

## CATHOLIC WORLD LAST WEEK

(CWLW)

10-16 Oct 2022

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### **Synod will continue work of Vatican II, Vatican statement says**

(10-10-22) The general Secretariat for the Synod has released a statement, The statement says that the work of the Synod is “to The Secretariat’s Message recalls that the Synod’s purpose is “to prolong, in the life and mission of the Church, the spirit of the Second Vatican Council.” The message says: The concept of “Synodality” is found throughout the Council, even though this term (only recently coined) is not found expressly in the documents of the ecumenical assembly.

### **Mozambique bishop says terrorists not motivated by religion**

(10-10-22) A Catholic bishop in Mozambique says that recent terrorist attacks are not motivated by religious differences, although the attackers identify themselves as Muslims. Bishop Alberto Vera Arejula of Nacala explains that economic factors, including a desire to control rich oil fields, are a factor in the terrorists’ plans—as are drug trafficking and prostitution.

### **Swiss bishop resigns, cites burnout**

(10-10-22) A Swiss bishop has resigned his office, saying that “inner fatigue” has made it impossible for him to continue. Bishop Valerio Lazzeri, who is only 59 years old, had led the Lugano diocese since 2013. He said: “The public aspects, the representation, the financial and administrative management, have become unbearable for me...”

### **‘Adamant originalist’ is chief architect of Notre-Dame cathedral restoration**

(10-10-22) Tunku Varadarajan of *The Wall Street Journal* has interviewed Philippe Villeneuve, the chief architect of the restoration of the Cathedral of Notre-Dame in Paris. The famed cathedral’s roof caught on fire in 2019.

### **Montenegro premier meets Pontiff**

(10-10-22) Pope Francis met on October 10 with Dritan Abazovic, the prime minister of Montenegro. A brief Vatican statement released after the meeting said that the conversation had centred on Church-state relations and international affairs.

### **Sudan - Displaced people, floods, food emergency: from rural to urban areas**



(10-10-22) A quarter of the population of Sudan is facing a situation of acute hunger. It is estimated that 12 million people suffer from this emergency, and the figure could reach 18 million by the end of this month, double the figure recorded in 2021. According to a recent report published by the Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET), prices of staple foods are 250-300% higher than last year and 550-700 % above the five-year average. This situation aggravates the pre-existing acute food insecurity, in addition to the recent floods and mass displacements. In fact, Sudan is experiencing its fourth

consecutive year of flooding, with above-average rains causing deaths and partially or completely destroying nearly 44,000 homes across the country. Authorities have declared a state of emergency in six of the country’s eighteen provinces. “We ask God to continue to give people strength in this difficult and unexpected moment that is seriously affecting the entire population,” said the Bishop of the Diocese of Wau, Mathew Remijo Adam, referring to those affected by the floods in South Sudan

that have displaced more than 70,000 people in Western Equatoria. There is a growing food emergency that is spreading from rural to urban areas.

### **South Korea - "It is time to take a step forward": the Forum for Peace calls for a process of dialogue and reconciliation**

(10-10-22) On October 9, North Korea launched two new short-range ballistic missiles towards the East Sea. According to the Seoul government, this is the seventh missile launch in two weeks - one of which, a medium-range carrier, covered a distance of 4,500 kilometers.

Promoted by the National Reconciliation Committee of the Catholic Bishops of Korea and by the "Justice and Peace" Commission of the United States Bishops' Conference, "Catholic Forum for Peace on the Korean Peninsula 2022" was held in recent days at the Catholic University of America in Washington and sought to relaunch a different perspective in bilateral relations between North and South Korea.

### **Uzbekistan - Ignatian spiritual exercises in Samarkand, to guard the "bud" of faith**

(10-10-22) To spend a few days in silence, according to the charism of St. Ignatius of Loyola, and propose the practice of the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises as an opportunity to be closer to God and discern what the Lord's good plan for one's life is: this is what many baptized people in Uzbekistan lived in recent months, thanks to the proposal of the priests of the Institute of the Incarnate Word of Samarkand. - Fr. Ariel Álvarez Toncovich, parish priest of the Church of Saint John the Baptist in Samarkand organized five cycles of Spiritual Exercises between May and September.

### **Dominican Rep. - Committed to proclaiming and living the value of honesty in the family, in education and in society**

(10-10-22) Corruption, which is very evident in Dominican society, has a lot to do "with the lack of education in children, youth and adults that gives priority to the value of honesty", therefore it is necessary "to create a culture of transparency, making honesty our standard in school and in political life at the service of the common good". This is the fundamental message of the 40th National Pastoral Meeting, promoted by the Dominican Episcopal Conference through its National Pastoral Institute (INP).

The meeting, held on October 7 and 8, was attended by the bishops of the Dominican Republic and 250 pastoral agents from the 12 dioceses of the country - priests, deacons, consecrated persons and laity.

### **Taiwan prez vows 'no compromise' on freedom, democracy**

(10-10-22) Taiwan's president warned Beijing on 10 Oct. that the island would never give up its democratic way of life in a national day speech in which she drew parallels with Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The self-ruled democracy's 23 million people live under the constant threat of invasion by China's Communist Party, and Moscow's war in Ukraine has deepened fears that Beijing might attempt something similar with the island.

In her speech, President Tsai Ing-wen compared Moscow's invasion to Beijing's goal of one-day taking control of Taiwan -- which it has vowed to do, by force if necessary.



### **Christians back Anglo-Indian quota in parliament**

(10-10-22) Indian Christian leaders joined a protest by the microscopic Anglo-Indian community in the national capital New Delhi demanding the reinstatement of the minority's representation in parliament and legislative assemblies.

The protesters wanted the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to revoke a 2020 constitutional amendment it carried out, which ended the special provision.

“We have been demanding our rights,” said Gilbert Faria, coordinator of the Federation of Anglo-Indian Associations in India and one of the organizers of the protest on Oct. 9. Since India became a republic in 1950, a constitutional provision allowed special representation for the Anglo-Indian community — people of British descent born or residing in the country — in India’s parliament and state legislators to protect their interests. The provision entitled members of the predominantly Christian community to be nominated to two seats in the Indian parliament and one each to 13 state assemblies, where they have a sizeable presence.

Faria argued that Anglo-Indians all over the country numbered more than 400,000 spread all over the country as against the government’s claim of 296.

### **Vietnam archdiocese opens new pastoral center**

(10-10-22) Archbishops and bishops from the country's 27 dioceses concelebrated a special Mass at St Joseph’s Cathedral on Oct 7 the feast of Mary of the Rosary mark the opening of a new pastoral center in the capital, Hanoi. The Mass also concluded the national congress of the bishops.

The event was joined by hundreds of priests and attended by thousands of people, many of whom had to follow proceedings via big screens outside the cathedral.

“Some 350,000 local Catholics are the center’s benefactors,” Archbishop Joseph Vu Van Thien of Hanoi said. Archbishop Thien said the 12-story building next to the cathedral and St. Joseph Major Seminary is expected to meet the basic requirements of the local Church by hosting meetings and retreats and offering training courses for local priests, religious and laypeople. It also aims at building solidarity among them so that they are able to set out and proclaim Jesus and spread his teachings in all contexts of society.

