



CATHOLIC WORLD LAST WEEK (CWLW)

13-19 June 2022

13-6-22



Von der Leyen and Pope discuss war in Ukraine

(13-6-22) "Truly glad to meet again His Holiness in Rome today," Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission, tweeted after her June 10 audience with Pope Francis. "We stand with those suffering from the destruction in Ukraine," she added. "This war must end, bringing peace back to Europe."

Church leaders: Culture of Life means working to end gun violence

(13-6-22) Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller of San Antonio, in whose archdiocese the Robb Elementary School shooting took place, was among the panelists in the discussion "After Buffalo, After Uvalde, After Tulsa," organized by Georgetown University's Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life.

German seminary rector found dead following abuse allegations

(13-6-22) Father Christof May, the rector of the seminary in the Diocese of Limburg, has died in a suspected suicide, shortly after he was suspended during an investigation into sexual abuse allegations.

The Diocese of Limburg is led by Bishop Georg Bätzing, president of the German bishops' conference. Father May, 49, was a critic of Catholic teaching on homosexuality and women's ordination.

New study finds higher youth-suicide rates after sex-change procedures

(13-6-22) A new study from the Heritage Foundation finds that young people who undergo sex-change procedures seem to have higher suicide rates than their peers. The study contradicts claims that the procedures are needed to prevent youth suicide.

Papal encouragement for 'Long Night of the Churches'

(13-6-22) The Long Night of the Churches is a European initiative in which churches are opened at night in order to attract visitors.

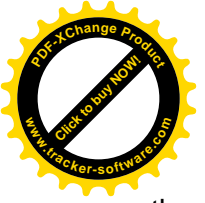
"May the #LongNightoftheChurches, taking place in many churches in several European countries, be a moment of encounter," the Pope tweeted. "And may it light many lights of hope in the darkness of the night."

Nigeria - Bishop of Ondo: "Climate change has nothing to do with the massacre in the church of Owo"

(13-6-22) "To suggest or make a connection between victims of terror and consequences of climate change is not only misleading but also exactly rubbing salt in the injuries of all who have suffered terrorism in Nigeria", says Bishop Jude Ayodeji Arogundade of Ondo, the diocese to which the church of St. Francis Xavier of Owo belongs, where a massacre of the faithful was committed on Sunday, June 5.

Bishop Arogundade replies to the President of the Republic of Ireland, Michael D Higgins, who in his message of condolence for the massacre had said that the Fulani should not be blamed for the massacre when they deserve pity, who because of climate change cannot find grazing land or water for their sheep. They have been consistently blamed for armed raids in Nigeria, mostly targeting settled farming communities. But authorities have now blamed the Islamic State West Africa (ISWAP) Province, a wing of Boko Haram, for the massacre.

In his statement Bishop Arogundade described it as "incorrect and far-fetched" to attribute a role to



the consequences of climate change in the Owo massacre and that "alluding to some form of politics of climate change in our situation is completely inappropriate".

Myanmar - The Bishops: prayer and action to face the political crisis and build peace

(13-6-22) Thousands of civilians are fleeing their homelands and millions of them are dying of hunger. The violence therefore primarily affects innocent people, above all older people, the disabled, children, women and the sick, who are often handicapped when fleeing. The Catholic Bishops' Conference of Myanmar commented on this serious internal situation on the margins of its Plenary Assembly, held in Yangon from June 7th to 10th.

Citing common values and goals such as peace, justice and reconciliation, the Burmese bishops appeal to all those responsible, as well as to political and military leaders, to organize and provide basic humanitarian assistance to refugees and migrants; "to respect and give value to every human life, and to respect and preserve sacred places and religious buildings, hospitals and schools". The bishops have said: "We ask in particular, to pray constantly for peace, celebrating a Holy Mass for Peace on the first day of every month and praying the Rosary for Peace in Myanmar every evening".

Costa Rica - Fishing bans by the Institute of Fisheries: Thousands of fishing families without a living

(13-6-22) The Bishops of Costa Rica are deeply concerned about the difficulties faced by the fishing communities in the provinces of Puntarenas and Guanacaste on the Nicoya Gulf, following the total ban on all commercial fishing activities in this area of the country. A corresponding ban was recently issued according to the technical criteria of the Costa Rican Institute for Fisheries and Aquaculture (INCOPESCA). "The effectiveness of technical regulations such as the total ban and the very high level of precariousness among the thousands of fishermen who carry out their activity irregularly, without a permit or fishing license must be verified". The text of the bishops' statement says further: "Many families are without economic support as their livelihood depends on fishing or shellfish farming, only a very small percentage of families receive state subsidies and, above all, there is a lack of alternative employment opportunities to fishing activities," the bishops said.

America - Religious lament the decay of democracy and the social fabric in Latin America and the Caribbean

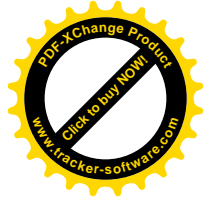
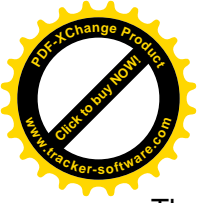
(13-6-22) The Confederation of Religious of Latin America and the Caribbean (CLAR) deplores "with deep concern the deterioration of democracy, the social fabric and the growing political instability in many of our countries, where fundamental freedoms are sometimes at risk". The message recalls the recent XXI Ordinary General Assembly of CLAR, which brought together representatives of 22 national religious conferences in Colombia from June 1st to 4th.



The Religious urgently appealed to political, social and economic leaders to overcome the cracks in the health, education and social systems that had arisen in particular as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic. In the message, the religious reaffirm their solidarity with the poor and express their solidarity and affection with their sisters and brothers, especially in Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela, in these times of extreme need and insecurity.

Korean Catholic art exhibition shows children's suffering in war

A Catholic museum in South Korean capital Seoul has launched an art exhibition to highlight the devastating impact of wars, especially rights violations and the suffering of children.



The June 12-Aug.28 exhibition at Seosomun Shrine History Museum is on the theme:“Peace for Children.” The display showcases artworks from 14 contemporary Korean artists who reflected on themes of war, human rights and children — the innocent victims of the war and terribly oppressed. Father Sa Seung-hwan, deputy director of the museum, said the death of Syrian refugee child Alan Kurdi in 2015 highlighted the extreme suffering of children due to war in the Middle Eastern country. “The dead body of the kid shocked the world. He was a refugee and extremely marginalized. As a child in the war, he experienced the brutal miseries brought by the war,” the priest said. The shrine is a part of the Seosomun Pilgrimage Route, one of the most popular Catholic pilgrimage sites in Korea.

UN urged to recognize St. Mother Teresa's birthday

(13-6-22) An Indian Catholic leader has urged the United Nations to declare the birthday of St. Mother Teresa as the International Day of Compassion.

“St. Mother Teresa is someone who had dedicated her entire life to human compassion, picking up the abandoned from the streets and offering them shelter, food, medicine and other basic care,” said Abraham Mathai, a former vice-chairman of the Minorities Commission in Maharashtra state. In an email to UN secretary-general Antonio Guterres, he said it would be apt to declare the saint’s birthday on Aug. 26 as a day of compassion in recognition of her contribution to the “culture of care, concern and compassion for suffering humanity worldwide.” Mathai, also the founder and chairman of Harmony Foundation, told Mathai urged the UN on June 13 to pass a resolution “recognizing the unequalled and matchless contributions” of the saint.

