at Lourdes shrine

(14-7-22) A fire has destroyed four of the eight Chapels of Light at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes in France.

Vincent Neymon, director of communications and resources at the shrine, "speculated that the wind caused a candle to ignite the wooden frame of one of the chapels," according to the report.



Tanzanian president praises East African bishops' focus on environment

(14-7-22) With an agenda focused on the environment, the Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa (AMECEA) began a nine-day meeting in Tanzania on July 10. Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, Pro-Prefect of the Section for Evangelization of the Vatican's Dicastery for Evangelization, called for a spirit of caring for one another and for creation. Paolo Ruffini, the Prefect of the Dicastery for Communication, also traveled to Tanzania and asked the bishops to "appoint volunteer collaborators that can be relied upon as correspondents to send regular and reliable news."



Italy - Sisters spokespersons for the most marginalized communities to be at the centre of the international debate on development

(14-7-22) The International Union of Superiors General (UISG) has released the second video of the campaign "New Leaders: Sisters Advocating Globally", to highlight the commitment to tackling the world's most pressing development challenges. The message of this video is summarised in its final statement: "We are your Sisters: we are committed

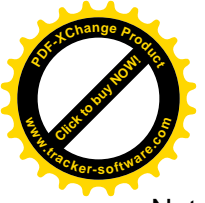
to advocating for you and with you, sharing a journey of care for people and for the environment". This month's video features Sisters who are striving to bring the voices of the world's most marginalised communities into the centre of the development dialogue. As world leaders increasingly become aware of the need for development solutions led by and tailored to the most vulnerable, Sisters are at the forefront of a movement to reshape global conversations around the needs of our most neglected communities.

Panama - The Catholic Church agrees to mediate in the crisis that the country is experiencing

(14-7-22) "The Catholic Church accepts the call to mediate in the face of the situation in the country": this was communicated by Archbishop José Domingo Ulloa of Panama through a video message. Panama has been paralyzed by a strike for 8 days that, after being started by teachers, has spread to other sectors of society, including students and natives. The reason for the protest is the exorbitant increase in the prices of basic necessities, such as medicines, electricity and, above all, fuel. The price increases set by the government were necessary to curb inflation. The protests have included marches and demonstrations, which in some cases have led to clashes with the police.

Brazil - "The missio ad gentes in the formation of seminarians": this is what is being discussed these days at the IV National Missionary Congress of Seminarians

(14-7-22) More than 350 participants are taking part in the 4th National Missionary Congress of Seminarians, known as 4Cominse, which began on Monday 11 July and will continue until next Sunday. The event, organized by the Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS) and by the national coordination of the Missionary Councils of Seminarians (COMISE), welcomes seminarians from all over the country, both diocesan and religious, of all stages of formation.



Not only seminarians but also rectors, seminary formators, bishops and guests are among those who are taking part in the 4Cominse. "Missio ad gentes in the formation of seminarians" is the theme that is accompanying these days.

The main objective is to encourage and improve the missionary formation of future priests in Brazil, so that mission is central to formation and helps them to acquire an authentic missionary spirit.

Vietnamese altar boys inspired by religious vocation

(14-7-22) Hundreds of altar boys from a centuries-old diocese in northern Vietnam have been given the desire and enthusiasm to serve holy altars at churches and follow priestly vocations in the future.

Altar boys aged 11-18 from 68 parishes of Phat Diem diocese attended a special gathering on July 11-12 held by the diocese's Seminarians and Vocations Committee at St. Paul Seminary in Phat Diem, Ninh Binh province.

Father Peter Mai Van Vong, head of the committee, said the annual event aimed at inspiring priestly vocations among local altar boys and providing them with opportunities to train their faith life, interact with one another and enjoy a fun-filled summer holiday after a school year badly affected by the pandemic. Father Vong called on the altar boys to follow the shining example of Samuel who quickly responded to the Lord's word. "God calls us to be priests so that we can live with him and come to our brothers and sisters to comfort and bring joy to them," he said. The priest also taught them how to seek a priestly vocation by showing strong interest in the consecrated life, willingly answering God's call, enthusiastically serving Masses, and having the ability to lead a bachelor's life and serve others.