### **Bangladeshi minorities want justice for Catholic politician**

(10-10-22) Minority groups in Bangladesh have demanded justice for an ethnic Garo Catholic politician, who died ten days after he was brutally attacked by his political rivals.

Subrata Sangma, 48, died on Oct. 8, while undergoing treatment in a hospital. He was a former elected chairman of the Kullagora Union Council, a local government body in Durgapur of northeastern Netrakona district.

Sangma’s relatives alleged that a group of criminals sent by current chairman Abdul Awal and his brother Shamim Ahmed beat him up with iron rods and sharp weapons twice on Sept. 29, leaving him seriously injured. He was rushed to a hospital by local people and died there 10 days later.

### **Indian MP says Jesuit died in jail after his rights violated**

(10-10-22) The human rights of Indian Swamy, who died in judicial custody, were fought for the rights of poor indigenous opposition leader says.

Shashi Tharoor, a Member of Parliament race to become the next chief of the party, was speaking at the Father Stan



Jesuit Father Stan violated even though he people, a senior

who is in the electoral opposition Congress Swamy Memorial Lecture

on, ‘Are Human Rights Universal?’ in Mumbai city on Oct. 8. A former UN diplomat and former federal minister, Tharoor said that “the late activist priest’s death in judicial custody had brought the world’s attention to his work and commitment.”

The 84-year-old Jesuit priest died as an undertrial while undergoing treatment in a Catholic-managed private hospital in Mumbai on July 5, 2021, after his arrest alleging involvement in the mob violence during the bicentenary celebrations of the Bhima-Koregaon battle victory near Pune city in western Maharashtra state on Jan. 1, 2018.

Father Swamy was jailed on Oct. 9, 2020, a day after he was arrested at his home in Ranchi, the capital of Jharkhand state in eastern India. He was charged with sedition for allegedly collaborating with the outlawed Maoist rebels to overthrow the pro-Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) led federal

government in the country. The priest who suffered from Covid-19 and other aged-related ailments was admitted to the hospital rather late following an order of the Bombay High Court, the top court in the state, after his pleas to the special court seeking bail for medical treatment were rejected. Recalling the tragic death of Father Swamy as an undertrial without being convicted, Tharoor said the “system was responsible for his death though he had made extraordinary contributions.”

### **Prayers for peace as Myanmar marks festival of lights**

(10-10-22) Catholics in Myanmar prayed for peace and for those who lost their lives in conflicts as people across the Buddhist-majority nation marked *Thadingyut*, the festival of lights.

Buddhists celebrated the three-day festival from Oct 8-10 when thousands visited pagodas to pray and offer flowers, lit candles, and released colourful paper lanterns.

Meanwhile, Independent Catholics for Justice in Myanmar, a group of clergy, religious, and laypeople at home and abroad, organized prayers for peace and for those who died in their pursuit of democracy in Myanmar. “At this time of the festival, we pray that civilians in the country have a peaceful and secure life and are not subject to unjust acts of arbitrary arrests, torture, jailing, destroying homes and properties and killings by the junta,” the group said in a statement.

During Sunday Mass on Oct 9, Cardinal Charles Bo of Yangon said: “In our country, thousands of people are suffering from the crisis of political, economic, and humanitarian while churches and monasteries have been bombed, villages have been burned and the people are killed.” Yet the Cardinal called for hope.

### **Pakistan rebuked over blasphemy killings of disabled**

(10-10-22) Church activists in Pakistan are deeply worried as 36-year-old Abbas Kalwal, born without arms, was doused with petrol and set on fire. He died a few hours later in his village in the southern Sindh province. The Oct. 1 incident is the second case of a person with a mental or physical disability being murdered after being accused of blasphemy. The Oct. 1 incident is the second case of a person with a mental or physical disability being murdered after being accused of blasphemy. According to his brother, Kalwal would often receive death threats because of his habit of worshipping at graves, which is forbidden among conservative Muslims.

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### **Creating jobs is key to ‘inclusive’ development, Pope says**

(11-10-22) “Poverty is not fought with welfarism, no, in this way we ‘anesthetize’ it but we do not fight it,” Pope Francis said in an address to participants in a conference organized by the Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice (CAPP) Foundation. The foundation is named after Pope St. John Paul II’s 1991 encyclical.

Pope Francis called for “the conversion of one’s way of looking”: “the humble gaze of one who sees in every man and woman he or she meets a brother and sister whose dignity must be respected, before possibly being a customer with whom to do business ... Only with this outlook can we fight against the evils of current speculation that feed the winds of war.”

### **Pope pays tribute to St. Artémides Zatti**

(11-10-22) In a 30-minute audience with Salesian pilgrims, Pope Francis recalled the life of St. Artémides Zatti (1880-1951), whom he canonized on October 9.

The Pontiff paid tribute to the saint as a migrant, as “kin to all the poor,” as a Salesian coadjutor brother, and as an intercessor for vocations.

### **In long-awaited English translation, Vatican proposes a catechumenate model for marriage preparation**

(11-10-22) In June, the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life released (in Italian and Spanish)



“Catechumenal Itineraries for Married Life: Pastoral Guidelines for Local Churches.” The Dicastery has now released an English translation.

“The new document lays out three main stages for the new marriage catechumenate: proximate preparation (about a year, including a rite of betrothal), final preparation (a few months, including a retreat), and accompaniment (the last phase stretches into the first years of marriage),” Our Sunday Visitor reported. “The catechumenate is to be preceded by ‘remote preparation’ (age appropriate formation in youth programs, etc.) and an ‘intermediate phase’ lasting a few weeks during which a ritual entry into the catechumenate proper occurs.”

### **Renewed papal call to abolish death penalty**

(11-10-22) “I call on all people of goodwill to mobilize for the abolition of the death penalty throughout the world,” Pope Francis tweeted on October 10. “Society can effectively repress crime without definitively depriving the offenders of the possibility of redeeming themselves. #EndDeathPenalty”

### **Vatican silent on funds in troubled bank**

(11-10-22) The Vatican has declined to comment on whether the heavy losses of Credit Suisse could endanger any Vatican investments, The Pillar reports.

Pope Francis issued a directive in August, ordering all Vatican offices to deposit investment funds in the Vatican’s own bank, the Institute for Religious Works, withdrawing funds from all other financial institutions. Although the papal order set a deadline at the end of September to complete the transfers, it is not yet known whether all offices met that deadline.

The Secretariat of State, in particular, has a long relationship with the troubled Swiss bank, which has come under heavy market pressure in recent days.

### **Vatican diplomat, at UN, speaks out against abortion, child pornography, surrogacy**



(11-10-22) At a UN committee meeting devoted to the promotion and protection of the rights of children, Archbishop Gabriele Caccia, apostolic nuncio and Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations, said that abortion and child pornography are violations of children’s rights. The prelate’s statement was delivered by his deputy, Msgr. Robert Murphy. “Effectively promoting and protecting the rights of children also requires the rejection of all practices that reduce the human person to an object,”

Archbishop Caccia stated. “This mentality undergirds the practice of abortion, which treats children as discardable, including in instances of sex-selective abortion or abortion on the basis of disability.”