Catholic Institute of Vietnam holds graduation ceremony

(13-6-22) The national Catholic university in Vietnam established seven years ago has borne fruits with its first batch of graduates receiving their degrees.

The Catholic Institute of Vietnam, which is the first one to be established since the country was reunified under communist rule in 1975, held its graduation ceremony in Ho Chi Minh City on June 12.



Attacks on Christians increasing in India

(13-6-22) An interdenominational rights group in India’s national capital has demanded the federal government and judiciary intervene immediately to check the rapid rise in incidents of violence, coercion and false arrests of Christians.

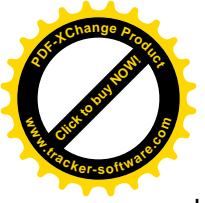
The New Delhi-based United Christian Forum (UCF) has cited 207 cases of persecution in 2022 to back the demand. It documented 505 cases in 2021.

“This data flies in the face of statements by government functionaries and leaders of the ruling party at the centre and in the states that there is no persecution and that

there are only a few stray incidents by fringe elements,” said UCF national president Michael Williams in a press statement on June 13. William said it was ironic that the culprits, many of whom even film the acts of vandalism and physical violence on unarmed women and men, dare to defy the law with such impunity while the pastors and faithful gathered for prayers are arrested on false charges of religious conversion.

“In all such cases, the police are either mute spectators or active participants. Despite our appeals to senior officials and administrators, the police have failed to follow protocol, rules and conduct investigations,” the press statement added.

Based on the data collected from its national helpline number 1800-208-4545, the UCF said as many as 57 cases of persecution against Christians were recorded in May alone. The most acute situation prevailed in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh states in the north, Chhattisgarh in the east



and Karnataka in the south. There were 40 incidents recorded in January, 35 in February, 33 in March and 40 in April.

Other than physical assaults and brutality, including against women, there were cases of vandalism, forcible closure of churches, disruption of Sunday prayers and social ostracization, mostly in small towns and villages, the data revealed.

"Muslims and Christians in India are in the crosshairs of militant Hindu nationalists across the country. The police are complicit," lamented John Dayal, a lay Catholic, journalist and human rights activist.

Call for deeper ties between Thai Catholics and Muslims

(13-6-22) The Catholic Church in Thailand should advance its relations with Islam in the spirit of dialogue with people of other religions, says a Catholic leader.

The observation was made by Monsignor Vissanu Thanya-anan, deputy secretary-general of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Thailand, after he and 70 imams were awarded appreciation certificates for their contributions to the Institute for Development of Islamic Leaders.

Msgr. Vissanu was the only non-Muslim participant in the institute's religious leadership development program intended for Thai Muslim leaders. Deputy Prime Minister Wissanu Krea-ngam awarded the certificates after the training session held at Government House in Bangkok on June 6.

"We [Catholics] should have a deep relationship with the Muslim community. However, it appears that we have a stronger tie with Buddhists relative to Muslims," said Msgr. Vissanu, who served as undersecretary of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue from 2008-12.

14-6-22

Pope attacks efforts at 'restoration' in Church

(14-6-22) Pope Francis has launched a new assault on "old-fashioned outlooks" and "restorationist groups" in his latest published interview.

In a conversation with the Jesuit journal *Civiltà Cattolica*, released on June 14, the Pontiff also defended his muted public comments on the war in Ukraine, saying that he is "against turning a complex situation into a distinction between 'good guys' and 'bad guys.'"

Citing an unnamed head of state who worried months ago that NATO was "barking at the gates of Russia," he said that the causes of the war are "very complex."

In his criticism of "restorationism," the Pope said that many groups—particularly in the United States—are trying to "gag the Council," and "never accepted the Council." He claimed that "the Council that some pastors remember best is the Council of Trent"—following up by insisting: "And what I am saying is not an absurdity."

Questioned about the German bishops' Synodal Path, with its recommendations of dramatic changes in Church teachings—and its sharp departure from the teachings of Vatican II—the Pope took a more conciliatory approach. He suggested that some German dioceses are "greatly influenced by external pressures." Therefore, he said, "I am waiting to discern until there is no pressure." He did not identify the sources of the pressure, although he indicated that they were largely economic.

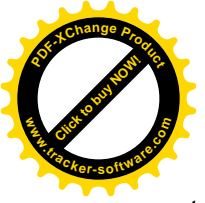
Pope Francis did say, however, that he had cautioned Bishop Georg Bätzing, the president of the German episcopal conference, saying: "There is a very good evangelical church in Germany. We don't need two."



Pope Francis steps in to appoint new Order of Malta leader

(14-6-22) Pope Francis has appointed a Canadian-American attorney as the new leader of the Sovereign Order of Malta, a week after the death of Fra' Marco Luzzago, the Order's leader since 2020.

"In his letter of appointment, Pope Francis states that 'the sudden departure of the Lieutenant of the Grand Master, Fra' Marco Luzzago, a few months before the celebration of the Extraordinary Chapter General, brings the Order of Malta to a new moment of dismay and uncertainty,' the Order said in



a statement.

Dunlap joined the Order in 1996; a dozen years later, he became “the first American to profess his final vows of poverty, chastity and obedience as a Knight of Justice.” At the time, he was a partner in a New York law firm and legal advisor to the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations, as well as a lector at daily Mass at St. Agnes Church.

‘The apostle is not a manager,’ Pope tells Missionaries of Africa

(14-6-22) On June 13, Pope Francis received participants in the general chapter of the Missionaries of Africa (White Fathers). Cardinal Charles Lavignerie founded the institute in 1868.

“The apostle is not a manager, he is not a learned lecturer, he is not an IT wizard, the apostle is a witness,” the Pope told the Missionaries of Africa. “This applies always and everywhere in the Church, but it applies especially to those who, like you, are often required to live in mission of contexts of first evangelization or where the Islamic religion is prevalent.”

“Witness essentially means two things: prayer and fraternity,” he continued. “A heart open to God and open to brothers and sisters. First of all, to be in the presence of God, to let oneself be looked at by him, every day, in adoration. There, to draw the lymph, in that ‘abiding in him’, in Christ, which is the condition for being apostles.”

Despite ‘steady trend of improvement,’ Vatican finance inspector files 104 suspicious activity reports

(14-6-22) Pope Benedict established the Vatican’s Financial Intelligence Authority in 2010; ten years later, Pope Francis renamed it the Supervisory and Financial Information Authority.

Carmelo Barbagallo, appointed the agency’s president in 2019, discussed the agency’s new annual report in an interview.

Pope decries scourge of child labour

(14-6-22) Recalling that June 12 is the World Day Against Child Labour, Pope Francis said, “Let us all work to eliminate this scourge, so that no child is deprived of his or her fundamental rights and forced or coerced to work. The exploitation of children for work is a terrible situation that affects us all!”



