

CATHOLIC WORLD LAST WEEK

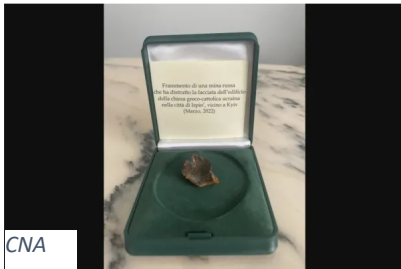
(CWLW)

7-13 Nov 2022

7-11-22

Pope to French bishops: Care for people ‘disoriented’ by *Traditionis Custodes*

(7-11-22) “Pope Francis ... invites you to the greatest solicitude and paternity for those people — especially young people, priests, and laity — who are disoriented by the motu proprio *Traditionis Custodes*, which you will be working to implement,” Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Holy See’s Secretary of State, said in a message to French bishops as they held their fall meeting. (*Traditionis Custodes* is the 2021 papal document restricting the celebration of the extraordinary form of the Mass.)



Ukrainian Catholic leader presents Pope a mine fragment

(7-11-22) Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk, the leader of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, presented Pope Francis with a fragment from an exploded Russian land mine, as they met in Rome on November 7. The Ukrainian archbishop, who has rallied resistance to the Russian invasion, was in Rome to confer with Vatican officials about the war and the conditions in his homeland. He was making his first trip outside Ukraine since the fighting began. Archbishop Shevchuk told the Pope that

the conflict is “a colonial war, and the peace proposals coming from Russia are colonial peace proposals.”

Pope says: three world wars in one century

(7-11-22) Pope Francis repeated his claim that we are experiencing a third world war, during his exchange with reporters on his return flight from Bahrain to Rome.

Stretching the definition of a century, the Pope said that the current conflict is similar to World War I (1914-1918) and World War II (1939-1945). “The one is a world war,” he said, “because it is true that when empires, either on one side or the other weaken, they need to make a war in order to feel strong – and also to sell weapons!” He repeated the speculation “that if we didn’t make weapons for a year, we could end world hunger.”

The Vatican News service gave prominent coverage to the Pontiff’s remarks on war, which included his plea to journalists to be pacifists.

Discussing appointments of women to different Vatican positions, the Pope said, “And this is a revolution because women know how to find the right way, they know how to move forward. And now I have put Mariana Mazzucato in the Pontifical Academy for Life. She is a great economist from the United States, I put her there to give a little more humanity to it.” Mazzucato is an Italian-American economist who teaches in London, as an ordinary member of the Pontifical Academy for Life. She a supporter of abortion “rights,” the Pontifical Academy defended the appointment, as did its president, Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia.

French cardinal admits past abuse, will cease public ministry

(7-11-22) Cardinal Jean-Pierre Ricard, the retired Archbishop of Bordeaux, has announced that he will no longer engage in public ministry, after disclosing that he “behaved in a reprehensible way” with a young girl long ago.

Cardinal Ricard said that his misconduct, which occurred 35 years ago, had “grave and lasting consequences,” for which he asked forgiveness. Cardinal Ricard, a former president of the French episcopal conference and member of the Vatican’s Council on the Economy, retired in 2019. The Vatican accepted his resignation on his 75th birthday.

Italian missionary sister beatified in Kenya

(7-11-22) A Catholic nun who served among the underprivileged in Kenya close to 100 years ago was beatified on 4 November in a colourful ceremony at Kinoru Stadium, Meru County.

The Archbishop of Kigali, Rwanda, Antoine Cardinal Kambanda, who presided over the mass on behalf of the pontiff, together with the Superior General of the Sisters of St Joseph Cottolengo, Mother Elda Pezzuto unveiled the image of the Blessed Maria Carola, as the faithful stood and broke into song.

Sr Catherine Kathoni who was among those who encountered a miracle attributed to Blessed Carola, presented a rosary that she used for prayer before she died in 1925. The rosary was the only relic associated with Blessed Carola that was placed at the altar for veneration before the mass started. "Her mission zeal, love and enthusiasm coupled with charity and love for the poor particularly in her last years here in Tigania parish continue to inspire Christians to imitate and follow in her faith," said Bishop Mugambi.

Mother Pezzuto said Blessed Carola loved peace and encouraged dialogue to resolve disputes and had earned a nickname "Mwari mwega" (good lady) among the Meru people.

Despite uncertainty, Catholic voices welcome Ethiopia peace deal as 5M people need food

(7-11-22) Ethiopian and Eritrean troops have been fighting against a separatist coalition in the Tigray War, which began in 2020. Two of the parties, the Ethiopian government and Tigray's government, have agreed to a truce.

'Let us sit down together to put aside our differences,' Grand Imam says in Bahrain

(7-11-22) Ahmed el-Tayeb, the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, the world leader of Sunni Muslims, took part in the Bahrain Forum for Dialogue, as did Pope Francis. During his 2019 apostolic journey to the United Arab Emirates, Pope Francis and the Grand Imam signed Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together

Ahmed el-Tayeb said: "We must beware of falling into the trap of compromising homelands' stability and exploiting religion to stoke the fires of nationalistic and ideological sentiments, not to mention interference with countries and their sovereignty or stealing their lands." He called for the end of the Russian-Ukrainian war to spare the lives of innocents who have no hand in this violent tragedy. I call for hoisting the flag of peace, not of victory, and to sit down for dialogue and negotiation.

He made a reference to an Eastern Islamic theory which is known known as 'Civilisational Acquaintance.' This states, el Tayeb said, that (1) Allah has made people different in race, colour, language, religion and other characteristics, (2) the Qur'an further establishes, based on the first principle, that man was created free and able to choose belief, religion, ideology and doctrine, and (3) Natural differences necessitate freedom of belief, which in turn entails a peaceful relationship among peoples. Thus, the Grand Imam underlined that Islam calls for respect for diversity with regard to religion and therefore called for peace and dialogue.



Uganda - Fighting pride and selfish interests and living a life full of humility, forgiveness and mutual love

(7-11-22) Bishop Francis Aquirinus Kibira Kambale of the diocese of Kasese appeals to the country's Catholic politicians, whom he urges to "stand up for the demands of the community" in order to achieve real socio-economic change. The occasion was the celebration of the confirmation of more than 1,300 faithful in the church of St. Matia Mulhumba-Ndongo, to whom Bishop Kambale asked to "overcome pride and selfish interests that satisfy one's heart and strive for a life of humility, forgiveness and mutual love, to be authentic messengers of good news of Jesus Christ and live in an

exemplary way, actively participating in church activities and joining the various church movements". The bishop warned politicians against politicizing any aspect of the community, but to "live together as a unit regardless of race, tribe and political affiliation". "God always shows mercy and forgiveness to his people." he said. Finally, the bishop called for cooperation in the fight against child marriage and in promoting education for students from less privileged families.

