

**CATHOLIC WORLD LAST WEEK
(CWLW)
27 Jun-3 Jul 22**

27-6-22

Pontifical academy: Roe overturn ‘challenges the whole world’

(27-6-22) Referring to the Dobbs v. Jackson decision, the Pontifical Academy for Life said that “the fact that a large country with a long democratic tradition has changed its position on this issue also challenges the whole world.”

“In the face of Western society that is losing its passion for life, this act is a powerful invitation to reflect together on the serious and urgent issue of human generativity and the conditions that make it possible; by choosing life, our responsibility for the future of humanity is at stake,” said Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, the academy’s president.

“After 50 years, it is important to reopen a non-ideological debate on the place that the protection of life has in a civil society to ask ourselves what kind of coexistence and society we want to build,” the academy added. “It is a question of developing political choices that promote conditions of existence in favour of life without falling into a priori ideological positions. This also means ensuring adequate sexual education, guaranteeing health care accessible to all and preparing legislative measures to protect the family and motherhood, overcoming existing inequalities.”

(28-6-22) Meanwhile, the Supreme Court decision that permits states to protect the lives of unborn children “represents a major setback after five decades of protection for sexual and reproductive health and rights in the US through Roe v Wade,” said Michelle Bachelet, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Referring to the Dobbs v. Jackson decision, US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken said that the State Department is “fully committed” to “helping provide access to reproductive health services and advancing reproductive rights around the world.” – by reproductive rights he meant right to abortion. It is reproductive death services and not reproductive health services, said Pro-Life advocates.

Vatican’s chief diplomat ‘very pleased’ after Ukraine becomes EU candidate

(27-6-22) “I am very pleased with this decision,” Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Holy See’s Secretary of State, said after the EU made Ukraine a candidate for EU membership. “I think it is a very important move ... Ukraine belongs to Europe, and Europe belongs to Ukraine.”

Vatican to start monthly newspaper by and with the poor

(27-6-22) The new newspaper—L’Osservatore di Strada (The Street Observer)—will complement, and not supplant, the Vatican’s daily newspaper, L’Osservatore Romano (The Roman Observer). The new monthly publication “won’t be just a newspaper of the poor and for the poor, it wants to be above all a newspaper with the poor,” Vatican News said in an Italian-language report.

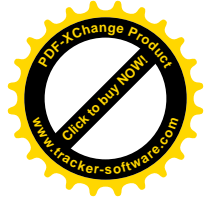
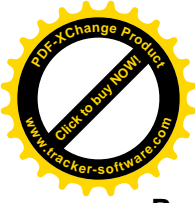
‘What is needed is an infinite mercy,’ Pope recalls on feast of Sacred Heart



(27-6-22) “What is needed is an infinite mercy, like that of the Sacred Heart, to remedy so much of the evil and suffering we see in the lives of human beings,” Pope Francis tweeted on June 24, the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. “Let us entrust ourselves and the world to Him!”

June 24 was also the World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests. “Dear priests, be patient with the faithful, always ready to encourage

them,” the Pope tweeted. “Be untiring ministers of God’s forgiveness and mercy. Never be harsh judges, but loving fathers.”



Papal encouragement for Neocatechumenate Way

(27-6-22) Pope Francis met on June 27 5,500 members of the Neocatechumenate Way, and urged them to be “docile to the Spirit and obedient to Jesus.”

The Pope also encouraged members of the lay movement to cooperate with the bishops of the dioceses in which they are active. The Neocatechumenate Way has come into conflict with bishops in a number of dioceses.

IFAD president, Pontiff discuss food crisis

(27-6-22) Pope Francis received Gilbert Houngbo, the president of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), in a June 24 audience.

Based in Rome, IFAD is a UN agency that supports increased food production in poor communities. “It was an honor to meet His Holiness today,” Houngbo tweeted. “I thanked him for advocating for peace and his active attention to the climate and global food crises. The Holy See has always been a strong supporter of IFAD, sharing a common objective: making hunger part of the world’s past.”

Two more priests killed in Nigeria

(27-6-22) Two more Catholic priests were murdered in Nigeria this weekend, as the violence against clerics continues.

Father Vitus Borogo was killed in the Kaduna state on Saturday, June 25, by terrorist gunmen. Father Christopher Odia was killed by kidnappers in Edo state the next day. The Fides news service reports that the kidnappers were captured by a group of young people who pursued them, hoping to free the captured priest. In an exchange of gunfire, one of the pursuers was killed and two wounded, but the kidnappers— members of a Fulani terrorist group— were captured. One of two men suspected of the killing died in the skirmish; the other was handed over to police.

DR Congo - The Vatican Secretary of State will soon travel to Kinshasa

(27-6-22) "To show the great consideration he has for our country, the Holy Father has decided to send His Eminence Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State of Vatican City, to Kinshasa to pray with us on Sunday 3 July 2022", this was announced by Bishop Donatien Nshole, Secretary General of the National Episcopal Conference of the Congo (CENCO), on Saturday, June 25, 2022. July 3, in fact, is the day Pope Francis was supposed to celebrate mass in Kinshasa. Following the postponement of his visit, Pope Francis announced that he will celebrate Mass with the Congolese community in St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican on this date.

Nigeria - The murderers of one of the two priests killed captured in Auchi

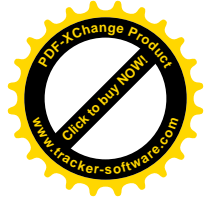
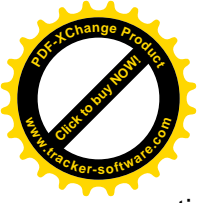
(27-6-22) The murderers of Father Christopher Odia Ogedegbe, from Auchi, have been captured. The Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Minna, Msgr. Luka Sylvester Gopep recently gave the news to Fides.

"The priest's kidnappers have been arrested by a group of young people from Ikabigbo, Uzairue, Etsako West LGA. Two of the murderers have been captured by the community that was on the trail of the kidnappers - added the bishop. The Fulani terrorists opened fire on their pursuers, killing one and seriously wounding three others. Father Odia was also among the victims. The youths did not give up until they captured the two members of the gang. One of the terrorists was burned to death and the other was handed over to the police. Apparently, the detained terrorist has made useful confessions to the Police Zone Command."



India - Appeal by the Church: Humanitarian aid to flood survivors in Assam

(27-6-22) It is urgent to help the survivors of the heavy floods that hit Assam, a state in north-eastern India. This is what Archbishop John Moolachira of the Archdiocese of Guwahati, capital of Assam, asked in an appeal sent to Fides. Father Maya Martin, director of the "Guwahati Gana Seva Society" (GGSS), an organization which is the social arm of the archdiocese, told Fides: "We have provided



rations and other basic necessities to 1,150 families after the first series of storms, but the disaster has not yet been overcome". After a first wave of rain in May, a second wave of rainfall caused the release of water from the Kurisho Dam in Bhutan, resulting in the flooding of several rivers in Assam, he explained.

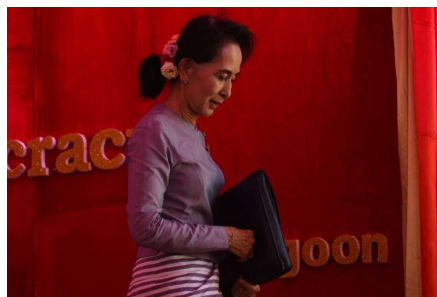
(30-6-22) The death toll has touched 152 while three million people across 28 districts remain affected, according to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA). Major rivers like the Brahmaputra, Beki, Kopili, Barak and Kushiya were still flowing above the danger mark on June 29, according to news agency Press Trust of India (PTI).