“Moreover, child pornography is a particularly heinous and grave crime,” he continued. As Pope Francis has noted, it is a mistake to ‘think that a society where an abnormal consumption of internet sex is rampant among adults could be capable of effectively protecting minors.’”

Archbishop Caccia warned that “the objectification of children is not limited to child pornography. It also occurs in practices such as surrogacy, which turns a child into the mere object of an absolute desire to be satisfied and cannot be justified by sympathetic motivations.”

### **Bahrain—site of next papal trip—criticized for death-penalty abuses**

(11-10-22) Human-rights activists have sharply criticized Bahrain for a steep increase in the number of executions, along with reports of torture and secret trials.

There were 51 executions ordered in Bahrain in the past year, as against only seven in the preceding decade. Human Rights Watch reports that of 88% of the prisoners executed since 2011 have been convicted on “terrorism” charges, many were denied legal counsel and the right to question witnesses, and 100% said they had been tortured.

Pope Francis, who has been outspoken in his condemnation of the death penalty, will visit Bahrain next month.

## **Humanitarian crisis in Sudan: 'we ask God to continue to give people strength,' bishop prays**

(11-10-22) Massive flooding and an inflation rate of over 250% have contributed to a humanitarian crisis in Sudan in which 12 million suffer from acute hunger, the Fides news agency reported. "We ask God to continue to give people strength in this difficult and unexpected moment that is seriously affecting the entire population," said Bishop Matthew Remijio Adam Gbitiku of Wau in neighbouring South Sudan, which also faces a hunger crisis.

## **Vatican - Seminaries: Dicastery for Evangelization organizes refresher course for professors in Rome**

(11-10-22) After a 2-year break due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the refresher course that the Dicastery for Evangelization has been organizing since the 2012-2013 academic year for the Professors of major Seminaries resumes, in collaboration with the Pontifical Urbaniana University and the Pontifical Mission Societies. On Friday, October 7th, Archbishop Protase Rugambwa, Secretary of the Dicastery, opened the 13th course, attended by 22 Professors from 12 Asian and African countries. They mainly attend lectures in their respective disciplines at the Pontifical Urbaniana University, while the program also includes a Seminar on Synodality and a series of lectures on various themes, as well as days of spiritual retreat.

## **Ethiopia - Peace talks postponed to a date to be defined to stop the war in Tigray**

(11-10-22) Hopes of further peace talks launched by the African Union (AU) in South Africa to find a solution to the conflict in the Tigray region, faded on the same weekend of October 8, 2022 in which they were scheduled after a postponement to a date to be determined. The reasons given are logistical problems and the lack of prior consultation with the participants.

## **Uganda - 60 years of independence: bishops look back on developments over the past ten years**

(11-10-22) "In the last ten developed positively in of Uganda in their Message Independence. Referring to occasion of the 50th bishops first note that the both economically and oasis of faith in a world that more secular, in which the longer present".



years our country has many ways", say the Bishops for the 60th anniversary of their letter, written on the anniversary in 2012, the country has made progress socially, while remaining "an continues to become more and need for God is less or no "Our churches and mosques

continue to fill up with believers. Different faiths can express themselves publicly without fear of reprisals or persecution," they emphasize. "For that we thank God and continue to pray that this nation will continue to be the shining star in an increasingly secular world."

Economically, there have been positive signs of growth in Uganda over the past decade. jeopardized by the Covid-19 pandemic of the last two years, now acerbated by the Russian-Ukrainian war.

## **Asia - The jubilee assembly of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences: "And they took another path"**

(11-10-22) Even the rain - not uncommon in the rainy season, which in Thailand lasts from June to October - does not alter the good climate of meetings that will characterize the General Assembly of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC), which will be held from October 12 in Bangkok, at the Baan Phu Waan Pastoral Center. More than 150 bishops from a total of 29 Asian countries and around 50 listeners and invited guests, some of whom also come from the Vatican dicasteries, will take part in the assembly, which will last until October 30th and will be held under the motto "The common path of the Asian nations: and they took another path" (Mt 2:12). The General

Assembly will also celebrate the 50th anniversary of the FABC, founded in 1970, which should in fact have been held in 2020 when the event had to be postponed due to the pandemic.

### **Priests demand fair trials in Indonesia's Papua region**

(11-10-22) More than 100 Catholic priests have signed a petition seeking fair trials in cases of violence, including sensational murders, as a way of peace-building in Indonesia's restive Christian-majority Papua region.

The petition includes a five-point declaration which was adopted during a meeting of 106 diocesan priests from all five dioceses in the region in Agats, Asmat district in South Papua province on Oct. 4-9. The priests cited the Aug. 22 killing and mutilation of four Protestant Christians in Mimika district of Central Papua province allegedly by six soldiers, who accused them of having links with separatist rebels. The military said the accused soldiers will be prosecuted in a military court. Nearly all legal processes relating to violence tend to run slowly and not transparently, more priests say

### **Indian govt to look into quotas for Dalit Christians, Muslims**

(11-10-22) A Catholic Church official has welcomed the Indian government's decision to appoint a commission to examine if Dalits who converted to Christianity or Islam can be accorded Scheduled Caste (SC) status.

The federal government in a notification issued on Oct. 6 announced the setting up of a three-member inquiry commission headed by former Chief Justice of India, Justice K.G. Balakrishnan, to look into granting SC status, its implications and submit a report within two years.

However, Dalit Christian leaders dismissed this as a tactic to delay their recognition as SCs (Scheduled Castes), the official name for former untouchables in the country.

The SC status will ensure them a share in the 15 percent reserved quota in parliament and state legislatures, government jobs and education, at present extended only to Dalits belonging to Hindu, Sikh, or Buddhist religions. "It is a welcome move. We have to take it positively as it will give us an opportunity to highlight the issues plaguing our brothers and sisters," Bishop Moses D Prakasam, a member of Indian Bishops' Conference's Office of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes, told UCA News on Oct. 8. Bishop Prakasam welcomed the appointment of Justice Balakrishnan who is himself a Dalit.

But R L Francis, president of the Poor Christian Liberation Movement (PCLM), felt the government seemed to want to delay the ongoing hearings of a batch of petitions in the Supreme Court seeking the removal of the religion criteria for inclusion as SCs.

### **Diocese of Macau opens its historic archives**

(11-10-22) Macau diocese has officially opened its archives of close to one million documents and numerous relics with historic cultural and heritage values for public view for the first time, a Church official said.

The diocese, founded in 1576 as the first Catholic Church jurisdiction in the Far East, has preserved the documents and relics for centuries beginning during the Portuguese colonial period (1557-1999) on the island. The Diocesan Office of Historical Archives and Patrimony located at the Bishop's House functions under the supervision of the Diocesan Chancellor and the Macau Diocesan Curia.