DR Congo - Cautious hope for a return of peace in South Kivu, but the situation in North Kivu and Ituri remains worrying

(7-11-22) "If this situation of pacification were to extend to the entire province of South Kivu, there would be space and hope for continuous socio-economic development for farmers and ranchers", states the organization for the defence of human rights ACMEJ, active in the province of South Kivu, in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo, in reporting the situation which has arisen in some areas since the withdrawal of the UN peacekeepers began. South Kivu, together with North Kivu and Ituri, are the three eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) for decades in the throes of instability caused by various armed groups of local and foreign origin. However, what is worrying is not South Kivu, but North Kivu and Ituri. Despite the establishment of the martial law, on May 6, 2021, the number of people killed in these two provinces doubled or, in some areas, even tripled compared to the period before the establishment of the martial law.



Mexico - Electoral reform: no one has the right to promote reforms that compromise the strength of democratic institutions

(7-11-22) The electoral reform proposed by Mexican President Manuel Lopez Obrador, which is said to be aimed at reducing costs, is causing a controversial debate in the country. According to the President, the initiative responds to a clear demand from Mexican citizens, who want a reduction in government spending and the creation of new electoral bodies to guarantee transparent elections and prevent voter fraud.

The Mexican Bishops' Conference emphasizes the importance of National Electoral Institute (INE) and the Federal Electoral Tribunal (TEPJF). It reiterates that no citizen, let alone those in government, "have the right to promote reforms that eliminate or undermine the strength of the institutions that support the Mexican State". The bishops underline that "Protecting our electoral authorities is the responsibility and duty of all citizens" and emphatically appeal: "let us not endanger the stability and democratic governance of the country".

Family of slain Indonesian Catholic seeks prez support

(7-11-22) The family of a Catholic state employee who was apparently murdered due to his status as a witness in a corruption case has appealed to President Joko Widodo so the investigation allegedly involving military personnel can proceed quickly.

Theresia Alvita Saraswati, one of the daughters of Paulus Iwan Budi Prasetijo, 51, a Semarang City Government employee, sent a letter on behalf of her family to President Widodo on Nov. 4.

"We respectfully request that this case be concluded without the intervention of several parties who wish to cover up the heinous wrongdoing of the perpetrators," she added in the letter.

Iwan went missing on Aug. 24, the day before he was scheduled to testify as a witness to a team investigating allegations of corruption in land acquisition at the Semarang City Financial and Asset Management Agency, where he worked.

His charred body was found by workers who had gone to clear bushes on the outskirts of the city on Sept. 8, police said. His body was mutilated, and his right hand and foot were found following a police search of the area.

Christians, Muslims condemn bombing in the Philippines

(7-11-22) Christians and Muslims have deplored the bomb explosion on a bus that left one passenger dead and 11 injured in the southern Philippines.

The bomb went off inside an air-conditioned bus at a terminal in Sultan Kudarat province of Mindanao region on Nov. 6. Among the injured nine are Muslims and two Catholics. Sultan Kudarat Police Director Col. Christopher Bermudez told reporters on Nov. 6 that the bus was about to reach the terminal when the explosion occurred. "Someone planted the bomb at the point of origin of the bus in Kidapawan City in Northern Cotabato. Then someone at the terminal [of arrival] in Sultan Kudarat province detonated it using a cellphone," he said.

Christian and Muslim groups condemned the bombing as the "greatest threat" in the Mindanao region – the poorest region in the Philippines. The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines has condoled the family of the victim who died and assured the injured people of material and spiritual support.

Indian Christian group seeks release of jailed pastors

(7-11-22) A group of Christian pastors in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh has appealed for the release of some 30 fellow pastors incarcerated in different jails across the province.

Pastor Jitendra Singh, general secretary of the Pastors' Association, Uttar Pradesh, told UCA News that all of them were falsely charged with indulging in religious conversions.

The pastors in their memorandum have alluded to how the hardcore nationalist groups and individuals disrupt Christian prayers gatherings, ransack churches and prayer halls, destroy copies of the Holy Bible and manhandle pastors, priests and nuns, by citing violations of the state's anti-conversion law. The pastors also urged the police commissioner to provide protection to the community members and their places of worship.

Jailed Khmer Bible editor goes on hunger strike

(7-11-22) Prominent Christian activist gone on a hunger strike at Preah Cambodia's remote north to protest highlight Cambodia's human rights States President Joe Biden arrives for leaders' summit.

Theary Seng, an American-Khmer editor of the Khmer-language Bible, years in June for plotting to overthrow Sen and his government, began her the backing of the Khmer Thavrak youth group.



Theary Seng has Vihear prison in her incarceration and record as United this year's ASEAN

lawyer, who is also an was jailed for six Prime Minister Hun strike on Nov. 7 with

"The hunger strike, consisting of only water, shall take place November 7-14 to welcome President Biden's visit to Hun Sen's Cambodia," said a family source, who declined to be named.

"According to Human Rights Watch, Hun Sen has maintained his position through 'politically motivated violence, control of security forces, manipulated elections, massive corruption, and the tacit support of foreign powers'," he said.

8-11-22

Dutch bishop rips 'vile' Synod process

(8-11-22) A Dutch bishop has charged that the process of preparation for the Synod on Synodality has become "a megaphone for non-Church views" and a forum for "an evaporated faith, no longer practised and not accepting the Church's positions."

Bishop Robert Mutsaerts, an auxiliary of the Diocese of Hertogenbosch (more commonly known as Den Bosch), said that the Synod process "is more like a sociological experiment" than a movement of the Holy Spirit. He said that he was aware of other bishops, including cardinals, who had questioned the process—and even questioned the meaning of the term "synodality," which has been so

commonly used to describe both the process and its goal.

“One thing is clear to me,” Bishop Mutsaerts said. “God is out of the picture in this vile synodal process. The Holy Spirit has absolutely nothing to do with it.”

Always seek new ways to serve the Lord, Pope tells Claretians

(8-11-22) On November 7, Pope Francis received members of the community of the Claretianum (Claretian Institute of Theology of Consecrated Life in commemoration of its 50th anniversary. The Claretians, or Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, were founded by St. Anthony Mary Claret in 1849.