Pope rips ‘senselessness of war,’ damaging effects on the poor

(14-6-22) “What great poverty is produced by the senselessness of war!” Pope Francis remarks in his message for the annual World Day of the Poor.

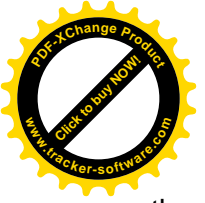
The World Day of the Poor will be observed on November 13. The Pope’s message, entitled “For your sakes Christ became poor,” was released by the Vatican on June 14. Pope Francis opens the message by saying that just as devastating economic consequences of the Covid

pandemic are easing, “a new catastrophe has appeared on the horizon,” referring to the war in Ukraine. He writes at length on the widespread and destructive effects of warfare, especially on the poor.

In his discussion of the war in Ukraine, the Pope offers some of his strongest criticism to date of Russian policy, saying that the conflict is particularly dangerous “due to the direct intervention of a ‘superpower’ aimed at imposing its own will in violation of the principle of the self-determination of peoples.”

Pope plans July Mass for Congolese in St. Peter’s Basilica

(14-6-22) Pope Francis said on June 13 that he would celebrate a special Mass for the Congolese in St. Peter’s Basilica on July 3. The announcement came a day after he apologized for



the cancellation of his July 2-7 apostolic journey to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan.

Ukrainian Catholic leader welcomes papal comment on war

(14-6-22) On June 13—the day after the celebration of Pentecost according to the Julian calendar—Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk, the head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, welcomed a comment made by Pope Francis the previous day.

“The thought of the people of Ukraine, afflicted by war, remains vivid in my heart,” Pope Francis said on June 12. “Let the passage of time not temper our grief and concern for that suffering population. Please, let us not grow accustomed to this tragic situation! Let us always keep it in our hearts. Let us pray and strive for peace.”

The Major Archbishop said, “Today, I would like to especially thank the Holy Father, Pope Francis, for calling on the conscience of people around the world yesterday, as we celebrated Pentecost, not to get used to war!”

Chile’s new ambassador to the Vatican meets Pope Francis

(14-6-22) On June 13, Pope Francis received Patricia Araya Gutiérrez, Chile’s new ambassador to the Holy See. A career diplomat, she represents the government of newly elected President Gabriel Boric, who describes himself as a “libertarian socialist.”

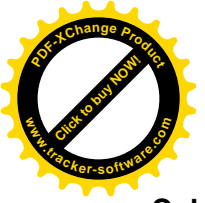
Niger - Female schooling is the way to give girls their rightful place in society

(14-6-22) "The school is an effective means to eliminate early and forced marriages, and to decide by themselves when to start married life, freely chosen by the couple, and not imposed by tradition", reads a note sent to the Fides Agency by Fr. Marco Prada. "Parents often complain that a girl kept at home to attend school is one more mouth to feed - continues the priest of the African Mission Society -. To deal with this problem, the French high school in Niamey, as well as many other high schools in the Nigerien capital, have created boarding schools, where girls find accommodation and food, as well as a welcoming and supportive environment. The initiative offers a hundred girls, born in poor and disadvantaged families, especially in the interior of the country, the opportunity to enroll and attend educational centers. "Among the government's objectives is above all the schooling of girls. 77% of Nigerien girls are married before the age of 18, and 28% before the age of 15 – resulting in highest birthrate for a country - 6 children on average per woman. The first target of Jihadists is school since it can bring about change in traditional values. Hadiza Maiga, who has created a sewing school, is responsible for welcoming girls who had to drop out of school because they were forced to marry by jihadists and undergo genital mutilation. "These girls managed to escape. They cannot go back to their families in the village, because they would be rejected.



Bolivia - The Bishops ask to include the question about the religion that is professed in the next census

(14-6-22) "As Catholic Church, we once again ask that the question about the religion that each person professes be included": this is the request of the Episcopal Conference of Bolivia (CEB), contained in the declaration entitled "For a transparent and inclusive census" published on June 13, in view of the national census of November 2022, for which "the Catholic Church has publicly requested the inclusion of the question on the choice of faith". The bishops say: "Ignoring this information means violating the right to public religious practice and association guaranteed by Article 4 of the Political Constitution of the Plurinational State. The comprehensive human dimension and training also include the spiritual aspect of people, children, adolescents and young people who have the right to be trained in the religion or spiritual belief to which they belong," reiterates CEB.



Colombia - "A Church moving forward in the Amazon, overcoming fears and apprehensions": visit to the Vicariate of Puerto Leguizamo-Solano

(14-6-22) "Walking together allowed us to listen with patience and sincerity to the communities and their institutions. It was a safe space in which, as pastors, we welcomed the cries and encouraged us in hope; we celebrated the faith with everyone, valuing the strength of the symbolic elements of these ancestral cultures; we came to know and recognize the face of a Church that advances in the Amazon overcoming fears and apprehensions, worthy of the hour it is given to live".

These words sum up the visit that, under the sign of synodality and closeness to these peoples, the executive of the Episcopal Conference of Colombia, headed by the President, Monsignor Luis José Rueda Aparicio, Archbishop of Bogotá, made from 9 to 11 June in the territories of the Apostolic Vicariate of Puerto Leguizamo-Solano, where the borders of three sister nations converge: Colombia, Peru and Brazil.

Reflecting the voice of all Catholics, they make an appeal to those who have government responsibilities in public matters to "stop the violent deaths, disappearances, threats and displacements that mainly affect indigenous, peasant and Afro-descendant communities". They ask the armed protagonists to "respect the sacred gift of life before any profit or advantage... nothing justifies the drama of war". They ask for protection of the environment.



Hindus in Bangladesh fear backlash from prophet row

(14-6-22) The Hindu community in Muslim-majority Bangladesh is living in fear after a leader of India's ruling party slammed Prophet Muhammad.

Controversial comments about the revered prophet made in a TV debate at the end of May by Nupur Sharma, a member of India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, have incensed Indian Muslims and outraged more than a dozen Islamic nations including Bangladesh. Following Sharma's remarks, who was then the BJP spokesperson, several Islamist political parties and Islamic organizations in Bangladesh staged protest rallies

around the country demanding the boycott of Indian goods.

The protests were followed by attacks on the homes of Hindus, arrests for supporting Sharma on social media and attacks on police.

Pakistan Church struggling with rising inflation

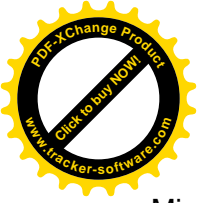
(14-6-22) Church leaders in Pakistan are struggling to run parishes and educational institutions as inflation has touched record levels.

"We don't have resources and expenditure is increasing. The salaries are low and we can't increase school fees," Bishop Samson Shukardin of Hyderabad told UCA News. The bishop was speaking on the sidelines of a five-day annual budget meeting that got underway at the bishop's house on June 13.

The nation's currency losing its value — the Pakistani rupee has slumped to an all-time low of 205.50 against the US dollar — has had a big impact on church-run institutions.