Violence hits Sri Lanka after acting president named

(14-7-22) Violence erupted in the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo, overnight after Ranil Wickremesinghe was appointed acting president and immediately announced a state of emergency and a curfew, which protesters ignored while spilling on to the streets and surrounding government offices. Wickremesinghe had announced his resignation, along with President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, in response to last weekend's protests when hundreds of thousands marched on the Presidential Palace following the nation's economic collapse under a mountain of debt.

However, Rajapaksa fled the country and has not resigned. Instead, he asked the speaker of parliament to appoint Wickremesinghe in his absence, which angered the public who accused the ousted president of making a last-ditch attempt to cling on to power.

One person has reportedly died and another 126 have been admitted to hospital after military forces deployed tear gas on protesters who attempted to breach a security cordon around the palace.

After going to Maldives with his family, he reached Singapore. The local government said that he came there as a visitor and not seeking asylum.

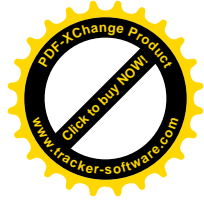
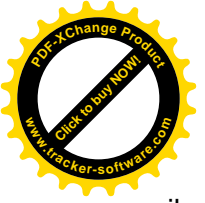
Wickremesinghe has been very much opposed though he insisted his position was only temporary and the speaker of parliament, Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena, said a new president would be elected in on July 20, as previously announced, after an All-Party Government (APG) is formed.

(14-7-22 pm) Kotabaya is supposed to have sent his resignation by email which needs to be verified by speaker of parliament.

Colombo Archbishop Malcolm Ranjith urged protesters not to jeopardize their gains by behaving in an unruly fashion, adding they also risked inviting foreign forces to interfere in local affairs.

Indian bishops pray for Hindu pilgrims after tragedy strikes

(14-7-22) Indian bishops have prayed for the safety of Hindu pilgrims to Amarnath in northern Jammu and Kashmir state after a mudslide killed 16 people and left scores missing. "The Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) is deeply saddened at the loss of lives when devotees went on a



pilgrimage to Amarnath,” Cardinal Oswald Gracias of Bombay said in a statement on July 13. The cloudburst hit the Amarnath Yatra, washing away not only a sizable chunk of the route but also the tents of the devotees.

Bangladeshi university introduces prayer rooms for minority students



(14-7-22) Bangladesh's century-old [Youtube](#) university has taken the first step toward ending religious discrimination on campus by introducing prayer rooms for students from minority Christian, Hindu and Buddhist religions at its hostels. Dhaka University (DU) – estd 1921 - opened on July 11 its first multi-religion prayer room for students at the Shamsunnahar Hall, one of its five dormitories for women students. The prayer room has three altars — one with a picture of Jesus Christ, another with that of Buddha, and the third with Hindu deities. Universities in the country typically allow mosques on campuses for students from the majority

Muslim religion.

15-7-22

US bishops decry Women's Health Protection Act; vote imminent in House

(15-7-22) A vote on the Women's Health Protection Act of 2022 (H.R.8296), sponsored by Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA), is imminent in the House of Representatives, warned Human Life Action, which works closely with the US Conference of Catholic Bishops in matters of pro-life legislation. In a July 14 letter, Archbishop William Lori (chairman of the bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities) and Cardinal Timothy Dolan (chairman of the Committee on Religious Liberty) expressed strong opposition to the bill. "This deceptively-named, extreme bill would impose abortion on demand nationwide at any stage of pregnancy through federal statute," they said. "Even worse, it would eliminate modest and widely supported pro-life laws at every level of government—the federal, state, and local level—including parental notification for minor girls, informed consent, and health or safety protections specific to abortion facilities." "It would force all Americans to support abortions here and abroad with their tax dollars," they added. "It would also likely force health care providers and professionals to perform, assist in, and/or refer for abortion against their deeply-held beliefs, as well as force employers and insurers to cover or pay for abortion."