Asian Catholics urged to tackle deforestation before it's too late

(25-6-22) A panel of experts have insisted on the urgent need for climate education and action from Catholics to curb deforestation and protect the environment in Asia.

The call was made during a webinar organized by the Asia-Pacific unit of the Laudato Si' Movement (LSM), a global Catholic environmental group, on June 23.

The event titled "Stop deforestation: Protect our forests, Protect our home" drew participants from a host of Asian nations including Indonesia, Thailand, Timor-Leste, the Philippines, Vietnam, Mongolia, Myanmar and India. LSM biodiversity and climate manager Carol Kiiru warned that Asia faces a dreadful future if nations fail to halt the fast disappearance of forests.



Release Suu Kyi from prison, says ASEAN envoy

(27-6-22) The special envoy of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has urged Myanmar's military junta to facilitate the return of deposed leader Aung San Suu Kyi from a prison to her home. Prak Sokhonn, ASEAN special envoy and deputy prime minister of Cambodia, has conveyed "the deep concern expressed by ASEAN colleagues" regarding reports of the transfer of Suu Kyi from her home to solitary confinement in a jail in remote capital Naypyitaw.

In a letter sent to Myanmar's Foreign Minister Wunna Mg Lwin on June 27 Prak Sokhonn says: "I would like to echo the voice of our ASEAN colleagues in urging the State Administrative Council of Myanmar to exercise compassion and facilitate the return of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to the home where she was originally detained in consideration of her fragile health and well-being as well as fair and judicious practice of the rule of law." Aung San Suu Kyi will turn 77 soon.

Two children killed in Myanmar landmine blast

(27-6-22) Two seven-year-old boys were tragically killed in a grenade explosion in conflict-torn Myanmar, which remains strewn with landmines and explosive remnants of war.

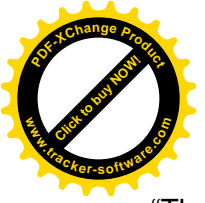
The latest incident was reported from Gangaw township of the Magwe region of central Myanmar on June 19. The two children found the unexploded grenade in a jungle and were playing with it, according to UNICEF.

It said at least 115 children have been killed or injured by landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) since February 2021, including 47 casualties that occurred between January and April 2022 alone.

Catholics hope new Bangladesh bridge will bring prosperity

(27-6-22) Bangladeshi Catholics believe the newly built longest bridge in the country, connecting Dhaka Archdiocese with dioceses in the south and southwest, will help improve their economic conditions.

While inaugurating the 6.15-kilometer Padma Bridge on June 25, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said it was not merely a brick-cement-concrete structure but a symbol of the ability and dignity of the nation. Father Lazarus Kanu Gomes, a representative of administrators in Barisal Diocese, said the bridge will save time and money for people in the south.



“The Padma Bridge will improve trade and commerce in the region. Along with others, Catholics too will gain access to jobs in the industrial establishments while also being able to transport their farm and fish products to Dhaka,” Father Gomes told UCA News.

Caritas Khulna regional director Daud Jibon Das agreed with Father Gomes but wonders if the benefits will reach poor Catholics. However, he agreed that the nearly 30 percent of the 38,000 Catholics in Khulna Diocese engaged in day labour will stand to benefit due to the bridge cutting travel time. The distance from Dhaka to Barisal Diocese is about 240km, while Khulna Diocese is 275km away. It used to take at least eight hours to reach the capital city by road and by ferry to cross the river, but the new bridge has cut the travel time by more than half.

(27-6-22) **Macau Diocese has closed all churches and suspended public Masses** until further notice as the former Portuguese colony grapples with a new **outbreak of Covid-19**.

28-6-22

Record number of German Catholics left Church in 2021

(28-6-22) While the German bishops advanced their “Synodal Path” as a means of renewing the Catholic Church, official statistics showed that a record 359,338 German Catholics formally removed themselves from parish registers last year.

That figure represents a major leap from the previous year’s number of 221,390 defections from the Catholic Church. Over the past decade, the average annual exodus has been slightly over 200,000, for a total of over 2 million.

The German bishops’ statistics showed fewer than 1 million Catholics attending Mass regularly. Thus the number of practicing Catholics is less than one-half of the number who have left the Church in the past ten years.

Bishop Georg Bätzing, the president of the German bishops’ conference, admitted that he was “deeply shaken” by the latest figures, which “show the profound crisis in which we find ourselves as the Catholic Church in Germany.” But he remains committed to the Synodal Path, pledging that the German hierarchy would “courageously continue on the path the Church has chosen.”

Pope to Orionine family: ‘May the fire of faith ignite new charitable works’

(28-6-22) On June 25, Pope Francis received participants in the general chapter of the Figli della Divina Provvidenza (Sons of Divine Providence), also known as the Orionine Fathers, as the religious institute was founded by St. Luigi Orione (1872-1940). The saint also founded the Little Missionary Sisters of Charity. The theme of the Orionine Fathers’ general chapter was “Let us throw ourselves into the fire of the new times.” “Jesus’ fire of love ignites people’s hearts,” Pope Francis said. “May the fire not remain only in your home and in your communities, and not even only in your works, but may you throw yourselves into the fire of the new times for the good of the people.”



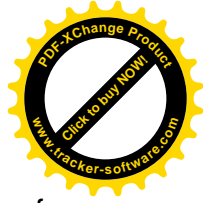
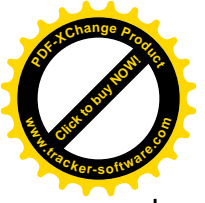
Vatican publishes slightly updated guidelines for handling abuse cases

(28-6-22) The Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith has released what it calls Version 2.0 of its “Vademecum on certain points of procedure in treating cases of sexual abuse of minors committed by clerics.”

The revised guidelines, dated June 5, were released on June 27, and do not have the force of law.

French bishop says differences within clergy prompted postponement of ordinations

(28-6-22) The French bishop who postponed priestly ordinations after a Vatican inquiry has said that “different liturgical sensitivities” within the diocese prompted the move.



In a pastoral letter, Bishop Dominique Rey of Toulon acknowledged that concerns over the strength of traditionalism among priests and seminarians, and their devotion to the Latin Mass, was a factor in the Vatican's concern. Although the diocese enjoyed a healthy number of priestly vocations, he said that "the origin of vocations and the plurality of training paths may have raised questions in Rome." Bishop Rey said that the diocese would take steps to ensure that the "diversified composition of our presbyterate" did not cause divisions within the diocese.

Cameroon: bishop reports separatists lose support because of 'heinous acts'

(28-6-22) "The life of our people has no semblance of normality," Bishop Michal Miabesue Bibi of Buea, Cameroon, told the Fides news service.

Bishop Bibi reported that "many families are forced to flee for fear of losing their lives," as violent conflict spreads in Cameroon. But he says that the Catholic clergy have "remained close to the people; we have never closed any church."

The bishop, whose diocese is in the English-speaking section of the divided country, says that his people were initially sympathetic to separatist groups, but over time concluded that "it is better for us that they send the army because the Amba Boys (the main separatist group) are more dangerous." He accused the Amba Boys of "heinous acts."