Financial markets have taken a hit since the coalition government unveiled a 9.5-trillion-rupee federal budget for the fiscal year 2022-23 in the National Assembly last week amid strict conditions of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the revival of its \$6-billion loan program. The government also increased the defence budget by nearly 6 percent to over 1.45 trillion rupees in a bid to meet the needs of the armed forces, including their enhanced salary requirements.

The budget allocations for vulnerable communities included 62 million rupees for the Pakistan Minorities Welfare Fund and 83 million rupees for the Special Fund for Welfare and Uplift of



Minorities. Bishop Shukardin is not enthused. “Sadly, the allocated money never reaches us. The government should think of vulnerable groups and how to help them in a transparent way,” he said. Meanwhile, consumer price index-based inflation rose in May to 13.8 percent year on year, the highest in two-and-a-half years.

Korean church group battles rising depression, suicides

(14-6-22) A Catholic group in South Korea has launched a campaign of prayer and rosary distribution as part of efforts to tackle rising rates of depression and suicide in the East Asian nation. The suicide prevention cell of the One Body One Spirit (OBOS) group kicked off its Rosary Prayer Campaign for Consolation last week with an aim to comfort Catholics distressed about socioeconomic struggles exacerbated by the pandemic.

Activities include making and distributing rosaries and deploying volunteers to visit neighbors in localities covered by Catholic dioceses, reported the Catholic Peace Broadcasting Corporation.

15-6-22

Elderly should serve and be served, Pope tells audience

(15-6-22) At his weekly public audience on June 15, Pope Francis continued his series of talks on old age, saying that the elderly should both serve and be served. Here is the summary of the talk. In our continuing catechesis on the meaning and value of old age in the light of God’s word, we now consider the healing of Saint Peter’s mother-in-law. The Gospel of Mark tells us that as she lay in bed with a fever, Jesus took her by the hand and the fever left her; and she began to serve them (cf. 1:29-31). The fact that Jesus wished to heal her in the company of the disciples reminds us that the entire Christian community is called to be present to our brothers and sisters in need. We proclaim Christ’s salvation and the hope offered by the Gospel precisely by reaching out to those who, like so many elderly people in our communities, feel isolated and even abandoned. Peter’s mother-in-law then responds with gratitude for the gift of God’s mercy by getting up and immediately serving her guests. Within the Christian community, the elderly offer a precious service by their own example of gratitude for the gift of faith and the experience of the Lord’s healing touch in their lives. They teach us that Christian discipleship is expressed in acts of charity, inspired by gratitude for the merciful love that touches and transforms our lives.

Vatican foreign minister emphasizes respecting Ukraine’s territorial integrity

(16-6-22) Archbishop Paul Secretary for Relations with community to resist the Ukraine’s territorial integrity.” Kissinger has proposed that Russia in return for peace—a Ukrainian President



Richard Gallagher, the Holy See’s States, called on the international “temptation to compromise on Former US Secretary of State Henry Ukraine cede some of its territory to proposal immediately rejected by Volodymyr Zelensky.

Pope requires Vatican approval for new lay associations

(15-6-22) Pope Francis has altered canon law to require Vatican approval for a bishop’s decision to recognize a public association of the faithful.

Prior to this change—which takes effect immediately—every diocesan bishop has held the authority to approve the establishment of new associations: the first step toward recognition as a religious institute. The bishop must now obtain written approval from the Dicastery for Consecrated Life. The change may have been motivated by a concern that some bishops would give approval to new lay associations dedicated to traditional liturgy and forms of piety: the “restoration” that the Pontiff warned against in a recent interview.



Ukrainian Catholic leader deplors Russian torture of civilians

(15-6-22) Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk, the head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, said on June 14 that 33 civilian volunteers in Mariupol “have been captured by the Russians, subjected to ruthless torture, and most likely face a long term of imprisonment.” “The Russian occupier does not know how to distinguish a volunteer from a terrorist,” the Major Archbishop added. “Today we want to say loudly to the whole world: No to violence against civilians!”

Archbishop of Canterbury lectures African Anglican primates on poverty, environment

(15-6-22) Citing Western Anglican leaders’ abandonment of biblical teaching on homosexuality, the Anglican primates of Nigeria, Rwanda, and Uganda announced that they would boycott the 2022 Lambeth conference (periodic meeting of Anglican leaders).

The African primates also criticized the conference’s “focus on peripheral matters about the environment and difficulties experienced by disadvantaged communities.”

In his response, Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury, the primate of the Church of England, criticized some of the African primates’ statements but said that the invitation to the conference remained open. “We are distressed to read that you consider matters of the environment, poverty and economic disadvantage to be ‘peripheral,’” said Welby. “Not to care for God’s creation and for the poor and destitute is in direct contravention of the teaching of scripture and the words of Jesus Christ.” “Boycotts do not proclaim Christ,” added Welby. “Those who stay away cannot be heard, they will lose influence and the chance of shaping the future.”

At least 50 civilians killed in suspected jihadist raid on Burkina Faso village

(15-6-22) With the headline “Burkina Faso devastated by jihadist brutality,” the Vatican newspaper has drawn attention to the insurgency led by Al-Qaeda and the Islamist State.

The West African nation of 21.4 million is 56% Muslim, 23% Christian (15% Catholic), and 20% ethnic religionist.

Vatican announces international summit on sports and inclusion

(15-6-22) The Dicastery for Laity, Family, and Life has announced “Sport for All: Cohesive, Accessible and Tailored to each Person,” a two-day international summit on sports and inclusion. In addition to bishops, summit speakers include Thomas Bach, president of the International Olympic Committee; Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees; Andrew Parsons, president of the International Paralympic Committee; and Tim Shriver, CEO of Special Olympics.

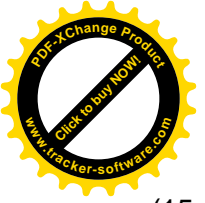
Uganda - Professional training for girls and boys in the tailoring, hairdressing, catering and fishing sectors

(15-6-22) Launched by Camillian Disaster Service International (Cadis), the one-year-old post-COVID project “Livelihood support, vocational training for young people and health promotion in Musoli, Uganda”, the Ugandan team continues to help 30 unemployed women from five villages in Musoli to acquire skills, undergo vocational training in sewing, hairdressing and catering, as well as 60 young people participating in a fishing project.



“Students, who have returned to their studies after the lifting of restrictions on COVID-19, will complete their first year in July. The students have made great progress. Most of them are now able to make clothes of different designs without the immediate supervision of a teacher. This gives us hope that they will be able to use the practical skills they learn in sewing to build a bright future for themselves, their families and society at large”, the Cadis sources say.

Indonesia - Civil society and religious communities: "No" to an entrance fee for the Borobudur temple and places of worship



(15-6-22) Civil society and the different religious communities, Buddhists, Muslims and Christians, have expressed their disappointment and disagreement with the government's plan to charge an expensive entrance fee to visit the temple of Borobudur, the largest Buddhist place of worship in the world, located in the regency of Magelang, central Java.

