

ATHOLIC WORLD LAST WEEK

(CWLW)

5-11 Sep 2022

5-9-22

Sweeping papal overhaul of Order of Malta

(5-9-22) Citing a “need to initiate a profound spiritual, moral and institutional renewal of the entire Order,” Pope Francis issued a sweeping decree on September 3 in which he dissolved the Sovereign Council of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta.

The Pontiff appointed members of a provisional Sovereign Council and convoked an extraordinary general chapter for January 25, 2023, “in accordance with the new regulations approved by myself.”

(Pillar)

Pope asks, ‘Syria, who can heal you now?’

(5-9-22) On September 3, in an address to members of the AVSI Foundation for the Open Hospitals Project in Syria, Pope Francis reflected on the devastation wrought by the Syrian civil war.

Recalling the “14 million internally displaced persons and refugees—that is more than half of the Syrian population prior to the conflict,” Pope Francis said that “in the face of such immense suffering, the Church is called to be a ‘field hospital’ and to heal wounds both physical and spiritual.”



Pope, in new interview, speaks on ‘zero tolerance,’ his health problems

(5-9-22) In an interview with CNN Portugal, Pope Francis defended a ‘zero tolerance’ policy on sexual abuse, raised questions about whether he will travel to Kazakhstan this month, and joked that either he or the next Pope would attend World Youth Day in Lisbon next year.

“This is one thing about abuse, it is a destructive thing, humanly diabolical,” he continued. “In families there is no celibacy and all that and, sometimes, it happens.”

CNN also reported that the Pope “said he was unable to travel at the moment because of issues with his knee,” a remark that raises questions about whether he will make his apostolic journey to Kazakhstan on September 13.

Asked whether he would attend the World Youth Day celebration, the Pontiff said: “I plan to go.” He added, joking: “The Pope is going go — either Francis or John XXIV — but the Pope is going.”

Women of Paraguay are the ‘most glorious in America,’ Pope says

(5-9-22) On September 3, Pope Francis received María Leticia Casati Caballero, the new ambassador of Paraguay to the Holy See. “What a joy that Paraguay has sent a woman to represent all women, the most glorious in America,” Pope Francis said during their 30-minute meeting.

The Pontiff made similar remarks in 2013, in a July 2015 address in Paraguay, and at a Mass in Paraguay the following day—leading to a Vatican Radio report that explained the historical basis of his remarks in the War of the Triple Alliance.

Cardinal Parolin sees renewal of 2018 Vatican agreement with China

(5-9-22) In an interview with the Italian state-owned news channel TG2, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Holy See’s Secretary of State, said that he believes that the 2018 agreement with China, renewed in 2020 for two years, will again be renewed.

Cardinal Parolin also said that any meeting between Pope Francis and Patriarch Kirill must be well prepared and that the Pope wishes to visit Ukraine “when conditions are right and when such a visit could contribute to the cause of peace and not simply be a photo opportunity.” The prelate also affirmed the Catechism of the Catholic Church’s teaching on defensive war.

Chad - National Dialogue: Bishops suspend participation

(5-9-22) "There was no dialogue. For us, dialogue is based on mutual listening. (...) We have the impression of witnessing an election campaign in which on the one hand there are those who advocate change and renewal of the political class, and on the other hand those who want to continue to manage a skilfully orchestrated machine", said the Chadian bishops after renouncing their further participation in the national dialogue invited by the military junta, who took power in April 2021. The Catholic Church leaders also lament "a crisis of confidence (...) between the various groups" taking part in the talks that began on August 20 in Ndjamena. "Therefore, we feel compelled to suspend our participation in the meetings, so as not to support a group's control over the dialogue," declared the delegates of the Chad Bishops' Conference. However, the bishops stressed that they remain "available" to offer their services at all further stages of reconciliation, as long as it is "sincere".

Ethiopia - Food insecurity in Tigray: Salesians provide people with essential goods



(5-9-22) "Wheat, multivitamins, cooking oil, noodles, rice and salt are some of the relief items sent to the people of Tigray. From May to July, hygiene items, soap and 400 blankets were also sent". The news was reported to Fides by the Salesian Missions of Don Bosco in the United States.

"Since the -federal government left Tigray in June 2021, there are no roads, telephones, internet connections, working banks or electricity", the statement continues. As a result, the Salesians are cut off from

normal communication with the Tigrayan communities. Supplies are scarce and those that are available are unaffordable because there is no money," the missionaries continued.

"We are all very grateful for the support. This would not be possible without the continuous support," said Father Hailemariam Medhin, Superior of the Salesian Province of Africa-Ethiopia (AET), referring to the help from all over the world.

Pakistan - Christian-led civil society organization accused of anti-state activities

(5-9-22) Human rights groups, members of civil society and non-governmental organizations are these days defending the Christian organization "Centre for Social Justice" (CSJ) accused of carrying out anti-state activities. The CSJ - an NGO directed by the Catholic layman Peter Jacob, with more than 30 years of experience in the field of human and minority rights - finds itself in the eye of the storm because the Urdu-language daily "Daily Jang" reported, on August 21, that the Ministry of the Interior had ordered an inspection of the CSJ for alleged "dissemination of propaganda against Pakistan in the United Nations".

The CSJ, committed to the defense of human rights and democratic development and social justice, publishes an annual report, based on documented data, entitled "Human Rights Observer". The report published in February 2022, sent to the UN Human Rights Council, presents data and figures on the level of human rights in Pakistan and on the rights of minorities. It contains news on the abuse of blasphemy laws, on the phenomenon of forced conversions, on the situation of minorities in the national population census and reports on issues related to the reform of the educational system. Such information is "inconvenient" for the government of Islamabad. For this reason, a joint action committee, made up of more than 30 civil society organizations, has issued a statement denying the accusations against the CSJ.

Malaysia - Christians contribute to a "stronger and more united" nation

(5-9-22) Helping to create a "more united and stronger" nation is the mission of Christians in Malaysia. The Christian Federation of Malaysia, which represents the communities of the different Christian denominations in the country, including the Catholic Church, "puts its energies at the

disposal and continually prays to God for abundant blessings for the country," reads a statement. In the message issued on the occasion of the 65th anniversary of "Hari Merdeka" (National Day), which commemorates both the Malaysian Declaration of Independence (August 31, 1957) and the 59th anniversary of the establishment of the Federation of Malaysia (September 16 1963), Church leaders, including Kuching Catholic Archbishop Simon Hoon Seng Poh, noted the fight against the pandemic. Only recently has the economy shown signs of growth and improvement. However, the text points out, citizens continue to face external headwinds that have increased prices and the cost of living, harming everyone.

Christian leaders praise the new Prime Minister, Ismail Sabri Yaakob, who has announced the political theme of his government, "Keluarga Malaysia" ("Malay Family"), which is intended to emphasize a national unity approach.

