

## CATHOLIC WORLD LAST WEEK

(CWLW)

23-5-22

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### **Pope launches Scholas International, says girls must be educated**

(23-5-22) Joined by the Irish singer Bono, Pope Francis launched the papal educational foundation Scholas Occurrentes as an international movement and emphasized girls' education and the implementation of *Laudato si'*, his 2015 encyclical on care for our common home.

During the meeting with young people who are developing "projects with socio-environmental impact in their communities," Pope Francis said that "women know more about harmony than we men do. And Scholas, organized in this way, with this fraternity between you, has the capacity to create poetry and to bring about change."

"We usually speak of 'Mother Earth,' not 'Father Earth,'" the Pope added. "From the moment of the apple [in the Garden of Eden], they [women] are in charge."

### **Berlin archbishop asks forgiveness for discrimination because of sexual orientation**

(23-5-22) During an ecumenical prayer service, Archbishop Heiner Koch of Berlin "asked forgiveness for the Church's discrimination against people because of their sexual orientation" and described it as an "unholy line of tradition."

"The archbishop said each parish would have commissioners to counter such discrimination," the report continued. "He pledged to intervene personally if employees of the archdiocese were threatened with consequences under Church labour law on the grounds of their sexual orientation."



### **Nicaraguan bishop goes on hunger strike to protest police harassment**

(23-5-22) "Today I have been persecuted all day long by the Sandinista police, from the morning until this hour of the night and at all times, in all my movements during the day," Bishop Rolando Álvarez of Matagalpa said on May 19.

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.

### **Pope Francis's refusal to condemn Putin spurs debate in Catholic Church**

(23-5-22) "Defenders of (Pope) Francis's strategy say the pope is maintaining a neutrality that has long been at the centre of Holy See diplomacy," the Post reports. "On a more critical telling, though, Francis is misperceiving the war and squandering some of his moral authority in a conflict where religion and Christianity are adjacent to the politics and fighting."

"Though Catholic teaching has long held that countries have the right to defend themselves under certain circumstances, the Pope's statements have been vague enough to leave Catholics uncertain about whether he thinks Ukraine's defence is justified," the report continues.

### **Vatican foreign minister prays at Bucha**

(23-5-22) During a three-day visit to Ukraine, Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher, the Holy See's Secretary for Relations with States, said that the Holy See is "completely committed" to Ukraine's territorial integrity" and visited the site of the Bucha massacre.

"You see the place where the bodies were buried," he said. "You see the great atrocities that people are capable of imposing upon others." "You can see the determination of the people to rebuild and to make a success of their country as it was before, and even better than it was before this tragic war started," he added.

### **Final Australian state allows euthanasia and assisted suicide, rejecting religious exemptions**

(23-5-22) "If a civilization is to be judged by how it treats its weakest members, the New South Wales parliament has failed miserably, and has set a dark and dangerous path for all posterity, determining a new and disturbing definition of what it means to be human," said Archbishop Anthony Fisher of Sydney.

Brigid Meney, director of strategy and mission at Catholic Health Australia, explained that "this law will force organizations that do not agree with assisted suicide to allow doctors onto their premises to prescribe and even administer restricted drugs with the intention of terminating a resident's life."

### **International Catholic-Orthodox dialogue resumes in Crete**

(23-5-22) Following a two-year hiatus because of Covid, the Coordinating Committee of the Joint International Commission for Theological Dialogue between the Roman Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church held a five-day meeting in Crete.

The Committee is co-chaired by Cardinal Kurt Koch, President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, and Archbishop Job of Telmessos, of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. The Committee approved a revised draft of a new document, "Primacy and Synodality in the Second Millennium and Today." The dialogue's previous document, devoted to synodality and primacy in the first millennium, was published in 2016.

### **Vatican officials hold Synod session with disabled persons**

(23-5-22) Officials of the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life and the Synod of Bishops held an online listening session with 30 persons with disabilities from 20 countries. The theme of the May 19 gathering was "The Church is your home: The contribution of people with disabilities to the Synod on Synodality."

"At birth, I could have been aborted," said a French catechist with Down syndrome. "I am happy to live. I love everyone, and I thank God for creating me."

