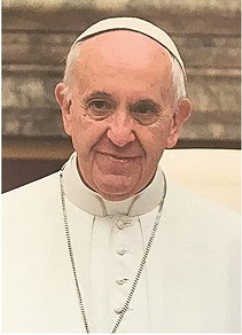


ATHOLIC WORLD LAST WEEK

(CWLW)

29 Aug-4 Sep 2022

29-8-22



'Be proud of your work,' Pope tells French altar servers

(29-8-22) "Your attitude during the celebrations is in itself an apostolate for those who see you," Pope Francis told over a thousand French altar servers during their pilgrimage to Rome. "If you carry out your service at the altar with joy, dignity, and with an attitude of prayer, you will certainly inspire in other young people the desire to commit themselves to the Church as well."

Be 'women of the Word' like Mary: papal remarks to Canossians

(29-8-22) On August 26, Pope Francis received participants in the general chapter of the Canossian Daughters of Charity, an institute founded by St. Magdalene of Canossa (1774-1835).

Pope to families: 'Never forget prayer, which keeps our faith alive'

(29-8-22) Pope Francis made his remarks on August 26 during an audience with members of the family of Pedro Maria Guimarães de Mello, a Portuguese entrepreneur.

Vatican's top liturgy official raps 'hysterical' reaction to restrictions on Latin Mass

(29-8-22) Cardinal Arthur Roche, the prefect of the Dicastery for Divine Worship, said during a Crux interview, that the reaction of papal restrictions on the traditional Latin Mass is "almost becoming hysterical," and that the question has become "politicized."

Cardinal Roche insisted that "there isn't too much of a restriction," and said that his office has made efforts to accommodate traditionalist groups. The cardinal emphasized that "the Church has decreed at its highest level of legislation, which is a council, an ecumenical council, it has decreed that the liturgy should be reformed," and called for unity in observing the Pope's directives.

'A true Salesian': papal praise for Italian priest who baptized him

(29-8-22) On August 26, Pope Francis received pilgrims from the Diocese of Lodi in Lombardy. The Pontiff paid tribute to Father Enrico Pozzoli, a Salesian missionary from Lodi who baptized him and later helped "the future Pope's parents accept his decision to become a priest," according to Vatican News.

Salvadoran cardinal sees 'very confused, delicate' situation in country's emergency

(29-8-22) Cardinal Gregorio Rosa Chavez described the situation in El Salvador as "very confused, delicate," during the state of emergency declared by President Nayib Bukele.

The presidential order came in response to a wave of gang killings. According to human-rights groups, as many as 50,000 people have been detained because of suspected gang connections.

Eritrea: government takes over Catholic schools

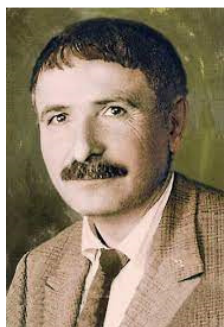
(29-8-22) The government of Eritrea has taken control of one Catholic school, and plans to take another, BBC reports. The government took control of a technical school previously run by the LaSalle Brothers, and in September will assume control of the Don Bosco Technical School.

Vatican - Bishop Scalabrini and layman Zatti will be canonized on October 9th

(29-8-22) During Ordinary Consistory, presided over by Pope Francis on August 27 for the canonization of Blesseds Giovanni Battista Scalabrini (1839-1905), Bishop of Piacenza, founder of

the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Charles and of the Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo, and Artemide Zatti, of the Salesian Society of St. John Bosco (Salesians), the Pope decreed that the two Blessed will be included in the list of Saints on Sunday, October 9, 2022.

The Superior General of the Scalabrini Missionaries, Fr. Leonir Chiarello,, underlined: "With this recognition, the Holy Father points out to the Church the figure of a Bishop who was able not only to devote himself completely to his ministry in the diocese, but also to look beyond, to the needs of those who were torn from their land, to find hope elsewhere."



Blessed Artemide Zatti, (October 12, 1880, Boretto, Italy - March 15, 1951, Viedma, Argentina), will be the first collaborator of the Salesians of Don Bosco - consecrated, but not a priest - to be proclaimed a saint. In early 1897, the Zatti family emigrated to Argentina and settled in Bahía Blanca. The young Artemide began to attend the community led by the Salesians of Don Bosco. At the age of 20 as a Salesian aspirant contracted tuberculosis while helping a young priest who was suffering from this disease. He was then transferred to the Mission Hospital in Viedma, Artemide asked and received from Mary the grace of healing, combined with the promise to devote his whole life to caring for the sick. After his recovery, he kept his promise. As a pharmacist and nurse, he dedicated himself to the sick. For the hospital staff, he was not only an excellent manager, but above all a great Christian.

Italy - StoptheWarNow: Third peace convoy is on its way

(29-8-22) Bishop Giovanni Ricchiuti of Altamura, Italy, and President of the National Council of the international association "Pax Christi" is leaving to reach the places of conflict in the heart of Europe together with the third convoy of "StoptheWarNow", the large Italian coalition which, after reaching Lviv and Odessa in recent months, is returning to Ukraine, in particular to Mykolaiv, a city on the front line. The bishop says he is carrying a message of peace and non-violence and to encourage negotiations and dialogue to end the war.

South Sudan - Bishop of Yei's appeal: "Protect South Sudanese refugees in Uganda from unlawful attacks"

(29-8-22) "The international community represented by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, should take note of the fact that politicians go to the camps to make false promises to the refugees there," said Bishop Alex Lodiong, Bishop of Yei, South Sudan, calling on Kampala authorities and international organizations to protect South Sudanese refugees seeking protection in Uganda from "unlawful attacks".

In particular, he refers to the visits of some South Sudanese politicians to the detention centres in an attempt to sow discord or to recruit fighters for their militias.

Pakistan - Flood disaster: bishops ask for help

(29-8-22) "Given the magnitude of the flood disaster, the people affected by the floods urgently need our help. In order to be able to help the victims of the floods and those in need, we, on behalf of the Catholic Church in Pakistan, ask people of good will to start appeals for donations. Humanitarian aid is urgently needed for the affected families, in particular tents, kits for shelter, food, hygiene and sanitary items, non-perishable food and clothing", said the appeal of Msgr. Benny Travas, Archbishop of Karachi, capital of the province of Sindh (southern Pakistan). His appeal follows heavy monsoon rains that caused catastrophic flooding in the provinces of Sindh, Balochistan and southern Punjab.



India - Resignation of the Bisho of Khammam

(27-9-22) On August 27, 2022 the Holy Father accepted the resignation from the pastoral care of the Diocese of Khammam (India), presented by Bishop Paul Maipan.