Nuncio urges support for Myanmar's conflict-torn people

(5-9-22) Archbishop Paul Tschang In-Nam, the outgoing apostolic nuncio of Myanmar, has urged the country's Catholic community to increase efforts to support the rising number of people left helpless by ongoing conflicts.

"These days you face the immense suffering of our brothers and sisters in Myanmar, the Church is called to be servants of God and to serve our brothers and sisters, especially for those who are in dire need," said Archbishop Tschang, 73.

The South Korea-born archbishop made the remarks during a thanksgiving Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral on Sept. 2 as he was on transfer. "In this time of the trial of our brothers and sisters in Myanmar, Our Holy Father Pope Francis has been following the situation closely. He encouraged dialogue to find out the way for peace and reconciliation among all different parties in violence," he said. The nuncio also hailed the local Church for its active participation in "humanitarian assistance to the needy and displaced people who have had to leave their homes and villages due to the conflict situation."

Indian Christians welcome top court's move on persecution

(5-9-22) Christian leaders have for directing the states to verify persecution against the community government refuted their complaints "We are satisfied with the Supreme Peter Machado of the Archdiocese of Bengaluru) told UCA News on Sept. based in Bengaluru, capital of state, is one of the petitioners in the (PIL) that sought direction to end the persecution against Christians in the country.



lauded India's top court allegations of people after the federal as baseless.- Court order," Archbishop Bangalore (now 5. Archbishop Machado, southern Karnataka public interest litigation

A division bench comprising Justice D.Y. Chandrachud and Justice Hima Kohli in an interim order directed chief secretaries of eight states to verify allegations of persecution of Christians listed in the PIL. The verification, the court said, would help it know the reality after the federal government described the incidents listed in the PIL as fake cases and urged the court to dismiss the petition. The top court in its Sept. 1 order also directed the states to provide information such as preliminary police reports, status of investigation, arrests made and charges filed. The top court also directed the petitioners to provide a detailed breakdown of the incidents of violence indicated in the PIL to the office of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta within four weeks. The court also ordered to complete the verification process within two months in view of the gravity of the allegations and file an affidavit before it. The federal ministry of Home Affairs has been authorized to collect the verification reports from eight states.

"We have filed detailed reports of persecution against Christians from 22 states in our PIL. The Supreme Court, however, has sought details from eight states such as Bihar, Haryana, Chhattisgarh,

Jharkhand, Odisha, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh regarding more than 20 cases of violence against Christians that were reported,” said A. C. Michael, another petitioner. “It is a very satisfactory order and it will help bring out the truth. We have submitted complete documents related to each case to the top court,” Michael told UCA News on Sept. 5. Archbishop Machado, the National Solidarity Forum and the Evangelical Fellowship of India in their petition said on average 45 to 50 violent attacks take place against Christian institutions and priests every month throughout India. The petitioners sought direction from the top court to end such violence and seek protection for community members.

China jails Tibetan monks for Dalai Lama photos

(5-9-22) Authorities in communist China have handed down jail terms to two Tibetan monks, Tenzin Dhargye, in his 30's, and Rigste, for allegedly possessing photos of Tibet's supreme spiritual leader, Dalai Lama, on their -phones, according to Radio Free Asia (RFA). They were charged with “separatist acts” for keeping photos of Dalai Lama, who has been living in exile in India since 1959, on their phones. Their sentence came two years after their detention. China considers displaying Dalai Lama's photos, celebrating his birthday, and sharing his teachings as punishable offenses.



6-9-22

Love is the most essential trait, Pope tells Caritas Spain

(6-9-22) On September 5, Pope Francis received a delegation from Caritas Spain. In his address, the Pope reflected on three challenges identified by the organization: to “work on the basis of capacities and potential, accompanying processes”; “to take meaningful action”; and “to be a channel for the action of the ecclesial community.”

Chinese leader to visit Kazakhstan; possible meeting with Pope?

(6-9-22) Chinese President Xi Jinping will be in Kazakhstan next week, while Pope Francis is scheduled to be in the country—raising the possibility of a meeting between the Pontiff and the Chinese leader. Xi is scheduled to meet Kazakhstan's President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev on September 14. Pope Francis is expected in the country from September 13-15, to participate in the 7th Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions.

The Vatican has not mentioned any possibility of a meeting between Xi and the Pope. The Vatican is currently negotiating with Beijing about the possible extension of a secret accord governing the appointment of new Chinese bishops.

Irish schoolteacher jailed; refused to use gender-neutral pronouns

(6-9-22) An Irish schoolteacher has been jailed for contempt of court, after he violated an injunction that barred him from approach the school where he taught. He had been suspended from his teaching assignment because he refused to use “gender-neutral” pronouns.

Enoch Burke, an Evangelical Protestant, said: “It is insanity that I will be led from this courtroom to a place of incarceration, but I will not give up my Christian beliefs.”

German archdiocese plans lay role in choice of new archbishop

(6-9-22) The Archdiocese of Paderborn, Germany, is forming a group of lay people who will play a role in the nomination of a new archbishop.

The plan for involving lay participation in the choice of an archbishop matches the recommendation of the German bishops' Synodal Path. It also has the support of the current head of the Paderborn archdiocese, Archbishop Hans-Josef Becker, who has already submitted his resignation although he

will not turn 75 until next June.
The lay members of the selection panel were chosen by lot.

Cardinal Nichols congratulates new prime minister and addresses cost of living crisis

(6-9-22) "I offer my congratulations to leader of the Conservative Party and appointment as Prime Minister," said Westminster. "I wish to assure the prayerful support."
a time when many crises have to be the world," he continued. "Prominent the cost of living."



Liz Truss on her election as her consequent Cardinal Vincent Nichols of Prime Minister of my "Her appointment comes at faced, at home and across among them is the crisis in

Syriac Orthodox Church replaces archbishop, nine years after kidnapping

(6-9-22) The Syriac Orthodox Church has announced the selection of Boutros Kassis to become Archbishop of Aleppo, replacing Archbishop Yohanna Ibrahim, who has been missing since he was kidnapped in April 2013.

Ukrainian Orthodox archbishop brings flock into Catholic Church

(6-9-22) The *Pillar* tells the story of Archbishop Ihor Isichenko, who has brought his Ukrainian Orthodox diocese into communion with Rome. The process began in 2015. Long before the current war, which has deepened divisions among the competing Ukrainian Orthodox hierarchies, Archbishop Isichenko concluded that the best hope for unity among Eastern Christians in Ukrainian was the Byzantine-rite Ukrainian Catholic Church, with which the parishes of his diocese are now affiliated.

Cardinal Zenari: Let's not allow Syria to become a 'beggar-nation'

(6-9-22) "Let's give a voice to Syria," said Cardinal Mario Zenari, apostolic nuncio to Syria, as he reflected on the devastation wrought by the Syrian civil war. "Syria has no voice. It has lost everything, and hope is dying."