"I'm in debt to people with disabilities," said Cardinal Mario Grech, Secretary General of the Synod of Bishops. "One of them led me to path priestly vocation. If the face of the disabled brother or sister is discarded, it is the Church that becomes disabled."

### **Vatican – Pauline Jaricot is beatified: "She loved Christ, letting Him act through her"**

Pauline Marie Jaricot (1799-1862), of the Pontifical Society for the of the four Pontifical Mission proclaimed blessed on May 22, in a held at the Lyon Expo, an exhibition welcomed more than 12 thousand At the beatification ceremony, Prefect of the Congregation for the



the citizen of Lyon, foundress Propagation of the Faith, one Societies (PMS), was solemn Eucharistic celebration facility in the French town that faithful from all over the world. Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, Evangelization of Peoples, who

presided over the Eucharist together with more than 500 priests from five continents, told the faithful present: "Pauline Jaricot was a woman who loved Jesus Christ, letting Him, the Word of God, live, act and love in her and through her. We see in her a living testimony of the power of love for Jesus, a love that identifies with Jesus". Cardinal Tagle, together with the Archbishop of Lyon, Olivier de Germany, welcomed the 120 national directors of the Pontifical Mission Societies who wanted to pay tribute to the foundress Jaricot during the annual General Assembly of the PMS in Lyon.

### **Africa - Food emergency in the Horn of Africa: the worst drought in the last forty years**

(23-5-22) "We are running out of time, we need funds to save lives". The undersecretary for humanitarian affairs, Martin Griffiths, returning from a very recent visit to Kenya, has raised a very strong alarm on the emergency that the regions of the Horn of Africa are experiencing. The area is hit

hard by the strongest drought ever recorded since 1981: currently 15,000,000 people are affected but could quickly become 20,000,000. In Ethiopia alone, food shortages increased by 80% in 3 months. In the Somali Region alone, according to WFP, 38.49% of the population, equal to 2.6 million people, have insufficient food consumption.

### **South Sudan - "Allow me to visit the people who live in the bushes" asks the new Bishop of Yei**

(23-5-22) "Allow me to visit the people who live in the bushes", said the new consecrated Bishop Alex Lodiong Sakor Eyobo of the Catholic Diocese of Yei on May 15, 2022. "I would like to appeal to the security people here and those who might be listening to us over the radio: give me a window to travel and see our people who are in the bush. I need to visit them", said the bishop, adding, "there are so many of them, their children have grown, and they have not been taught Catechism, they are not baptized, they are not confirmed and they want Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. Give me the chance to go and see them. I go there for faith, not anything else".

### **Church joins relief efforts in flood-hit Indian state**

23-5-22) Indian Catholics have joined relief and rescue efforts organized by NGOs and government agencies as the death toll from flooding in Assam has reached 24 in the northeastern state

According to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority, the situation remains critical as nearly 720,000 people in 22 districts are reeling under the deluge, with Nagaon, Hojai, Cachar, Darrang, Morigaon and Karimganj districts badly affected.



"Our immediate priority is to provide food, water, dry rations and medicine to affected people as the government is engaged in rescue and relocating people to safe places," Archbishop John Moolachira of Guwahati told UCA News. "Our social service wing along with its team are distributing food such as biscuits, bread, water and dry rations like rice, lentils, vegetables and salt as well as medicine and tarpaulins. We are more engaged in places where the government has minimum or no reach due to damaged roads. We and the government are carrying out relief and rescue work independently and once the situation is under control, we can think of rehabilitation."

Jonas Lakra, team leader of disaster management at Caritas India, told UCA News that its teams in Assam state are "at ground zero" and trying to get access to some areas cut off from rest of the state.

### **Bangladesh flood victims find themselves in dire straits**

(23-5-22) At least 10 people were reported dead and around 1.5 million were affected even as northeast Bangladesh's worst floods in nearly 20 years began to recede.