Thailand recognizes Catholic churches after 93-year wait

(27-8-22) The government of Thailand has officially recognized three Catholic churches after a 93-year wait in a bid to foster religious harmony in the Buddhist-majority nation, says a report. The kingdom recognized only 57 Catholic churches until 1929.

The Ministry of Culture officially approved nine religious places of worship on Aug. 23, which included 3 Catholic Churches and 6 Buddhist temples, *the Thai Post* reported. highlighted the recognition of churches as a move to address the need for religious harmony.

Children 'going to bed hungry' in Sri Lanka: UN

(27-8-22) Children in Sri Lanka are "going to bed hungry" because of the island nation's economic crisis, the UN said on 26 August, warning other South Asian countries could be approaching similar shortages.

Sri Lanka is grappling with its worst downturn on record after running out of foreign currency to buy imports, leaving scarce supplies of food, fuel and other essentials.

The crisis was being acutely felt by families who were "skipping regular meals" because kitchen staples were becoming unaffordable, said George Laryea-Adjei, the South Asia director for the UN children's agency (UNICEF). "Children are going to bed hungry, unsure of where their next meal will come from," he told reporters.

India: Syro Malabar Church appoints 3 new bishops



Bp. Alex Tharamangalam

Bp. Joseph Kollamparambil

Bp. Thomas Padiyath

The Synod of the Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Church, gathered at Mount St. Thomas, Kerala, having received prior Papal Assent, canonically elected three new bishops. The new bishops are Fr Alex Tharamangalam (64), of the clergy of the Archieparchy of Tellicherry, as Auxiliary Bishop of the Eparchy of Mananthavady; Fr Joseph Kollamparambil (67), of the clergy of the Palai Eparchy and Fr. Thomas Padiyath (53), of the clergy of the

Archieparchy of Changanacherry, as the Auxiliary Bishops of the Shamshabad Eparchy. This provision was made public on August 25. (RVA News)

Cambodia refutes rumors of global floods on biblical scale

(29-8-22) About 15,000 people are being urged to return home after they flocked to a mountain retreat in Cambodia's remote west, near the famed temples of Angkor Wat, to escape a catastrophic global flood predicted by the leader of a local political party. "Noah's Ark type rumours" were also circulating among Cambodian workers in South Korea, where "many of them" were trying to board flights home before the calamity erupts, triggering a government reaction refuting rumours.

Vietnam Catholics honour memory of centenarian mother

(29-8-22) Bishop Vincent Nguyen Van Ban of Hai Phong presided at the funeral of a centenarian, Martha Nguyen Thi Liem, in Thanh Binh Parish on Aug. 27 joined by priests and nuns from the dioceses of Ba Ria, Qui Nhon and Xuan Loc.

Bishop Ban knew the family since he was a seminarian of Qui Nhon Diocese and paid regular visits to them. He remembered how Liem and her husband, who died years ago, worked hard for decades in

the fields to bring up their children, especially the five seeds of religious vocations (4 priests and one nun), after the Vietnam War ended in 1975.

Tens of millions affected as Pakistan floods death toll rises, IMF to help the country

(29-8-22) Tens of millions of people across swathes of Pakistan were battling on 29 August the worst monsoon floods in a decade, with countless homes washed away, vital farmland destroyed, and the country's main river threatening to burst its banks.

Officials say 1,061 people have died since June when the seasonal rains began, but the final toll could be higher as hundreds of villages in the mountainous north have been cut off after flood-swollen rivers washed away roads and bridges. This year's flooding has affected more than 33 million people – one in seven Pakistanis -- said the National Disaster Management Authority.

Meanwhile (30-8-22) The IMF board approved on 29 August an agreement to revive a massive loan program for Pakistan, as the country grapples with devastating monsoon flooding that has worsened an economic crisis. In addition, the International Monetary Fund agreed to the government's request to extend the package through June 2023.



IDP numbers rise amid no let-up in Myanmar clashes

(29-8-22) Ongoing- fighting between the military and rebels in Rakhine and in Christian-majority Chin state of western Myanmar is driving up numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs), rights groups say. Catholic bishops in Myanmar have called for humanitarian access to IDPs to provide for their basic needs.

30-8-22

World's cardinals discuss importance of Church's communion and outreach

(30-8-22) On August 29, the world's cardinals began a two-day meeting to reflect on the recent reform of the Roman Curia. Pope Francis presided at the meeting.

(31-8-22) On the second day of their two-day meeting, the world's cardinals had "an opportunity for free exchange on many aspects" of Praedicate Evangelium, the new apostolic constitution on the Roman Curia. They also discussed the 2025 jubilee year.



Synod official raps critics of German 'Synodal Path'

(30-8-22) The secretary-general of the Synod of Bishops has rebuked other Church leaders for offering public criticism of the German bishops' Synodal Path.

Cardinal Mario Grech told a German publication that he was dismayed by the "public denunciation" of the German bishops' initiatives—although the German bishops themselves have been quite public with their calls for change. Cardinal Grech said that respectful disagreement could be positive, but in this case he did "not agree with the method used by the critics."

Ukraine is on the brink of a nuclear disaster, Major Archbishop warns

(30-8-22) In March, Russian troops took control of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant in Ukraine. "The events surrounding the Zaporizhzhia NPP are of the utmost concern," the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church said in a summary of remarks by Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk. "Although it is located in the occupied territory, the enemy is constantly shelling it."

Protestants on the verge of overtaking Catholics in Brazil

(30-8-22) If current trends hold, Brazilian Protestants will outnumber Catholics beginning in 2030. "The evangelical surge has indeed supplanted Catholicism, especially among the poorest, especially in the outskirts of the big cities, especially in the favelas," according to the report. "Evangelical faithful are everywhere and go where the state doesn't go. They work in prisons, with prisoners' families, in orphanages, organize soup kitchens, run retirement homes, shelters for beggars or for women in danger."

+Bishop Ye Ronghua, 91

(30-8-22) The bishop, who See and the Chinese the Church in Ankang, a According to the report, he through forced labor" not able to be ordained a



ministered with the approval of the Holy government, is credited with revitalizing city of 2.6 million in Shaanxi Province. was "condemned to re-education during the Cultural Revolution and was priest until he was 51.

Manila archbishop: Philippine Church is still lacking in being 'Church of the poor'

(30-8-22) "There is a dark and wide gap between the Church and the poor," said Cardinal Jose Advincula. "The Church does not now the poor, and the poor do not know the Church."