Tanzania - A White Father from Malawi killed

(15-6-22) "Fr. Samson and under what Archbishop Gervas Mbeya, the Tanzanian Mawelera Samson, of Fathers) originally from His body was found on morning of June 11.



around 6:30 a.m. on June 11", Archbishop Nyaisonga said. "It's likely Father Samson was shot in the head, maybe he was knocked unconscious, and then the killer or killers set about dissecting his body. Unlike in witchcraft ritual, all the limbs of the poor corpse were found," the Archbishop said. Archbishop Nyaisonga adds that "Father Samson was killed in a different place from where his body was found, wrapped in a sheet so that it could be transported without leaving a trace of blood". The funeral of the murdered missionary is to take place on June 16.

was killed but we do not know by whom circumstances" says to Fides John Mwasikwabhila Nyaisonga of archdiocese where Fr. Michael the Missionaries of Africa (White Malawi worked, who died on June 10. the banks of the Meta River on the "Parts of his body parts were found

Honduras - The Bishops: "Despite the difficulties, a new horizon is in sight"

(15-6-22) "Despite the difficulties, we see a new horizon": this is the exhortation that the Bishops of the Bishops' Conference of Honduras (CEH) address to all the People of God in a message made public at the end of their Plenary Assembly. Bishop Roberto Camilleri Azzopardi of Comayagua, is chosen president for a three-year period. The Bishops urge the population to look to the future with confidence, despite the current difficulties, and wish to contribute with their reflections, indicating some broad lines, "so that this new stage that the country is experiencing is not blocked by certain problems that have traditionally impeded a better path of justice and development". Corruption and impunity still leave gray areas, which could thwart the legitimate expectations of the electorate, who voted for "necessary change," the bishops say.

Catholic bishops tackle rising suicides in Philippines

(15-6-22) The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines has intensified its fight for mental health services to curb the rising rate of suicide in the country.

The bishops announced on June 14 that parishes would build mental health centres in local communities to provide mental and spiritual accompaniment to those who need them.

The project came as a response to a report by the Philippine Statistics Authority stating suicides rose by almost 30 percent in the first quarter of 2022. The bishops called for parents to reach out to their children and parish priests, especially in cases when their children experience depression.

In 2020, government authorities appealed to Catholic and spiritual leaders in the Philippines to provide counseling and guidance to their followers to address their growing tension and anxiety.

Vietnam's St. Anthony shrine attracts huge crowds

(15-6-22) Tens of thousands of St. Anthony of Padua devotees in Vietnam have been urged to follow the saint's examples of how to promote communion, participation and mission.

In the scorching sun on June 13, more than 45,000 pilgrims including some from other faiths thronged the St. Anthony of Padua Pilgrim Centre for the feast of the Portuguese saint. The centre is based in Trai Gao in Nghi Loc district of Nghe An province.

The faithful were invited to come to the saint to get closer to Christ and overcome big challenges caused by the coronavirus pandemic. The mass was concelebrated with 2 bishops and 40 priests.

Pilgrims thronged the 124-year-old shrine to seek divine peace, mercy and healing through the saint's intercession. The shrine is believed to be a common house that warms up people's cold and heavy hearts, poverty and misery.



Sri Lankan activists say clergy were not behind May riots

(15-6-22) Activists in Sri Lanka have denied allegations that Catholic clergy and Buddhist monks were behind last month's riots.

Prasanna Ranatunga, minister of housing and urban development, alleged that Catholic clergy and Buddhist monks were behind riots that erupted on May 9 following an attack on peaceful protesters by pro-government supporters at Galle Face Green on the same day.

The Coalition of Catholic Lay Organizations (CCLO) said

Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith, Catholic priests and Buddhist monks have never instigated violence in the country. "We express our displeasure and regret to the minister for making such a statement. The Church has always stood for peace and non-violence," CCLO national convenor Shehan Malaka said at a press conference on June 14. He said the minister made another false statement that church bells were used to rally people.

Myanmar military accused of targeting children

(15-6-22) The Myanmar military junta has brutally attacked and killed scores of children caught in the crossfire of conflict as well as being targeted for violence in the beleaguered Southeast Asian nation, Tom Andrews, UN special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, has said on June 13.

16-6-22

Massachusetts bishop: Jesuit school cannot call itself Catholic

(16-6-22) Bishop Robert McManus of Worcester has issued a decree prohibiting a Jesuit-run school from identifying itself as Catholic.

Citing his authority to ensure the Catholic identity of Church-run schools—an authority recently confirmed by a new Vatican document—the bishop ruled that the Nativity School of Worcester "may no longer use the title 'Catholic' to describe itself." Additionally, he said that the school will not be allowed to have Mass or other sacraments celebrated on campus, to conduct fundraising activities in the Worcester diocese, to advertise in the diocesan directory, or to retain former Bishop Daniel Reilly on its board.

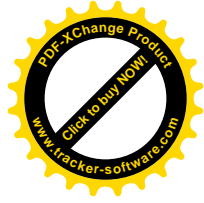
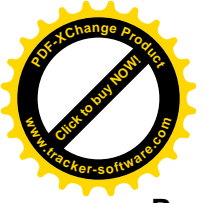
Bishop McManus took action after the Nativity School ignored his directive to stop flying Gay Pride and Black Lives Matter banners. In April, noting that these banners supported causes that were at odds with Catholic moral principles, the bishop asked: "Is the school committing itself to ideologies which are contrary to Catholic teaching? If so, is it still a Catholic school?"

Peter's Pence collection rises, but expenditures outpace revenue

(16-6-22) The Peter's Pence collection took in €46.9 million (\$49.3 million) in 2021, but the fund's expenditures of €65.3 million left a deficit, the Vatican has disclosed.

The Vatican offered an unusually full report on the worldwide collection, which supports the work of the Roman Pontiff, including figures on expenditures for the first time. Most of the funds were used to support Vatican offices and embassies, with some also used to support local dioceses and humanitarian projects. The deficit was funded by reserves from previous years.

US donors supplied nearly 30% of the worldwide collection. Italy was the second-largest source, with Germany third.



Pope: Remember those suffering in Ukraine and pray for them

(16-6-22) “Let us not forget the war-torn people of Ukraine,” nor “get used to living as if the war were something distant,” Pope Francis told pilgrims on June 15. “Let our remembrance, affection, prayers, and help always go out to this people who are suffering so much and who are carrying out a true martyrdom.”

Vatican releases suggestions for lengthier, revamped marriage preparation

(16-6-22) On June 15, the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life released (in Italian and Spanish) “Catechumenal Itineraries for Married Life.”

The 97-page document includes a preface by Pope Francis. “I appeal to the docility, zeal, and creativity of the Church’s pastors, and those who assist them, to increase the effectiveness of the vital and indispensable work of formation, proclamation, and accompaniment of families, which the Holy Spirit is asking us to carry out at this time,” the Pope wrote.

Belgian bishop declines red hat

(16-6-22) Bishop Luc Van Looy, asked Pope Francis not to who will be elevated to the The Pope has accepted the conference explained that his name be withdrawn because sex-abuse charges during his The Belgian bishop, who is 80 years old, would not have been eligible to vote in a papal conclave.



the former Bishop of Ghent, has include him among the prelates College of Cardinals on August 27. request. The Belgian bishops’ Bishop Van Looy had asked that of controversy over his handling of tenure as Bishop of Ghent.