Heavy rains during the past week or so caused several areas in Sylhet district to go under water while people suffered food shortages, lack of health services and crop losses, especially rice. "The floods hit almost 60 percent of Sylhet and about 45 percent of neighbouring Sunamganj district," Arifuzzman Bhuiyan, the head of the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre of Bangladesh, told UCA News. Flood victims could not get out of their houses as there was water all around. Food stored in the houses of many people has been washed away by the water.

Caritas Bangladesh is preparing for distribution of emergency food and hygiene kits among flood victims in the Sylhet region, said program officer Chandan Rozario. "The water has started to recede now but if it rains again, it could pose a problem," he said.

### **Korean Church completes Bible commentary after 17 years**

(23-5-22) A Catholic research team in South Korea has published the first Korean-language Bible commentary after 17 years of work.

*The Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture* is a vast collection of 29 volumes that contain the interpretation of the Bible's Old and New Testament by church fathers and Bible scholars, *Catholic*

*Times of Korea* reported on May 17. Some 22 theologians, Bible scholars and translators were part of the research team, known by its Latin name, *Institutum Patristicum Coreanum* (IPC). The books are now available in print and in digital format on Amazon.



### **Caritas Macau coordinates food aid for poor**

(23-5-22) Caritas Macau has joined hands with authorities to run a food assistance program for thousands of poor and unemployed people in the Chinese-ruled special administrative region.

The Social Affairs Bureau of Macau has selected Caritas to execute the program that aims to help about 1,500 individuals who have been laid off on the island for various reasons including the coronavirus pandemic,

reports *Jornal O-Clarim*, the Portuguese-language Catholic weekly of Macau Diocese.

This 10-week scheme will run with estimated funding of US\$1 million and solely benefit those who have been rendered "involuntarily unemployed."

24-5-22

### **Ukrainians expect 'proper assessment' of war from Holy See, Major Archbishop tells Vatican foreign minister**

(24-5-22) During his three-day visit to Ukraine, Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher, the Holy See's Secretary for Relations with States, met Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk, the head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church.

Major Archbishop Shevchuk welcomed the visit as "a very powerful diplomatic sign of support of Ukraine and the Ukrainian people from the Apostolic See." At the same time, the prelate conveyed "the expectations of Ukrainians regarding the role of the Apostolic See in the current situation of Russia's war against Ukraine." Major Archbishop Shevchuk told Archbishop Gallagher that Ukrainians expect the Vatican "to give a proper assessment of this war in terms of both international law and Christian morality" and to "play its role in stopping aggression."

### **Conserve the gift of Confirmation, Pope tells Confirmation candidates from Genoa**

(24-5-22) "Confirmation is a gift, and we must conserve this gift, take care of the gift," Pope Francis said in his May 21 address. "And how is it conserved? First of all, with prayer, asking the Lord to give us the strength to go forward, that this strength of the Holy Spirit that we have all received may be conserved."

"And the second thing is friendship among you, because in the Church we are not 'me alone,' me and God, no, we are all of us, in community," the Pope added.

The Pontiff also referred to his own family's roots as he spoke to the Confirmation candidates about generosity. "They say that generosity is not a Genoese virtue, I don't know. But this is the generosity of money: the Genoese are stingy, they say; I too have Genoese blood on my mother's side, I understand well. But generous, always generous."

### **Cardinal Zen enters not-guilty plea**

(24-5-22) Cardinal Joseph Zen appeared in a Hong Kong court on May 24, to answer a charge that he and five co-defendants violated Chinese law by failing to gain government approval for an organization that helped democracy activists with their legal costs.

Cardinal Zen and his associates entered not-guilty pleas, and face a September trial. If convicted they could face a heavy fine, but the government may also add further charges under a tough new national-security law.



### **German bishops' leader presses Pope for changes in Church teaching**

(24-5-22) The chairman of the German bishops' conference has expressed disappointment that Pope Francis has not endorsed changes in Church teaching on homosexuality and women's ordination, but allowed that the Pontiff is "doing what he can."

Bishop Georg Bätzing said that the Church's doctrine must change, and praised the Pope for "initiating a process where all these questions are put on the table." In a May 22 interview, Bishop Bätzing said that he would consider leaving the Catholic Church—as did another prominent German cleric, Father Andreas Sturm—if he "got the impression that nothing would ever change."