Mexico's bishops call for renewed national emphasis on education

(30-8-22) In a message for the new school year, Mexico's bishops called for a revitalization of education "with faith, hope and charity in daily striving for serene and effective change that will overcome the tide of a culture of death, abuse, corruption, incompetence, as well as the environmental and social degradation, present in many areas of our Mexico."

Egypt - President al Sisi grants land for the construction of the "Bambino Gesù" Pediatric Hospital in Cairo

(30-8-22) It will be the first African pediatric hospital to bear the name of the Child Jesus and will belong to the Coptic Catholic Church. It will guarantee health care for children and pregnant women in a country where, unfortunately, high birth rates continue to be marked by a high incidence of neonatal mortality. It will be built on land offered in concession by Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al Sisi. This is the work promoted by the "Cairo Bambino Gesù Association", a charity organization chaired by the Coptic Catholic priest Yoannis Lahzi Gaid, a member of the High Committee for Human Fraternity and former personal secretary of Pope Francis.



Niger - Living with Dignity and Freedom: Dosso Mission Summer Camp for Blind Children

(30-8-22) A summer camp is organized for blind children in Dosso mission by the Society for African missions in Niger "The goal was to offer educational opportunities that meet their needs: the children should learn something together that can help them with their independence," explained Fr. R-aphael Casamayor.

The project, the first of its kind and supported by the Zankey Annuura association, was launched on July 18th. "We picked up the children very early and met in the former library of the Catholic Mission, with large rooms that catered to or needs. After a small snack, the activities began with exercises and activities that lasted all morning and continued in the afternoon, after lunch". The Mayor of Dosso also took part in some of the activities, accompanying the children as they practised walking with the white canes typical of the blind, recognizing objects, navigating the city and crossing streets. "We were thrilled when the mayor, along with our group, explained to motorists the meaning of the raised white stick and their obligation to stop. He told us that this gesture should be included in the Highway Code and that it would raise awareness in driving schools".



Singapore - Singapore's first Cardinal promotes religious harmony with a research institute

(30-8-22) The first Cardinal of Singapore, Archbishop William Goh, assures that he will promote religious harmony in Asia by strengthening dialogue between different religions. "Interreligious dialogue - he observes - means interacting with people beyond religious borders to collaborate and promote peace in society, in Asia and in the world. It is part of the evangelizing mission of the Church in a complex reality like Asia".

Cardinal Goh, one of the 20 new Cardinals formally created by Pope Francis at the Vatican on August 27, informs that the Archdiocese of Singapore will create a special research institute to study methodologies on how to promote friendship with other religions' leaders to later share them with the bishops of the Asian continent. In the past, the Asian bishops have asked the Catholic Church of Singapore for suggestions, advice and good practices to live pluralism and dialogue with different religions in a fruitful way.

Ukraine, the Holy See: Pope defends life rather than taking political positions

(30-8-2) In response to polemics that have arisen in recent days concerning the words of Pope Francis, a communiqué from the Holy See cites the Pope's "numerous" interventions concerning the war, and recalls that he has always condemned the Russian aggression as "morally unjust, unacceptable, barbaric, senseless, repugnant, and sacrilegious." The Pope's mention at the General Audience on 24 August of the attack in which the daughter of Russian political analyst Alexander Dugin lost her life in Russia – words which have provoked controversial reactions at the political and institutional level in Ukraine. Public discussions have arisen as to the political significance to be attributed to such interventions. In this regard, it is reiterated that the Holy Father's words on this dramatic issue are to be read as a voice raised in defence of human life and the values associated with it, and not as political positions."

Indian police hunt for culprits behind church vandalism

(30-8-22) Police are more unidentified vandalizing a remote village in of Meghalaya. Mother Mary, and on the intervening Daram village in the Church officials Bishop Andrew R. News on Aug. 30 tried to damage a altar. "There take away the offerings or any valuables," he said. "Daram village is dominated by Christians and the nearly 100-year-old church is one of the oldest Catholic communities of the North Garo Hills. There are more than 100 families who are part of the Resu parish," he said. Two bishops had sent their condolences.



on the lookout for one or culprits for allegedly Catholic church in a India's northeastern state Statues of Jesus Christ, Joseph were damaged night of Aug. 24-25 at North Garo Hills district, said.

Marak of Tura told UCA that the culprits had also cru-cifix placed near the seemed no attempt to

take away the offerings or any valuables," he said. "Daram village is dominated by Christians and the nearly 100-year-old church is one of the oldest Catholic communities of the North Garo Hills. There are more than 100 families who are part of the Resu parish," he said. Two bishops had sent their condolences.

31-8-22

Cardinal suggests: only Rome-based prelates vote in papal conclave

(31-8-22) At this week's meeting of the College of Cardinals, Cardinal Walter Brandmüller (93), the retired president of the Pontifical Committee for Historical Sciences, suggested that the rules of a papal conclave might be changed, allowing only the cardinals based in Rome to vote in the papal election – citing that those living outside Rome would not be familiar with the decision-making process at the Vatican, and may not be familiar with each other.

Pope, at audience, begins talks on discernment

(31-8-22) At his regular weekly public audience on August 31, Pope Francis inaugurated a new series of catechetical talks, on discernment. Here is the summary of his talk: Today we begin a new series of catecheses dealing with *discernment*, the process of making sound decisions about the meaning and direction of our lives. In the Gospels, Jesus uses everyday discernment practised by fishermen and merchants to teach the importance of wisely choosing to live a life in accordance with God's will. Authentic discernment calls for knowledge, insight and experience but also the wisdom of the heart, firm commitment and unremitting effort. As an exercise of our God-given freedom, spiritual discernment seeks to know our place in the Creator's plan for ourselves and for our world. For our decisions, good or evil, can make the earth either, as God intends, a magnificent garden or a lifeless desert. True discernment, born of our loving relationship with God and our human freedom, brings with it a deep spiritual joy and fulfilment. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten and guide us in our daily efforts to live lives of holiness, wisdom and fidelity to the saving truth of the Gospel.

Pope pleads for peace in Iraq after Baghdad violence

(31-8-22) At the conclusion of his public audience on August 31, Pope Francis expressed his concern about new violence in Iraq, where more than 20 people died in clashes between government forces and supporters of the Shi'ite Muslim leader Muqtada al-Sadr.

The violence began after al-Sadr announced that he was withdrawing from the Iraqi political scene. Although he was a leading victor in recent elections, he was unable to form a ruling coalition with rival Sunni Muslim factions. As a political leader, al-Sadr had called for Iraq to resist foreign influence—including both the influence of the US and that of Shi'ite-governed Iraq.