Sri Lankan cardinal warns against emergency power abuses

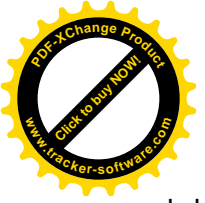
(15-7-22) In recent developments in the Sri Lankan political crisis, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa fled the nation on July 13, appointed an acting president, and resigned the following day. "Rumors are currently spreading among people that orders to fire have been issued," said Sarath Fonseka, a member of parliament. "There is a serious danger of conflict between the armed forces and unarmed civilians in the country."

Canadian government providing \$27M in funding during papal visit

(15-7-22) During the Pope's upcoming apostolic journey to Canada, the Canadian government is spending over \$35M Canadian dollars (\$26.8M US dollars), the Canadian Press reported. According to the report, most of the funding will be spent by Indigenous Services Canada and Crown-Indigenous Relations for "community-led activities, ceremonies, and travel for survivors."

Pakistani archbishop shines spotlight on abducted and abused girls, women

(15-7-22) "Sometimes their bodies are found, and they can hold the funerals, and mourn," Archbishop Sebastian Shaw of Lahore said of the 1,000 Christian and Hindu girls and young women who are



abducted each year in predominantly Muslim Pakistan. "But in other cases, all that the parents can do is cry over the disappearance of their children."

Mass protests around the world go without media coverage

(15-7-22) *The Federalist* offers a rundown of the mass public protests that are occurring in nations all around the world, but not receiving coverage in the American mainstream media. Demonstrations against government policies have drawn over 100,000 participants in France and Spain, a staggering 50 million in India, and prompted the resignation of the government leadership in Sri Lanka.

Ukraine - The war does not stop the summer activities organized by the Orionines in Lviv for 120 young people

(15-7-22) 120 children and young people participate this year in the "Happy Holidays", the traditional summer event organized in Lviv by the priests of Don Orione. The religious continue their activities which, in this time marked by war, are addressed above all to those who come to them in search of help and support, both material and moral. The war has not interrupted this initiative that has characterized the summers of many children and young people in Ukraine for seventeen years.

Cameroon - The diocese of Yagoua launches a project to support the population during the famine

(15-7-22) An emergency stock of about 30 tons of cereals is the new project supported by Madian Orizzonti, the non-profit organization of the Camillian religious of Turin, in support of the activities of Bishop Barthélemy Yaouda of the Diocese of Yagoua,. The project aims to give a concrete response in food support to about 150 poor and vulnerable families in the village communities of the Diocese of Yagoua in Cameroon. The stock will be deposited in the warehouse of the Diocese of Yagoua and will be monitored to protect the cereals from insects and rodents so that in the height of the famine season, support can be provided to identified families. In fact, the Diocese already has a grain storage warehouse with a capacity of about 100 tons, which can serve as a community granary. The distribution will consist in giving each family a quantity of about 200 kilograms of cereals to allow them to guarantee a daily meal during the drought period which promises to be quite long given the low rainfall.



Philippines - In one year the network of Catholic nuns saved 26 thousand women from human trafficking in Asia

(15-7-22) As many as 26.065 women from Asia were prevented and rescued from human trafficking in 2021 by "Talitha Kum", a Federation of Catholic nuns that is committed to combating and eradicating human trafficking.

"Prevention was the Asian networks' priority. It was fostered through training and awareness-raising campaigns in schools, parishes, and

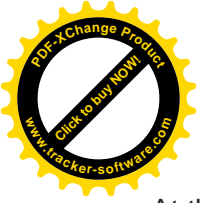
local communities, targeting especially women, youth, religious, tribal communities, and migrant workers", said Sr. Abby Avelino, director of Talitha Kum Asia.

According to her, the issue of human trafficking in Asia has been exacerbated by the current socio-economic situation. Many countries in Asia face severe economic crises due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and political conflicts such as Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan.

The predominant forms of domestic and international human trafficking are forced labour, forced marriage and sexual exploitation", the nun says in a report of Talitha Kum. "One area of entrapment is cyber-based trafficking and Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (OSEC), " says Sr Avelino, a member of Maryknoll congregation.

Talitha Kum networks in Asia hosted monthly webinars on human trafficking to strengthen prevention, protection, capacity building, and networking, as well as collaboration, and advocacy.

Talitha Kum Bangladesh and Talitha Kum Vietnam were established in 2021 as an outcome of the growing visibility of their work.