“Do not tire of going to the frontiers, even to the frontiers of thought; of opening paths, of accompanying, rooted in the Lord in order to be bold in mission,” the Pope said in his address.

Dutch bishops give sober report to Rome on Church decline

(8-11-22) Bishop Jan Hendriks of Amsterdam has acknowledged that the Dutch bishops gave a “not-so-rosy” picture of the Church in their country, in their *ad limina* report to the Vatican.

The bishop—who had earlier revealed that his diocese might be forced to close up to 60% of its parishes—explained that the hierarchy is reacting to a decline in the numbers of priests and active Catholics, and a decline in contributions.

The Dutch bishops are in Rome this week for the *ad limina* visits, during which they will meet Pope Francis and confer with officials of the Roman Curia. He said that the report presented to Rome offered no dramatic new plans, but gave a realistic understanding of the situation the Church faces.

Papal telegram following Tanzanian plane crash

(8-11-22) Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Holy See’s Secretary of State, has sent a telegram of condolence in the Holy Father’s name to the apostolic nunciature in Tanzania following the crash of Precision Air Flight 494.



Leading Latin American bishop calls for end of oil, gas exploration

(8-11-22) “Corporations, governments and financial institutions must stop initiating new oil and gas exploration and replace fossil fuels with energy sources that are friendly to the planet and those of us who inhabit it,” said Archbishop Jorge Eduardo Lozano of San Juan de Cuyo (Argentina), the general secretary of CELAM (the Latin American Episcopal Council), as religious leaders of different faiths

called for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Pope ‘liberates’ brain-damaged bishop from his office

(8-11-22) The Vatican announced on November 7 that “the Holy Father has liberated Bishop Warlito Itucas Cajandig from the office of vicar apostolic of Calapan, Philippines, for health reasons.”

When Bishop Cajandig was 74, he suffered a stroke and brain damage, and the Pontiff named an apostolic administrator to govern the vicariate in his place. Apparently unable to resign at the customary age of 75, Bishop Cajandig is now 78; rather than dismissing him from office, the Pope thus chose to “liberate” him.

Tanzania - Ecosystem damage continues as the country is engulfed in flames, just days after an incident on Lake Victoria

(8-11-22) Tanzania, overwhelmed by an active fire since October 21, deployed the army to respond to the fire that broke out on Kilimanjaro. On Tuesday, November 1, the country mobilized a military contingent to lend a hand to the firefighters, as well as civilians and volunteers to fight the fire. The government said no injuries have been reported so far.

A first fire had been detected near the Karanga camp, some 4,000 meters above sea level, a crossing point for mountaineers en route to the highest peak on the continent, 5,895 meters. The origin of the disaster has not yet been officially declared. The strong gusts of wind that have hit the region in recent days have complicated the situation and the rescue operations.

"The Pope prays for the eternal rest of the dead, the healing of the wounded and strength for those who took part in the rescue and recovery operations," reads the condolence telegram sent to the Apostolic Nunciature in the country, assuring the spiritual closeness of Pope Francis to all those affected by this tragedy.

Ethiopia - Peace talks: negotiating partners discuss implementation of the agreement

(8-11-22) On November 7, 2022, a new round of talks began in Nairobi between the Federal Government of Ethiopia and the rebels of the Tigray region: representatives of the military command of the Ethiopian Army (ENDF) and the Tigray Defense Forces (TDF) met to discuss the implementation of the peace process launched in South Africa.

Meanwhile, The Ethiopian security advisor to Prime Minister Abiy and chief negotiator of the Ethiopian federal government, Redwan Hussien, spoke of a third party that had violated Ethiopia's integrity and "may not be interested in the peace process". This statement has been linked by

various observers to the strong presence of Eritrean troops in the country. A largely unconsidered factor in the peace process is the strong presence of Eritrean troops in Tigray, while criticism of the agreement is growing both within the region itself and among diaspora and opposition parties. It is still unclear how the Eritrean troops could be withdrawn and which alliances could result for the implementation of the articles of the agreement on respecting Ethiopia's sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity.



Church deplors gold miner's killing in Indonesia's Papua

(8-11-22) A church official in Indonesia's restive Christian-majority Papua region has deplored the killing of a gold miner by an armed criminal group and called for an end to the exploitation of resources that continues to breed violence.

Father Bernard Baru, chairman of the Augustinian Order of the Justice and Peace Commission in Papua said the region has complex interests, such as investment, militarism, and political policy that trigger conflicts. He said the military is backing illegal mining and logging. "And this drives Papuan resistance groups to fight back," (leading front-liners to become victims) Father Baru told UCA News on Nov. 8. They cited the case of gold miner shot dead by armed criminal groups (KKB) on Nov.5 While Papua has a long-running insurgency for independence, disputes over the share of natural resources trigger frequent violence, observers say.

Indonesian Church slams government geothermal ploy

(8-11-22) Church institutions in Indonesia's East Nusa Tenggara province protested against a government company for using their names to pass a geothermal project that was rejected by local residents.

In a booklet that was distributed recently, the State Electricity Company (PT PLN) claimed it had approached and consulted the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Commission of the Franciscan order, the Divine Word and Ruteng diocese regarding geothermal projects in Manggarai district. In another part of the booklet, PT PLN also stated that geothermal projects are supported by the Vatican through the *Laudato si* encyclical issued by Pope Francis in 2015.

The booklet was distributed in a mission station chapel in Kampung Lugar, one of the areas where the project is slated. The project plans to utilize 40 megawatts of geothermal energy potential but is

opposed by the majority of residents because the drilling points are located near their village and farmland.

Indian Catholics welcome quotas for the economically weak

(8-11-22) The Eastern rite Syro-Malabar Church has welcomed India's top court favouring educational and job quotas for the economically weak among higher caste groups.

The Supreme Court cleared on Nov. 7 the special quota of 10 percent over and above the 50 percent quota reserved for Dalits or former untouchables, Adivasis or tribal people and those deemed socially and educationally backward.

"It will open the door for justice to those who have been deprived of its [reservation quotas or affirmative action] benefits for ages," Archbishop Andrews Thazhath, chairman of Syro-Malabar Church's Public Affairs Commission said in a press statement.

The Supreme Court's verdict will benefit anyone who is economically weak and not a beneficiary of existing reservation quotas and comes from a family with an annual income less than 800,000 rupees (US\$10,600), and agricultural land measuring less than five acres or a residential house of less than 1,000 square foot in area.