British government sanctions Moscow Patriarch for supporting war

(16-6-22) The government of the United Kingdom has imposed sanctions on Patriarch Kirill of Moscow “for his support and endorsement of Putin’s war.”

Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said that the government is “targeting the enablers and perpetrators of Putin’s war who have brought untold suffering to Ukraine.” The action came after leaders of the European Union failed to reach a consensus on similar sanctions for the Russian Orthodox leader.

More than 400 Ukrainian Orthodox parishes have left Moscow Patriarchate

(16-6-22) In 2020 (according to the report), 29% of Ukrainian Orthodox Christians belonged to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate), while 71% belonged to the Orthodox Church of Ukraine (OCU), which had received canonical recognition from the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople the previous year.

Since the February 24 Russian invasion, more than 400 parishes have left the Moscow Patriarchate for the OCU.

Head of UN’s disarmament office meets Pontiff

In a June 15 audience, Pope Francis received Izumi Nakamitsu, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA).

“There is a ‘once in a lifetime moment’ —I had such a moment today,” Nakamitsu tweeted. “Private audience with His Holiness Pope Francis gave me strength, inspiration & courage for our work for peace through disarmament efforts. His warmth, humility & love for people touched me deeply.”

“In our conversation, he remembered this famous photo ‘The Fruit of War’, and asked his aide to bring some for me,” she added. “The boy in Nagasaki in 1945, with his deceased little sister on his back, awaiting turn to be cremated.”

Catholic church set ablaze in conflict-torn Myanmar

(16-6-22) St. Matthew Church in Dognekhu Parish of Loikaw Diocese was set ablaze on June 15.

Soldiers had encamped inside the church and burned it down along with several homes before leaving the area, according to church sources.

Local media reports said fighting between the military and Karenni National Defense Force (KNDF) has intensified in Phrosuo and Demoso townships of Kayah state since June 6.

At least nine Catholic churches have been hit by artillery shelling and airstrikes by Myanmar's military in Loikaw Diocese since the conflict between military and rebel forces erupted in May 2021.

The latest attack on a church came only a few days after bishops appealed to parties in the conflict to respect the sanctity of places of worship, hospitals and schools.



Filipino priest plants crosses, trees to stir nationalism

(16-6-22) A Catholic priest in the Philippines has started to plant crosses and trees along the streets of capital Manila to “rebuild the nation” after dictator’s son Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. won the recent presidential election.

Anti-corruption priest Father Robert Reyes planted 500 wooden crosses and trees on June 14 to remind Catholics of their inseparable love for God and country. “This project is related to our Philippine Independence Day. I wanted to replant the Philippine flag and to rebuild the nation to remind ourselves of

our love for God and country,” Father Reyes told UCA News.

Father Reyes, known as the “running priest,” has fought presidents with his anti-corruption and human rights campaigns.

Indian tribal Christians counter moves to deny them welfare benefits

(16-6-22) Tribal people including Christians in the central Indian state of Chhattisgarh are up in arms about attempts by Hindu nationalist forces to rob them of reservation benefits.

Reservations form a system of affirmative action in India that provides representation in education, employment and politics for historically disadvantaged groups such as tribal people, Dalits and backward castes.

Tribal people in Chhattisgarh are alarmed by Janjati Suraksha Manch (JSM) or tribal protection forum, which is affiliated with the Hindu nationalist Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), undertaking a concerted campaign to remove tribal Christians and Muslims from the list of reservation beneficiaries. Demands to delist Christians and Muslims have been raised for the past 15 years or so but Hindu nationalists started holding rallies in support of the move for the first time in May.

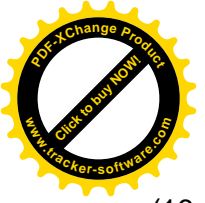
“The demand and the public rallies in support of it are motivated by political gains,” Bishop Emmanuel Kerketta of Jashpur told UCA News on June 15.

There is currently no religious bar to tribal people being eligible for government-run welfare schemes, but Christian leaders fear the campaign, if successful, could deny the faithful their constitutional right.

Bangladesh Church to promote, protect environment

(16-6-22) While observing Laudato Si' Week last month, the Catholic bishops' Justice and Peace Commission prepared an action plan for 2022-27 laying stress on environmental education, awareness programs and promoting an environment-friendly economy - through homilies in every church every month, setting up ecological clubs in Catholic schools and colleges, besides planting trees in yard.

Indian Catholics slam silence over Nigerian massacre



(16-6-22) Catholics in India have questioned the silence of the global community over the June 5 brutal mass killing of Christians in Owo, Ondo state in southwest Nigeria and want it to take a strong stand against such atrocities. Scores of Catholics belonging to the Catholic Congress based in Kerala state in southern India staged a rally in Kottayam district, a Christian stronghold, and condemned the massacre.

“We appeal to the global community to stand up against the mass murders in Nigeria,” said Catholic Congress president P.P. Joseph of Changanassery Archdiocese.

Archbishop Joseph Perumthottam of

Changanassery Archdiocese in Kerala wrote an editorial for *Deepika* (Light), a church-run daily, in Malayalam, the official language of the southern state.

“When it comes to the killing and persecution of Christians, certain media houses maintain silence. What sort of media ethics is this?” he wrote in a June 13 article. The archbishop claimed that in 2021 alone at least 6,000 Christians were slaughtered in Nigeria by Islamic terrorist groups such as Boko Haram among others. Since 2009, at least 40,000 Christians were killed by Boko Haram in Nigeria, he added. He also expressed concern over the spread of Islamic terror in other African countries and other parts of the world, noting that Christians are “the worst victims of persecution” and questioned why global powers could not protect human beings from the onslaught of Islamic terrorists.

17-6-22

NATO leader dismisses Pope’s comments on Ukraine

(17-6-22) In interviews with *Corriere della Sera* and Jesuit magazine editors, Pope Francis linked the invasion of Ukraine with “NATO barking at Russia’s gate.”

At a June 16 press conference, Thomas Gutschker of *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* asked NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, a former Norwegian prime minister, about the Pope’s comments. (Gutschker asked his question in a ham-fisted way: “We all know the Pope can claim infallibility for his remarks. Maybe not for this one, but I’d be keen to hear your reply.”)

“So NATO is a defensive alliance and the war in Ukraine is President Putin’s war,” Stoltenberg replied. “This is a war that he has decided to conduct against an independent sovereign nation. And what NATO has been doing for many years is to support the sovereign independent nation in Europe, Ukraine.”

“This is not a threat to anyone,” Stoltenberg continued. “This is not a provocation. And that is what we continue to do. So, it is President Putin and Moscow that is responsible for this brutal aggression against the independent country Ukraine.”

Italian parish holds ‘Mass of Thanksgiving’ for same-sex union

(17-6-22) A Catholic church in Bologna held a “Mass of Thanksgiving” for a homosexual couple, immediately after the men had registered their civil marriage.

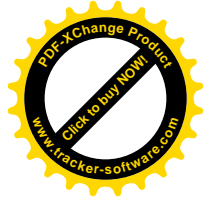
Although the liturgical service did not directly violate the letter of a Vatican ban on church blessings for same-sex unions, the couple came forward for a special blessing immediately after the Mass.