Iraqi patriarch voices fears for country's future

(31-8-22) Chaldean Catholic Patriarch Louis Sako reports that the people of Iraq were "very afraid" for their country's future in light of violent clashes around Baghdad this week.

Patriarch Sako thanked al-Sadr for issuing a public call for his supporters to back away from confrontations. He joined with the Shi'ite leader in saying that only democratic votes could settle Iraq's political future, "because the terrible alternative is civil war."

World-renowned artists participate in 1st Vatican 'Vitae Summit'

(31-8-22) The Vatican is hosting a two-day summit organized by the Vitae Global Foundation, a "non-profit organization made up of artists, executives, and world leaders who aim to make a positive impact on people through the arts, mass media, and entertainment."

The foundation's founder and president is Luis Quinelli, an Argentine businessman.

Vatican - Pope Francis to the Cardinals: Church's mission stems from wonder and gratitude

(31-8-22) Jesus' call to proclaim his Gospel should not be understood as a call to a missionary mobilization that is additional to the daily duties of life. The impulse to communicate the salvation of Christ to the world can only unfold freely if one experiences the "new wonder" that the "disciples experience in the encounter with the risen Christ, who sends them on mission". Pope Francis recalled this on 30 August Tuesday afternoon, in the homily of the Eucharistic liturgy he presided over in the Vatican Basilica with the members of the College of Cardinals.



In various passages of his homily, and in particular in his words to the new Cardinals created during the Ordinary Public Consistory held on Saturday 27 August, the Bishop of Rome insistently recalled the features of grateful wonder that characterize every genuine apostolic action that has characterized the world since the beginning of Christian history. The Pope also recalled the promise of Jesus, who spoke of "hope and consolation" to his disciples: "I am with you always, until the end of the age". These words of the Risen One - according to the Pope - "still have the power, even after two thousand years, to make our hearts vibrate".

And "the unfathomable divine decision to evangelize the world starting from this poor group of disciples who, as the evangelist notes, were still in doubt, never ceases to amaze us. The same wonder - continued the Successor of Peter, comparing the adventure of the first disciples to the present of the Church - "takes hold of us when we are gathered here today, to whom the Lord has repeated the same words, the same mission". The Pope warned the cardinals against complacency, "Wonder is a way to salvation! May God keep it ever alive in our hearts, for it sets us free from the temptation of thinking that we can "manage things", that today the Church is big, solid, and we occupy eminent positions in its hierarchy – indeed they address us as "Your Eminence"... There is some truth in this, but there is also much deception, whereby the Father of Lies always seeks to make Christ's followers first worldly, then innocuous".

Even the call to be part of the College of Cardinals - continued the Pontiff - "can lead you to the temptation-n of worldliness, which step by step takes away your strength, takes away your hope; it prevents you from seeing the gaze of Jesus who calls us by name and sends us out. Those are the seeds of spiritual worldliness". A temptation from which, according to the Pope, one can only be freed if "this initial baptismal amazement is renewed in the hearts".

Only this possible new beginning of grace - according to the Pope - and not trust in human and ecclesiastical prudence and competence can "make the community of believers attractive, first for themselves and then for all: the double mystery of being saved in Christ and to go into the world with Christ". A mystery," the Bishop of Rome recalled, "that is already indicated in the letters of Paul, the

Apostle of the Gentiles, in which apostolic action and missionary concerns are always filled with the grace of grateful admiration that precedes everything... And that is perhaps the measure, the thermometer of our spiritual life".

Tanzania - A family home built by the missionaries for the albinos of Tanzania

(31-8-22) In the new building of the Society for African Missions in the city of Mwanza, fourteen boys and girls find a safe home, quality education, good living conditions, but above all the affection and love of a community that welcomes vulnerable young people and children, especially those affected by albinism. Father Janusz Machota of the Polish Province reports that violence against people affected by albinism is increasing in the African country. "There have been numerous attacks against them - says the missionary -. The home is called "Tanga", which means "sail" in Swahili, aimed to create a real home and not an institution, a home with a family spirit. The inmates also receive treatment for other diseases, good education and training to be integrated into society.



Liberia - A project to support young mothers and their children

(31-8-22) A total of 570 young mothers and their children are receiving assistance from the HELINA project, an aid program run by the Catholic Relief Services for young mothers and their children in the Liberian capital, Monrovia. In a country where one in three children suffers from rickets due to poor diet, malnutrition and poor hygiene, such a project is particularly important: all 570 participants are regularly visited by a health worker trained by the country's Ministry of Health, who provides advice on nutrition and

hygiene at home. The children's growth is monitored monthly at the local health facility.

In the second phase, the program, besides imparting skills, offers young mothers entrepreneurship training and initial funding to start, expand or improve a small business so they can become financially self-sufficient.

Bangladesh - Young people: in the Bible the source of evangelization and the path to Heaven

(31-8-22) A copy of the Bible in one's hands, as a source of grace and as a sign of being ready to witness and announce the Word of God. In this way, more than 130 young Catholics from the diocese of Khulna, in the south of Bangladesh, have reiterated their missionary commitment in a seminar organized recently by the Diocesan Biblical and Catechetical Commission of Khulna. Father Jacob S. Biswas, coordinator of the Commission and vicar general of the diocese of Khulna, explains that "the purpose of the biblical seminar is to ensure that our young people can love God's message because it shows us the true path of life.

Peru - Month of the Bible: "Let us also share the experience of the disciples on the road to Emmaus"

(31-8-22) Under the motto "The Disciples on the road to Emmaus", the Biblical team of the Episcopal Commission for Catechesis and Biblical Pastoral Care has organized a series of special activities for the Month of Bible, celebrated in September in many Latin American countries, commemorating St. Jerome, the first translator of the Holy Scriptures into Latin, whose liturgical feast is celebrated on September 30th.

The disciples going to Emmaus are accompanied by an Unknown who enlightens their minds by offering them new keys to understanding the Scriptures, and thus makes their hearts burn.

To make the Word of God better known, a new "Biblical Guide" has been prepared as an input for working on biblical themes in the Month of the Bible, in virtual and paper format.

Magsaysay awards to Asians working for poor, environment

(31-8-22) Four people working for the Asian poor and the environment have been selected for this year's Ramon Magsaysay Award, dubbed the "Asian Nobel Prize."

The Ramon Magsaysay Foundation announced the names of the winners on Aug. 31. The foundation said this year's winners "have shown moral courage and impassioned insistence on making the societies that they serve better, kinder and more equitable for everyone, especially for the marginalized."