### **Vatican must support Ukraine, Polish archbishop says**

(24-5-22) Archbishop Stanislaw Gadecki, the president of the Polish bishops' conference, argues that it is "crucially important that the Holy See supports Ukraine" in the current conflict. The archbishop said that current Vatican policy betrays a "naive and utopian" approach, and places an undue emphasis on continued friendly ties with Russia.

### **In Mexico, priest murdered, 3-year-old killed inside church**

(24-5-22) The bishops of Mexico decried the murder of Father José Guadalupe Rivas near Tecate (along the US border) and the killing of a three-year-old as gunmen chased and fired at a man who entered a church in Zacatecas State (in north-central Mexico).

"All the limits of violence and human respect are overcome when a man of God is attacked and another is attacked within the house of the Lord," the bishops said. "We ask everyone once again to lay down their arms and put an end to all forms of violence, so that we can all be peacemakers."

### **France - Pauline Jaricot's Living Rosary on an App**

The incessant prayer of the Rosary for the mission of the Church, asked by Our Lady of Fatima, was a cornerstone of the spirituality and action of Pauline Jaricot, the foundress of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, beatified in Lyon on May 22.

Using the power of a universal channel such as the Internet, the Catholic prayer association "Hozana", based in France, has launched the "Rosario" application downloadable on smartphones and tablets. This will be the "living Rosary" imagined by Pauline Jaricot.

It works like this. An internet group of even five, formed with the help of the "Rosario App", which also gives a short text to guide the meditation, will pray the Rosary, each one takes turn to meditate on a Mystery of the Rosary and says a decade. Thus, the Rosary prayed in group who know each other – which has great power because prayed in common – is complete.

The organizers of Hozana explain: "Pauline Jaricot lived in a France marked by anticlericalism and the decline of religious fervor after the French Revolution. Confident in the effectiveness of the Rosary to revive faith, she imagines a very simple way to bring her contemporaries closer to this spirituality: the Living Rosary in prayer groups of 15 people". Cf website [www.Hozana.org](http://www.Hozana.org)



### **Pakistan - Civil society groups call for inclusive census and electoral reform**

(24-5-22) "Confidence in a new population census can only be based on adequate preparation and participatory responsibility to guarantee a rapid, transparent and credible census. The results of the 6th census carried out in 2017 were disputed by various stakeholders and are therefore not useful for comparative analysis. The census results showed a significant loss of religious diversity in Pakistan".

This was stated by Peter Jacob, a lay Catholic and Executive Director of the "Centre for Social Justice" (CSJ), at a gathering of civil society members in Karachi in recent days. Jacob then addressed the issue of the current electoral system and said: "Proportional

representation in a mixed electorate is a better system, which has proven capable of creating links between the candidates and the electorate, thus helping to improve the conception and perception of "minorities".

### **Niger - The missionaries are present despite the current insecurity**

(24-5-22) "To bear witness to our missionary charism in the diocese of Niamey through the study of local languages and cultures, to facilitate Islamic-Christian dialogue, to take care of the poorest and to practice a spirituality attentive to these objectives represent pastoral style typical of the Society of African Missions (SMA)", writes Fr. Rafael Casamayor, SMA, following the recent Benin-Niger provincial assemblies. "We are convinced that the SMA has its place here in Niger, continues the missionary, and especially in these difficult times! We maintain our presence in the country despite the current insecurity. The Church of Niger today needs effective support. Today we are the only priests in the diocese outside the city of Niamey."

### **Nigeria - Christian Association of Nigeria: "The State must protect the Bishop of Sokoto"**

(24-5-22) "When we learnt that a Catholic church was attacked in Sokoto, it became clear that that attack was on Bishop Matthew Kukah because he is the one who is like a voice to the voiceless in this country. He is speaking truth to power every day", says Chris Annge, Vice President of the Kaduna State of CAN (Christian Association of Nigeria) in challenging the threats against Bishop Mathew Hassan Kukah of Sokoto after he had forcefully denounced the killing of Deborah Samuel Yakubu, a Christian student, lynched on May 12 for "alleged blasphemy." Bishop Kukah had defined the lynching of the girl "a criminal, inhumane act and that it has nothing to do with religion", underlining that "Christians and Muslims have always lived together peacefully over the years".