At the end of the Extraordinary Assembly of CELAM (Latin American Episcopal Council), which took place from July 11 to 14 in Bogota, the participants sent a Message to the People of God, reaffirming their "commitment to serve the entire Latin American and Caribbean Church. Since we live in "new times that demand new responses", as Pope Francis affirms, "it is a propitious time to strengthen our personal encounter with Jesus Christ in the reality of the continent and in the heart of the Church". "We need a spirituality with open eyes", underlines the message, which invites a contemplation of God that is not sterile or distant, but "an open sensitivity to the pain and joys of our peoples".

America - CELAM's message: "It is time to go out, to walk together, it is time for martyrdom and encounter with everyone"

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Western nations condemn Russia at G20 talks in Indonesia

(15-7-22) Western finance chiefs condemned Moscow's invasion of Ukraine at G20 talks in Indonesia on 15 July, accusing Russia of sending a "shockwave" through the world economy and its technocrats of complicity in the war's alleged atrocities.

The two-day meeting on the island of Bali began under the shadow of a Russian military assault that has roiled markets, spiked food prices and stoked breakneck inflation, a week after Moscow's top diplomat walked out of talks with the forum's foreign ministers.

Singapore's anti-terror agency warns against 'cyber-jihad'

(15-7-22) Singapore's state-run anti-terrorism agency has warned citizens against self-radicalized terrorism in cyberspace and called for vigilance and cooperation to curb the phenomenon. The Internal Security Department (ISD) issued the warnings as it released its Terrorism Threat Assessment Report 2022, on July 13. The agency said self-radicalization remains a primary threat to the country.

Women seek policy-making role in Bangladesh Church

(15-7-22) Women leaders and nuns rights for men and women in where women are not represented at The Catholic Bishops' Conference of has 15 commissions but all the secretaries are men, with the sole commission.

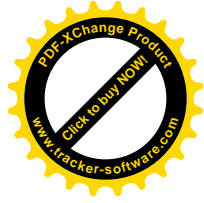
"Women are present in churches policy-making and leadership Cross Sister Shikha Laetitia



women are ahead in the field of education, the Church is not using their talent properly, it was argued. "If we use this talent, we could develop our society more quickly," Sister Gomes, who is the principal of Holy Cross College in Dhaka, told UCA News.

are demanding equal Bangladesh's Church, the policy-making level. Bangladesh (CBCB) chairpersons and exception of the health

everywhere except in positions," said Holy Gomes. Even though



Roseline Costa, head of the women's desk of the Justice and Peace Commission of the CBCB pointed out that Church leaders may listen to women, but at the end of the day, it is the men who take the final decision. "However, the CBCB is trying to promote women's leadership, but there is a huge gap that needs to be filled. Church leaders often talk about women leadership, but we don't see any results," Costa told UCA News.

Pilgrimage to 'Land of Baptism' uplifts Pakistani Catholics

(15-7-22) The cave of "Prophet Jesus, peace be upon him" in Jordan was among the 34 biblical sites, mentioned in the Old and New Testaments, visited by 46 Catholic pilgrims, aged 3 to 82, from Pakistan from June 26 to July 3.

It was the 14th pilgrimage-cum-study tour organized by the Catholic Bible Commission, Pakistan (CBCP) since 2017. So far 425 Catholics from around the South Asian country have made the pilgrimage to Jordan Turkey and Egypt. The latest visit to Jordan included daily Mass, rosary recitation and seeing some wonders of the world including Petra and the Dead Sea.

"The briefings they give help us understand the importance of these places. It deepened my connection with God and His plan. I feel like visiting more sites where the prophets spent their lives and receive special blessings," Minorma Timothy Gomez, a Pakistani housewife, said.

16-7-22

Germany - Ukrainian refugees guests at the Redemptorist monastery in Bonn: "a unique and new experience"

(16-7-22) Since March 2022, some Ukrainian war refugees fleeing the war that has devastated their country and their lives, have been living in the Redemptorist monastery in Bonn. The monastery had offered to take in refugees from the authorities. Mostly mothers with their children have been accommodated, but also two Ukrainian religious sisters of the Most Holy Redeemer, Sister Maria and Sister Sofia. Both support Ukrainians in the entire region between Cologne and Bonn.