In 2010, UNESCO assigned some ancient books at the St. Joseph's Seminary and archives of the Diocesan Chancery to its Memory of the World Program for the Asia-Pacific region.

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### **Pope urges unity as he marks Vatican II's 60th anniversary**

(12-10-22) On October 11, the memorial of Pope St. John XXIII and the 60th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican



Council, Pope Francis celebrated Mass in St. Peter's Basilica.

Reflecting on the words of Christ to St. Peter—"Do you love me? Feed my sheep"—Pope Francis called on the faithful to consider the Church "from above" and "from around." In doing so, he chided both "progressivism" and "traditionalism."

"We thank you, Lord, for the gift of the Council," the Pope said at the conclusion of his homily. "You who love us, free us from the presumption of self-sufficiency and from the spirit of worldly criticism. Prevent us from excluding ourselves from unity."

"You who lovingly feed us, lead us forth from the shadows of self-absorption," he added. "You who desire that we be a united flock, save us from the forms of polarization and the 'isms' that are the devil's handiwork. And we, your Church, with Peter and like Peter, now say to you: 'Lord, you know everything; you know that we love you'" (cf. Jn 21:17).

### **Papal audience: desire as an aspect of discernment**

(12-10-22) Continuing his series of talks on discernment, Pope Francis spoke at his October 12 public audience on the role of desire. The following is the summary of his talk:

In our continuing catechesis on spiritual discernment, we have considered the importance of prayer and growth in self-knowledge. Today we consider a third necessary element of discernment, which is *desire*, the deep longing for happiness and fulfilment present in the human heart. In our spiritual tradition, desire is seen as evidence of our innate yearning for God and the peace that he alone can give: a kind of compass directing our lives to their ultimate goal. In seeking the Lord and trusting in his promises, we find the strength to persevere amid difficulties, to accept sacrifices joyfully, and to strive in all things to live in accordance with his will. In the Gospels, Jesus often asks those who seek a miracle what it is that they ask of him (e.g., *Mk 10:51*). Our own dialogue with the Lord in prayer helps us to articulate our inmost desires and to allow him to work miracles of grace and healing in our lives. For that is Jesus' own greatest desire: to make us sharers in his own divine life and to enable us to find, in him, our eternal happiness and fulfilment.

### **Pope renews appeal for peace in Ukraine**

(12-10-22) At the conclusion of his regular weekly audience on October 12, Pope Francis issued a new plea for an end to the "hurricane of violence" in Ukraine.

"In these days my heart is always with the Ukrainian people, especially the inhabitants of those places where the bombardments have been raging," the Pope said. He offered a prayer that the "Spirit transform the hearts of those who hold the outcome of the war in their hands."

### **Pope to Scalabrinian missionaries: To be inclusive we must be creative**

(12-10-22) "Today, every baptized person is called upon to reflect God's gaze towards migrant and refugee brothers and sisters – there are many of them – to let his gaze broaden our own, thanks to the encounter with humanity on the move, through genuine closeness, following the example of Bishop Scalabrini," Pope Francis said in an address to pilgrims who attended the canonization of St. Giovanni Battista Scalabrini (1839-1905).

### **'Be creative and ambassadors of peace,' Pope tells Belgian youth**

(12-10-22) "Dear boys and dear girls, please, never tire of being bearers of the Gospel wherever you go," Pope Francis said in an address to 300 young people from Belgium.



"I know you are generous; I know you are full of enthusiasm and ready to conquer the world," he continued. "Do not be distracted by the trivial things in life, and there are many of them, aren't there? Concentrate on what is essential, that flows from friendship with Jesus Christ."

### **"In message to Asian bishops, Pope highlights value of regional conferences**



(12-10-22) In a video message to the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences, which is meeting in Bangkok this week, Pope Francis said a regional bishops' conference can help Church leaders to address the fundamental question: "What is the Spirit saying to the churches in Asia?"

The Pope reminded the Asian bishops that their conference met for the first time in 1970, and "noted that the masses were awakening from fatalism to a life worthy of man."

### **Canadian bishops issue pastoral letter to young people**

(12-10-22) The themes of the pastoral letter include "Jesus encounters the teachers in the Temple," "Walking and talking together," "Technology and faith," "The presence of Jesus in your life," "Growing in faith: a life-long learning experience," "An 'influencer' among us: Mary and how her 'yes' changed the world forever," "St. Kateri Tekakwitha," "Carlos Acutis—a young role model for the 21st century," and "Be an original."

### **A million march throughout Mexico for women, life, and peace**

(12-10-22) "What we want are options for life for ourselves and for our children; we believe that it's time to overcome abortion in Mexico, as slavery was once overcome," said a spokesperson for the marches, which took place throughout the country.

### **Senegal - Peaceful coexistence: "We strive for dialogue in everyday life"**

(12-10-22) "We are working to promote the spirit of dialogue", says Bishop Paul Abel Mamba of Tambacounda and vice-president of the Episcopal Conference of Senegal, Mauritania, Cape- Green and Guinea-Bissau. On his ad limina visit in Rome, he underlined the importance of daily relations to enable people of different faiths to live together peacefully.

"Senegal is a country with a strong Islamic majority", underlines the bishop. "We strive to promote the spirit of dialogue in daily life, which we share with our brothers of the Islamic faith. It is not uncommon to see families in which different faiths coexist; members who adhere to the traditional faith alongside Muslims and Christians. In this context, we not only share daily life, but also celebrate holidays together and mourn together".

### **India - A new Franciscan mission in northeast India**

(12-10-22) Fraternity, hospitality, listening and helping the poorest: these are the characteristics which, according to the charism of Saint Francis of Assisi, will animate the new mission begun by the Franciscan conventual friars in the North-East of India. The first stone of the new mission was laid in recent days in the village of Daldali, in the diocese of Diphu, a territory of the Indian state of Assam.

As the Missionary Centre of the Order of Friars Minor

Conventual reports, the mission is entrusted to the care of the Friars in Malta. The Maltese friars arrived in India in 1980, settling in the state of Kerala (in southern India). Continuing their work of evangelization, the Maltese friars opened in 2014 a new mission in the city of Calcutta and now, with the new project in Diphu, they are expanding their presence in the North East of India.

In Daldali, where the new mission is developing with fervor, there are 41 Catholic families, more than 200 of whom have been baptized. The village is part of an area inhabited by the Dimasas, Adivasi, Nepali, Garo, Kukies and Pnar indigenous groups. The Conventuals have established the Krist Jayanti School in 2000 and the Hospitaller Sisters of Mercy founded a convent and a clinic in 2002 to help missionary activities and provide health services. The Salesians are serving a good part of Assam.

### **Brazil - Faith and religion must not be exploited for electoral purposes**



(12-10-22) Brazil's bishops do not want faith and religion to be used for canvassing votes for the elections on Oct 30<sup>th</sup>, a second phase necessitated by the inconclusive Oct 2 elections with regard to the choice of a President. They therefore urge all citizens "to take this moment as an opportunity to reflect and launch initiatives that focus on the dignity of the human person and the search for a more just, fraternal and united country".