"Indeed, they offer us inspiring examples of vision, leadership, empathy, persistence, and Greatness of Spirit," the foundation said in the official statement.

The winners are 54-year-old Cambodian psychiatrist Sotheara Chim, 58-year-old Japanese ophthalmologist Tadashi Hattori, 64-year-old Filipino child rights activist Bernadette J. Madrid, and 27-year-old Gary Benchehib, an Indonesia-based French filmmaker and environmentalist.

The Ramon Magsaysay Award was established in 1958 in memory of the third president of the Philippines. Each year it honours individuals and organizations in Asia who transform lives and societies by manifesting "selfless service."

The winners will formally receive their awards during a ceremony in Manila on Nov. 30.



Catholics want fair trial against brutal Indonesian soldiers

(31-8-22) Church officials in Indonesia's Christian-majority Papua province have called for fair trial against six soldiers arrested for allegedly killing and mutilating four people.

Faizal Ramadhani, director of Criminal Investigation of the Papua Police said the soldiers pretended to sell weapons to lure the victims, who were allegedly affiliated with the pro-independence movement. The soldiers then killed them and mutilated their bodies, he said on Aug. 30. The dismembered bodies of the victims were put in sacks and dumped into a river outside the city of Timika on Aug. 22, the day the crime was allegedly committed. The remains of a fourth victim were found on August 30 after the other three were found a few days earlier.

The Papuan police have also named four civilians as suspects, who in the investigation process stated that the soldiers were directly involved in the killing.

Myanmar troops 'have burned 30,000 homes'

(31-8-22) Myanmar's military junta has burned nearly 30,000 homes in the country during the past 1-9 months since it overthrew the democratically elected government, according to data compiled by a domestic research group.

Data for Myanmar said in a report released on Aug. 28 that junta soldiers had torched 28,434 houses since the military seized power on Feb.1, 2021.

The highest number of 20,153 houses were destroyed in the Sagaing region followed by 5,418 houses in the Magway region, both Bamar-Buddhist majority areas in central Myanmar.

The predominantly Christian Chin state in the country's western region witnessed the burning of 1,474 houses. Another 1,389 homes were burned elsewhere.

The three regions are hotbeds of civilian resistance to military rule by the armed opposition People's Defense Forces (PDF).



Mob vandalizes Pieta statue, priest's car in India

(31-8-22) A statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Jesus and a car belonging to a parish priest in India's northern Punjab state were vandalized in the early hours of Aug. 31.

Father Thomas Poochalil, parish priest of Infant Jesus Catholic Church in Patti, said an unidentified mob held the security guards at gunpoint and vandalized the Pieta statue in front of the church. They also set his car on fire. The mob chanted "We are Khalistanis

[Sikh separatists]," said the priest, adding that the police had been informed and an investigation is underway.

"I spoke to Father Thomas Poochalil, the parish priest of the Patti church and will assess the situation there. It is too early to say anything at this moment. It is obviously sad and shocking," Bishop Agnelo Rufino Gracias, apostolic administrator of Jalandhar diocese, told UCA News.

The latest attack on the church comes as Sikh leaders have condemned alleged conversion attempts by Christian missionaries in the state. In June, a Sikh head priest in the state called for an end to conversions of his community members to Christianity.

According to media reports, the incident occurred on the day Akal Takht, the chief centre of religious authority of Sikhism, issued a statement against forced conversions by Christian missionaries.

1-9-22

'Help our new Afghan neighbors to integrate': USCCB action alert

(1-9-22) Echoing a statement by the bishops' migration chairman, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops has asked the faithful to urge members of Congress to pass the Afghan Adjustment Act.

"As a Catholic and your constituent, I urge you to provide lasting safety and security to Afghans relocated to the United States over the past year by passing the bipartisan Afghan Adjustment Act (S. 4787/H.R. 8685)," in the words of the suggested message to members of Congress.

Pope encourages commitments for Season of Creation

(1-9-22) The Season of Creation, an ecumenical initiative, begins on September 1—the World Day of Prayer for Creation in the Orthodox churches (since 1989) and the Catholic Church (since 2015)—and concludes on October 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

In 2019, the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and Pope Francis lent their support to observance of the season.

Pope says we are living through World War III

(1-9-22) At the conclusion of his August 31 general audience, Pope Francis prayed for the Ukrainian people and recalled the anniversary of World War II, which began on September 1, 1939.

"And today we are living the Third," he added, in remarks to Polish pilgrims that were not included in the Vatican's official English translation of the audience.

Papal condolences upon death of Mikhail Gorbachev

(1-9-22) "As we gratefully remember his far-sighted commitment to concord and fraternity amongst peoples, as well as to the progress of his own country at a time of important changes, I raise prayers of suffrage, invoking eternal peace for his soul from the good and merciful God," Pope Francis wrote in his telegram of condolence to the daughter of former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

German court disallows city's ban on prayer meetings at abortion clinic

(1-9-22) A German court has ruled against a ban on prayer meetings outside an abortion clinic in the city of Pforzheim. An appeals court upheld an earlier decision against the city's ban, saying that such

a restriction on public assembly could be allowed only "if public safety would be directly endangered if the assembly were held."

'Our joy is stolen': slain priest's bishop calls for change in Nigeria

(1-9-22) "For more than five years now, we have witnessed a deliberate and calculated attempt at wiping out and displacing major indigenous ethnic groups in the northern part of Nigeria," said Bishop Julius Yakubu Kundi of Kafanchan, in Kaduna State.

"Thousands of our innocent people, in several states but especially in southern Kaduna, are being massacred without any provocation by the well-known Fulani terrorists, under the watch of a democratically elected government," he added.

Burkina Faso - After being held hostage for five months: American nun released

(1-9-22) "Sister Suellen is safe. She is on American soil, but not in America", confirms Sister Mary Lacour of the Congregation of the Sisters of Mary of the Holy Cross (Marianites) on the release of her fellow sister, the American Suellen Tennyson, kidnapped who was kidnapped from the convent of her educational and medical mission on the night between April 4 and April 5, 2022 in the parish of Yalgo, 110 kilometers from Kaya, the capital of the Central-Northern Region of Burkina Faso. "Sister Suellen was released on Monday, August 29. We spoke to her. She will be returning to the United States soon," Sister Mary said.