'I've been able to walk for 3 days,' Pope tells Brazilian bishops

(28-6-22) On June 27, Pope Francis received a group of Brazilian bishops, who were in Rome for their ad limina visit. The Pontiff, who had been using a wheelchair since May 5, was able to walk by himself, with the support of a cane.



Holy See: Migrants are not just numbers

(28-6-22) "We should never forget that migrants are not just numbers, but our sisters and brothers who cannot be left behind," said Archbishop Fortunatus Nwachukwu, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations in Geneva, as the UN Human Rights Council discussed migration on June 24. "Stop passing off the issue of migration to others, as if it mattered to no one and was only a pointless burden to be shouldered by somebody else,"

the prelate added.

Orthodox delegation visits Rome for feast of Saints Peter and Paul

(28-6-22) Archbishop Job of Telmessos, a Ukrainian-Canadian Orthodox prelate, will represent the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople during the celebration of the Mass of the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul in St. Peter's Basilica.

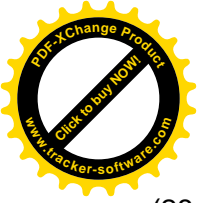
During his three-day visit, Archbishop Job, who is co-president of the International Joint Commission for Theological Dialogue between the Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church, will be accompanied by Bishop Adrianos of Halicarnassos and Patriarchal Deacon Barnabas Grigoriadis.

It is customary for the Ecumenical Patriarchate to send a delegation to Rome for the city's patronal feast day, and for the Vatican to send a delegation to the Ecumenical Patriarchate for its patronal feast day of St. Andrew (November 30).

Vatican cardinal: Subordination of women to men is 'fruit of sin'

(28-6-22) "How much damage we have done, as men, by endorsing a status of superiority," Cardinal Marc Ouellet, Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops, said in a recent talk. "There is no complete image of what is human when only the masculine is considered predominant and the only thing relevant. For centuries, we have suffocated the feminine peculiarity."

DR Congo - The Archbishop of Bukavu denounces "A wind of war and insecurity is blowing again in eastern DRC"



(28-6-22) "The situation is serious. A wind of war and insecurity is blowing again in this eastern part of our country", writes Archbishop François-Xavier Maroy Rusengo of Bukavu, capital of South Kivu , one of the eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) where militias and armed gangs have been harassing the population with impunity for decades.

"We place particular emphasis on the very critical situation following the recent occupation of the town of Bunagana in Rutshuru territory by the armed group M23, which resumed fighting in an infernal cycle of violence, loss of human life , displacement of populations and destruction of our economic and social fabric. This is history repeating itself", denounces Archbishop Rusengo. The M23 is a guerrilla movement that signed a peace agreement with the Kinshasa government in 2013 but has recently taken up arms again. Congolese authorities accuse neighbouring Rwanda of supporting M23; accusations made by Kigali against Kinshasa accused in turn of favours against the Rwandan armed opposition based in the DRC.

Turkey - Catholics and Orthodox celebrate the feast of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul together in "Peter's Grotto"

(28-6-22) Also this year, baptized Catholics and Orthodox are preparing to experience intense moments of communion on June, 28 and 29, in the context of the liturgical memory of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul in the city of Antakya - the ancient Antioch on the Orontes, currently in Turkish territory.

The center of the shared celebrations will once again be the so-called "Peter's Grotto", the ancient rock church on Mount Silpius, which reopened in 2015 after many years of restoration.

India's Supreme Court to hear plea for protecting Christians

(28-6-22) India's Supreme Court has a direction to end the rising attacks their institutions in the county.

A division bench of Justice Surya Kant J.B. Pardiwala directed the court registry basis for July 11, the day courts reopen vacation.

Archbishop Peter Machado of Bangalore Archdiocese in Karnataka state, the National Solidarity Forum and the Evangelical Fellowship of India filed the petition.

On average, 45 to 50 violent attacks take place against Christian institutions and priests every month throughout India. However, 57 attacks against community members including their institutions were recorded in May, said senior advocate Colin Gonsalves while appearing for the petitioners.

"What you are saying is unfortunate, if it is happening. What we can ensure is that your matter is listed on the reopening day itself," observed the bench when Gonsalves pleaded for an urgent hearing.

The petitioners also sought proper implementation of guidelines issued by the top court in 2018 to deal with the menaces of hate crimes, cow vigilantism and mob lynching across the country.

Priest, nuns join Indonesian maid death protests

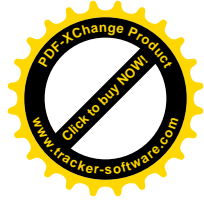
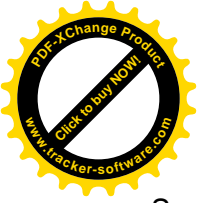
(28-6-22) A priest and several nuns were among dozens of anti-human trafficking activists who descended on the Malaysian embassy in the Indonesian capital Jakarta on June 27 to protest against the acquittal of a woman accused of murdering her Indonesian maid four years ago.

Malaysia's Federal Court dismissed an appeal by prosecutors to overturn High Court and Appeal Court rulings to acquit Ambika M.A. Shan, who was accused of murdering Adelina Jemira Sau in Penang in 2018. According to judges, prosecutors had not presented a good enough reason to overturn the two previous rulings that cited a lack of evidence proving Shan physically abused the maid.



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and Justice to list it on a priority after the summer



Sau, 21, from Indonesia's predominantly Christian East Nusa Tenggara province, died of multiple organ failure in a Penang hospital on Feb. 11, 2018, after being rescued from her employer's home a day earlier by a migrant workers' protection group. It was alleged Sau suffered daily physical abuse by her employer, was forced to sleep on the porch with the dog and was poorly fed. Shan, now 62, was arrested for murder while her daughter was charged with hiring a maid without a valid work permit.

Book recounts Indian nuns' struggle in land dispute

(28-6-22) *My Prophetic Struggle: The Narakkal Story*, jointly written by Carmelite Sister Annie Jaise and feminist theologian Kochurani Abraham, was released on June 26.

The struggle in Narakkal refers to a bitter land dispute between the Amala province of the Congregation of Mother Carmel (CMC) and Ernakulam-Angamaly Archdiocese based in Kerala from 2007 to 2015. The archdiocese is also the seat of power of Cardinal George Alencherry, the head of the Eastern-rite Syro-Malabar Church, which has more than five million followers.

"It is not just a story but a reality and part of history," said Sister Jaise after the book was released online by Sister Elsa Muttathu, national secretary of the Conference of Religious of India.

The prolonged battle fought by the sisters reached the Supreme Court, which restored the ownership of Little Flower Girls High School in Narakkal to the nuns and dismissed the ownership claim of the parish.

The books narrates how infuriated archdiocesan officials with the help of some local goons even physically assaulted the sisters, seriously injuring them. In another incident, the indigenous order's superior was held hostage and made to sign documents under duress, transferring the ownership of the school land.

Bar workers accused of blasphemous drink promotion in Indonesia

(28-6-22) Indonesian police have arrested six workers at a popular nightlife chain for allegedly committing blasphemy in an online drink promotion.

Holywings, which runs beer houses, lounges and nightclubs, posted an offer on its Instagram account last week offering a free bottle of gin for men named Mohammad and women named Maria every Thursday. If found guilty, the two men and four women staff of Holywings may face up to 10 years in prison.

Singapore's archbishop hails Zoroastrians for faith, tolerance

(28-6-22) Archbishop William Goh of Singapore has applauded the minority Zoroastrian community for their strong commitment to religious tolerance during his visit to their first heritage museum in the city-state.