Two parishes had been attacked and devastated.

"We are calling on the Nigeria government to protect the life of Bishop Kukah and every believer as well as every Nigerian from this menace." It is unacceptable", said Annge, reiterating the need for religious tolerance.

### **Chile - Catechists, servants of the synodal spirit, to build a more fraternal Chile**

(24-5-22) The National Commission for Catechesis, in view of the "Day of the Catechist 2022", which will be celebrated in Chile on Saturday 28 May, the eve of the Ascension of the Lord, invited catechists to reflect on the question: "how can a catechist contribute, from synodality, to building a more fraternal country?".

The Episcopal Conference says: Catechesis is a permanent action, in a specific place, in specific contexts and in complex times, which is why we need "servants with a synodal spirit", who are involved in this great process of renewal that the Church is called to carry out in faithfulness to Jesus Christ.

### **Sri Lankan court imposes travel ban on protesting priest**

(24-5-22) A Sri Lankan court has ordered a travel ban on a Catholic priest for being part of the "GotaGoGama" protests demanding President Gotabaya Rajapaksha's resignation over the nation's worsening economic situation.

Officials from the Criminal Investigation Department informed Father Amila Jeewantha Pieris about the travel ban on May 23. The activist priest has been involved with the month-long protests in the open space opposite the presidential secretariat in Colombo.

"The government is sending another message that they will make the victims more vulnerable," said Father Pieris while asserting that the struggle cannot be stopped by such intimidation. He said the protests will end only when the president and Prime Minister Ranil Wickramasinghe resign.



### **Indian Catholic forum calls for end to minority hate**

(24-5-22) Targeted hate against religious minorities has brought India to a boil, according to the All India Catholic Union (AICU), the largest laity forum in Asia.

The 103-year-old Catholic organization said the rising hate wave in recent months if left unchecked now may do untold damage to national peace and unity.

Its May 23 statement was in response to Karnataka state enforcing an anti-conversion law though an ordinance signed by the state governor after it failed to pass through a vote in the state council or upper house. Nine other Indian states have passed similar laws that criminalize religious conversions. Addressing India's prime minister and chief ministers of the states, Lancy D'Cunha, national president of AICU, called for "steps to end targeted hate and provocative steps taken by state and non-state actors seemingly acting in concert."

Along with other religious groups and civil society movements, AICU will challenge anti-conversion laws that go against the letter and spirit of the constitution and trigger targeted violence, the statement said.

### **Indonesian rights body tells Catholics to report abuses**

(24-5-22) Indonesia's national human rights watchdog has called on people in predominantly Catholic East Nusa Tenggara province not to be afraid to report abuses, including those by state forces, after opening a complaints centre there. The National Commission of Human Rights (Komnas HAM) said it recorded 52 such cases in 2021, including cases of beatings and torture by police and the military, but the true figure was likely much higher.

Rights groups say Indonesia's police and military are often quick to resort to violence in dealing with non-threatening situations such as peaceful protests. Komnas HAM commissioner Beka Ulung Hapsara urged people not to be afraid and to use the new centre to make complaints. "Complaints will be handled with the strictest confidence," he said on May 23.

Father Marthen Jenarut, chairman of Ruteng Diocese's Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Commission, welcomed the complaints centre. "However, he said, it would be better if the commission opened a provincial office there as in Aceh, Papua and West Kalimantan provinces to monitor the situation better.



### **Chinese bishop remains in detention one year on**

(24-5-22) A Vatican-approved Chinese bishop remains in detention more than one year after his arrest for allegedly violating the communist country's repressive regulations on religious affairs. Bishop Joseph Zhang Weizhu of Xinxiang in Henan province was arrested on May 21 last year. His arrest came a day after police arrested 10 priests and an unknown number of seminarians from a Catholic seminary in the diocese that was set up in an abandoned factory building.