Korean president joins requiem Mass for stampede victims

(8-11-22) South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol and first lady Kim Keon-hee joined hundreds of Catholics in Seoul to pray for the victims and family members of the Halloween stampede tragedy that killed 154 people. Archbishop Peter Chung Soon-taick of Seoul officiated the requiem Mass at Myeongdong Cathedral in Seoul on Nov. 6.

Asian nations 'among worst' at prosecuting journalist killers

(8-11-22) Seven Asian nations are among the worst performers in pursuing and prosecuting the murderers of journalists, says a global media watchdog.

In a recent report the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) said on Nov. 1 in its Global Impunity Index covering the last 10 years that globally about 80 percent out of a total of 263 journalist murders were not investigated, and the perpetrators remain unpunished.

The 11 worst offending countries in the index are Somalia, Syria, South Sudan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Mexico, Philippines, Myanmar, Brazil, Pakistan and India.

9-11-22

General Audience: Visit to Bahrain reviewed

(9-11-22) At the general audience on Wednesday 9 November 2022, Pope Francis spoke about his visit to Bahrain 3-6 November. The following is the summary of his talk:

My recent Apostolic Journey to Bahrain was occasioned by the international Forum for Dialogue, which brought together leaders of different religions in the service of peace. Dialogue is in fact "the oxygen of peace", opening minds and hearts to encounter and breaking down the walls of violence and division. In our world, torn by war and conflict, religious and civil leaders, and all persons of good will, are challenged to look beyond narrow interests and to seek the unity and peace of the entire human family. My visit to Bahrain, a predominantly Muslim country, was yet another step in the promising journey of dialogue, encounter and fraternal cooperation between Christians and Muslims. In those days, I was also able to join Christian leaders in a choral prayer for peace and to celebrate Holy Mass with the Catholic community of Bahrain and the greater Gulf region. May the prayers of Our Lady of Arabia confirm them in their joyful witness of faith and help all believers to persevere on the path to peace, understanding and fraternal coexistence.

Pope condemns warfare, urges peace in Ukraine, Syria, elsewhere

(9-11-22) At the conclusion of his regular weekly public audience on November 9, Pope Francis repeated his condemnation of “the childish logic of weapons,” and his appeal for peace in Ukraine—as well as an end to “wars that have been going on for years” in Syria, Yemen, and Myanmar. The Pope devoted most of his audience to a report on his trip to Bahrain, saying that it had been an effort to promote dialogue, “the oxygen of peace,” with the Islamic world.

Former Pope Benedict to mount legal defence over abuse cover-up accusation

(9-11-22) In June, a 38-year-old man filed suit, alleging he was abused by a priest when he was 11 or 12: that is, in 1995 or 1996, long after the future Pope ceased to be Archbishop of Munich (1977-82). Nonetheless, the man alleges that Pope Emeritus bears some legal culpability, as he permitted the priest, who had already been accused of abuse in Essen, to come to Munich for therapy and work in a parish. The former Pontiff has denied that he knew of the priest’s abuse in Essen.

‘Climate change will not wait for us,’ Cardinal Parolin tells UN conference

(9-11-22) Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Holy See’s Secretary of State, addressed COP27, the UN Climate Change Conference in Egypt. “The Vatican City State is committed to reducing net emissions to zero before 2050, through intensifying its efforts to improve its environmental management,” he said, and the Holy See “is dedicated to promoting education in integral ecology.”

“Climate change will not wait for us,” he continued. “Our world is now far too interdependent and cannot permit itself to be structured into unsustainable isolated blocs of countries. This is a time for international and intergenerational solidarity. We need to be responsible, courageous, and forward-looking, not just for ourselves, but for our children.”



New Vatican sculpture dedicated to the homeless

(9-11-22) Pope Francis has dedicated a new sculpture in St. Peter’s Square that calls attention to the suffering of homeless people.

The life-sized bronze statue entitled “Sheltering,” by Canadian sculptor Timothy Schmalz, depicts a resting human figure, partially covered by a blanket that is pulled across him by a dove.

Vatican diplomat renews call for special status for Jerusalem

(9-11-22) Addressing a UN meeting on Palestinian refugees, Archbishop Gabriele Caccia, apostolic nuncio and Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations, said that “the Holy See reiterates its position in calling for a special status [for Jerusalem], internationally guaranteed, within which the various aspirations are composed in a harmonious and stable form and are adequately and effectively protected, so that no party can override the rights of the others.”

Lebanese politicians must heed Pope Francis and put aside ‘self-interest,’ Patriarch says

(9-11-22) Lebanon faced a political crisis after the expiration of the president’s term without a replacement.

“Lebanon right now is suffering,” Pope Francis said during his in-flight press conference as he returned from Bahrain. “I pray, and I take this opportunity to make an appeal to Lebanese politicians: leave aside self-interest, look at the country and be in agreement.”

Cardinal Bechara Boutros al-Rahi, the Patriarch of the Maronite Church, warned that “Lebanon is going through the most dangerous phase of its political and economic history. We hope that they [lawmakers] will listen to the [papal] appeal.”

Orthodox Church of Ukraine to allow Christmas on December 25 as rift with Moscow deepens

(9-11-22) The Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, who holds a primacy of honor among the Orthodox churches, granted canonical recognition to the Orthodox Church of Ukraine (OCU) in 2019—a decision condemned by the Russian Orthodox Church. The OCU, “taking into account numerous requests,” is now permitting its parishes to celebrate Christmas according to the Gregorian calendar, rather than the Julian calendar.

Madagascar - In one of the poorest Countries in the world, the parish remains a refuge for all



(9-11-22) "In Madagascar we know that we are objectively among the poorest countries in the world. But there is no war, the worst and most repugnant of the evils that men inflict on their fellow men. And at least for this reason, we recognize that we are lucky". The Salesian missionary, Rosario Vella, Bishop of Moramanga, Madagascar since July 2019, looks at reality with hope and Christian realism. He too recognizes that the life of the Malagasy people is conditioned by the evils of poverty and corruption, but gives thanks because the great island nation is spared the scourge of war."

"There is corruption at all levels, it is no longer known who is the victim or who is complicit in this system. The people in many ways no longer trust anyone. And in all this, many trust only the works of the Church. In Madagascar, many perceive the parish as the only refuge for everyone and everything. A place of welcome for the poor, for those who cannot study, for the sick who seek help to go to the hospital and be treated. Works of charity are part of the community's journey of faith, nourished by the sacraments and prayer".