"What is most inspiring for me is how your faith embraces and respects the beliefs of others. The Zoroastrian faith of Emperor Cyrus indeed is a great eye-opener for me ... Such generosity and respect for humanity, regardless of race and religion, stand out so beautifully," said Archbishop Goh, one of 21 new cardinals appointed by Pope Francis recently.

Cardinal-elect Goh made the comments as he paid a visit to a permanent exhibition titled "The Joyous Flame" that showcases the wisdom and cultural treasures of Parsi Zoroastrians in Singapore, reported *Catholic News* of Singapore Archdiocese.

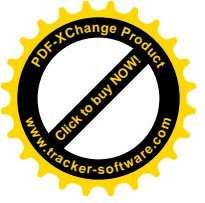
29-6-22

New papal document defends Vatican II liturgical changes

(29-6-22) Pope Francis has issued a new apostolic letter, *Desiderio desideravi*, calling for "the rediscovery of a theological understanding of the liturgy and its importance in the life of the Church."

In the new document, released on the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, the Pope calls for unity in the Church, saying that this unity in turn requires the acceptance of changes mandated by Vatican II. "Let





us abandon our polemics and listen together to what the Spirit is saying to the Church,” he writes. “Let us safeguard our communion.”

The apostolic letter, consisting of 65 paragraphs and about 11,000 words, calls for “a serious and vital liturgical formation” for all Catholics. The Pope opens with a series of theological reflections on the fundamental importance of the Eucharistic liturgy, then goes on to laud the directives of Vatican II as a means of invigorating the spiritual life of the Church.

Nancy Pelosi receives Communion at papal Mass

(29-6-22) US Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, denied Holy Communion in San Francisco, her home diocese, because of her pro-abortion stand, received Communion at a June Mass at the Vatican, at which Pope Francis concelebrated.

Pope Francis was not the main celebrant of the Mass, nor did he distribute Communion. The Speaker, who was vacationing in Rome, was one of many diplomats and political figures attending the Mass for the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul. She received the Eucharist from a priest who may or may not have recognized her.

Vatican releases English translation of curial-reform constitution

(29-6-22) The Vatican has finally made public an English translation of *Praedicate Evangelium*, the apostolic constitution that restructures the offices of the Roman Curia.

The long-awaited document, the product of a 9-year effort to reform the administration of the Vatican, was released in March. But although the final draft had reportedly been completed months earlier, translations of the document were not available at that time; the document was made available only in Italian.

The Latin translation, which will become the definitive form of the apostolic constitution, is not yet available.

Pope tells young people to be messengers of hope

(29-6-22) “I encourage you to use well and responsibly the time that is available to you: it is in this way that one grows and prepares oneself to take on more demanding task,” Pope Francis said in a message to participants in the Global Youth Tourism Summit, which took place on June 27.

“Dear young people, I hope you will be messengers of hope and rebirth for the future,” he added.



122 priests ordained in France this year

(29-6-22) 122 priests were ordained in France this year, down slightly from 130 in 2020 and 126 in 2021, but higher than the 80 to 100 men who were typically ordained each year between 1985 and 2010.

The highest numbers of ordinations were for the Community of St. Martin (14) and the Archdiocese of Paris (10). At the Vatican’s request,

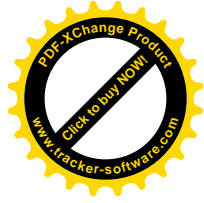
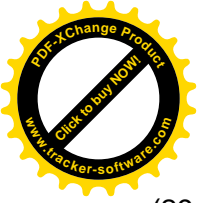
ordinations were postponed in the Diocese of Fréjus-Toulon.

In Nicaragua, the Ortega regime steps up efforts to silence civil society—especially the Catholic Church

(29-6-22) Daniel Ortega, a leader of the Marxist Sandinistas who overthrew the authoritarian regime of Gen. Anastasio Somoza Debayle, ruled Nicaragua from the 1979 Sandinista takeover until his loss in the 1990 presidential election. He returned to power in 2007.

According to the report, there have been “190 attacks and desecrations against church sites since 2018, including a fire in the cathedral of Managua, as well as police harassment and persecution of bishops and priests by the Nicaraguan government.”

Archbishop, Ukrainian president call missile strikes on mall terrorist act



(29-6-22) Russian troops launched a missile attack that destroyed a shopping mall in Kremenchuk, a city of 200,000 in central Ukraine. An estimated 1,000 people were inside the mall, and at least 20 were killed.

“We were all appalled by the event of unprecedented magnitude,” said Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk, the head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. “This is the largest terrorist act in Europe for the last decade.”

Catholic priest suspended in India after marrying in Hindu temple

(29-6-22) A Catholic priest has been suspended in southern India after he reportedly married a Hindu woman following her temple rituals.

Officials of Tellicherry Archdiocese in Kerala state announced the withdrawal of the priestly faculties of Father Mathew Mullapally on June 28, soon after pictures of the newly married couple flooded social media.

Mullapally has informed the archdiocese of his “definitive and non-retractable decision for personal reasons to leave the priesthood and to return to secular life,” said the letter, jointly signed by Archbishop Joseph Pamplany of Tellicherry and his chancellor Father Joseph Muttathukunnel. Mullapally, a popular retreat preacher, was restrained from publicly exercising his priestly faculties in 2020 after being involved in a sex scandal.

World leaders renew calls for releasing political prisoners in Myanmar

(29-6-22) Global calls for the release of all political prisoners by Myanmar’s military junta are growing after deposed civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi was moved to prison from a home. “We call on the military regime immediately to end the use of violence, free all political prisoners and those arbitrarily detained and return the country to a democratic path,” said G7 leaders on June.27.

Korean Church, activists call for action on child drug addiction

(29-6-22) Catholic Church officials and social activists in South Korea have called for urgent action including strict legislation to curb an alarming rise in drug addiction among adolescents and young people.

“In the face of various social problems that have been changed by the corona situation, we need to know how to maintain and protect the health and happiness of our families and future generations of youth and children,” said Bishop Timothy Yu Gyoung-chon, auxiliary bishop of Seoul Archdiocese during a seminar on drug addiction among children and youth, reported the Catholic Peace Broadcasting Corporation.

(29-6-22) **Pope Francis has sent a congratulatory message to President-elect Ferdinand Marcos Jr.** ahead of his June 30 inauguration to become the Philippines’ 17th president.

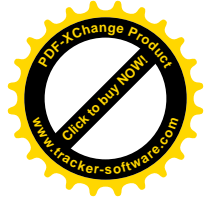
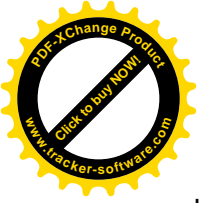
Church-run drug rehab centre honoured in Bangladesh

(29-6-22) A Catholic-run de-addiction centre in Bangladesh has been honoured for its contribution to the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts on the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan presented a crest of honour to the Bangladesh Rehabilitation and Assistance Centre for Addicts (BARACA) and two other organizations at a programme in capital Dhaka on June 26.



“We are very happy and proud because the government has recognized our work,” said Holy Cross Brother Nirmal Francis Gomes, director of BARACA. “This honour will inspire our staff and motivate us to do more quality work.” BARACA was initiated by Holy Cross Brother Ronald Drahozal in 1988



and is the first drug treatment and rehabilitation centre in the country. It has cured more than 5,000 people and sheltered 1,500 street children. Now, it is a central project for Caritas Bangladesh.