About a year ago, authorities in Xinxiang shut down Catholic schools and kindergartens in line with a government ban on education by religious groups. All those arrested were accused of violating China's regulations on religious affairs and subjected to "political lessons" in detention, media reports said. The priests and seminarians were released after brief detention but remain under surveillance, while the seminary is still closed.

Bishop Zhang, 63, remains detained and his whereabouts are unknown.

### **Resist cynicism in old age, Pope recommends**

(25-5-22) At his weekly public audience on May 25, Pope Francis spoke about the Book of Wisdom, continuing his series of talks on old age with a meditation on the temptation toward cynicism. Here below is the summary of his talk:

In our continuing catechesis on the meaning and value of old age in the light of God's word, we now consider the Book of Ecclesiastes, with its proverbial refrain, "Vanity of vanities! All is vanity" (1:2).

With great realism, the elderly author speaks of how easy it is to grow disillusioned with life and to give up the struggle to make our world a better place. That temptation, of course, is perennial; even today, great scientific and technical progress is often accompanied by a growing sense of disenchantment and resignation: we fear that justice and peace are unattainable goals. The Christian spiritual tradition speaks of the sin of “sloth”, the listlessness born of a loss of passion for our vocation to resist evil and to strive to grow in holiness and fidelity to God’s word and his promises for our world. Ecclesiastes rejects all such resignation and instead urges obedience to the commandments and trust in God’s saving plan. May his wisdom and experience be reflected in all those elderly persons who continue to put their faith in God’s word and its power to renew our lives and to change our world.

### **Pope calls for gun control after Texas (US) school shooting**

(25-5-22) At the conclusion of his regular public audience on May 25, Pope Francis said that he was praying for the young victims of a mass shooting in Texas, and for their families. He said: My heart is broken over the mass shooting at the elementary school in Texas. I am praying for the children and adults who were killed, and for their families. It is time to say enough to the indiscriminate trafficking of arms. Let us all commit ourselves so that such tragedies can never happen again!

### **Life ‘is always sacred and inviolable,’ Pope Francis says**

(25-5-22) “I thank you for your dedication in promoting life and defending conscientious objection, which there are often attempts to limit,” Pope Francis said to participants in Italy’s national Scegliamo la vita [Let’s Choose Life] event.

“Sadly, in these last years, there has been a change in the common mentality, and today we are more and more led to think that life is a good at our complete disposal, that we can choose to manipulate, to give birth or take life as we please, as if it were the exclusive consequence of individual choice,” the Pope added. “Let us remember that life is a gift from God! It is always sacred and inviolable, and we cannot silence the voice of conscience.”

### **Pope Francis assures Russian Orthodox leader of his prayers**

(25-5-22) On May 24—the day on which many Orthodox Christians commemorate Saints Cyril and Methodius according to the Julian calendar—Pope Francis sent name-day greetings to Patriarch Kirill of Moscow.

“The feast of Saint Cyril, the great apostle of the Slavs, gives me the opportunity to send you my best wishes and to assure you of prayers for Your Holiness and for the Church entrusted to your pastoral care,” Pope Francis said. “In these days I pray to our heavenly Father that the Holy Spirit will renew us and strengthen us in the ministry of the Gospel, especially in our efforts to protect the value and dignity of every human life,” the Pope added.

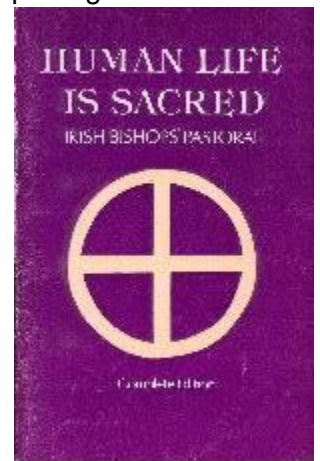
### **Cardinal Zen says Vatican’s China policy is ‘unwise’**

(25-5-22) Cardinal Joseph Zen said that Vatican policy toward China is “unwise,” as he celebrated Mass in Hong Kong on May 24, the day set aside for prayer for the Church in China.

Cardinal Zen said that Vatican officials had “good intentions” in their dealings with the Beijing regime, as they seek to ensure the freedom of the Church. But he said the secret deal with China was not producing that effect.