Nigeria - Kaduna: Kidnapping of a Catholic priest and 9 other people in a village attacked by bandits

(9-11-22) Fr. Abraham Kunat has been kidnapped by armed men in the local government area of Kachia, in the state of Kaduna, in northern Nigeria. The kidnapping took place around midnight on November 8 in St Mulumba, Kurmin Sara. The Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Kaduna, Father Christian Okewu Emmanuel, has told local media that Father Kunat is the parish priest of St. Bernard Church, Idon Gida, in the Kachia local government. Still in the state of Kaduna, an armed group has attacked the so-called “Oil Village”, located near the Kaduna refinery. The armed group of about 15 armed men attacked the village on the night of November 7, looking for houses to loot. In escaping, they took nine people hostage. One of them later managed to escape from the hands of the kidnapers.

The Oil Village is a frequent target of raids by bandits, to the point that residents, workers employed at the local refinery from all over Nigeria, have long demanded a permanent military post in the village to protect them from further assaults.

Philippines - Care of the 'Common Home' in eastern Davao: make it a "zone free of mining exploitation"

(9-11-22) "Every Catholic, in conscience, recalling the Encyclical Laudato Si of Pope Francis, which promotes 'the care of the Common Home', cannot approve this operation of destruction of our territory by the logic of profit". This is how Fr. Alfe Alimbon, Director of Social Communications of the diocese of Mati, on the island of Mindanao, in the south of the Philippines, presents to Agenzia Fides the petition of the local Church demanding the cessation of mining projects in the territory. The other dioceses of the eastern Davao province (Davao, Digos and Tagum): political representatives, members of civil society and church communities are calling on the government to declare the entire province of eastern Davao "zone free of mining exploitation".

Dominican Rep. - Participate in the national census for the benefit of everyone's quality of life

(9-11-22) The Episcopal Conference of the Dominican Republic (CED) calls on the entire Dominican people to participate in the X National Population and Housing Census, which the State will carry out in the country from November 10 to 23, 2022. "We must become aware of the importance of the census as an essential tool to organize and structure public policies with a view to the common good, for the benefit of our communities and the most vulnerable," they write in a message published on Nov.8.

The bishops ask for everyone's collaboration. In addition, they hope that the information collected on this occasion "contributes to the creation of true public policies, in order to reduce poverty, the wave of violence, crime and anti-values that affect so many families in our country." The message concludes with this exhortation: "As pastors, we bless you and invite you to exercise citizenship in this census in a responsible manner, for the benefit of everyone's quality of life."

Cardinal urges UN to support justice in Sri Lanka

(9-10-22) Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith has urged the United Nations Human Rights Council to play a part in establishing freedom and justice in Sri Lanka.

The cardinal said the current government has brutally cracked down on rights activists who speak out against fraud and corruption.

"The government is suppressing human rights activists who speak out against corruption, protest peacefully and organize protest marches," the outspoken cleric said on Nov. 8.

He said it is unacceptable that Ven. Galwewa Siridhamma Thera, convenor of the Inter-University Bhikkhu Federation, and Wasantha Mudalige, convenor of the Inter-University Student Federation, have been unjustly detained for 75 days.

The two leading anti-government activists have been detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) without charges when in August they joined the students protesting corruption and fraud.

"Religious leaders like Cardinal Ranjith should come forward to address the issues of people suffering due to the economic crisis. Politicians stole the money, not the public," said University student Mary Sadani.

Cardinal Ranjith said the program of acquitting those arrested on various charges related to the 2019 Easter Sunday attacks is only a drama to mislead the people. "The efforts to keep certain volumes of the Presidential Commission hidden from the public is another facet of the cover-up of the truth about the Easter attacks," he said.



Filipino businessmen make Christmas non-profiteering vow

(9-11-22) A group of Catholic businessmen in the Philippines have forged an agreement to implement a cap on the prices of goods and commodities during the Christmas holiday season.

The Catholic Businessmen Association of the Philippines, a group of more than 3,000 entrepreneurs, agreed on Nov. 8 to put a ceiling price on goods in order not to take advantage of the high demand during the Christmas season.

People in the Catholic-majority nation are expected to begin partying from the beginning of December, which tempts businessmen to raise the prices of commodities due to high demand.

The business group said having a price cap would remind every Catholic entrepreneur of his mission to God and country.

Goa announces next Francis Xavier exposition

(9-11-22) Goa archdiocese has announced that the next decennial exposition of the sacred relics of St. Francis Xavier, which draws millions of people of all faiths from across the world, will commence on Thursday Nov 21, 2024 and end on Sunday, 5 January 2025,.

Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrao, Archbishop special decree on Nov 5 announcing the sacred relics of the 17th century founder of the Society of Jesus, one of the Church.

The body of Saint Francis Xavier, until three decades ago, is placed in a Jesu in Old Goa, the capital of the During the exposition that takes place seen only as relics — will be lowered pilgrims to come near and seek the



of Goa and Daman, issued a the seven-week-long exposition of Spanish Jesuit saint and co- the largest priestly congregations in

which was considered incorrupt silver casket in the Basilica of Bom then-Portuguese rulers. every ten years, the body — now and placed on a podium to allow saint's intercession.

10-11-22

Former Vatican auditor sues Secretariat of State, promises proof of corruption

(10-11-22) The Vatican's former Auditor General and his deputy have filed a lawsuit against the Secretariat of State, saying that they can demonstrate widespread corruption in the Vatican leadership.

Libero Milone was appointed as auditor general in 2015 but forced to resign in 2017 by Cardinal Angelo Becciu, who now faces criminal charges before a Vatican tribunal for financial misconduct. He and his former deputy, Ferruccio Panicco, say that they were dismissed unjustly, and suffered damage to their careers and reputations. They seek over \$9 million in damages. Milone says that he was threatened with prosecution by Cardinal Becciu after he investigated complaints of financial misconduct. In filing the lawsuit, he said that he could provide ample evidence of that misconduct, including details of embezzlement by high-ranking clerics.

The financial affairs of the Secretariat of State have been at the center of the current landmark trial at the Vatican. The former auditor told the *New York Times* that the office is a "viper's nest" of corruption, speaking of "financial malfeasance, papal hypocrisy about transparency and a reign of terror by bug—and-blackmail-prone gendarmes."

Milone and Panicco say that they have brought the suit only after repeated unsuccessful pleas to the Vatican to clarify the record and clear their names.