Nigeria - Kidnappings and murders: Bishop of Abakaliki complains about lack of security

(6-9-22) "We no longer believe that the current government has the capacity to restore security," said Bishop Peter Nworie Chukwu of Abakaliki, capital of Ebonyi State in south-eastern Nigeria, to journalists in Abakaliki on the occasion of the founding of the Catholic Media Practitioners Association (CAMPAN).

Bishop Chukwu added that the main reason Nigerians are disappointed in the federal government is its inability to fight crime in the country. Referring to the numerous kidnappings and murders of which priests have also become victims, Bishop Chukwu said: "I am very concerned that priests have also become the target of kidnappers and murderers". "We have lost so many priests in the North, in the Middle Belt and also in the Southeast," he laments. "It's worrying. The persecutions show that what priests stand for and what we preach reaches the consciences of those who attack us, but instead of repenting, they choose to respond with murder, kidnapping, torture and the destruction of our churches."

South Sudan - Bishop Lodiong: "Country is plagued by conflicts"

(6-9-22) "Murders and violence are still ongoing, although not as frequent as in 2016-2018. There are street raids and robberies by armed men, killing of peasants on their farms by armed shepherds (especially in the Equatoria region), cold-blooded killings of clerics and perceived political opponents, lengthy imprisonments without trial of suspected criminals. Recently, a new rebel movement called the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SSPLM) has emerged in Upper Nile State, many people have lost their lives in recent months. In the face of such atrocities, the country's politicians must show

political maturity by ensuring security, engaging in dialogue as the best way to resolve disputes, improving basic necessities in education, health and food production, and stopping harassment to civilians by military personnel". This is how Bishop Alex Loding of Yei, in South Sudan, expresses his concern at the situation in his home country.

Ivory Coast – Child protection: Ivorian missionary wants to support children and young people

(6-9-22) Father Raoul Kouamé, a priest from the Diocese of Agboville, a town in southern Côte d'Ivoire, was inspired by Jesus' words 'Let the little children come to me, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to them'" (Matthew 19:14) and founded an organization called "Children Rights Watch Côte d'Ivoire", dedicated to children and to protect their rights.

"We want to work in the field of school education, contributing to the support of minors whose parents are in economic need, especially in rural areas; we want to set up literacy centres and promote the reintegration of young people in difficulty into social life through vocational training", he emphasized. For the school year that opens on September 10, Father Kouamé's commitment is aimed at the Anzankouamékro area, in Iffou, in the center-east of the country, where textbooks will be made available to children and young people who cannot buy them.



Congregation marks St.Teresa's 25th death anniversary

(6-9-22) The 25th death anniversary of St. Mother Teresa, the founder of Missionaries of Charity (MC), was commemorated with special Eucharistic celebrations and prayers at her tomb and the distribution of food packets among the poor in different parts of India.

"Besides continuing with our regular apostolate our sisters went on the streets of Kolkata and distributed food packets to the poor and the needy on Sept. 5," said Sister Christy MC. Mother Teresa died of cardiac arrest on Sept. 5, 1997. Speaking from the Mother House, the headquarters of the

congregation in Kolkata, the capital city of eastern West Bengal state, Sister Christy told UCA News on Sept. 6: "We opened a new daycare centre for school dropouts and other children who roam around Park Street in the state capital, as part of our jubilee-e celebration."

The centre will provide nutritious food, clothes and other basic requirements for the children and also arrange drawing classes and vocational courses depending on their abilities and affinity, she added.

Church relief pops up amid raging floods in Pakistan

(6-9-22) Catholic and Protestant churches have set up flood relief camps as the death toll from unprecedented flooding passed 1,300, with a third of the victims said to be children.

Record monsoon rains and melting glaciers in northern mountains have brought floods that have affected 33 million people and killed at least 1,300, including 453 children. The inundation, blamed on climate change, is still spreading.

Catholic nuns in Lahore are running a fundraising camp outside St. Mary's Church where students help them collect donations, grocery items and clothes. Franciscan Sister of the Heart of Jesus Rabail Shakeel led six students of St. Francis Convent High School to run the camp on Sept. 5. The grade-eight teacher placed the donation box on the altar cloth. "The nuns take the evening shift for two hours till 7:30 pm. The morning shift is assigned for different schools. Announcements were also made last week in Church-run schools for donations. All items will be handed over to the parish priest on Sept. 11," she told UCA News.

Suicides spur Church support for S. Korea's poor

(6-9-22) Church groups in South Korea have vowed to accelerate efforts to fill gaps in government schemes to support poor people after the suicide of a mother and two daughters sparked outrage across the country.

Officials from Seoul Archdiocese have committed to intervening to assist poor people after three members of the family committed suicide, Catholic Peace Broadcasting Corporation (CPBC) reported on Sept. 4. The family committed suicide in their apartment in Suwon, Gyeonggi province on Aug. 21 allegedly due to their dire financial situation and poor health. The mother had left a suicide note saying that “life was difficult due to chronic illness and debt.”

Lee Byung-wook, president of the Korean branch of the international Catholic voluntary organization, the Society of St. Vincent De Paul, stressed the need for active reporting and communication among parishioners to- discover vulnerable people. Father Kim Chang-hae, director of the Social Evangelization Bureau of Suwon Diocese lamented the deaths and vowed to take up countermeasures to reduce such incidents.

Bishops join Indian fishermen’s anti-port protests

(6-9-22) Catholic bishops joined protesting Indian fishermen in a day’s hunger strike to oppose a multi-billion dollar port project in the southern state of Kerala.

The hunger strike at the Vizhinjam Adani port construction site on Sept. 5 was launched by a Muslim cleric, Palayam Imam V.P. Suhaib Moulavi, who pledged support to the just cause of fishermen in Kerala.

Archbishop Emeritus Soosa Pakiam of the Latin Archdiocese of Trivandrum joined the hunger strike along with Archbishop

Thomas J. Netto and Auxiliary Bishop Christudas Rajappan. The three bishops spent the entire day at the venue of protest without food and water in solidarity with the fishermen and vowed to intensify the protest as the government refused to accept their demand for halting the construction work until an impartial environment impact assessment of the port construction is done.



Dozens killed, rescue on after China quake

(6-9-22) Rescuers scoured through rubble for hundreds of missing people in parts of southwestern China on Tuesday after an earthquake killed more than 60, as local weather services warned rain was set to inundate the area.

The magnitude 6.6 quake hit about 43 kilometres (26 miles) southeast of the city of Kangding in Sichuan province at a depth of 10 kilometres on Monday, according to the US Geological Survey. At least 65 people were killed, state media reported Tuesday morning, with more than 200 still trapped in a remote scenic area and scores missing elsewhere.

UN envoy won't return until allowed to meet Suu Kyi

(6-9-22) The UN's Myanmar special envoy Noelez Heyzer vowed on 5 September not to visit the country again unless she is allowed to meet ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi, after a heavily-criticised trip to meet the junta.