Earlier the same day, the cardinal had appeared in court to answer criminal charges, having been arrested for his role in a foundation that provided legal support for democracy activists. The Vatican has not commented on the arrest, beyond a mild statement that the Holy See was following the story with interest.

### **Gunmen invade Nigerian church, kidnap priests, others**





(25-5-22) The abductions took place in Katsina State, in the Diocese of Sokoto. Recently, in the words of the report, "rampaging hoodlums torched and vandalized some parishes" there after Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah condemned the gruesome murder of a student who was accused of blasphemy against Muhammad.

### **Papal telegram for Michigan tornado victims**

(25-5-22) Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Holy See's Secretary of State, has sent a telegram of condolence in the Pope's name to Bishop Jeffrey Walsh of Gaylord following a deadly tornado in the northern Michigan city.

(25-5-22) **Prime Minister Dimitar Kovacevski of North Macedonia met Pope Francis** privately for 15 minutes on May 23. North Macedonia, a nation of 2.1 million, is 64% Christian (62% Orthodox) and 31% Muslim; the Pope made an apostolic journey there in 2019.

### **Poland - Assistance to Ukrainian refugees and internally displaced persons continues in the Camillian reception centres**

(25-5-22) Checking the needs and primary demands of the Ukrainian refugees is the main objective of the visit that the missionaries of the Camillian Disaster Service International (Cadis) will carry out, from May 26 to 29, in Poland for the first evaluation of the project in which they are involved. The visit will cover the two centres made available by the Camillians of Poland in Ursus and Łomianki-Buraków, where Ukrainian women and children are welcomed, currently for a total of 51 people. The current shelter project will house around 70 women and children in the two centres, engaging them in recreational and psychosocial activities. It will also help internally displaced people from the cities of Lviv and Kharkiv, in Ukraine.

### **Nigeria - Two priests kidnapped in the diocese led by Bishop Kukah, subject to heavy threats**



(25-5-22) Two priests have been kidnapped in northern Nigeria. This is reported by Fr. Christopher Omotosho, Director of Social Communications of the Diocese of Sokoto in a statement: "At midnight today, May 25, 2022, armed men broke into the rectory of the Catholic Church of Saint Patrick, in Gidan Maikambo, Kafur LGA, in Katsina State". "The parish priest, Fr. Stephen Ojapa, MSP (Missionary Society of St. Paul) and his collaborator Fr. Oliver Okpara and 2 other boys in the house were kidnapped. We have no information on their whereabouts." According to the testimonies

collected, the kidnapers, armed, arrived in large numbers, and were not seen riding motorcycles, as is usually the case in attacks for kidnapping of people in Nigeria.

### **Zambia - Unity and solidarity are needed for the development of local Churches**

(25-5-22) "It is important to have unity of purpose and unity of vision to build the local Church with a common motivation", underlined Bishop Benjamin Phiri of the Diocese of Ndola. The bishop highlighted how the achievement of growth and development of the local Churches requires the collaboration, common vision and unity of all the actors of the diocese. "The spirit that encourages us to work together is growing among the pastoral agents and we hope, through this collaboration, to achieve more and more", said the bishop in reference to the work carried out in the last year.

(25-5-22) In a note issued by the Diocese of Kot in Kinabalu, in the **Malaysian state of Sabah** (on the island of Borneo), Archbishop John Wong has informed the clergy, religious and laity to **stop broadcasting masses on the Internet**, to reactivate the normal participation mode in presence.

### **Chile - Meeting of Bishops and pastoral workers of human mobility on the border of Bolivia, Peru and Chile**

(25-5-22) In the premises of the Emmaus Retreat House in the diocese of San Marcos de Arica, the VIII International Meeting of Pastoral Care of Human Mobility will be held from 23 to 26 May with the participation of Bishops and pastoral workers from neighboring countries of Bolivia, Peru and Chile to reflect together and share the experiences on their humanitarian service that, as a Church, they offer to migrants in different realities.