The priest who gave the blessing, Father Gabriele Davalli, heads the family-life office for the Bologna archdiocese, whose leader, Cardinal Matteo Maria Zuppi, was recently appointed by Pope Francis as president of the Italian bishops’ conference.

Pope says Buddhists, Christians should work together

(17-6-22) Meeting on June 16 a delegation of Buddhist monks from Thailand, Pope Francis said that Buddhists and Christians should work together, especially now that “our human family and planet are





facing manifold threats.” The Pontiff said: “The Buddha and Jesus understood the need to overcome the egoism that gives rise to conflict and violence.”

Ukraine’s Donetsk bishop: ‘We stay with our people, even as bombs fall’

(17-6-22) “There are four of our priests left in Donetsk, and they continue to serve there,” said Bishop Stephan Meniok. “There is also one in Luhansk. “They have retained possession of the parishes, and people are coming, even though more than half of the population has left the region.”



Cameroon - Archbishop Nkea's mission: to bring peace and reconciliation to the country

(17-6-22) "The core of the inaugural address of my nomination as president of the Cameroon Episcopal Conference reflects what I have long hoped and dreamed of: to dedicate my mission to restoring peace in the country, not only in the English-speaking regions, also in the north harassed by Boko Haram, in the eastern areas where many refugees who fled from Central Africa reside, and unite the Church of Cameroon to speak with one voice". This is how

Archbishop Andrew Nkea Fuanya of Bamenda, the capital of the English-speaking regions, who has recently become the president of the Episcopal Conference of Cameroon, expressed in an interview with Agenzia Fides, tormented for more than five years by very serious tensions, stoked by the separatist armed groups and the army.

Somalia - Serving the Somali people and the entire country: one of the first objectives of the newly appointed Prime Minister

(17-6-22) The choice of Manza Abdi Barre as new Prime Minister by President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, his friend, ‘raised a lot of hope; a large part of Somalia has welcomed the news.’ So comments an institutional source in Magadishu – hence no more struggles between the president and the prime minister which created so much chaos. Barre is 48 years old and represents the new generation of Somalia, continued the institutional source.

Al Shabaab militants, linked to Al Qaeda, who control large areas of the country and have killed tens of thousands of people in attacks, will be driven away; the growing humanitarian emergency which has forced more than six million Somalis to depend on food aid will receive speedy and effective attention, it is hoped. Some 386,000 children in Somalia are in desperate need of treatment for severe acute malnutrition that threatens their survival.

South Korea - The diocesan phase of the Synod on synodality closes

(17-6-22) "The diocesan phase of the synodal journey is not the end, it is only the beginning of a synodal Church": with these words Archbishop Peter Chung Soon-taick, O.C.D. of Seoul and Apostolic Administrator of Pyongyang, announced the closure of the phase diocesan church of the Synod on Synodality. In the concluding Eucharist, celebrated on June 12 in the cathedral of Myeongdong, around thirty people were symbolically present and walked next to the archbishop, including young people, the elderly, the disabled, religious and priests, who preceded Archbishop Chung in the procession towards the altar.

The archbishop thanked the participants for offering their opinions as children of God, to promote and build a truly synodal Church.

Pakistan - Civil society in government: transparency in the 7th census, especially for religious minorities

(17-6-22) "The distrust population census in through transparent census. Government governmental entities to controversy in carrying Pakistan Bureau of review questionnaire to at ethnic and religious Kalash Jews and rather than presenting



created by the Pakistan 2017 can be eliminated conduct of the new must engage non-build trust and avoid out the census in 2022. Statistics (PBS) must present minority groups, level, such as Baha'i, Buddhists separately them cumulatively as

'others'. It is urgent to commit to the structural inclusion of minorities in one's system ": this is what Peter Jacob, Pakistani Catholic leader, Executive Director of the " Center for Social Justice ", said to Agenzia Fides, who presented a White Paper entitled " Confusing Demographics for Minorities " .

"There is a general concern among Christians that, in the last census, their number was enormously underestimated, which has an impact on their socio-economic and political rights," says a lay leader.

America - Central American Bishops: "We listen to the cry of the Nicaraguan people and we are saddened by the situation they are going through"

(17-6-22) On the solemnity of Corpus Domini, June 16, the Episcopal Secretariat of Central America (Sedac) published a statement of solidarity with the Church of Nicaragua, with "all the Bishops, priests, religious communities and lay people of that brother country who work diligently for the vineyard of the Lord; despite the difficulties and trials they encounter on their journey. "In particular, the message, sent to Fides, cites Monsignor Rolando Álvarez, Bishop of the Diocese of Matagalpa and Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Estelí, and the priest Harving Padilla, parish priest of the parish of San Juan Bautista of the city of Masaya, "who suffer the violation of their right to security and full freedom".

Saintly Italian teen's Eucharistic exhibition starts in Macau

(17-6-22) Macau has become the first Asian diocese to host the international exhibition that Italian teenage Blessed Carlo Acutis created to spread Eucharistic devotion.

The Catholic Cultural Association of Macau Diocese launched the exhibition at the Diocesan Centre in the former Portuguese colony on June 17. It will run until July 31, reports Macau's Catholic weekly *Jornal O Clarim*.

The exhibition titled "Eucharistic miracles in the world" showcases 17 photographic exhibits of miracles approved by the Catholic Church. These include revelations that took place in Lanciano and Bolsena in Italy, and more recently in Buenos Aires, Argentina. This church-approved international exhibition is being sponsored and promoted globally by the Milan-based Association of the Friends of Carlo Acutis.

Two million stranded in flood-hit Bangladesh



(17-6-22) Bangladesh has deployed troops to help two million people stranded by floods after relentless monsoon rains inundated huge swathes of territory for the second time in weeks, officials said on June 17.

Much of the country's northeast is underwater and the situation could worsen over the weekend with more heavy rains forecast.

"The situation is very alarming. More than two million people are now marooned by flood water," Sylhet region chief administrator Mohammad Mosharraf Hossain told AFP. Hossain said authorities had sent the military to flood-hit rural towns, with soldiers going door to door handing out

aid and rescuing people from rising tides.

Korean priest gets Taiwanese citizenship for serving poor

(17-6-22) Taiwan's government has granted citizenship to a Korean missionary priest who has been involved in social welfare services for the poor, disabled and elderly for three decades.

Father Ha Yongguo, 61, received his citizenship certificate from Shen Huihong, deputy mayor of Hsinchu City in northwest Taiwan, on June 15.

The deputy mayor thanked the priest for his selfless care and dedication for disadvantaged groups.

Indian Christians fret over declining population growth

(17-6-22) Christians in India are concerned after a federal government report recorded a decline in the fertility rate among the community leading to a further reduction in their population.

According to the latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS) report, the total fertility rate (TFR) among Christians declined to 1.88 percent in 2019-21 from 2.87 percent in 1992-93.

Christians make up 2.3 percent of the more than 1.3 billion population, according to the 2011 national census, but the community fears that their population will decline further.

The chairman of the family commission of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India, Archbishop Sebastian Kallupura of Patna in Bihar state, said many families are going nuclear, i.e. going for small families.