Diplomatic efforts to resolve Myanmar's bloody impasse led by the UN and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations regional bloc have made little headway, with the generals refusing to engage with opponents.

7-9-22

Pope, at audience, offers St. Ignatius as model of discernment

(7-9-22) Pope Francis proposed St. Ignatius of Loyola as a model as he continued his series of talks on discernment at his General Audience on September 7. Here is the Pope’s talk in summary.

In our continuing catechesis on *discernment*, the process of making sound decisions about the meaning and direction of our lives, we now consider the witness of Saint Ignatius of Loyola. As a young soldier, Ignatius was gravely wounded in battle. During his long convalescence, he was unable to read his favorite novels of chivalry and heroic exploits. The only books at hand were the lives of the saints. Reading them, at first reluctantly, Ignatius came to realize that the stories of the saints brought him lasting joy and happiness, while the other stories left him ultimately arid and empty. This insight was the origin of the method of prayer and discernment that Ignatius left us in his celebrated *Spiritual Exercises*. There he speaks of the importance of distinguishing between worldly and spiritual thoughts, cultivating the latter, and allowing them, by God's grace, to mature within our hearts. In time, then, we come to discern in prayer the often unexpected signs by which God makes himself known to us, leads us to conversion and shows us his will for our lives.



Pope makes special appeal in favour of mothers

(7-9-22) Reminding the audience of the feast of the birth of Mary of 8 September, the Pope said: "Tomorrow we will celebrate the feast of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary. Mary experienced God's tenderness as a daughter, full of grace, and went on to give this tenderness as a mother, through union with the mission of her Son Jesus.

"Therefore, today I wish to express my closeness to all mothers. In a special way, to those mothers who have children

who suffer: those who are sick, those who are marginalized, those who are imprisoned. A special prayer goes to the mothers of young detainees: let hope never be lacking. Unfortunately, in prisons there are many people who take their own life, at times also young people. A mother's love can save them from this danger. May Our Lady console all mothers distressed by the suffering of their children."

Praying for 'martyred Ukraine', Pope urges halt to 'world war'

(7-9-22) "I am not forgetting the martyred Ukraine," Pope Francis said on September 7, at his general audience. "Faced with all the war scenarios of our time, I ask everyone to be builders of peace and to pray that thoughts and projects of harmony and reconciliation may spread throughout the world. Today we are living through a world war, let us stop please."

New British health secretary questioned for pro-life stand

(7-9-22) Therese Coffey, the health minister in the newly formed British government, is facing criticism because of her pro-life stand. "It's not that I'm seeking to undo any aspects of abortion laws," said Coffey, who is Catholic. But her critics point to her pro-life voting record in Parliament.

California assisted-suicide law violates free speech rights of objecting doctors, court rules

(7-9-22) "The ultimate outcome of this requirement is that non-participating providers are compelled to participate in the Act through this documentation requirement, despite their objections to assisted suicide," a US federal district court ruled, as it decided that California cannot force Christian doctors to participate in assisted suicide.

Vatican sends papal nuncio expelled by Nicaragua to Africa

(7-9-22) Six months after Nicaragua expelled Archbishop Waldemar Sommertag (the apostolic nuncio), Pope Francis has named him nuncio to four African nations: Senegal, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, and Mauritania.

Irish bishop critiques national synod report

(7-9-22) Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan of Waterford and Lismore has critiqued the national synthesis document that followed diocesan synod consultations in Ireland.

"A number of things emerge from the Synthesis which challenge Church teaching which she has held since the beginning," he said. "There is little or no mention of the poor, the sick, the homeless, drug abuse, the environment (and this after a lot of work on Laudato Si), the unborn, the housing crisis, the Word of God, - the social and ecumenical outreach of the Church. This is very revealing and very disturbing."

"I believe that we need to observe where the Church is flourishing in Ireland, where people, especially the youth, are being formed in character and in the Faith," he added. "In contrast there are others who continually pump out their negativity, disappointment and desperation but have little else to offer. They have no growth."

Jesuits remain in Mexican mountains after priests' killings

(7-9-22) Two Jesuits were recently murdered, and two others injured, in a mountain community in northern Mexico; a local drug gang is suspected in the attack. Other members of the order remain in the area and are protected by military escorts.

South Sudan: bishop says there are no functioning schools in his diocese

(7-9-22) Bishop Alex Lodiog of Yei, a city of 260,000 in South Sudan, described the dire situation in his region of the nation, two years after the official end of the South Sudanese Civil War.

"There are street raids and robberies by armed men, killing of peasants on their farms by armed shepherds, cold-blooded killings of clerics and perceived political opponents, lengthy imprisonments without trial of suspected criminals," he said.

"Only high-ranking government officials, high-ranking army officers and employees of international non-governmental organizations (especially the UN) can afford a decent living," he added. "In some areas of South Sudan, including my diocese, there are no functioning schools, and children born in the last 10 years have never attended school."

Vatican - Every Bishop is part of the network of the Pontifical Mission Societies

(7-9-22) "It is important and cooperates in the for the Propagation of establishes a close the National Director and Pontifical Mission and cooperation bear use of ordinary and ceived by POPF is also Tadeusz Nowak, OMI, Pontifical Missionary Society for Propagation of the Faith, speaking at the Seminar for new Bishops-, organized in Rome by the Dicastery for Evangelization.



that each Bishop collaborates work of the Pontifical Society the Faith (POPF) and relationship of communion with the diocesan directors of the Societies (PMS). Joint action good fruit. Transparency in the extraordinary subsidies re- important", underlined Fr. Secretary General of the

Bishops in Ethiopia "deeply saddened" by resumption of fighting in Tigray

(7-9-22) Ethiopian and Eritrean troops are fighting against a separatist coalition in the Tigray War, which began in 2020.

The atrocious conflict underway in Tigray continues in the worst ways. After a brief respite, the fighting resumed on August 24, and is expanding rapidly. There is news of the involvement of a new terrorist group linked to the TPLF, the Tigray Popular Liberation Front, together with the terrorist groups Al Shabab and Shene (OLA). According to sources from the Ethiopian federal government, it is the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF).

"There is deep concern about a possible escalation of the conflict, now resumed with force and the

possible involvement of other Ethiopian peoples" says a religious source, who for security reasons asks for anonymity. The source is deeply concerned and also added "we hope that the Oromo people will seek the path of democratic dialogue and not that of arms".

The situation is unsustainable. Hunger continues to claim victims, especially after the seizure of 12 tankers full of fuel from the deposits of the World Food Program without which it is impossible to bring humanitarian aid to the population.

From a further contact in Somalia the news emerged with concern: "what happens to the Somalis of Ogaden is very much felt in the country, a large part of the population feels it is land occupied by Ethiopians and they see the OLF favourably".