DR Congo - After 120 years of evangelization, the village of Yanonge celebrates its first nun

(16-7-22) "Marthe represents us all, as a Church that seeks the face of the Lord", writes Fr. Vittorio Farronato from the Democratic Republic of Congo referring to the first girl who became a nun in the village of Yanonge after 120 years of evangelization.

Bangladesh - Church-run drug rehab center gets state recognition for the third time

(16-7-22) Church-run Bangladesh Rehabilitation and Assistance Centre for Addicts (BARACA), managed by the Church, obtained national recognition. BARACA's Director Brother Nirmal Francis Gomes CSC (Congregation of the Holy Cross) received a crest as second place for best service in drug rehab sector from the Home Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan MP.

During the celebration of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, on June 26, brother Nirmal Francis Gomes CSC expressed joy over receiving the award.

Nicaragua - The Presbyteral Council of Granada: "It is time to be creative in order to continue proclaiming the Gospel with boldness"

(16-7-22)"In the face of all adversities, we urge you not to be discouraged or to lose hope, comforted by faith in Jesus Christ, let us welcome with love everything related to his painful passion ... We give thanks to God for the prayers, the affection and solidarity of all of you in these difficult times, your participation unites us in the suffering due to the imprisonment of Fathers Manuel Salvador Garcia and Monsignor Leonardo Urbina, with them we put everything in the hands of the Lord". This is the exhortation of the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Granada, gathered under the presidency of Bishop Jorge Solorzano Perez, addressed to all priests, men and women religious, committed lay people and all Catholic faithful.

17-7-22

Pope at Angelus: 'Listen to Jesus, everything else comes after'

(17-7-22) Addressing the faithful gathered in St Peter's Square for the Sunday Angelus, Pope Francis described the day's liturgy, which presents us with the story of Martha and Mary, two sisters offering hospitality to Jesus in their home. The Pope recounted that Martha welcomed the guest whilst Mary sat at Jesus' feet to listen to him until Martha turned to him and asked him to tell Mary to help her. Martha's complaint seems justified. Yet Jesus answered her: "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, but few things are needed. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her".

"While appreciating Martha's generous care, Jesus said that Mary's attitude is to be preferred", said the Pope. The better thing, he specified, "is listening to Jesus' words".

"The word of Jesus is not abstract, it is a teaching that touches and shapes life, changes it, frees it from the dullness of evil, satisfies and infuses it with a joy that does not pass: it is the better part", explained the Pope, and it is for this reason that Mary prioritised it.

Bringing his discourse to a close, Pope Francis urged the faithful to "take advantage of this holiday season to stop and listen to Jesus".

Pope to make penitential pilgrimage to Canada for healing and reconciliation, concern for Ukraine and Sri Lanka



(17-7-22) "Next Sunday, God willing, I will leave for Canada; therefore, I wish now to address all the people of that country," said Pope Francis after the recitation of the Sunday Angelus Prayer in St. Peter's Square. The Pope's journey to Canada is scheduled to take place from 24 to 30 July, and will visit the cities of Edmonton, Québec and Iqaluit.

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The Pope's journey to Canada is scheduled to take place from 24 – 30 July, and he will visit the cities of Edmonton, Québec and Iqaluit "*in the name of Jesus to meet and embrace the indigenous peoples.*" He said many Christians, including some members of religious institutes, have contributed to the policies of cultural assimilation that, in the past, have severely harmed indigenous communities in various ways. On a number of occasions, he said, he had expressed "his sorrow and solidarity for the harm they have suffered." "*Now I am about to make a penitential pilgrimage, which I hope, with God's grace, will contribute to the journey of healing and reconciliation already undertaken,*" the Pope said.

Pope Francis lamented, yet Ukraine and the international actors to 'really' hit industrial facilities at a on Sunday as Moscow gains in the country's east.



again, the continuing war in senselessness of conflict, urging work for peace. Russian missiles strategic city in southern Ukraine continued efforts to expand its

Pope Francis reiterated his closeness to the people of Sri Lanka where a devastating economic crisis has engulfed the nation and led to the ousting of the President.