Philippine bishops float watchdog for good governance

(17-6-22) The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines has announced the setting up of a new watchdog to ensure political accountability in the nation.

The Catholic Church's social arm Caritas will lead the initiative named Simbayanihan, derived from the commonly known words. A Simbayanihan member, Arlene Vidal, said that unlike other watchdogs of the Catholic Church that focused on clean and honest elections, their group would focus on governance and transparency in government transactions.

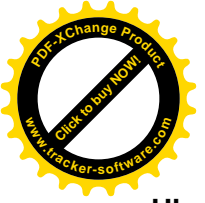
WFP launches emergency food aid scheme in Sri Lanka

(17-6-22) The United Nations World Food Program (WFP) has launched an emergency food aid program in Sri Lanka to help millions get life-saving food as the island nation struggles amid a worsening economic crisis.

WFP distributed food vouchers to pregnant women in capital Colombo on June 16 to kick off its campaign that aims to assist up to 3 million vulnerable people with food, cash and vouchers.

18-6-22





Ukraine - The Friars Minor: "Material, emotional and spiritual support for Ukrainian children to overcome the trauma of war"

"These are children who, before reaching a safe place, experienced firsthand not only the horrors of war, but also a sudden detachment from their everyday life and from their environment. It is very important to be close to them not only from a material point of view, but also from an emotional point of view ". Thus reports in an interview fra Giampaolo Cavalli, director of the Antoniano Institute of Bologna who, since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, has taken steps to support people on the run, offering both material help and emotional and psychological support through the Therapeutic Center and the Listening Centre managed by the Friars Minor.

Pakistan - Death penalty confirmed on appeal for two Christians accused of blasphemy on the web

(18-6-22) The High Court of Lahore, in its section of Rawalpindi, confirmed the death sentence already imposed in the first instance on two Christian brothers, Qaiser Ayub and Amoon Ayub, in a case of blasphemy charges. Both brothers have been in prison since 2011, when the police filed a lawsuit against them on the complaint of a Muslim imam. The two were indicted for having insulted the Prophet Muhammad, according to article 295 paragraph C of the Penal Code of Pakistan - of having published blasphemous material on the Internet. Only the phone number and office address are given in the internet. None of the available information, however, proves that the two brothers actually created or posted the material on the website.

Chile - More than 80 thousand euros raised for humanitarian aid to the population of Ukraine

(18-6-22) Caritas Chile announced the result of the national collection for Ukraine, promoted by the Chilean Church, which was launched on April 24, Divine Mercy Sunday, and which has since had the support of thousands of people from all over the country. Up to now it has been possible to collect a total of 75,800,276 pesos, equivalent to 81,400 euros, which will be allocated to a humanitarian aid project for the victims of the war, carried out by Caritas Ukraine. The aim of this project is to help meet the needs of 65,700 people displaced by the armed conflict, so that they can live with dignity, offering them places of welcome in the short and long term, the coverage of basic needs (food, water, hygiene, medicine) and psychosocial support.

Pope to Combonians: Without Jesus, we can do nothing

(18-6-22) Encouraging Comboni missionaries in their service worldwide, Pope Francis said on Saturday June 18 missionaries united to the Lord "are channels of God's love" and insisted that we can bear fruit only when driven by Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

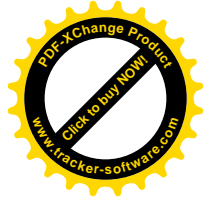
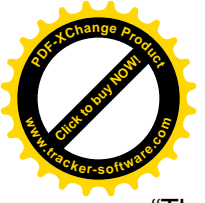
19-6-22

Pope at Angelus: 'In the Eucharist is Jesus' life given for all of us'

(19-6-22) Pope Francis reminded believers on Sunday that the Lord, who is present in the Eucharist, takes each and everyone of us to heart, cares for us and satisfies our need for nourishment, companionship, consolation.

Addressing pilgrims gathered for the Angelus in St. Peter's Square, the Pope noted that on 19 June, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ is celebrated in Italy and in other countries. "Instituted during the Last Supper," he explained, "the Eucharist was like the destination of a journey along which Jesus had prefigured it through several signs, above all the multiplication of the loaves" narrated in the Gospel according to Luke (*Lk.* 9:11b-17).

He recalled how Jesus took care of the huge crowd that had followed him to listen to his word and to be freed from various evils, and of how "He blesses five loaves and two fish, breaks them, the disciples distribute them, and "they all ate and were satisfied." In the Eucharist, the Pope said, "everyone can experience this loving and concrete attention of the Lord."



“Those who receive the Body and Blood of Christ with faith not only 'eat', but are 'satisfied'. To eat and to be satisfied: these are two basic necessities that are satisfied in the Eucharist.”



Pope to International Community: ‘Don’t forget the people of Myanmar’

(19-6-22) Pope Francis called on the International Community to take action for the people of Myanmar who continue to suffer violence and displacement following the military coup on 1 February 2021.

Speaking after the recitation of the Angelus prayer, the Pope said that he joins "the appeal of the bishops of that beloved land that ask the International Community not to forget the

Burmese people,“ not to forget their human dignity and the respect for the right to life, as well as for places of worship, hospitals, schools.

Pope: 'Ask yourselves what you are doing for the people of Ukraine?'

(19-6-22) After the Angelus prayer, Pope Francis yet again turned his thought to Ukraine and said: *“Let’s not forget the battered Ukrainian people at this time, a people that is suffering. I would like to invite you all to ask yourselves a question: what am I doing today for the Ukrainian people?”*

Pope: 'Newly beatified martyrs show us the way to holiness'

(19-6-22) Recalling the beatification in the Spanish city of Seville on Saturday June 18, of 27 Dominican martyrs, Pope Francis said that even amid the cruelty that marked the Spanish Civil War, there was no shortage of examples of luminous faith.

The Pope mentioned the names of some of the men and women whom, he said, “were killed in hatred of the faith during the religious persecution that occurred in Spain within the contest of the civil war of the last century.”

“Their witness of adherence to Christ and forgiveness for their killers show us the way to holiness and encourage us to make life an offering of love to God and our brothers and sisters.”



Pope: ‘Family love is a vocation and path to holiness’

(19-6-22) Pope Francis reminded Catholics on Sunday that the Tenth World Meeting of Families will kick off in Rome on Wednesday, 22 June.

WMOF is the acronym for World Meeting of Families, created by Pope John Paul II in 1994.

Organized by the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life, the theme for this year’s edition is “Family Love: A Vocation and Path to Holiness”.

In place of a public worldwide gathering this year, it has been decided that the event be celebrated in all dioceses with local bishops, for a customized, local experience of formation, prayer and fellowship. However, delegations from across the globe will be present from 22 to 26 June in the Vatican’s Paul VI Hall, representing Catholic families all over the world.

Speaking after the Sunday Angelus, Pope Francis noted that the Meeting will take place in Rome and at the same time throughout the world.

He thanked the bishops, parish priests and family pastoral workers who have called families to moments of reflection, celebration and festivity. *“Above all, I thank the married couples and families who will bear witness to family love as a vocation and path to holiness. Have a good meeting!”*