Meanwhile (13-10-22) The Catholic bishops of Brazil have indicated their displeasure over a campaign visit by President Jair Bolsonaro to the shrine of Our Lady of Aparecida. Bolsonaro is running for re-election.

### **Asian bishops discuss renewal at jubilee meet**

(12-10-22) The general conference of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences aims "to commemorate, celebrate and chart the directions for the coming years. The Federation celebrates its golden jubilee year this year." It is only appropriate that we celebrate this journey, despite the challenges, by gazing into the past, the present, and the future," said a document on the celebration published by the federation.

Some of the key questions the general conference will discuss include how the Church in Asia "can continue to proclaim the Good News in light of the emerging social realities of Asia" and how the federation can effectively serve and support the bishops in Asia more, the document said.

The first few days of the general conference will deliberate on the emerging realities in different Asian countries. Each of the 29 member countries has been invited to present an exposition on the present situation in their countries: political, social, economic, religious and any other challenges for the Catholic Church, said an Oct. 12 press note.

### **Indian bishops express shock over Kerala human sacrifice**

(12-10-22) Catholic bishops in Kerala have expressed shock over the human sacrifice of two women as part of a ritual in the southern Indian state of Kerala. The horrific incident reported from Kerala's Pathanamthitta district came to light on Oct. 11. Police said they arrested three suspects including a woman who admitted the crime during interrogation. The prime suspect Mohammad Shafi alias Bhagaval Singh, a traditional healer, and his wife, Laila, that human sacrifice will bring them prosperity. The trio allegedly abducted two women, lottery-ticket vendors, identified only as Roslin and Padma, killed and dismembered their bodies before burying the body parts in the premises of the couple's house as a part of ritualistic sacrifice. This money-motivated crime happened in the course of four months.



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### **Filipino Catholics plant bamboo to save environment**

(12-10-22) Catholic charity Caritas Philippines has launched a campaign to encourage people across the country to plant millions of bamboo saplings to tackle soil erosion and restore declining forests. The campaign for bamboo plantation kicked off in all 72 Catholic dioceses in the country on Oct. 10.

### **Vietnamese Catholics urged to follow martyr's example**

(12-10-22) Catholic pilgrims from a northern archdiocese have been called on to bear witness to faith and love as their martyr did.

On Oct. 11, Archbishop Joseph Vu Van Thien of Hanoi presided at a special Mass to mark the 189th anniversary of the death of Martyr Saint Father Peter Le Tuy at the Pilgrimage Centre of Bang So in Thuong Tin district of Hanoi City. Some 100 priests joined the open-air ceremony with the theme "Saint Peter Le Tuy - witness of synodality" attended by thousands of pilgrims from many parishes.

Archbishop Thien said Martyr Father Peter Le Tuy bravely bore witness to God by willingly sacrificing himself and shedding his blood to show his loyalty to the faith and the Church. The saint of Bang So parish has provided a shining example of faith for all Catholics from northern dioceses for the past 200 years.

13-10-22

### **Vatican Secretary of State calls for truce in Ukraine**

(13-10-22) Warning that mankind risks “falling into a spiral of no return, with catastrophic consequences,” Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Holy See’s Secretary of State, said in an interview that a truce in Ukraine is “not only feasible, but urgent.”

### **Cardinal Becciu, at trial, challenges Vatican cop over hostage payments**

(13-10-22) “The Vatican’s fraud and corruption trial took a dramatic twist,” the AP reported, “when a once-powerful cardinal challenged the Vatican’s police commissioner on the stand about one of the more peculiar tangents of the case: the Vatican’s half-million euro payments to a self-styled security analyst who, with Pope Francis’ blessing, helped arrange negotiations for the release of a nun held hostage by Islamic militants.”

### **Synod advisers meet outside Rome to consider ‘time for change’ in Catholic Church**

(13-10-22) 30 “theologians, pastoral workers and bishops” recently spent two weeks in Frascati, Italy, to draft the document that will guide the continental phase of the synod on synodality.

“In this call for change, we can see that there needs to be a different dynamic in how the Church listens to the people of God and how it allows itself to be transformed by listening to the people of God,” said Mauricio López, who is the coordinator for the Conference of Latin American Bishops’ Centre for Networking and Action.

“To me, the most sort of moving thing about this is, I think we do all feel that something very important is being born here,” added Austen Ivereigh. “It’s a new way of thinking about the Church and the way it operates.”



### **Holy See diplomat: Respect for freedom of religion, conscience is ‘litmus test’ for other human rights**

(13-10-22) In recent remarks at the Warsaw Human Dimension Conference, Msgr. Janusz Urbanczyk, the Permanent Representative of the Holy See to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), emphasized the “centrality of freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief ... because this specific freedom represents a litmus test for the respect of all other human rights and fundamental freedoms.”

Msgr. Urbanczyk listed several ways in which freedom of religion and conscience is “challenged,” including “undue limitations to conscientious objection,” lack of respect for parental choice in education, censorship, the wrongful equation of religious expression with “hate speech,” and government abuse of religious registration mechanisms.

Msgr. Urbanczyk also said that governments “should always respect the autonomy of religious communities as regards their internal affairs, guaranteeing the latter to freely select, appoint and replace their leaders, to decide on their structure and internal rules, and to define the contents of their beliefs.” China, where this principle is manifestly violated, is not a member of the OSCE.

### **Belarus: officials seal off historic Catholic church in Minsk**

(13-10-22) Public authorities in Minsk have sealed off the church of Sts. Simon and Helens, and ordered clerics to remove all parish property from the building, after a small fire damaged a section of the building.

Frustrated parish officials have been unable to obtain an explanation as to why the entire church has been closed, when only a small area was damaged. Nor have they been given any information about when repairs will be possible.

The closing of the 112-year-old church left retired Archbishop Tadeusz Kondrusiewicz "crying from the hopelessness of the situation," Forum 18 news service reported.

### **Catholic organizations in Colombia call Bogotá cathedral attack by militants 'terrorism'**

(13-10-22) In a recent attack on the Primatial Cathedral of Bogotá, pro-abortion activists attempted to burn down the cathedral doors.

"We reject all forms of violence in actions and words; we demand civility on the part of the promoters and participants of marches and protests; we ask the authorities to guarantee the life, honour, and property of citizens," the Archdiocese of Bogotá said in a statement.

### **Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew recalls importance of Vatican II**

(13-10-22) In an article for the Vatican newspaper, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, who holds a primacy of honour among the Orthodox churches, reflected on the 60th anniversary of the beginning of the Second Vatican Council.

### **Conflict and protracted refugee situations cannot become the 'new normal,' Vatican official says at UN**

(13-10-22) Francesca Di Giovanni, Undersecretary for the Multilateral Sector of the Secretariat of State's Section for Relations with States and International Organizations, made her remarks at a meeting of the UN refugee agency's executive committee.