Pope Francis has helped facilitate prisoner exchanges, Russian ambassador confirms

(10-11-22) Aleksandr Avdeyev, Russia's ambassador to the Holy See, said that Pope Francis has personally facilitated exchanges of military prisoners.

"In this case, we highly appreciate the personal actions of the Pontiff, who is carrying out a very important humanitarian mission that allows hundreds of people to return to their families," he said.

Report: Pope orders canonical visitation of Spain's seminaries

(10-11-22) Pope Francis has ordered a canonical visitation of Spanish seminaries, the Spanish newspaper *El Debate* has reported.

According to the report, the visitation will take place in January and February 2023 and will be conducted by Bishop Arturo Eduardo Fajardo Bustamante, 61, and Bishop Milton Luis Tróccoli Cebedio, 58. Both are from the South American nation of Uruguay.



Catholic groups worry world leaders all talk, no action at COP27

(10-11-22) The UN Climate Change Conference, COP27, is taking place in Egypt. Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Holy See's Secretary of State, addressed the conference and warned that "climate change will not wait for us."

"Climate change has had a major impact on the current food and migration crisis," warned Aloysius John, secretary-general of Caritas Internationalis, the Church's confederation of relief and development agencies. "The

international community and, especially the states responsible for the degradation of our common home, must act immediately.”

In occupied Ukraine, religious leaders face arrest, coercion, Major Archbishop meets Pope

(10-11-22) According to the report, “20 priests and pastors have been killed since the war began — but there is reason to believe that an accurate figure might be five times higher.” 179 churches, including five Latin-rite Catholic churches and three Ukrainian Greek Catholic churches, have suffered damage.

Meanwhile, Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk of the Ukrainian Catholic Church met on November 9 Pope-emeritus Benedict XVI at the Mater Ecclesiae residence, to brief him on the problems of the Church in Ukraine.

The Ukrainian church leader reported that the retired Pope “keeps praying for Ukraine.”

Situate military peacekeeping within context of development, Vatican diplomat tells UN meeting

(10-11-22) Archbishop Gabriele Caccia, apostolic nuncio and Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations, spoke at a UN meeting devoted to a review of its 12 peacekeeping operations.

“The Holy See has long held that peace is not merely the absence of war, rather true peace can be achieved only when we strive for justice through dialogue, pursuing reconciliation and mutual development,” he said. “As such, peacekeeping operations must be situated firmly in the broader framework of peacebuilding and development activities, the conduct of which provides the only path to long-term sustainable peace.” He continued, “Within this framework, and in keeping with the principle of subsidiarity, peacekeeping operations should prioritize the protection of civilian life, the facilitation and monitoring of political settlements and the promotion and protection of human rights.”



Ethiopia - The forgotten victims of the Tigray war: the fate of 100,000 Eritrean refugees

(10-11-22) In the last two years of the ongoing conflict in the northern region of Ethiopia, very little has been said about Eritreans. While 60,000 Tigrayans have been displaced from their homes to refugee camps in Sudan, other 100,000 Eritreans have lived in Tigrinya camps since the war broke out in November 2020. However, the figures released remain inaccurate. Ethiopia was considered a safe place for Eritrean refugees and has hosted a large number of them for years. However, since the end of 2020, they have found themselves involved and attacked by almost all the fighting groups often targeted because of their ethnicity. In fact, Eritreans can easily be confused with Tigris, both of whom speak Tigrinya. They were also attacked by Eritrean troops and in some cases even kidnapped and taken back to Eritrea.

D.R. Congo - Director of Justice and Peace of Butembo-Beni Diocese: "Is the population being massacred to clear out the territory in order to exploit its riches?"

(10-11-22) This massacre reflects what has been happening in our diocese from October 2014 until today: the ADF attack and kill the populations, burning houses, means of transport on the roads and goods", says Fr Aurélien Kambale Rukwata, Director of the Justice and Peace Commission of the diocese of Butembo-Beni, in describing the assault on the village of Maboya which took place in the night between 19 and 20 October 2022. The assailants recalls Fr Rukwata, "took control of the small police station, set fire to small pharmacies, then went to the Maboya Reference Health Center, a health facility belonging to the Diocesan Office of Health Works (BDOM) and headed by the Petites Soeurs de la Presentation de Notre Dame au Temple (PSP), a diocesan congregation". "When they arrived there, they set fire to the Health Center, ransacked the pharmacy and shot Sister Marie-Sylvie Kavuke Vakatsuraki, the doctor in charge of the Centre, who was preparing to operate a woman. The nun was killed and burned in the hospital fire. Six other people were killed in the assault".

"Since 2014 this situation has caused more than ten thousand deaths in the region and in our diocese to date, without a solution being found yet", said Fr Rukwata.

"One wonders: the events that happen here could not also be linked to the discovery of the riches of this region, in particular of oil? Could it be that people are killed to frighten the population so that they leave the area free and available for the exploitation of oil? These are questions, hypotheses that we ask ourselves," asks Fr Rukwata.

Philippines - The proclamation of the Gospel in Mindanao with the experience of the basic ecclesial communities

(10-11-22) The proclamation of the Gospel on the island of Mindanao, the second largest island in the Philippines, goes forward thanks to the experience of the basic ecclesial communities (BEC), in which people, in the different states of life, experience faith and Christian life. Men, women, priests, religious, young people, families, are part of it, give their witness of faith and, in this way, are missionaries. This is what is stated in the 17th Mindanao and Sulu Pastoral Conference (MSPC) underway from 7 to 11 November, 2022 in Cagayan de Oro, a city in the north of the island, focused on the theme "The gift of faith and the new evangelization as Synodal Church."



Syro-Malabar archbishop to head Indian bishops' conference

(10-11-22) Archbishop Andrews Thazhath of the Eastern Rite Syro-Malabar Church has been elected the new president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI).

Archbishop Thazhath of Thrissur was elected on the penultimate day of the Nov. 6-11 biennial meeting of the CBCI in Bengaluru city, the provincial capital of the southern state of Karnataka.

The Catholic Church in the country comprises three rites — the Latin rite and two Oriental rites called Syro-Malabar and Syro-Malankara.

Cardinal Oswald Gracias of the Latin rite completed two terms after taking over from Cardinal Baselios Cleemis, the major archbishop of the Syro Malankara Church, in 2018. Cardinal George Alencherry of Ernakulam-Angamaly, who is the major archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church, announced his unavailability for election due to advancing age. He is 77.