According to initial reports in the US press, the release of the nun could be the result of an action by the US security forces. At least 10 armed men were involved in the attack in which Sister Suellen, 83, was abducted, the Marianites of Holy Cross said in an electronic newsletter at the time of the abduction. The congregation said Sister Suellen, the former international congregational leader for the Marianites of Holy Cross and native of New Orleans, was sleeping when the men burst into the convent, - she had "no glasses, shoes, phone, medicine, etc." - ransacked the living quarters and kidnapped her, leaving behind two other Marianite sisters and two young women who also lived in the convent. She had "They destroyed almost everything in the house, shot holes in the new truck and tried to burn it. The house itself is OK, but its contents are ruined."

Namibia - IMBISA: Bishops invite young people to the assembly

(1-9-22) The Bishops of Southern Africa (Inter-Regional Meeting of Bishops of Southern Africa, IMBISA) invite young people to participate in their next Plenary Assembly to be held in Windhoek from 22 to 27 September 2022.

The 13th IMBISA General Assembly meets in the light of the Apostolic Exhortation "Christus Vivit" published by Pope Francis after the Synod of Bishops on the subject of youth, and aims to reshape the youth work of the Catholic Church.

Pakistan - Bail granted to three Christians accused of blasphemy

(1-9-22) The Supreme Court of Pakistan has granted bail to three Christians accused of blasphemy, in two separate proceedings whose hearings have been held in recent days.

In the first case the judges granted bail to Salamat Mansha Masih who had been in prison for 18 months for crimes related to religion linked to the three articles of the Criminal Code that make up the so-called "blasphemy law" (295a, 295b and 295). Salamat Mansha worked as a garbage man, together with his colleague Haroon Ayub, at the Lahore Waste Management Company. The two were arrested after four Muslim students filed a complaint against them on charges of preaching Christianity and offending Islam. Haroon Ayub had been released on bail in February 2021.

"I have never seen a case in which a Christian accused a Muslim of committing blasphemy. We should be grateful to our Christian brothers because they work at the service of our cities", said Judge Qazi Faez Isa.

In the second proceeding, two Christians, Patras Masih and Protestant Pastor Raja Waris, residents in Lahore, were released on bail on the advice of the High Court judges in a case defended by the lawyer Saif-ul-Malook (the Muslim lawyer who defended Asia Bibi). Patras Masih, now 22, was imprisoned for four and a half years on charges of making derogatory remarks against the Prophet Mohammed (article 295c of the Criminal Code). Patras was accused in February 2018 of posting a photo on Facebook that was considered a blasphemous post. Protestant pastor Raja Waris was jailed for 20 months on blasphemy charges, also accused of posting on Facebook. The man deleted the allegedly offensive post, but the charges against him and his arrest remained.

Australia - Campaign for World Mission Sunday: This year's example country is Ethiopia

(1-9-22) This year, the direction of the Pontifical Mission Societies of Australia (PMS), Catholic Mission, will focus its Missionary October commitment on the Church of Ethiopia and local communities. Catholic Mission supports a number of missionary development programs in Ethiopia that aim to combat malnutrition and encourage literacy for children and vocational training for women.



Families of Sri Lanka's missing seek truth, justice

(1-9-22) Over a decade has passed since Sri Lanka's civil war ended in 2009, but thousands of relatives of enforced disappeared people are still taking to roads demanding the truth and justice for their loved ones.

"We don't believe any domestic probe by the government will provide us with any satisfactory answers. That's why we are demanding an international investigation where we hope that the truth can be established," Mariasuresh Eswari, 43, a mother of three and leader of the Association for Relatives of Enforced Disappeared Persons in Mullaitivu told UCA

News.

Since 2015, relatives of the disappeared from the northern and eastern parts of Sri Lanka have held continuous protests demanding answers from the authorities. By the time the long-running struggle marked 2,000 days of continuous protests on Aug 12, at least 132 relatives, mostly elderly war survivors, had passed away without them knowing what had happened to their missing loved ones. Two Catholic priests were among the thousands of disappeared persons in Sri Lanka and their fate is still unknown.

Father K. Jegathas, from Sinnaoorani, Batticaloa went with a group of aggrieved families to take part in one protest in Kilinochchi. The Island nation may face tough questions on wartime abuses, accountability at upcoming UNHRC session.

Korean religious leaders to meet Pope Francis

(1-9-22) A seven-member delegation of South Korean religious leaders will meet Pope Francis in the Vatican City on Sept. 19 as part of a pilgrimage to develop a better understanding and dialogue between religions, the Korean Council of Religious Leaders, announced in a statement on Aug. 31.

Six Rohingya found dead in boat off Myanmar coast

(1-9-22) Six bodies were discovered along with 59 Rohingya survivors on a boat floating near an island off Myanmar's Ayeyarwady Delta region on Aug. 29, according to news reports. The Coast Guard stopped and boarded the boat following reports it had been drifting for several days near Gayatgyi island, which lies just off the coast, reported BenarNews citing an earlier report by Radio Free Asia.

Local residents said three men and three women had died of starvation and that a child from the boat later died after survivors were taken to a police station.

Philippine nuns hit back at terror charges

(1-9-22) Defiant Catholic nuns in the Philippines, facing criminal charges for allegedly financing terrorist groups, have dismissed the allegations and defended their presence in poor and rural communities.

The Rural Missionary Sisters said on Aug. 30 their presence was part of their mission to help the poor and to build peace between them and the government, not to spark warfare. The sisters denied government allegations that they violated the Anti-Terrorism Law by financing the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army. "We have raised this in many instances. We are not the enemy of the government. We have not aided or helped any terrorist group. Our projects go directly to aid the people," they said in an Aug. 30 statement. The nuns also denied allegations that their presence in rural provinces was to help the Communist Party recruit members and solicit funds for them. "As missionaries, we are unapologetic and unwavering in our commitment to working in poor areas, even when these areas are visited by militarization and armed conflict," they said.



UN report lists torture, abuse of Muslims in China

(1-9-22) A UN investigation into China's treatment of Muslim minorities in its vast Xinjiang region has reported torture, sexual abuse and possible crimes against humanity, but stopped short of describing it as genocide. The report has been immediately met by a lengthy rebuttal from China's mission to Geneva.

2-9-22

'The nature of the family is under attack,' Pope tell Schönstatt Fathers

(2-9-22) On September 1, Pope Francis received participants in the general chapter of the Schönstatt Fathers, who are part of the Schoenstatt Apostolic Movement.

The Pope lamented the "plundering of human values, an unbridled plundering by ideological colonizations of every type. . . We often see that the nature of the family is under attack by various ideologies, that rock the foundations that support the personality of the human person and all of society in general."