### **Mozambique - Bishop of Gurue: "Believers should feel that the Church belongs to them"**

(13-10-22) Many residents and representatives of the Mozambican Church are wondering about the reasons behind the violent attacks and arson attack on the Church in Chipene, given the escalation of violence that has been observed throughout the country since the beginning of September. "A first attack took place in early September in a village in Odinepa, where schools, health facilities and various infrastructures were destroyed. A week later, Chipene was attacked," Bishop Ignacio Lucas of Gurue told Fides in an interview.

Bishop Lucas himself comes from Chipene, in the Diocese of Nacala, where the parish is located where the Italian missionary Sister Maria De Coppi was brutally murdered, and said he knew very well both the Salesian missionaries as well as the Comboni Missionary Sisters in the area.

Corroborating what the diocesan assembly deliberated, the bishop said programmes are on the anvil so that "We want and we make sure that believers feel that the church is theirs".

### **Nigeria- Justice and Peace: "The bill on water resources goes against federalism**

(13-10-22) "The principles of federalism must be respected" says Fr. Uchechukwu Obodoechina, Director of Caritas Nigeria and national director of the Justice and Peace Development Commission of the Nigerian Bishops' Conference, in a statement on the controversial draft law on water management. "We call on the federal government to withdraw the draft law and to prioritize public health, using all possible means to obtain quality water and sanitation services," he said.

"Although the proposed National Water Resources Act guarantees citizens the right to use water, it would if passed, lead to a further centralization of the country's power and resources, thereby counteracting ongoing efforts to decentralize power".

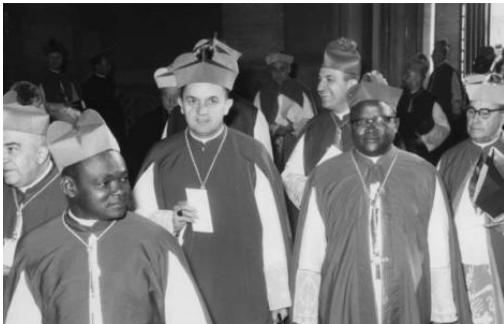
### **Indonesia - In October, pilgrimages to Marian places flourish throughout Indonesia**

(13-10-22) The Marian shrine "Graha Maria Annai Velangkanni" in the Indonesian city of Medan, in the north of the island of Sumatra, looks from the outside like a Buddhist temple with Indian and

Chinese elements. The title "Annai Velangkanni" comes from the Tamil language and means "Mother of Velankanni", after the well-known Indian Marian shrine in Tamil Nadu. The Indian Jesuit Father James Barathaputra, who has worked as a missionary in Indonesia for over 50 years and initiated the construction of the shrine in Medan, wanted to create a place there that was open to all cultures and traditions. The church, which opened in 2005, "wants to proclaim the good news of Jesus and to promote devotion to Mary. I thought of a place where everyone could feel at home and seek peace, consolation and healing from Mary our Mother," explained the Jesuit.

Marian shrines in Indonesia's 36 dioceses have again been the destination of many pilgrims in October since the end of the restrictions imposed by the pandemic these months, taking part in pilgrimages and visits to churches, shrines and the nearest Marian grottos throughout the archipelago.

### **Vatican - The Second Vatican Council, the mission and the Church of the First Millennium**



(13-10-22) «We thank you, Lord, for the gift of the Council. You who love us, free us from the presumption of self-sufficiency and from the spirit of worldly criticism. Prevent us from excluding ourselves from unity. You who lovingly feed us, lead us forth from the shadows of self-absorption», said Pope Francis at the end of his homily delivered during the Eucharistic liturgy he presided over on Tuesday, October 11 in St. Peter's Basilica, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council.

For 60 years, the last Council, an important event in the life of the Church, has been at the centre of debates on hermeneutical interpretations of its nature and implications. Disputes that at times risk becoming controversies among experts, fatally exposed to what Pope Francis in his homily called «the diabolical artifice of polarizations, of "isms"». At the origin of the Second Vatican Council there was the desire to renew the inner life of the Church and also to adapt her discipline to the new exigencies so as to repropose with renewed vigour the requirements of her mission in the modern world.

### **Honduras - Bishops: Just economy as a basis for peaceful coexistence**

(13-10-22) In a message published at the end of their Plenary Assembly, the Bishops of Honduras appreciate the peaceful climate following the transition to the new government, while expressing their concern for problems that continue to plague the country under the new government.

First of all, the bishops ask for solidarity "for the populations affected by the floods and landslides in residential areas, which have lost crops and material goods in many areas of the country" and deplore "the irresponsibility of the authorities who have the duty to prevent such disasters from happening again", and the lack of immediate and effective relief measures.

Another aspect to which the bishops draw attention is the phenomenon of corruption, "which, according to the Church's social teaching, undermines the proper functioning of the state, creates distrust in public institutions and politics and weakens institutions". In the final point of their message, the bishops stress the need for citizens to "demand a just exercise of justice" from their representatives in Parliament.

### **India's top court halts prosecution for online offenses**

(13-10-22) Church officials in southern India have expressed concern over India's Supreme Court asking to drop criminal cases filed under a controversial provision meant to ensure government control over social media. Human rights groups including a Catholic priest though say the move will stop the government machinery from unfairly targeting its critics and innocent citizens.

The Supreme Court on Oct. 12 directed the federal and state governments to drop all cases initiated under the provision of section 66A of the Information Technology Act 2000, some seven years after it

was scrapped. The provision criminalized online communication that was "grossly offensive, menacing," or the sender knew to be false "to cause annoyance, inconvenience, danger, obstruction, insult, injury, criminal intimidation, enmity, hatred or ill will."

Father Jacob G Palakkappilly, the spokesperson of the Catholic Bishops Council of Kerala, said the Church is concerned because the provision was helpful in checking social media campaigns maligning its leaders including bishops, priests and nuns. He said Church officials had filed more than 1,200 police complaints against offensive social media posts, fake news, and untrue statements being circulated "deliberately aiming to tarnish the Church's image."

Jesuit Father Cedric Prakash, a human rights activist based in the western Indian state of Gujarat, welcomed the court order. "The top court order will put to an end the targeting of those airing opinions against government policies and programs, especially by law enforcing agencies," Father Prakash said.

### **FABC gathering urged to adopt South American model**

(13-10-22) Cardinal Oswald Gracias of Mumbai, a member of Pope Francis' kitchen cabinet, stressed there was a great need to restructure the Asian bishops' federation and model it on CELAM, the Federation of Latin American Episcopal Conferences — the FABC's Latin American counterpart. The cardinal was speaking at the opening of FABC golden jubilee programmes in Bangkok on Oct 12, where he said suggestions for the restructuring of the FABC have the approval of top Vatican officials, including Pope Francis.



By the end of the two-week meeting on Oct. 30, along with its final document, "plans for a restructured FABC will also have been finalized, or at least a direction for them set," Cardinal Gracias said.

### **Korean Church's pro-life campaign tackles population decline**

(13-10-22) Seoul Catholic Archdiocese in South Korea launched a campaign that among other things supports pregnant women and opposes abortion in a country facing a demographic crisis due to low birth rates.