The conference also elected Latin-rite Archbishop George Antonysamy of Madras-Mylapore as the first vice president and Syro-Malankara Bishop Mar Joseph Thomas of Batheri as the second vice president. Archbishop Felix Machado of Vasai was re-elected the conference's secretary-general for another term.

Some 200 active bishops and 64 retired bishops from 174 dioceses are attending the biennial conference along with officials of various commissions of the conference, Father J A Kanthraj, spokesman of Bangalore archdiocese said in a statement.

Indian Church leaders rebuff Hindu 're-conversion' claim

(10-11-22) Catholic Church leaders have dismissed a claim by a Hindu nationalist group of "re-converting" 184 Christians back to Hinduism in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh as "false and misleading."

A report released by Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), or World Hindu Council, on a re-conversion ceremony at Kalyanpura village in Jhabua district on Nov. 7 said 184 Christians belonging to 38 families from 24 villages had become Hindus ("returned to the Hindu fold"). "[The] VHP's claim is totally false. Christians of all denominations are properly documented and nobody has abandoned the faith," Father Rockey Shah, public relations officer of Jhabua diocese said. The re-conversion ceremony is part of propaganda to defame Christians, he told UCA News on Nov. 9 and challenged its organizers to release details of those they claimed to have reconverted.

Alok Kumar, the central working president of VHP, said a special drive to make Jhabua district and its surrounding region "conversion free" was launched on Nov. 6 and will continue until Nov. 20. He had

also sought to know from the state government how many Hindus had converted to Christianity under the provisions of the Madhya Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act 2020, but the reply was “none.” Kumar further claimed that churches were built without valid permission from the state government, which was denied by Father Shah.

Father Shah said the Hindu misleading the people on the issue of by Christian missionaries. “We don’t illegally as is being made out,” he said. diocese was made up of second or Christians. There were no new Father Babu Joseph, a Divine Word in Indore told UCA News that India’s animists with their own belief system reconvert them to Hinduism is misleading. He wondered how long the government will allow organizations like the VHP to carry on with their “disruptive agenda that has created deep fissures in Indian society.”



nationalists were religious conversions convert anyone He said that Jhabua third-generation converts. priest based tribal people are hence claiming to

Indian bishops call for release of detained sailors

(10-11-22) Catholic bishops in India have made an international appeal for the release of 26 crew members of an oil tanker including 16 Indian nationals who remain detained in Equatorial Guinea for nearly three months.

“The seafarers have been treated as criminals without formal charges or legal process. This is great maritime injustice,” Bishop Alex Vadukkumthala, chairman of the Office of Labor at the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of India (CBCI) said in a statement on Nov. 10.

Besides Indian nationals, seafarers belonging also to the Philippines, Poland and Sri Lanka are also held, said Bishop Vadukkumthala, also representing the Apostolate of the Sea (known as Stella Maris), a global Catholic maritime ministry. The navy of the central African country detained the Marshall Islands-flagged oil tanker, MT Heroic Idun along with crew members on Aug. 13 over an alleged attempt to steal crude oil at the Akpo oilfield off Bonny in Nigeria, media reports say.

Church destroyed 'in air strike by Myanmar military'

(10-11-22) Days after Pope Francis called for an end to conflict and the pursuit of dialogue, Myanmar’s junta has reportedly continued to target churches and schools.

An air strike by the military regime destroyed a church and a school in a village in Myanmar’s southeastern Karen state on Nov. 9, according to a statement from the Karen National Union. There were no reported civilian casualties during the attack. The Karen Human Rights Group (KHRG) said two fighter jets dropped two bombs on Ta Baw Koh Der village, Hpapun township around 1 a.m. on Nov. 9 destroying a church, a primary school and a house. All villagers immediately fled to the forest and were not able to take anything with them, according to the KHRG. Local sources said it was a deliberate attack against civilians by the military as there was no fighting in the region.



At least 92 religious or sacred sites across the country including the predominantly Christian regions of Kachin, Kayah and Chin states were destroyed or damaged between February 2021 and May 2022. according to a report by the International Commission of Jurists which cited news sources released on Oct. 28.

Protesters ignore warnings as ASEAN summit begins

(10-11-22) Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen launched the ASEAN leaders' summit on Nov. 10 with protesters vowing to ignore a ban on demonstrations and a note from Russian President Vladimir Putin that his foreign minister Sergei Lavrov will lead his delegation to Phnom Penh. What to do with Myanmar and Russia's invasion of Ukraine are expected to overshadow the meeting of regional leaders and dialogue partners, among others, who will also focus on post-Covid trade, a global economy beset by inflation and the disputed South China Sea.



India alludes to 'foreign origins' of Christianity, Islam

(10-11-22) Christian and Muslim leaders in India have expressed disappointment after the federal government cited the "foreign origins" of their faiths as justification for denying them the benefits of its affirmative action policy.

The affidavit filed through the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment before the Supreme Court in October defends the current criteria for determining which communities can be classified as Scheduled Castes (SC) and hence eligible for quotas in education and jobs as part of the constitution-

approved policy of reservations. There was "intelligible differentia" between Dalits practicing Hinduism, Sikhism, and Buddhism and those following other religions, the affidavit states.

The Hindu newspaper reported this as "possibly pointing to the argument that Christianity and Islam are not Indic religions and that there were foreign contributions to the creation of Christian and Muslim populations in India."

J. George, a member of the National Council of Dalit Christians and one of the petitioners in the case, said "it was a matter of concern" because the federal government's stance could delay the granting of SC status to Christians and Muslims of Dalit origin. "It is not clear though, whether this was done deliberately or unknowingly," he added.

Mohammad Salim Engineer, secretary-general of Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, a Muslim socio-religious group, said the Indian Constitution grants every citizen the right to choose any religion and this affidavit contradicted this basic principle.

Government data show some 201 million of India's 1.2 billion-plus people are Dalits, many having converted to Christianity (60 percent of India's 25 million Christians) and Islam over the centuries and decades to escape caste-based discrimination.

India urged at UN to reduce UAPA applications against religious minorities

(10-11-22) India was urged to take a tougher stand on sexual violence and religious discrimination and ratify the torture convention, as countries raked over its human rights record at the UN on 10 November. New Delhi has signed the UN Convention Against Torture but has not ratified it.

India was facing its Universal Periodic Review, which all 193 UN countries must undergo every four years. "We recommend that India reduce the broad application of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and similar laws against human rights activists, journalists and religious minorities," said Michele Taylor, the US ambassador to the council. "Despite legal protections, discrimination and violence based on gender and religious affiliation persist. The application of anti-terror legislation has led to prolonged detentions of human rights defenders and activists," she added. Canada urged India to probe all acts of sexual violence, and protect freedom of religion by investigating religious violence "including against Muslims".