30-6-22

Top Vatican ecumenical official rips Moscow Patriarch's support for war

(30-6-22) The Vatican's top ecumenical official has denounced Russian Orthodox support for the war in Ukraine, saying that it imperils ecumenical relations.

Cardinal Kurt Koch, the prefect of the Dicastery for Christian Unity (formerly known as the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity), told the German journal *Die Tagespost*: "In my opinion it is heresy that the Patriarch dares to legitimize the brutal and absurd war in Ukraine for pseudo-religious reasons." The support of the war by Patriarch Kirill was the reason why a proposed "summit meeting" between Pope Francis and the Russian prelate, scheduled for this month, was shelved, Cardinal Koch said. He explained that a joint statement against persecution of Christians—the proposed object of that meeting—would have been "completely implausible" in light of the Patriarch's support for a war that pitted Christians against Christians.

Cardinal Koch said that he still hopes for progress in relations between Rome and Moscow, saying that "you must never close the doors." But he expressed frustration with the process, charging that the Russian Orthodox Church had "instrumentalized" a previous meeting between the Pope and the Patriarch, exploiting it to further Moscow's cause in its dispute with the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

Vatican investigation in Strasbourg marks latest upheaval in Church in France

(30-6-22) Pope Francis has ordered an apostolic visitation of the Archdiocese of Strasbourg, the apostolic nunciature in France has announced.

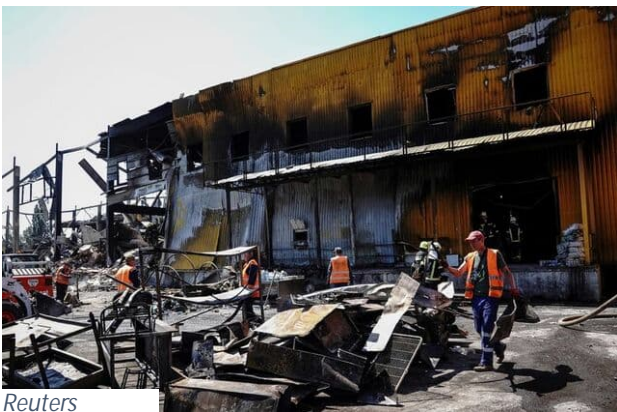
Archbishop Luc Ravel has led the archdiocese since 2017. "It is not believed that Ravel holds any ties to the traditional rite, but rather, the complaints against him are less pastoral and more administrative, related to his own leadership of Strasbourg," according to the report.

New realities require care for people in poverty, Pope tells Caritas Spain

(30-6-22) Pope Francis has written a message (in Spanish) to the president of Spanish Caritas on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of its foundation.

"The poor and the excluded are the privileged recipients of the Gospel; they occupy a preferential place in the heart of God, to the point that he himself became poor," said the Pope, as he called on the Spanish bishops' charity to undertake the "path of mercy" and a "path of renewal."

Pope: Ukraine shopping centre bombing the latest 'barbarous' attack



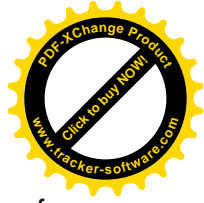
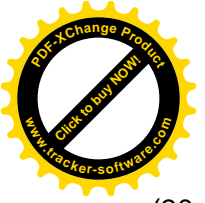
Reuters

(30-6-22) Russian troops fired missiles that destroyed a shopping mall in Kremenchuk, a city of 200,000 in central Ukraine. An estimated 1,000 people were inside the mall, and at least 20 were killed.

"Every day I carry in my heart the dear and tormented Ukraine, which continues to be scourged by barbaric attacks, like the one that struck the Kremenchuk shopping centre," Pope Francis said on June 29. He continued, "I pray that this insane war may soon see an end, and I renew the invitation to persevere, without tiring, in prayer for peace: may the Lord open those paths of dialogue that men are unwilling or unable to find! And let us not neglect to

come to the aid of the Ukrainian people, who are suffering so much."

Knee pain again forces Pope to miss meeting



(30-6-22) Pope Francis missed a meeting with a Jewish delegation on June 30, due to a recurrence of severe pain in his knee.

The apparent setback occurred after the Pope's condition had seemed to be improving, and he had told a group of Spanish bishops that he had been able to walk without assistance. Pope Francis has rejected the option of surgery for his painful knee condition, which has forced him to postpone a planned trip to Africa that was scheduled for early July, and now threatens another papal voyage, to Canada, later in the month.

In a prepared message to the Jewish delegation, the Pontiff said that inter-religious dialogue is valuable as a sign of mutual respect and an aid in the fight against extremism.

Nicaragua expels Mother Teresa's sisters

(30-6-22) The government of Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega has expelled the Missionaries of Charity, along with dozens of other charitable groups.

The Ortega regime, which has steadily tightened restrictions on the Church, cited the Missionaries of Charity for failing to comply with government regulations, which—according to the government—were designed to prevent terrorism.

Central Africa - The Bishops: "The food crisis is just round the corner"

(30-6-22) Food crisis is threatening the Central African Republic, says the local Episcopal Conference in the message published at the end of the Plenary Assembly.

"In some cities, a food crisis is to be feared due to the destruction of fields and the theft of oxen", the bishops state in the document. The situation is further worsened by "the shortage of fuel that the country already endures with great difficulty, and causes an increase in the prices of food and basic necessities whose stocks are decreasing" – seen through with long vehicle queues sometimes accompanied by deplorable scenes of violence, tapering supply capacity In our hospitals, an increase in deaths and a lack of first aid and assistance to the sick. This is acerbated by the Rwandan front and Russia-Ukraine war.

"We invite the Basic Ecclesial Communities (CEB), Movements and Fraternities, the various diocesan structures to re-think their way of being and operating. In this way they will become more real places of communion and compassion, of love and listening to the poor, of accompanying people who live in situations of suffering and of reintegration of the marginalized," the bishops appeal.

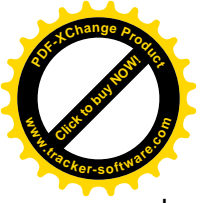
Ivory Coast - Cardinal Kutwa: "The Diocese of Grand-Bassam, the gateway to faith"

(30-6-22) The Diocese of Grand-Bassam (east of Abidjan) has celebrated its 40th anniversary and the significant date has been the reason to launch a year of celebrations that ended this month and marked for the community local Catholics more than a point of arrival, above all, a starting point. "Diocese of Grand-Bassam, gate of faith, listen! - exclaimed Cardinal Jean Pierre Kutwa during the homily of the thanksgiving mass -. Forty years later, you will feel the breath of the Spirit that invites us to deepen, to widen the space of the tent." Present at the Holy Mass, among others, were the civil and political authorities of the city, a large representation of priests, men and women religious and thousands of diocesan faithful.



America - The Bishops after the massacres of Melilla and San Antonio: the hardening of migration policies is ineffective, we must expand the possibilities of regular migration

(30-6-22) "We reject punitive approaches and the 'struggle' against irregular migrants in the formulation of migration and border management policies, not only because of their inefficiency and high financial costs, but above all because they result in more death and slavery (trafficking), and go against the basic sense of humanity and the spirit of a broad 'we' that Pope Francis calls us to



develop ". This is what the Archbishop Miguel Cabrejos Vidarte of Trujillo and president of CELAM, writes on behalf of the Bishops of Latin America and the Caribbean and the organizations working with migrants who form the Red Clamor, after the discovery of a truck with 50 dead migrants inside, many of them minors, from Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico.