The campaign involves various support groups that oppose abortion and promote the protection of unborn children, Catholic Peace Broadcasting Corporation (CPBC) reported on Oct. 10.

As part of pro-life activities, the Cheongdam-dong Parish Pre-natal Group arranged a special Mass for couples and pregnant women. Besides, the group has organized sharing sessions, workshops, and lectures which drew Catholics in various parishes.

### **Filipino collectors parade vintage cars for Blessed Mother**

(13-10-22) Philippine vintage car owners paraded their collection of 60 to 100-year-old vehicles in Manila on Oct 11 to honour the Blessed Virgin Mary as Queen of the Holy Rosary.

The motorcade in the capital's Quezon City suburb was organized by the Philippine Vintage Motor Sports Club, a non-profit organization, to raise funds for the National Shrine of the Most Holy Rosary — declared a "national cultural treasure" by the National Museum of the Philippines.

The Dominican-run Santo Domingo Church (built in 1587) is home to the miraculous image of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, more popularly known as "La Naval de Manila."

14-10-22



### **Recalling ‘forgotten wars,’ Pope asks PIME to ‘be the voice of the voiceless’**

(14-10-22) On October 13, Pope Francis received the editors and collaborators of Mondo e Missione [World and Mission], the journal of the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions (PIME), a religious institute founded by Venerable Angelo Ramazzotti in 1850. The papal audience commemorated the 150th anniversary of the journal’s founding.

“Being a voice of the voiceless is a primary task of the journal, as of other initiatives the PIME has promoted in the

field of communication,” such as AsiaNews, the Pope said in his address. “These are all ways of narrating the world by placing oneself beside those who do not have the right to speak or who are not listened to, the poorest, oppressed minorities, victims of forgotten wars.”

“I want to emphasize this: the forgotten wars,” the Pope continued. “Today we are all worried, and it is right that we should be, about a war here in Europe, at the door of Europe and in Europe, but there have been wars for years: for more than ten years in Syria, think of Yemen, think of Myanmar, think of Africa. These don’t come to mind, they are not in cultured Europe.”

### **Pope again says we are caught up in “third world war”**

(14-10-22) In his message for World Food Day, which will be observed on October 16, Pope Francis repeats his observation that the current conflict in Ukraine is, in effect, a world war.

While speaking of “the urgency of tackling the problem of poverty,” the Pope remarks that the problem is made more difficult because “unfortunately, we are also living in a context of war, which we could call a third world war.”

### **Vatican diplomat urges more accountability by nations for crimes against humanity**

(14-10-22) Archbishop Gabriele Caccia, apostolic nuncio and Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations, called for a global treaty on crimes against humanity, which he said would “further strengthen the current framework of international humanitarian law, international criminal law and human rights law.”

The prelate made his remarks at a UN committee debate on crimes against humanity.

### **New Ways Ministry lauds New Zealand bishops’ new gender policy for Catholic schools**

(14-10-22) New Zealand’s bishops have released Guidelines for Good Practice Demonstrating Compassion, Respect and Sensitivity in Catholic Schools and Colleges Regarding Sexual Diversity.

### **Kyiv bishop speaks about Russian attacks on religious institutions**

(14-10-22) At a recent conference in Poland organized by Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Bishop Vitaliy Kryvytskyi, the Latin-rite bishop of Kyiv, spoke about Russian attacks on religious institutions. He was joined by Ukrainian Greek Catholic and Protestant clergy, who also offered their testimony.

(14-10-22) The US bishops’ **National Eucharistic Revival**, launched earlier in 2022, **will culminate in a 2024 National Eucharistic Congress** in Indianapolis.

### **Don’t countenance corruption, Honduran bishops urge faithful**

(14-10-22) The bishops of Honduras issued a Spanish-language message following their autumn meeting. “Our national problems are not simply economic, but structural,” the bishops wrote.

“Corruption and impunity still cast their shadows, which exceed the legitimate expectations of voters,

who voted for a necessary change”—a reference to the election of President Xiomara Castro of the socialist Liberty and Refoundation party.

The Central American nation of 9.3 million is 96% Christian (71% Catholic).

### **Burkina Faso - Insecurity affects the living conditions of the local population and internally displaced persons**

(14-10-22) The city of Bourzanga, in northern Burkina Faso, is difficult to access due to the presence of armed groups along the road. This uncertainty is also affecting an aid program initiated by the Camillian Foundation CADIS International in collaboration with CADIS Burkina Faso to support the villagers in the post-pandemic period. Just a few weeks ago there was an attack on a supply convoy on the Djibo-Bourzanga road that killed more than 42 civilians. A part of the CADIS team already had to leave the area and go to a safer place.

### **Philippines - Bishops encourage the faithful to physically return to mass in churches**

(14-10-22) The Catholic bishops of the Philippines have issued an open letter to their people, encouraging them to return to Mass. The closing of churches during the Covid lockdown was a “painful and sad moment of the renunciation of the sacramental experience,” the bishops wrote. “No radio or television broadcast can compare to or replace direct personal participation.” The bishops, who for months discouraged the faithful from attending Mass in person, now call for a return to “the normality of Christian life.”



### **Colombia - After the opening of the borders: Bishops of Venezuela and Colombia discuss migration and warn of a humanitarian crisis**

(14-10-22) The Episcopal Conferences of Venezuela and Colombia have been in constant contact for many years to exchange ideas, proposals and work plans for the benefit of the ecclesial communities of both countries. During their last meeting on October 10th and 11th in the Venezuelan Diocese of San Cristóbal, which is celebrating its centenary, one of the items on the agenda was the recent reopening of the border between the two countries. The bishops also discussed various aspects of the migration phenomenon.

The opening of the borders is seen "with satisfaction", the bishops write in the concluding communiqué, but it also obliges the Church at the service of the people to "intensify pastoral work in the community, especially in the vast area of the Colombian-Venezuelan border axis, from Guajira to the Amazon.

### **Community fridges stay on in post-pandemic Singapore**

(14-10-22) Community fridges operate in several residential areas of Singapore, supported by charity groups and grassroots organizations, aiming to help the poor and to cut the increasing food waste amid spiralling food insecurity in the tiny nation.

As soon as all the pastries collected from bakeries are in the fridge, the waiting residents swarm it to help themselves. The one in Bishan Town, Singapore is one such.

“I used to spend S\$30 to S\$50 (about US\$ 21 to 35) a week at the supermarket. Now, I don’t have to go to the supermarket to buy food or vegetables for one to two months at a time, because I can get all my food from food rescue,” Wendy Nguyen Lien, 49, a beneficiary of the community fridge at Bishan, who also volunteers for it, said.

Food rescue is the practice of collecting unsold food from businesses that would otherwise go to waste, and distributing them to the needy. The food rescue programs started in Singapore in 2018, have grown more popular and widespread now.

At some community fridges, the food is given only to the low-income or the needy. The managers open them only at selected hours and allow only those who registered with them to collect the food.