Canada - The children of Papua New Guinea at the center of the 2022-2023 Projet-Partage

(7-9-22) More than 130 children from Papua New Guinea will benefit from the scholastic support of the Projet-Partage 2022-2023 of the Pontifical Society of Missionary Childhood (POSI) of the national direction of the Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS) of French-speaking Canada here known as Mond'Ami.

--Mozambique - Nun killed by terrorists



(7-9-22) Sister Maria De Coppi, an 84-year-old Comboni nun, was killed by in a terrorist attack on a mission school in Mozambique. Sister Maria, who had served in Africa for nearly 60 years, was shot and killed as the attackers—believed to be affiliated with the Islamic State—destroyed a church, clinic, and school in Chipene, in the north of the country.

China - The diocese of Zhouzhi celebrates ninety years of evangelization by renewing its missionary commitment

(7-9-22) May the celebration of 90 years of life of the diocese of Zhouzhi, in the province of Shaanxi, in mainland China, "be an opportunity to renew our missionary commitment while remaining faithful to our baptismal vocation". Thus Bishop Joseph Wu Qinjing of the diocese of Zhouzhi encouraged the faithful during the solemn Eucharistic celebration for the ninety years of the diocese, on the feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary Queen, on August 22.

The Bishop urged the faithful to "take up pastoral care with love and concrete initiative and support the development of the diocese". He also exhorted all to "pray for the vocations of the Church".

Hong Kong convicts five of sedition over children's books

(7-9-22) Five Hong Kong unionists were found guilty of sedition on 7 September for producing a series of illustrated children's books that portrayed the city's democracy supporters as sheep defending their village from wolves.

The convictions are the latest using a colonial-era sedition offence which authorities have deployed alongside a new national security law to stamp out dissent.

The prosecution focused on members of a speech therapists' union who produced three illustrated e-books aimed at explaining Hong Kong's democracy movement to children.

Xi Jinping's China muzzles dissent with house arrests

(7-9-22) China's communist regime under President Xi Jinping has suppressed and abused thousands of people including rights defenders and government critics arbitrarily and repeatedly with house arrests by exploiting a draconian criminal law, says a rights watchdog.

Madrid-based Safeguard Defenders released a 46-page report titled "Home Becomes Prison – China's expanding use of house arrests under Xi Jinping" on Sept. 6. The report, based on testimonies of the victims, accused Beijing of misusing the Criminal Procedure Law and violating human

rights by crushing dissent with house arrests and other forms of abuses. House arrests in China under President Xi will mark 1 million soon, says Safeguard Defenders.

Vietnam theology students urged to preach the gospel

(7-9-22) Theology students in Hanoi archdiocese, in northern Vietnam, have been encouraged to work hard to practice faith and bring God to other people ahead of the new school year. On Sept. 5, over 100 students in their own habits from various congregations and institutions based in the archdiocese attended the opening ceremony of the new academic year at the Archbishop's House.

Archbishop Joseph Vu Van Thien, the institute's rector, said at the inaugural Mass priests, religious, and the laity have to study "to know God, live out faith, and introduce God of love to other people." The archbishop thanked students and teachers for completing the first courses last year although they had to deal with the prolonged Covid-19 pandemic.

Typhoon death toll rises to 10 in South Korea

(7-9-22) The death toll from Typhoon Hinnamnor rose to 10 in South Korea, authorities said on 7 September, after the storm battered the southern coast with huge waves and heavy rain this week.

The typhoon, one of the most powerful to hit the country in decades, flooded streets and buildings as it passed through on 5 and 6 September.

In the southeastern port city of Pohang -- one of the hardest-hit areas -- seven bodies and two survivors were pulled out of the submerged underground parking lot of an apartment complex, the Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasures Headquarters said.



8-9-22

Pope tells Vatican diplomats: world faces “third world war fought piecemeal”

(8-9-22) Pope Francis lamented the prospect of a “third world war fought piecemeal,” and expressed special concern about the war in Ukraine, in a September 8 address to diplomatic representatives of the Holy See.

The Pope welcomed the apostolic nuncios and other Vatican diplomats, who were gathered for the first time in three years. He acknowledged that Covid lockdowns had interfered with their work, but voiced the hope that “the worst may be behind us, and thank God we are able to meet.”

In a clear reference to the fighting in Ukraine, the Pope said that “Europe and the entire world are shaken by a particularly serious war, due to the violation of international law, the risks of nuclear escalation, and the grave economic and social consequences.”

Australia’s bishops unveil gender and identity guide for schools

(8-9-22) “The Catholic Church showed real courage this week issuing advice to its schools to avoid sending kids for irreversible ‘gender affirmation’ treatments,” the national director of the Family First Party said in commenting on the Australian bishops’ 12-page guide, Created and Loved. “However, their advice may be in breach of the law in three jurisdictions, and political activists know it.”

Missionary group denies charge of funding terrorists in Philippines

(8-9-22) The Rural Missionaries of the Philippines (RMP) have called upon the country’s government to withdraw legal charges against the 16 men and women members of the group, who are accused of funding terrorists. Father Wilfredo Dulay of the Missionary Disciples of Jesus said that the “absurd accusations” were an attempt to thwart the work of the RMP, which “has often documented abuses and violations of human rights. across the country, to the detriment of indigenous peoples.”

Holy See diplomat speaks out against nuclear tests

(8--9-22) Msgr. Robert Murphy, chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations, addressed a UN meeting on the International Day against Nuclear Tests. Msgr. Murphy lamented the “deleterious effects of ionizing radiation resulting from such explosions, which have a disproportionate impact on women, girls, and the unborn. In the Pacific, on the steppe, in the arctic, and in desert environs, local populations—almost always indigenous communities or non-self-governing peoples—witnessed helplessly as nuclear testing contaminated the natural surroundings that enabled them to be nourished and kept healthy.” “This contamination coincided with land confiscation, forced displacement, the desecration of cultural heritage, and debilitating public health issues, including birth defects, leukemia, and thyroid disease,” he added.

Vatican -Secretary of State sees ‘major crisis of solidarity in our societies’

(8-9-22) Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Holy See’s Secretary of State, delivered a virtual address to the International Conference of Cohesive Societies, founded in 2019 at the initiative of Singapore’s president.

“From the dignity, unity, and equality of all persons derives, first of all, the principle of the common good to which every aspect of social life must be related if it is to attain its fullest meaning,” said Cardinal Parolin. “Solidarity entails overcoming the damaging consequences of selfishness in order to make way for the bravery of listening gestures. In this sense, solidarity is thus a means of creating history.”

Vatican Library invites world’s scholars to read, contribute to new journal

(8-9-22) The new Vatican Library Review “aspires to be an attractive place to publish high-quality, peer-reviewed research” characterized by “scientific rigor and cross-cultural dialogue,” said Cardinal José Tolentino de Mendonca, Vatican librarian and archivist.