Church programs to assist divorced Catholics in Singapore

(30-6-22) A church-sponsored group in Singapore has launched two special programs to help divorced Catholics with the healing and restoration of their personal and family lives.

The Catholic Divorce Support Group (CDSG), an affiliate of the Catholic Family Life Commission of Singapore Archdiocese, wants to help Catholics cope with the stress of breaking up, according to a report in the *Catholic News of Singapore* on June 29.

A 13-week program, "Surviving Divorce," will run from July 5 to Oct. 4, while a three-day program, "Beginning Experience Weekend," is scheduled for Sept. 9-11.

The group seeks to bring "hope and healing" to those who are divorced or separated and to help them and their families live the universal call to holiness.

Sri Lankan leaders ignore us, says Buddhist chief

(30-6-22) Sri Lankan Buddhist monks say they are discouraged that rulers of the crisis-hit country do not listen to the advice of religious leaders.

Ven. Warakagoda Gnanaratana Thera, chief prelate of the Asgiriya Chapter, said monks are disappointed as there seems no point in advising the country's leaders. "Monks have realized that it is useless to advise the rulers in the country because they do not care," Ven. Gnanaratana Thera said at a ceremony held at Madawala Sri Jinamangalaramaya. "All educated people are worried about the situation in the country." Sri Lanka is facing its worst economic crisis since independence in 1948.



Indian Catholic group helps instill confidence among girls

(30-6-22) 107 adolescent girls who attended a 15-day special confidence-building programme in Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh state, jointly organized by Uday Social Development Society run by the Holy Spirit Sisters and Bhopal city police at St. Raphael Co-Ed School. The training also included lessons in self-defence.

Sister Lizy Thomas, director of Uday Social Development Society, said the non-government organization worked among the poorest of the poor living in slums, especially women and girls who face discrimination. "Our main purpose is to motivate

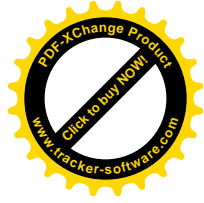
the adolescent girls, to help them set goals and muster the courage to chase them," she told UCA News. Most of the girls who attended the training are poor but determined to pursue education. They have the potential to do well in life provided they are guided to remain on the right track. "We are helping them along with Bhopal police officials," the nun said while thanking the city's police for their time and effort to train the girls.

The training program held from June 14-29 provided basic information on the Indian constitution, the fundamental rights of citizens, the rights of women and children, and the country's various laws.

Korean diocese honours families with multiple children

(30-6-22) Gwangju Archdiocese in South Korea has honoured 20 Catholic families with four or more children at a time when the nation is experiencing a negative trend in population growth.

The archdiocese honored the families during a special Mass on June 26 to mark the closing of programs and activities for the Year of Amoris Laetitia Family that celebrates Pope Francis' famed apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* (The joy of love).



Vietnamese nuns save lives with blood donations

(30-6-22) The Hematology and Transfusion Centre of the Central Hospital in Hue found only few donors of blood, and consequently the hospital's blood supplies were inadequate to transfuse into patients, especially those who required major surgery and transplant operations.

While serving Covid-19 patients at the General Hospital in Hue, Sister Marie Nguyen Thi Kim Oanh from the Filles de Marie Immaculée (Daughters of Mary of the Immaculate Conception) and, motivated by her, the hospital staff and volunteers donated blood and thus saved a number of patients. After finishing her three-month term in the General Hospital, thanks to her initiative, 70 sisters aged from 20-60 donated 200-350 milliliters of blood each on June 14, World Blood Donor Day, with the religious Superiors' full approval.

A sister who asked not to be named said she gave her blood to a woman with HIV/AIDS – abandoned by her own relatives - after the woman gave birth in 2019. This sister from the Filles de Marie Immaculée was doubly happy that because of her blood donation, the mother could be with her daughter and the two received baptism three months later!

1-7-22

Pope, in latest interview reflects on 10 years in office

(1-P7-22) Pope Francis spoke about the aftermath of the Covid epidemic, the threats to the world's ecology, the war in Ukraine, and his own efforts at Vatican reform, in a new interview with the Argentine national news agency Telam.

The Pope said that the reforms he has instituted at the Vatican—in particular the restructuring of the Roman Curia—"were not ideas of my own." He said that the program for reform was discussed by the full College of Cardinals in the meetings that preceded the conclave at which he was elected in 2013.

Questioned about the war in Ukraine, the Pope said that "it is time to rethink the concept of a just war." He allowed that "there is the right to defend oneself." But he said that "we need to rethink the way that concept is used nowadays." He expressed regret that the UN "has no power to assert its authority," and therefore cannot prevent wars.

The Pope said that priests "did a great job" during the Covid lockdown, "because churches were closed, but they would call people over the phone." But he voiced dissatisfaction with other institutional responses. "The fact that Africa is in need of vaccines indicates that something has not worked well," he said.

Pope Francis told the Argentine interviewer that he has confidence in young people. He continued: Sure, but they don't show up to Mass," a priest may say. And I reply that we must help them grow and be by their side.



Vatican completes sale of troubled London property

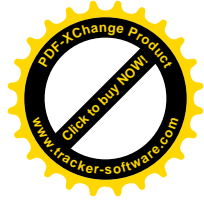
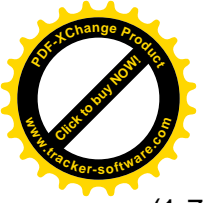
(1-7-22) The Vatican has announced the sale of the London property at the centre of a financial scandal.

APSA (the Administration of the Patrimony of the Apostolic See), the office that handles Vatican investments, sold the property at 60 Sloane Avenue to Bain Capital, at a price of about \$225 million. The Vatican had paid about \$370 for the property.

In announcing the sale, the Vatican said that the losses on the investment were absorbed by reserve funds held by the Secretariat of State, the office that had made the investment. The Vatican announcement emphasized that the losses were not drawn from the funds submitted by the faithful in the Peter's Pence collection.

An internal Vatican investigation into the circumstances surrounding the London real-estate investment led to multiple criminal charges, which are now being heard by a Vatican tribunal.

White House: President Biden condemns recent attacks on Catholic churches



(1-7-22) "The President condemns these attacks" on Catholic churches, White House Deputy Press Secretary Andrew Bates said in a statement provided to Fox News. "He has always denounced violence, threats, and vandalism committed by anyone, for any purpose. And he explicitly repeated those values in his remarks reacting to the Dobbs decision, calling for all protests to be peaceful."

Pope to reduce public schedule for July

(1-7-22) Pope Francis will not hold his regular Wednesday public audiences during the month of July, the Vatican has announced. The Pope will reduce his schedule of activities, but will continue to greet the public on Sundays for his Angelus audiences.

Nigeria - "We are not terrorists!": More than 700 Nigerian priests peacefully protest at the funeral of the priest killed in Kaduna



(1-7-22) "We are priests, not terrorists!" "the government should protect Nigerians", "justice must be served", "do we still have a government?".