12-11-22

Pope Francis: 'Media professionals must engage with audience'

(12-11-22) As the Vatican Dicastery for Communication held its plenary assembly, Pope Francis met Members and employees of Dicastery's various branches, which includes Vatican News.

The Pope gave his prepared remarks to Dr. Paolo Ruffini, the Dicastery's Prefect, and then spoke off-the-cuff, so that he could offer something "more spontaneous and uncensored, which is more fun!" He offered his reflections on the importance of communication, calling it a "round trip".

"There is no one-way communication: it goes and comes back; it goes and comes back. And in this we too grow."

He summed up his meaning with the idea of "communicative restlessness", which drives journalists and media professionals to "go towards" their audience.

"The communicator must always take risks, must always be on the road, always engaging with life." The Pope then reflected on what he called "the communication of values".

He said communicators should embrace their Christian and human values, so that we can teach others "the way to communicate with God."

Pope Francis added that he is wary of "aseptic communicators" who focus merely on their journalistic "technique".

"Strive forward," he told the Vatican's media professionals. "Take risks and don't be afraid! Take risks, to meet the other in communication."

"Euntes in mundum universum": an international conference on the 400 years of Propaganda Fide

(12-11-22) Four centuries of mission, four centuries of proclamation of the Gospel. This is the Congregation of Propaganda Fide, today the Dicastery for Evangelization. A long and intense history, which will be the focus of an International Study Conference scheduled in Rome from November 16 to 18 at the Pontifical Urbaniana University.

The International Study Conference, organized by the Dicastery for Evangelization, the Pontifical Urbaniana University and the Pontifical Committee for Historical Sciences, traces, through the examination of some fundamental points, the four centuries that have passed since January 6, 1622, Pope Gregory XV founded the Sacra Congregatio de Propaganda Fide canonically erected on the following June 22 with the bull *Inscrutabili divinae Providentiae arcano*.

Nigeria - Bishop of Minna on upcoming elections: "People want change in Nigeria"

(12-11-22) "Even if the youths and fringe groups do not succeed in putting in power the political leaders of their choices, they have started something – a new movement that will bring about a 'New' Nigeria". Thus the bishop of the diocese of Minna, Luka Sylvester Gopep, tells Fides what is happening in the country in view of the next political elections, scheduled for February 25, 2023. "If we look at what is happening in other countries like Kenya and even what happened in Gambia, we see that our young people are following a trend which is rising very fast in Africa".



On February 25th, Nigerians will be called to the polls to elect the next President of the country. The representatives of the Senate and the House will be elected on the same day. Young people and people without power have used social media to express their intolerance for the present situation and ask for a change, he said.

13-11-22

Pope at Mass: 'Christians must light candles of hope amid gathering darkness'

(13-11-22) As the Church marked the 6th World Day of the Poor on Sunday, Pope Francis presided over Mass in St. Peter's Basilica and reflected on this year's theme: "For your sakes Christ became poor".

In his homily, the Pope focused his remarks on Jesus' twin exhortations in the day's Gospel (Lk 21:5-19): "*beware that you are not led astray and bear witness*".

Jesus was warning His disciples not to be overly concerned even when terrible events come to pass, such as wars, insurrections, earthquakes, and plagues.

Pope Francis noted that Jesus' apocalyptic words are a reminder not to get lost in defeatism when world events frighten us. Rather, we must resist the temptation of superstition or fear-mongering by trusting in God.

"A disciple of the Lord should not yield to resignation or give in to discouragement, even in the most difficult situations, for our God is the God of resurrection and hope, who always raises up. With Him we can lift up our gaze and begin anew."

The Pope then considered Jesus' second exhortation to "bear witness", saying bad times are really an "opportunity to testify". Every person faces their own unique situation in life, but each has the chance to do something good, even in the midst of a crisis. We should not become distracted, added Pope Francis, but rather turn every event into an opportunity to bear witness to the Gospel.

Pope at Angelus: Persevere in goodness, prayer and service

(13-11-22) Following the morning Mass in St. Peter's Basilica for the World Day of the Poor, Pope Francis greeted pilgrims in the square for the Sunday Angelus.

In his address before leading the recitation of the Marian prayer, the Pope offered his weekly reflections on the Sunday Gospel, which recalls Jesus at the temple in Jerusalem.

Those around the Lord spoke of the magnificence of the grandiose building, but the Lord reminded them of the transitory nature of things on earth that are here today and gone tomorrow, saying "there will not be left a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down," adding how in history wars and natural disasters will occur, sweeping away everything.

The Pope observed that these sobering words offer us a valuable teaching that there is a way out from the precariousness and volatility of human life.

We can find it in the Lord's words, when He says, "By your perseverance you will secure your lives," the Pope pointed out. The key word is "perseverance", he said, which means being disciplined and persistent in what the Lord has at heart and matters most.

Pope Francis has lunch with the poor of Rome



Pope Francis welcomed over 1,300 people assisted by Caritas Rome and the St. Egidio Community for a special lunch on Sunday's annual World Day of the Poor.

The annual lunch took place thanks to the organization provided by the Section for Fundamental Questions of Evangelisation in the World, part of the Dicastery for Evangelization. Italy's d'Amico Società di Navigazione company sponsored the meal.

According to the local Catholic charity of Italy,

Caritas Italiana, those living in poverty number 5.6 million in Italy, 1.4 million, of whom are children. Other initiatives at the Vatican coinciding with the World Day of the Poor included health services offered throughout the week in St. Peter's Square for the disadvantaged.

Pope encourages COP27, recalls Laudato Si' Action Platform anniversary

(13-11-22) As delegates continue deliberations at the 2022 UN Climate Change Conference in Egypt, Pope Francis offered his encouragement to efforts to protect the environment.

Speaking at the Angelus on Sunday, the Pope said he hopes the COP27 will produce lasting fruits on behalf of combating climate change.

"I wish to recall the COP27 summit on the climate taking place in Egypt. I hope that steps forward are taken with courage and determination, in the footsteps of the Paris Accords."

The Pope also recalled the Laudato Si' Action Platform, which was set up to consolidate efforts to implement the Pope's 2015 encyclical on the Care of our Common Home. He noted that Monday marks the first anniversary of the Platform, which "promotes ecological conversion and lifestyles consistent with it" and is overseen by the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.