Following riots, Iraq’s Christian-led political parties seek collaboration

(8-9-22) Fears of a civil war in Iraq are growing following clashes in Baghdad. As a result, “some of the small and divided political parties, led by Christian politicians, are trying to find forms of coordination to face together the new threat,” the Fides news agency reported.

Mozambique - "The population is disoriented" says the Archbishop of Nampula after the assault on the mission and the murder of Sister Maria

(8-9-22) "She is a martyr of the Faith", says Archbishop Inacio Saure of Nampula, upon hearing the message of vindication of the self-styled Islamic State (ISIS) about the murder of four Christians, including the Comboni missionary Sister Maria De Coppi in the assault on the Chipene mission on the night of September 6. According to the BBC, ISIS claims to have killed the nun because she was "too committed to spreading Christianity".

"If the statement is authentic, then Sister Maria is truly a martyr for the faith", says Archbishop Saure in an interview with Agenzia Fides, who expresses his concern that the province of Nampula seems to have been targeted by jihadists, whose activities had so far focused on the neighbouring province of Cabo Delgado. "Since the beginning of September there have been attacks in our province", he said. "The population is disoriented and suffers a lot because they live in uncertainty and do not know what to do, many are fleeing but do not know where to go", says Archbishop Saure.

Paraguay - Young journalist murdered: Bishops call for protection of freedom of expression

(8-9-22) "The State must guarantee and protect the right to freedom of expression. This is all the more true in a scenario of great danger, otherwise organized crime, drug trafficking and atrocities will inexorably increase", said the Episcopal Conference of Paraguay in a statement published on

September 7, on the murder of a 33-year-old journalist Humberto Andres Coronel Godoy, shot dead by two men on motorcycles on 6 September, near his place of work, when he was getting into his car.

Indian police raid Protestant bishop's house

(8-9-22) The office and residence of a Protestant bishop in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh were raided by sleuths from the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) who reportedly seized unaccounted cash from the premises.

Federal officials in a Sept. 8 press release said Bishop P. C. Singh of the Church of North India (CNI) Jabalpur diocese is accused of swindling money worth over 27 million rupees (some US\$338,000) collected as school fees from the diocesan schools.

--Officials from New Delhi and a special wing of the state police dealing with economic offenses seized cash worth 16 million rupees in Indian currency and foreign currency worth US\$250 from the bishop's house, an official who was part of the raid told UCA News.

Bishop Singh was not in town at the time of the raid as he is reportedly out of India.

The press note did not name the complainant but said the bishop is also accused of other offenses such as cheating and forgery to change the leadership of the diocesan education board, besides swindling the diocesan funds.



Five Afghan girls' schools reopen due to student demands

(8-9-22) Five government secondary schools for girls have resumed classes in eastern Afghanistan after hundreds of students demanded they reopen, a provincial official said on 8 September. Officially the Taliban have banned girls' secondary school education, but the order has been ignored in a few parts of Afghanistan away from the central power bases of Kabul and Kandahar.

Mohammad Wali Ahmadi, principal of Shashgar High School in

Gardez, told AFP around 300 girls had returned to school since last week despite there being no change in official policy.

9-9-22

German bishops fail to approve Synodal Way's call to change Catholic teaching on sexual morality

(9-9-22) 33 of 57 German bishops voted to approve the Synodal Way's call to change Catholic teaching on sexual morality—five votes shy of the two-thirds majority required for the motion to pass. The proposed statement won approval by more than two-thirds of the voters, but the voting system required a two-thirds majority of the bishops for final approval.

The 30-page document said that it is “urgently necessary to overcome some of the restrictions in questions of sexuality, for reasons of sexual science as well as theology.” It called for changes in Church teaching on homosexuality, and said that “it will not be possible to reorient pastoral care without re-defining the emphasis of the Church's sexual teaching to a significant degree.”

Bishop Georg Bätzing, president of the German bishops' conference, decried his brother bishops' failure to approve the motion and said that it created a “crisis-like atmosphere,” and showed that “synodality has not gone far enough.” He indicated that he plans to present the statement to the Synod of Bishops despite the absence of approval.

Irme Stetter-Karp, the lay co-chair of the Synodal Path, complained that “there are bishops in this assembly who are not prepared to voice their opinions,” suggesting that some bishops voted against the measure despite their personal support for the proposed changes. She said that the setback made her question whether her commitment to the cause of change in the Church “is the right investment of time.”

Pope, in message to World Council of Churches, renews call for reconciliation among Christians

(9-9-22) “How can we credibly proclaim the Gospel of reconciliation without also being committed, as Christians, to promoting reconciliation among ourselves?” Pope Francis asked in a message to the 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches. “Reconciliation among Christians is the fundamental prerequisite for the credible mission of the Church.”

350 Protestant and Orthodox communities are members of the World Council of Churches, which is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. The Holy See sent an official delegation of nearly 20 members to the Assembly, which took place in Karlsruhe, Germany.

Pope trusts Solesmes Congregation to make its own decisions about extraordinary form, abbot says

(9-9-22) On September 5, Pope Francis received Abbot Geoffrey Kemlin, the new abbot of St. Peter’s Abbey in Solesmes, France, who sought clarification about the implementation of Traditionalist Custodes within the Solesmes Congregation.

The abbey, since its restoration under Dom Prosper Guéranger (1805-75), has been a centre of Gregorian chant. The sacred liturgy is celebrated in Latin, according to the ordinary form, though some monasteries in the Solesmes Congregation celebrate the sacred liturgy in the extraordinary form.

“I am 2,000 kilometers from your monastery,” Pope Francis said, according to the abbot. “You are a monk, and discernment is characteristic of monks. I don’t say ‘yes’ or ‘no’ to you, but I let you discern and make your decision.”

Solesmes Abbey, Abbot Kemlin noted, has experienced a decline in vocations in recent decades. The number of monks has fallen from 100 to 42 over the past 40 years; the number of novices has fallen from 25 to four since 1995.

Pope, Church leaders mourn death of Queen Elizabeth II

(9-9-22) Following the death of Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom, Pope Francis sent a telegram of condolence to King Charles III.

“I willingly join all who mourn her loss in praying for the late Queen’s eternal rest, and in paying tribute to her life of unstinting service to the good of the Nation and the Commonwealth, her example of devotion to duty, her steadfast witness of faith in Jesus Christ and her firm hope in his promises,” the Pope said.

“Commending her noble soul to the merciful goodness of our Heavenly Father, I assure Your Majesty of my prayers that Almighty God will sustain you with his unfailing grace as you now take up your high responsibilities as King,” he added.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster and president of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales, also issued a statement upon her death, as did the Bishops’ Conference of Scotland and Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh (Northern Ireland), the Primate of All Ireland.