The Blessed Virgin Mary, he continued, "gives us hope and courage to reach out to those who have drifted away from friendship with the Lord, to recover them with the witness of a new life in Christ, characterized by mercy."

'Our sister, mother earth, weeps,' Pope says at beginning of Season of Creation

(2-9-22) The Season of Creation, an ecumenical initiative, begins on September 1—the World Day of Prayer for Creation in the Orthodox churches (since 1989) and the Catholic Church (since 2015)—and concludes on October 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. In 2019, the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and Pope Francis lent their support to observance of the season.

"May this year's theme, 'Listen to the voice of creation,' foster a concrete commitment in each person to take care of our common home," the Pope tweeted on September 1. "Prey to our consumerist excesses, our sister, mother earth, weeps and implores us to put an end to our abuses and destruction."

Discussing liturgy, Pope distinguishes 'true tradition' from 'worldly restorationism'

(2-9-22) On September 1, Pope Francis received members of the Associazione dei Professori e Cultori di Liturgia (Association of Professors and Practitioners of Liturgy).

In his address, which the Vatican has not yet released in English, the Pope emphasized that it is

important for liturgists “to listen to the Christian communities, so that your work is never separated from the expectations and needs of the people of God.”

Pope Francis called for “a liturgy that is not worldly, but that makes you raise your eyes to heaven, to feel that the world and life are inhabited by Mystery of Christ; and at the same time a ‘down to earth’ liturgy, propter homines [on account of men], not far from life.”

The Pontiff also praised the example of the Servant of God Romano Guardini (1885-1968): “May his figure and his approach to liturgical education, as modern as it is classical, be a point of reference to you.”

The Pope distinguished “true tradition,” which “grows from what comes from its roots,” from “going backwards,” which he described as “a worldly restorationism, disguised as liturgy and theology.”



Cardinal Parolin fears escalation in Ukraine

(2-9-22) Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican Secretary of State, warned against any escalation of the war in Ukraine—particularly in the neighborhood of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant—in a new interview.

The cardinal said that the Vatican remains insistent in its support for negotiations, and is “not closing the door to anyone” in its search for peaceful solutions.

Cardinal Parolin devoted most of his comments during the interview to the memory of Pope John Paul I, in light of his coming beatification. He observed that during his very short pontificate, Pope John Paul I was known not only for his common touch but also for his frequent calls for world peace.

New Brazilian cardinal reiterates support for civil-union law

(2-9-22) Cardinal Leonardo Steiner of Manaus, Brazil, who received his red hat from Pope Francis at the August 27 consistory, explained his support for civil unions in an interview with LifeSite News. The Brazilian cardinal said that the measure would provide financial security for homosexual couples, and denied that it would violate principles of Catholic theology. He said that Christians should not impose their moral principles on other members of civil society.

Indian archbishop hospitalized after forced resignation

(2-9-22) Archbishop Antony Kariyil, who was forced to resign from his post in the Syro-Malabar Archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly, has been hospitalized following a seizure.

Ukrainian bishop fears nuclear plant ‘disaster,’ says people preparing for ‘harsh winter’

(2-9-22) “It will be the hardest [winter in Ukraine] since World War II,” said Auxiliary Bishop Jan Sobioo of Kharkiv-, in which the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, seized by Russian forces, is located.

Swiss Guard to grow to 135 members

(2-9-22) In preparation for the upcoming 2025 jubilee year, the Pontifical Swiss Guard will grow from 110 to 135 members.

Italy - Sister Luigina Coccia: "Mission for us is everywhere, it is the world"

(2-9-22) "Regarding the missions, Pope Francis has illustrated the complexity of the relationship between the local Churches and the universal Church: the Church today is called to remain firmly rooted in her own local reality, but with one mind and one heart open to the universal Church," said Sister Luigina Coccia, Superior General of the Comboni Missionary Sisters, during the study days. "A world in turmoil and in motion compels the Church of our time to live out the mission with the peoples and for the peoples; it is a universal mission that the Church must face today, no matter in which corner of the world she is. The Christian of today is everywhere a missionary ad gentes, he is an emissary of the universal mission of the Church, because today's world has more and more

multicultural and universal features", emphasizes the Superior General of the Comboni Missionary Sisters, who this year celebrates its 150th anniversary of founding.

Sierra Leone - The country plagued by sudden floods: bridges, schools, hospitals and water pipes damaged

(2-9-22) From August 14 to 17 and August 27 to 28, 2022, Sierra Leone was affected by a series of floods that devastated some areas of the country, leaving more than 10,000 people homeless. Caritas Freetown offered a provisional toll of the victims and the damage suffered in 18 communities in the western region of Sierra Leone. According to estimates by Caritas Freetown, thousands of people need assistance such as emergency items

for pregnant women, young people and sick people who are left with nothing. Blankets, mattresses, clothing, footwear, hygiene items and first aid supplies are also lacking. The most pressing challenge is relocating people made homeless by rainfall and landslides. The next step will be to help those whose houses have been badly damaged and inundated with mud.



Pakistan - Archbishop Arshad: "All united to give relief to the poor, victims of the floods"

(2-9-22) "We call on the entire nation to offer all its solidarity to the people affected by the floods and help them recover from the disaster as quickly as possible. We must make every effort, in unity, to ensure that people do not continue to suffer the shocking impact of these floods in terms of hunger, poverty or lack of livelihoods." This is the message of Archbishop Joseph Arshad of Islamabad-Rawalpindi and President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Pakistan, following the severe floods that affected the country. Heavy rains continue in Pakistan. More than 60% of the usual monsoon rains have fallen in just three weeks since the start of the season. The rainfall has caused devastating floods and landslides across the country, especially affecting Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Sindh provinces.

"The loss of life, the suffering, the destruction of homes, bridges, roads, crops and livelihoods is enormous and serious. Citizens, especially farmers and the poorest, urgently need humanitarian assistance. Thousands of people, especially the most vulnerable, are facing internal displacement and need help to survive", explains the archbishop with concern.

Protesting Indian fishermen hit with restraining order

(2-9-22) An Indian court has issued a restraining order against Catholic fishermen protesting against a multi-billion-dollar seaport in the southern Indian state of Kerala and ordered the stepping up of security at the project site.

The Kerala High Court issued the order on Sept. 1 in response to a petition by Adani Vizhinjam Port and its contractors seeking police protection from alleged disruption to their work by the protesting fishermen and their families led by the Latin Archdiocese of Trivandrum (Thiruvananthapuram). Church officials, including bishops and priests, have vowed to intensify the protest until their demands including the protection of the fishermen's lives, livelihoods and rights are met.