## China intensifies crackdown on Muslims in Xinjiang

(14-10-22) China has intensified a crackdown on Uyghur and Kazakh Muslims with mass arrests and detentions ahead of the national congress of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), says a report. Over the past few weeks, law enforcers in the Ili Kazakh Autonomous Prefecture have carried out a series of arrests of Muslims in preparation for the 20th National Congress of the CCP which begins in Beijing on Oct. 16, reported *Bitter Winter*, a magazine covering human rights and religious liberty. Among the dozens of detainees are religious figures and imams who had been arrested and released in the past years.

The crackdown comes as the authorities are implementing a new system of “political re-education.”

## Protesting Indian fishermen to study port impact

(14-10-22) Fisherpeople protesting a multi-billion-dollar port project in southern India have announced plans to set up a seven-member committee to study the impact of the project on the coast of Kerala state.

The announcement came a week after the Kerala government formed an experts' committee to study the environmental and social impact of the Adani international seaport at Vizhinjam coast, near the capital Thiruvananthapuram.

“Our committee of eminent scientists will study the impact independently as the government did not include our representatives in its panel,” Father Eugene H Pereira, the general convener of the fishermen’s protest, told UCA News on Oct. 14.

15-10-22



## Indonesia - The anniversary of the Second Vatican Council commemorated with an interreligious round table

(15-10-22) The 60th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council is commemorated in Indonesia with two special meetings on October 15: one at the Faculty of Philosophy and Theology of the "Sanata Dharma University" and the other at St. Paul Major Seminary, both in the city of Yogyakarta, in the diocese of Semarang, on the island of Java. After the mass, an interreligious round table discussed the fruits of the Second Vatican Council and its application in the context of the Indonesian Church. Attending the meeting were the

former mayor of Surakarta and member of parliament, both Catholics MP, Dean of the National Islamic University of Yogyakarta; professor, a Jesuit priest engaged in the pastoral care of culture, arts and education and Bishop Petrus Boddeng Timang of the diocese of Banjarmasin.

Indonesian Cardinal Ignatius Suharyo Hardjoatmodjo, Archbishop of the Indonesian Catholic Bishops' Conference, published a pastoral message in which he declared: "The celebration of the anniversary of the Second Vatican Council is an opportunity to focus on some of the teachings of Pope Francis on the joy of the Gospel, human dignity and climate change. I want to emphasize the importance of promoting human dignity and maintaining a sense of community in of Jakarta and President of the Episcopal Conference of Indonesia, in view of the 60th anniversary of the Second society".

## East Timor - World Mission Month campaign goes to places of pain and healing

(15-10-22) The World Mission Month campaign of the Pontifical Mission Societies in East Timor goes to prisons, hospitals, homes for the elderly. The focus of the initiatives that take place throughout the month of October in the Diocese of Bacau are places of pain but also of healing. Visiting prisons and health care facilities should commemorate places where the preaching of the gospel meets people whose lives are marked by suffering, failure and pain and, at the same time, by expectations of rehabilitation, healing and comfort.

## **Iraq - Eviction for Christian refugees in Baghdad: the building where they live must become a shopping centre**

(15-10-22) In 2014 they had to flee Mosul and the cities of the Nineveh Plains in northern Iraq. They had abandoned their homes and all their belongings in the face of the advance of so-called Islamic State (IS) militias, they finally found refuge in Baghdad in and around a building in the Zayouna district, now known as the "Virgin Mary" Refugee Camp. Now they have to give way to the commercial interests of entrepreneurs and the Iraqi capital's urban development plans and leave their already precarious living quarters. Over the past few days, more than 120 Christian families have been asked to move out of the building complex in which they are housed. A corresponding order was previously issued by the Directorate of Investments in Baghdad. A new shopping center is to be built in the area.

Chaldean Patriarch Louis Raphael Sako turned to the political authorities "to postpone the evacuation for at least a year or to find a reasonable alternative to house these families".

16-10-22

## **Pope at Angelus: Prayer is medicine for faith, restoring the soul**

(16-10-22) Offering his reflections on the Sunday Gospel, Pope Francis recalled the question Jesus asked, which we can also ask ourselves today: *"When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"* (Lk 18:8)

He would find, unfortunately, many wars, poverty, and inequality, but also incredible technological advances with people always rushing and busy, said the Pope. But more importantly, he asked if the Lord would find people who put God at the centre of their lives.

The Pope said it would be good if we looked at our own lives, what is in our hearts and where we place our priorities. Could it be that without realizing it we have become burdened and over-occupied with things that in the end are secondary, while forgetting about God in the meantime?

*"Today, Jesus offers us the remedy to rekindle a tepid faith. What is it? Prayer. Yes, prayer is the medicine for faith, it is the restorative of the soul."* To keep our faith alive and healthy, we need to pray always, the Pope emphasized. And regular prayer is key to keeping our souls in good shape.

The Pope suggested a wise spiritual practice of the elderly that was often common and can be taken up today consisting of simple, short prayers we can easily remember, repeated throughout the day wherever we are so as to remain close to the Lord and find peace in our lives.

## **Pope: Synod Assembly of Bishops to be held in 2023 and 2024**

(16-10-22) The Synod of in the Vatican—originally held in October 2023—will place in October 2024, as Synod but held in 2 Pope Francis announced the Synod on Synodality pilgrims in St. Peter's Angelus address on *to provide more time for discernment, I have this Synodal Assembly will*



Bishops' meetings scheduled to be now also take part of the same sessions. the extension of when speaking to Square at the Sunday. *"In order extended established that take place in two*

*sessions: The first on 4-29 October 2023 and the second in October 2024."*

He noted that the first phase of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops opened on 10 October 2021, which was focused on listening and discernment. The Pope said there are already many first fruits from the ongoing Synod, but added that more time is needed in order that they become fully mature.

Pope Francis said he hoped this decision will “favour the comprehension of synodality as a constitutive element of the Church, and help everyone to live it as a journey of brothers and sisters who bear witness to the joy of the Gospel.”

### **Pope Francis: ‘War must end or world risks nuclear catastrophe’**



(16-10-22) Pope Francis anticipates the release of his new book “I Ask You in the Name of God. Ten Prayers for a Future of Hope”, and launches an impassioned plea for nations to set aside war and the threat of nuclear destruction.

the Pope’s new book is entitled “I Ask You in the Name of God. Ten Prayers for a Future of Hope”, In the book, he launches a universal appeal for nations and peoples to work together to build a better world where peace reigns.

The Pope says the war in Ukraine, which began with Russia’s invasion on 24 February, has revealed the horrors that result from war. He also recalls the quick succession of the last century’s two world wars, and says we are currently experiencing “a third world war fought piecemeal” which threatens to expand into a full-scale global conflict.

### **Pope urges children to pray the Rosary for peace in Ukraine**

(16-10-22) Pope Francis is calling on children throughout the world to pray the Rosary on Tuesday, 18 October, for peace in Ukraine and other war-torn areas, as part of the initiative “A million children praying the Rosary”.

The Pope went on to note that Monday (17 October) marks the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. “Each person can give a hand for a society in which no one feels excluded because they are poor,” he appealed.

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