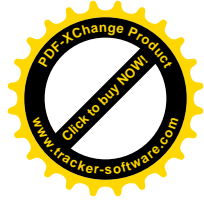
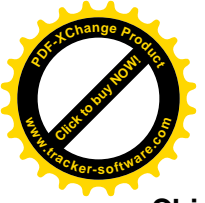
These are some of the slogans on the placards in the hands of several of the hundreds of priests (according to the local press more than 700) who came from all over Nigeria to celebrate the funeral of Fr. Vitus Borogo killed on June 25, in Kaduna Prison Farm.

In his homily, the Archbishop Matthew Man-oso Ndagoso of Kaduna deplored the growing instability in the country and stressed that Nigerians live in constant fear of being victims of violent acts, while the federal government seems to be unable to address the issue. He said, Nigerians are being held prisoner in their own country because of persistent attacks and killings. The Archbishop of Kaduna expressed his pain at the fact that in a year his community has buried three priests who died in the hands of bandits, adding that the most painful one was the of the late Father Aketeh Bako whose burial took place three weeks ago without his corpse, which has not yet been found. Archbishop Ndagoso appealed to the state police to guarantee the safety of citizens because those who have the obligation to protect people's lives and property have stopped doing so. Fr. Borogo was killed on June 25, while his brother, CY Borogo, was kidnapped by the criminals who attacked the Prison Farm. On Sunday June 26, another priest was killed in an attempted kidnapping. Fr. Christopher Odia, parish priest of St. Michael Catholic Church, Ikabigbo, as well as headmaster of St. Philip Catholic Secondary School, in Jattu, was killed in a fire fight with the police after he was kidnapped by some bandits on his way to celebrate mass in Auchi, in the state of Edo.

The only positive note is the release, on June 30, of Fr. Christopher Itopa Onotu, kidnapped on June 4, as confirmed by the diocese of Lokoja.

Mongolia - Bishop Marengo: "Accompany the faithful on their journey with the light of the Gospel"

(1-7-22) "We must accompany the faithful towards a dimension of greater depth: this is one of the pastoral challenges of the near future for the Church in Mongolia". Bishop Giorgio Marengo, Apostolic Prefect of Ulaanbaatar and Cardinal designate, is convinced of this and says that the direction of the journey in the local Church "is that of an ever more full and lively participation of the baptized". This perspective was deepened during the recent Pastoral Week, organized for the 30th anniversary of the missionary life of the Mongolian Church (which restarted in 1992, after the dissolution of the Soviet Union), which today has 2 priests, 22 foreign missionaries and about 35 missionary nuns. This year also marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Holy See and Mongolia. "For this double anniversary – the bishop reported - we have prepared a meeting on the path of synodality, in which we reflected on the future prospects of our Church".



China - Priestly ordinations on the solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul: in the footsteps of the Apostles, the mission of evangelization is strengthened

(1-7-22) New priestly ordinations on the solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, on June 29, to give energy to the mission of evangelization in mainland China by strengthening the synodal path. Bishop Paul He Zeqing, the Ordinary of the diocese of Wanxian, presided over the ordination of Fr. Joseph Jiang Fuxin, who studied at the National Seminary and now serves the diocese. The day before, also in the Wanxian Cathedral dedicated to the Immaculate Conception, Bishop Paul He ordained a deacon.

Ecuador - A peace agreement puts an end to the long period of violent demonstrations

(1-7-22) After the mobilization, anti-government protests and acts of violence that have caused at least 6 deaths and about 500 injuries in Ecuador since June 13, the blockade of roads and activities, the declaration of a state of emergency, a peace agreement was signed between the government delegation and the delegation of indigenous associations yesterday June 30. The agreement was signed at the end of a meeting held at the headquarters of the Episcopal Conference, which has always mediated dialogue between the parties (see Fides, 22/6/2022; 24/6/2022) and provides for the return of the demonstrators in their own territories, the abandonment of violent acts and the return of peace. Accordingly, among other things, the price of fuels will be reduced, oil activities will be curbed and mining activities in protected areas and in the territories of indigenous communities will not be permitted.

Christians worry over rise in Papua rebel attacks

(1-7-22) An alarming rise in deadly attacks by separatist rebels has triggered a climate of fear, impacting free movement and activities of civilians in Indonesia's Christian-majority Papua region, Church leaders say.

"People can no longer do activities freely. They are really afraid," Father Bernard Baru, chairman of the Justice and Peace Commission of the Augustinian Order in Papua, told UCA News. The priest was speaking shortly after Papua police chief Mathius D. Fakhiri said that armed separatist attacks have sharply increased over the past two years in the restive region.

Rebel groups carried out 44 attacks against security forces and civilians including shooting, burning, and plundering of weapons from armed forces in the first six months of 2022, Fakhiri said during a press briefing on June 30. Overall rebel attacks increased by 33 percent compared to 33 attacks during the same period last year. The violence left 24 people dead — seven soldiers, one policeman, 12 civilians and four separatist rebels, he said.

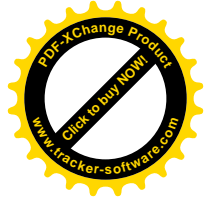
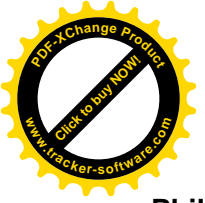
Myanmar Church programme invigorates poor rural youth

(1-7-22) A Catholic parish in western Myanmar has stepped up efforts to address poverty and promote social interaction between young people from rich urban centres and impoverished villages.

The Sacred Heart Church at Myaungmya, under the Pathein Diocese, organized a gathering of some 140 young people on June 26 aiming to create bonding between the rich and the poor, said its organizer Father Bosco Aung Tun Lay.

The young people participated in team-building activities including music and dance, said a report about the event on the diocesan portal. Father Lay said the program helped village youths overcome their alienation. "Due to their [poor] economic status, young people who are living in villages feel strange to those living in towns although they are from the same parish," the priest said.





Philippine Church hints at 'principled cooperation' with Marcos Jr.

(1-7-22) Two cardinals leading the thanksgiving Mass of new Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. is being perceived as the Catholic Church's willingness to have 'principled cooperation' with the government led by the son and namesake of the infamous late dictator.

Cardinal Jose Advincula of Manila along with Cardinal Orlando Quevedo, the retired archbishop of Cotabato, led the Mass in Manila on July 1.

Marcos Jr. and Vice President Sara Duterte attended the Mass together with their cabinet secretaries. "The presence of our cardinals is part of the principled cooperation that the Catholic Church's hierarchy is extending to the new administration. Even the papal nuncio has assured President Marcos of the Vatican's cooperation," Mindanao priest and Social Action Chairman Father Joseph De Leon told UCA News.

Sri Lankan Church takes legal recourse for Easter attack victims

(1-7-22) Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith of Colombo has sought court directions to implement the recommendations of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) into the Easter Sunday attacks.

"The repeated pleas for accountability, justice, and the implementation of the commission recommendations from the victims, the archdiocese, and the archbishop fell on deaf ears," he said. Cardinal Ranjith filed a writ petition on June 29 seeking an order directing the Inspector General of Police and Secretary to the Ministry of Public Security to implement the recommendations in the final report of the PCoI.

"Legal steps will be taken towards the implementation of the commission's recommendations against the other key positions named in the final report of the commission in due course," he added.

Cardinal Ranjith said the report mentioned serious negligence and lapses on the part of numerous public officials, including officials serving in the police, and had recommended disciplinary action against them. "This included police officers such as senior DIG Deshabandu Thennakoon for their negligence and failure to prevent the bombings on Easter Sunday in 2019," said Cardinal Ranjith.