The majority of the fishermen are Catholics belonging to the Latin archdiocese. They have been protesting at the under-construction port site since July 20.

Vietnam Christians told to focus on people, environment

(2-9-22) Bishop Dominic Nguyen Van Manh of Da Lat presided over celebrations for the feast of St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

The feast of St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta was celebrated with an open-air Mass in the central highlands of Vietnam calling Christians to care for the people and environment.

Bishop Dominic Nguyen Van Manh of Da Lat, *who presided over the special celebration held inside the compound of the Pastoral Centre standing on a local hill on Sept.1, was joined by 22 priests and around 1,000 Caritas workers from parishes in the diocese that covers Lam Dong province. Father John Bosco Hoang Van Chinh, director of Caritas in Da Lat, said they celebrated the feast to mark the season of creation that begins with the World Day of Prayer for the care of creation and concludes on Oct. 4 with the feast of Saint Francis. Father Chinh said the celebration aimed at encouraging local Caritas workers, whose activities were affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, to keep high spirits.

South Korea gets tough on disabled rights* violations

(2-9-22) South Korea's National Human Rights Commission has recommended closing down a facility for disabled people after charging its management with serious human rights violations.

The manager and cook of the facility, reportedly run by a Church group, have been charged with - abuse, imprisonment, and violation of several clauses of two laws meant to protect persons with disabilities, the commission announced in a press release on Sept. 2.

The commission did not name the facility but said it investigated a complaint from a facility employee and found that the facility abused those housed in it in several ways, including leaving themselves tied to the toilet bowl because they were unable t*o urinate. The facility officials also forced its people to clean toilets and food warehouses and used them to prepare meals. It also coerced them to participate in regular prayer services and extracted donations from their pocket money.

3-9-22

Ethiopia - Stop the War! The Ethiopian Catholic Church urges interested parties to dialogue and peace

(3-9-22) The Ethiopian Catholic Church's message is loud and clear concerning the fate of all those who live in the region of Tigray, Amhara, Afar and other areas of the country on account of the resumption of war.

"We are deeply saddened to see that the war has resumed in the area. To date, too many lives have been lost and goods destroyed. The biggest scars are mainly those of children, women and the elderly "reads a note from the Catholic Secretariat of the Ethiopian bishops.

The entire episcopate ensures its own contri*buti*on, individually or in collaboration with other religious institutes, to the processes of dialogue that lead to peace. "We renew our heartfelt appeal to all parties - declare the bishops - to surrender their weapons and return to the options of peace, to give priority to dialogue and to put an end to the suffering of our citizens".

"It is unacceptable to carry on this war - the bishops insist - which continues to cause hunger, disease, psychological damage, displaced innocent people and our entire nation is struggling under the pressure of the cost of living."

Guinea Bissau - The path of national reconciliation, led by religious leaders, awaiting the last step

(3-9-22) Since 2014, the presidency of the Reconciliation Commission of the conflict-torn country has been entrusted to a Catholic priest, the vice presidency to a representative of the Islamic faith and to one of the evangelical confessions. For the rest, the National Reconciliation Commission is made up of representatives of political institutions (parliament, ministries) and then of civil society: the movements, the whole of society is represented by this Commission". Father Domingos Cà, priest in the diocese of Bissau and president of the Commission for National Reconciliation of Guinea Bissau, summarizes the path that led to the establis*hment of a national body to seek peace and stability in the country.

But when all the work seems waiting only for the last step, to decide the date and method of National Reconciliation Conference - a change of government has brought the work to a standstill, the priest laments.

Indonesia - "The Church as a community of hope": the presence of Catholics in society

(3-9-22) "The Church in Indonesia is committed to being a community of hope, which promotes communion between all components of society", Cardinal Ignatius Suharyo Hardjoatmodjo, Archbishop of Jakarta, says. Among the various ways to promote harmony, the local Church has also chosen a particular "catechesis in pills": in all the parishes of the Archdiocese, he reports, a three-minute catechesis is held on the social teachings of the Church before the final blessing of each Mass. Behind this mass movement are Examples cited include those of lay-led ecclesial movements, such as the Let's Go To School Movement, which provides scholarships for economically poor students to study in schools and colleges. "Taking care of our poor, suffering or vulnerable brothers and sisters is our priority", says the Cardinal.

Colombia - Week for Peace: at the center the territories, which experience conflicts and also hopes

(3-9-22) With the motto "Territories in movement for Peace", the Episcopal Conference of Colombia (CEC), through the National Secretariat of Social Pastoral Care and various regional and national social organizations, promotes the 35th edition of the "Week for Peace", which is held from 4 to 11 September 2022. This year the organizers have chosen a motto that highlights the territory to give strength to the concept that "territories express diversity and social and cultural vitality and country politics. Here the tensions, conflicts and harshness of violence are experienced, but hope, resistance and courageous efforts in building dignified living conditions are also manifested here. So peace is intertwined day by day from the territories".

4-9-22

Pope beatifies John Paul I: May he obtain for us the 'smile of the soul'

(4-9-22) Recalling the example of I, Pope Francis presided over his Square on Sunday. The Mass was Marcello Semeraro, Prefect of the Saints, with 25 thousand faithful later sun-filled square.



the "smiling pope," John Paul beatification in Saint Peter's celebrated by Cardinal Dicastery for the Causes of participating in a rainy and

In his homily, Pope Francis recalled hear of large crowds following

how in today's Gospel we Jesus who gives them a

challenging message: to become His disciple means to put aside earthly attachments, to love Him more than his or her own family, to carry the cross we bear in our lives.

The Pope explained that God's way is different, as he does not exploit our needs or vulnerabilities, or offer easy promises and favours.

Recalling the example of Blessed John Paul I, Pope Francis recalled how the new Blessed lived the joy of the Gospel, "without compromises, loving to the very end." He did not seek his own glory, but lived as a "meek and humble pastor."

"With a smile, Pope John Paul managed to communicate the goodness of the Lord. How beautiful is a Church with a happy, serene and smiling face, that never closes doors, never hardens hearts, never complains or harbours resentment, does not grow angry or impatient, does not look dour or suffer nostalgia for the past."

In conclusion, the Pope encouraged us to ask Blessed John Paul I to help us obtain from the Lord "the smile of the soul" and to pray in his own words: "Lord take me as I am, with my defects, with my shortcomings, but make me become what you want me to be."

At the conclusion of the Mass. Pope Francis greeted all those present at the beatification mass for John Paul I and turned to the Virgin Mary and praying for Angelus prayer and prayed for world peace particularly for Ukraine.