Cardinal Müller critiques Pontifical Academy for Life’s text on contraception

(9-9-22) In analyzing a recent publication of the Pontifical Academy for Life, Cardinal Gerhard Müller, the former Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (2012-17), said that “ the document directly contradicts the Church’s received teaching without even making attempts at engaging this teaching on its own terms.”

The co-author of Cardinal Müller’s critique is Stephan Kampowski, professor of philosophical anthropology at the Pontifical Theological John Paul II Institute for Marriage and the Family Sciences.

Papal message for International Literacy Day

(9-9-22) Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Holy See's Secretary of State, has sent a message in the Holy Father's name to the director-general of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for International Literacy Day.

"The Pope exhorts us to find a global convergence in view of an education that brings about an alliance between all the components of the person: between study and life; between generations; between teachers, students, families and civil society, according to their intellectual, scientific, artistic, athletic, political, entrepreneurial and solidarity-related expressions," Cardinal Parolin wrote.

First public Mass in 10 years in Islamic-controlled Syria

(9-9-22) Mass was recently celebrated in a church in Syria's Idlib province for the first time in ten years, with the approval of the Islamic militants who control the province.

The church of St. Anne, in the village of Yacoubia, had been seized by the same Islamic militants ten years ago, when they took over the region. The leaders' decision to allow Christian worship is seen as a bid to improve their international image.

Scotland should be 'caring for people, not killing them,' Church spokesman says

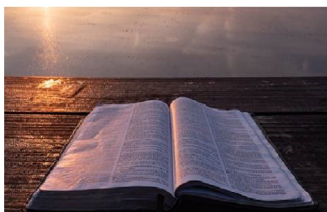
(9-9-22) In response to an assisted suicide bill in the Scottish Parliament, Anthony Horan, director of the Catholic Parliamentary Office, said that the legislation is "frankly dangerous. It risks undermining the provision of palliative care and undermining efforts to prevent suicide it will make the most vulnerable people, including the elderly and disabled, feel like a burden and its safeguards will prove futile."

"The Catholic Church would urge Scottish politicians to learn of the dangers that have already been seen abroad, particularly intolerable pressure on the vulnerable, disabled or elderly to end their lives prematurely," he added.

Hong Kong - The Association for small communities of faith on the synodal path: evangelization, appreciation of the laity, deepening of the faith

(9-9-22) Share evangelization in the diaspora, evaluate the development of Communities of Faith to unite the laity, continue promoting the Association to transmit the faith in parishes and in the various realities of the Church: with these objectives, marking the synodal path that the entire Church is following, the Catholic Development Association for Small Communities of Faith, (SCF celebrated its anniversary.

Father Paul Kam Po Wai, Vicar General of the diocese, brought his experience of three years of mission of evangelization in Cambodia, where he went at the age of 50. According to the director of the Association, "The laity are better able to face the challenges and, consequently, small communities also benefit from them. With the formation of small Communities, the faith of Christians in the Church is strengthened, the spiritual and evangelizing mission is strengthened, and this helps to live the mission of the Church with greater impetus".



America - Communities united by social media for in-depth study and prayerful reading of God's Word

(9-9-22) On the occasion of the "Month of the Bible", which many Latin American countries traditionally celebrate in September, and which culminates on the 30th with the feast of St. Jerome, the first translator of the Holy Scriptures into Latin, several initiatives are being carried out, at the national, diocesan and parish

levels, to spread knowledge and prayerful meditation on the Word of God, in many cases using the Internet.

In addition to the activities planned by the Church of Peru, the Biblical-Catechetical Animation Commission of the National Conference of Bishops of Brazil (CNBB) proposes the prayerful reading

of the Book of Joshua helped by experts. The Department of Catechesis and Biblical Animation of the Episcopal Conference of Colombia has organized for every Wednesday of the month of September a cycle of conferences on various topics, which are presented by well-known specialists. "Forgiveness: challenge to the extreme" (Lk 17,3-4) is the theme of the "Cycle of prayerful readings" organized by the Department of Biblical and Pastoral Animation (DeNAPBi) of the Argentine Episcopal Conference.

The National Commission for Biblical Animation of the Episcopal Conference of Chile scheduled an opening mass for the "Month of the Word" on September 2. Special activities are scheduled for September 14 and 28.

Costa Rica - Consecrated life: "An open hand for all"

(9-9-22) "To be witnesses to the values of the Kingdom according to the experience of our charisms, in creative fidelity for the enrichment of our Church. Renew our commitment to a radically evangelical life, in closeness and solidarity with the poor, in defence of those who experience injustice and oppression, being an open hand for all". These are two of the challenges that emerged at the National Meeting of Consecrated Life in Costa Rica, recently held in Limon on the theme "Consecrated Life in Synodality".

Indonesian Christians decry stalled church project

(9-9-22) Opposition to the Protestant church came from an Islamist group wanting to promote Sharia law in Banten province

The denial of building permit to a Protestant church in Cilegon city in Indonesia's westernmost province of Banten goes against the spirit of religious moderation, Christian leaders say.

The Communion of Churches in Indonesia (PGI) criticized the refusal of permit for the construction of a church by the Batak Society Christian Church (HKBP) Maranatha in Geram village.

"This incident harms the 1945 Constitution, which guarantees equality of every citizen to adhere to a certain religion and to worship freely in accordance to their own religions," Reverend Jeirry Sumampow, a spokesman of PGI, said in a statement on Sept. 9.

Myanmar Catholics pray to Mary for peace

(9-9-22) Catholics, a minority in predominantly Buddhist Myanmar, have sought Marian intervention to bring peace to the country, which has been mired in humanitarian and political crises since the February 2021 military coup.

The Independent Catholics for Justice in Myanmar, a local group of priests, religious and laypeople, launched a novena prayer campaign ahead of the feast of the birth of Mary on Sept. 8. The group urged Catholics across the conflict-stricken country to take part in the prayer campaign with the aim of bringing peace and justice and building a federal democracy. Thousands of Catholics joined the nine-day prayer campaign and the feast day programmes, which were held in various parishes including those in Yangon and Mandalay. Some devotees wore saffron clothes and while some others joined without footwear to express their humility and their devotion to Mary, considered the spiritual mother of the Church.

St. Anthony Church in Yangon, the commercial hub of Myanmar, drew thousands to the Marian celebration.

Malaysian Church enters battle against plastic pollution

(9-9-22) The Catholic Church in Malaysia has kicked off a year-long campaign to protect the environment by tackling plastic pollution in the country.

Bishop Joseph Hii Teck Kwong of Sibulau launched the Protect Our Earth, Protect Our Children Campaign (PROTEC) campaign on Aug. 31 which will run from September 2022 to August next year, The Catholic Sabah news portal reported on Sept. 6. The theme for this year's campaign is "Stop Plastic Pollution."