2-7-22

DRC and Catholic Church sign agreements as Cardinal Parolin visits



(2-7-22) The Catholic Church in the Democratic Republic of Congo will remember 2 July as "an historic day".

As part of Cardinal Secretary of State Pietro Parolin's visit to Kinshasa in Pope Francis' name, the Congolese Catholic Bishops' Conference (CENCO) signed five agreements with the DRC government recognizing the official status of the Church, which had previously been registered as a non-profit organization.

The ceremony took place on Saturday in the presence of Cardinal

Parolin, immediately after a private meeting of more than half an hour with Prime Minister Jean-Michel Sama Lukonde.

The agreements were signed by the ministers of Foreign Affairs, Health, Justice, Finance, Higher Education and Universities, and Local Affairs, and by CENCO president, Archbishop Marcel Utembi Tapa, putting into practice the Framework Agreement signed by the Holy See and the Democratic Republic of Congo on 20 May 2016 on matters of common interest.

Setting out the respective independence and autonomy of Church and State, the Framework Agreement established the legal framework for mutual relations and, in particular, enshrined the legal position of the Catholic Church in the civil sphere and its freedom regarding apostolic activity and regulation of matters within its competence.

Following months of negotiations and considerable engagement by CENCO, the Apostolic Nunciature, and the relevant government ministries, a Joint Commission then drew up five specific agreements governing the areas of religious instruction in schools, Catholic educational institutions,



the Church's charitable-assistance activity, pastoral care in penitentiary and hospital institutions, and the Church's patrimonial and fiscal regime.

Kenya - "Hunger threatens the poorest but our politicians do nothing" denounces the Archbishop of Nairobi

(2-7-22) "It is really surprising that, while drought and hunger loom on our borders, the price of basic food has almost doubled, the government and most of the candidates in the elections are silent on this" says Archbishop Philip Arnold Anyolo of Nairobi, in his speech on the food and economic crisis that is hitting Kenya, like several other African countries.



Archbishop Anyolo expressed his fear that the exasperation caused by the food crisis could be exploited during the campaign for the presidential and political elections on 9 August. He raises alarm: "We run the risk that the leaders who will be elected may follow the same trend whereby they do not care about the well-being of the poor and destitute, but focus on themselves and on increasing their wages ".

Four consecutive years of drought, the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic and the destruction caused by locust infestations, has now been added the impact of the war in Ukraine, in determining the food crisis in Kenya and throughout the Horn of ' Africa, for the blocking of deliveries of cereals and fertilizers. In addition, the huge increase in fuel and energy prices has increased the costs of delivering humanitarian aid, while disruption of global supply chains has made it very difficult to procure drugs needed for oral rehydration of severely malnourished children.

Cameroon - "People are suffering from widespread violence: the solution is a return to a federal system", says Archbishop Emeritus of Bamenda

(2-7-22) "The level of violence and ferocity has increased, the feeling of terror continues and people really can't take it anymore. There is great suffering among our population and we suffer with it. From a political point of view, I believe that the only solution is a return to the federal system. First of all, however, it is urgent to reach a peace agreement and put an end to this situation which is similar to that of occupied territories," says Archbishop Cornelius Fontem Esua, emeritus of Bamenda, capital of the English-speaking regions of Cameroon.

China - 48 married couples leaving to spread the beauty of the Amoris Laetitia Family in the community

(2-7-22) Close to the World Meeting of Families in Rome, which closed the Year dedicated to the "Amoris Laetitia Family" announced by Pope Francis (19 March 2021 - 26 June 2022), the diocese of Ningbo in the province of Zhejiang, in mainland China , concluded the diocesan year "Famiglia Amoris Laetitia" on 25 June, with the delivery of the Diploma of formation on the Christian family to 48 Christian couples. Now these couples, as seeds of the community, are leaving with the task of spreading what they have learned during a year of study based on faith and Christian marriage.

Guatemala - The Bishop of Escuintla on the climate of violence: "crime is the result of broken and violent families"

(2-7-22) "In recent weeks, to the evils resulting from the pandemic and the war in the world known to all, we must add the increase in criminal violence in our department: we are the second department by number of registered cases and one of those that have fewer solutions in this regard. . A climate that does not concern individuals, but especially families. A sadly perennial climate of insecurity is experienced above all in some municipalities such as Nueva Concepción, Tiquisate, Siquinalá, among others." This is what Bishop Victor Hugo Palma Paul, Bishop of the diocese of Escuintla writes, in his pastoral message to the diocesan community and to society, on the occasion of the conclusion of the Year of the Family 2021-2022 and in the face of the increase in delinquent violence in the territory.

3-7-22

Pope at Mass for Rome's Congolese community: 'Peace begins with each of us'



(3-7-22) At Mass on Sunday with the Congolese community in Rome at St Peter's Basilica, on the day he had been scheduled to preside over Mass at Ndolo Airport in Kinshasa, Pope Francis asked for prayers for peace for the wounded nation and reminded Christians that they are called to "Live in peace, kindle peace," so that peace may dwell in their homes, Church, and country. The Pope found inspiration in the Gospel according to Luke that assures us that the nearness of God who is Jesus, the source of our joy, fills us with awe, surprises us and

changes our lives. He noted that this is what drove the disciples to go far away, on a mission, to announce God's closeness and proclaim the Word of the Lord.

"If we ask ourselves what our task is in the world, what we are to do as the Church in history, the answer of the Gospel is clear: mission."

As Christians, the Pope said, we cannot be content to live in mediocrity, for we are missionaries of Jesus, and we are sent into the world.

Cardinal Pietro Parolin said Mass for the faithful of DR Congo in the capital Kinshasa. 'May peace return to DRC', he prayed

Pope at Angelus: 'We proclaim Jesus through witness of brotherly love'

(3-7-22) Ahead of the traditional noon-day prayer of the Angelus on Sunday, Pope Francis paused to reflect on the day's Gospel, in which Jesus sends out the 72 disciples in pairs.

He said the disciples' task is to "go ahead into the villages to prepare the people to receive Jesus." Jesus gives them little in the way of talking points, but rather focuses his command on "how they should be: on the witness to give more than the words to say."

"He defines them as workers," said the Pope. "They are therefore required to work, to evangelize through their behaviour."

Many perfect pastoral plans can be created and large crowds gathered, said the Pope, but "if there is no desire for fraternity, the mission cannot advance."

Pope Francis concluded his Angelus address by inviting everyone to reflect on how we proclaim Jesus. "Do we do so with a fraternal spirit and style, or in the manner of the world, with self-promotion, competitiveness and efficiency?" he asked.

Pope calls for de-escalation over war in Ukraine

(3-7-22) "Let us continue to pray for peace in Ukraine and throughout the world."

Pope Francis offered that invitation at the Angelus prayer on Sunday, adding that the "world needs peace." He said peace cannot be based "on the balance of arms or mutual fear", saying such a strategy would "turn the clock back by seventy years."

The Pope said the war in Ukraine "should have—and still could—become a challenge for wise statesmen capable of building a better world for future generations through dialogue."

"With God's help, this is always possible!"

However, added Pope Francis, *"We need to move away from strategies based on political, economic, and military power and toward a project for global peace."*

Video Message to DR Congo and South Sudan

(3-7-22) Pope Francis had sent a video message to the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan to apologize profusely for not being able to visit at the moment and to encourage their hope in God. Never give up hope, he said.