PROTEC is a five-year campaign that takes inspiration from Pope Francis' environmental encyclical, *Laudato Si*, and is endorsed by the Malaysian Catholic bishops. It runs on different themes each year. The Archdiocese of Kota Kinabalu and the dioceses of Keningau and Sandakan are jointly coordinating the campaign across the country.

First cardinal vows to export Singapore's peace, harmony

(9-9-22) Cardinal William Goh has -vowed, during a thanksgiving Mass celebrating his elevation as a cardinal by Pope Francis, to promote the model of Singapore's peace and harmony among religions in Asia and the world.

"Singapore is an icon for religious harmony in the world, where religious leaders and government work hand in hand for the good of the society, instead of being at odds with each other," Cardinal Goh, 64, said during his homily at the Good Shepherd Cathedral on Sept. 8. He said he wants "to spread such peace and unity to the rest of Asia by fostering dialogue between different religions."

Top government ministers and officials including Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, some 23 leaders of various religions and religious organizations, and hundreds of Catholics attended the event.



Eritrean authorities round up teens from church service

(9-9-22) Places of worship have become the latest target for the forced roundup of Eritrean teens to serve as soldiers, in what clerics describe as a deteriorating situation.

For two years, 15- and 16-year-olds have been taken from towns and villages. Some are ending up on the front lines in the war in Ethiopia's northern state of Tigray, according to the sources.

"A few weeks ago (Eritrea) resumed the confiscation of schools run and owned by the Catholic Church. (As if) this was not enough, now there are roundups of young boys and girls aged 16 ... for compulsory military service without end," Father Mussie Zerai, a Catholic priest of Eritrean origin who works with migrants, told Catholic News Service Sept. 7.

"They do it in places of worship as happened last Sunday (Sept. 4) in the Eparchy of Segheneity, in the village in Akrur at the Catholic parish of Medhanie Alem," he said.

The priest said the soldiers arrived during Mass and surrounded the church to prevent anyone from escaping. They proceeded to take the teens by force, including all the boys of the choir in their uniforms, said the priest, pointing at photographs widely circulated on social media.

"These young people who end up in military training camps and then (would) be sent as slaughter fodder in the wars underway in the region, particularly in neighboring Ethiopia," said Father Zerai.

North Korea law allows for nuclear first strike

(9-9-22) North Korea has passed a law allowing it to carry out a preventive nuclear strike and declaring its status as a nuclear-armed state "irreversible", Pyongyang's official media said Friday. There is therefore a concern the country may resume nuclear tests.

10-9-22

Italy - Stories, testimonies and reflections on video for the missionary month

(10-9-22) There are eight videos of missionary animation developed and disseminated by the Missio Foundation (the Italian section of the Pontifical Mission Societies) and produced for the missionary month of October. These are stories, testimonies and comments on the theme of World Mission Sunday "You will be witnesses of me!" (Acts, 1,8) which will be published in the following days.

They are "Lives that speak", as the motto chosen by "Missio" for the next missionary October says, those told in these videos which are preceded by a first video "You will be witnesses-lives that speak

of me" shot in Rome at the complex of the Three Fountains in which Don Giuseppe Pizzoli, director of Missio, outlines the theme referring to the path of St. Paul.

Zimbabwe - The Christian Churches, a solid reference for the people in the post-Mugabe era

(10-9-22) "The new era that we all hoped would begin after Mugabe's fall in 2017 has not yet begun or at least the path is not going as expected. However, the situation is stabilizing and the government now seems more oriented towards development rather than militant ideology. The economy is still in a critical situation due to the sanctions that persist from the Mugabe era. But as relations with the entire international community improve, the situation should improve. And the Churches do their part to contribute to the development of the country and the well-being of the population." Frederick Chiromba, Secretary General of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Zimbabwe is confident, speaking almost five years after the end of the Robert Mugabe regime, in power in the Southern African country for almost 40 years.

Mozambique - The assault on the Chipene mission is part of a larger terrorist offensive

(10-9-22) The assault on the Chipene mission during which Sister Maria De Coppi was killed is not an isolated event, but is part of a progression of assaults conducted by the insurgents (probably linked to the self-proclaimed Province of the Islamic State in Mozambique) launched at the end of August, in the two northern provinces of Mozambique. What started in the north western Cabo Delgado province is now spreading east to the neighbouring Mapula province. The attackers hit defenseless civilians who were working in their fields, beheading them, with the clear intention of spreading terror among the residents.

11-9-22

Pope at Angelus: 'God always searches for us when we are lost'

(11-9-22) Greeting pilgrims in St. Peter's Square for the Sunday Angelus prayer, Pope Francis shared reflections on the day's Gospel reading, which presents three parables of mercy Jesus tells in response to the pharisees and scribes who complained about His welcoming sinners and eating with them.

The Pope said these parables reveal that God "excludes no one; He wants everyone at His banquet, because He loves everyone as His children."

The heart of today's message in these parables, the Pope pointed out, is that "God is the Father and comes in search of us whenever we are lost." The three protagonists in the parables - the shepherd who searches for the lost sheep, the woman who finds a lost coin and the father of the prodigal son - all show worry for the lost, the Pope observed. *"One who loves is concerned about the one who is missing, longs for who is absent, seeks who is lost, await who has gone astray. For he wants no-one to be lost."*

The Pope added that God does not "rest easy" and indeed is "grieved" if we stray from Him.

"He trembles in His innermost being; and He sets out to look for us, until He takes us back into His arms." He said the Lord never calculates losses or risks, but rather has "the heart of a father and a mother, and suffers for the lack of His beloved children."

Pope Francis: 'Cardinal Krajewski in Ukraine to show my closeness'

(11-9-22) Pope Francis renewed his prayers for the people of Ukraine amid the ongoing war, and said he had sent Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, the Prefect of the Dicastery for the Service of Charity, to the country to offer his and the Church's concrete closeness. This is the Cardinal's fourth visit to the country

Pope Francis' appeal comes as the situation at the Russian-held Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant continues to worry international experts.

Pope asks for prayers for 'pilgrimage of peace' to Kazakhstan.

(11-9-22) Pope Francis requests prayers for his Apostolic Journey to Kazakhstan, which starts on 13 September – “a pilgrimage of peace.” He travels to the Central Asian nation primarily to take part in the 7th Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, which will be held in Nur-Sultan on 14-15 September. Pope Francis’ visit to Kazakhstan marks his 38th Apostolic Journey abroad. He follows in the footsteps of St. John Paul II, who made the first papal visit to the nation in 2001.

Pope prays for Comboni missionary murdered in Mozambique, greets Ethiopia

(11-9-22) Pope Francis remembered in his thoughts and prayers Sister Maria de Coppi, a Comboni Missionary from Italy, who was killed in Chipene, Mozambique on 6 September night. “She served the people with love for nearly sixty years.” He prayed that “her witness may give strength and courage to Christians and to all the people of Mozambique.”

The Pope also offered special greetings to Ethiopians, marking their traditional New Year on Sunday.