### **Dominican Rep. - The Minister of the Environment to the Pastoral Commission for Ecology: working together to defend the common home**

(25-5-22) The value of the work carried out by the Church and the importance of joining forces to protect our common home, as urged by Pope Francis, were highlighted during the recent meeting of the Minister of the Environment of the Dominican Republic, Orlando Jorge Mera, with the National Commission for Ecological and Environmental Pastoral Care, of the Dominican Episcopal Conference (CED), meeting at the CED headquarters. "The Catholic Church has a great particularity, there is no better administrator than a priest and people linked to the Church", said the minister. "For me it is important to maintain a cordial and respectful relationship with this Pastoral care, we are available for any situation in which we can intervene ... Our common home is the Dominican Republic, therefore, we must work hard to protect and defend it together, we must think about our children, grandchildren and those who will come after them."

### **Indian Catholics rally for peace after Islamic hate slogans**

(25-5-22) Catholic youths in the southern Indian state of Kerala have staged a peace rally calling for harmony and religious tolerance after an Islamic outfit allegedly threatened to eliminate Hindus and Christians.

The May 24 rally was held in Kanijrappally town in Kottayam district after a viral video of a member of the Popular Front of India (PFI) was deemed as a "death threat" to other religious communities and provoked widespread concern and condemnation. Kerala police have arrested three persons for



using provocative and threatening slogans during a PFI rally in Alappuzha district a few days ago. In the video circulated on social media, a young boy, sitting on the shoulders of a man, is seen shouting a slogan that others in the crowd repeat: "Keep ready rice and flowers in your home" and "have enough incense in homes, we are coming." The slogans were interpreted as warnings to Hindus and Christians as the items mentioned are used during the final rites of the communities. In response, Catholic youths carried lit candles and sang hymns as they marched.

### **Boat tragedy highlights Rohingya persecution by Myanmar junta**

(25-5-22) The deaths of at least 17 Rohingya including children in a boat tragedy have highlighted the minority group's ill-treatment at the hands of the military junta in Myanmar.

The boat carrying at least 90 people was on its way to Malaysia across the Bay of Bengal when it sank, according to a Radio Free Asia (RFA) report.

It said more than 50 passengers remain missing and more than 20 survivors, mostly men, have been detained by authorities in Patheingyi district of Myanmar's Ayeyarwady region.

### **Indonesian police at centre of Papua arson attacks row**

(25-5-22) Church activists in Indonesia are calling for a transparent investigation into a series of arson attacks targeting homes and other buildings in Papua province.

The attacks began when residents in predominantly Catholic Dogiyai district rejected plans to build a new police station, leading them to suspect the attacks could have been carried out by security forces.

Father Bernard Baru, chairman of the Augustinian Order of the Justice and Peace Commission in Papua, said police must reveal the mastermind and motive for the attacks that have destroyed various properties.



### **Martyrdom is normal, Cardinal Zen tells Hong Kong Catholics**

(25-5-22) On a drizzly Tuesday night in Hong Kong on May 24, hundreds of Catholics packed into church for a Mass turned into an act of resolve by its host — retired Cardinal Joseph Zen, fresh from a day in court.

The 90-year-old, who was arrested this month with other democracy advocates under the city's national security law, had pleaded not guilty earlier in the day to failing to properly register a protest defence fund. The now-defunct fund had helped pay legal

and medical costs for those arrested during huge and sometimes violent democracy demonstrations three years ago.

Dressed in gold robes and standing under a large effigy of Christ on the cross, Cardinal Zen did not mention his case or the Hong Kong authorities directly. Addressing the congregation of around 300, Cardinal Zen, whose trial is set to begin on Sept. 19, alluded to difficult times ahead. "Martyrdom is normal in our church," he said. "We may not have to do that but we may have to bear some pain and steel ourselves for our loyalty to our faith."

### **Filipino Catholics use Laudato Si' Week to clean up sea**

(25-5-22) Events marking Laudato Si' Week are now in full swing in the Philippines with the country joining Catholics around the world in marking the seventh anniversary of Pope Francis' landmark encyclical on taking care of the environment.

The May 22-29 event "is a global celebration that unites Catholics around the world to listen and respond together to the cries of creation, and rejoice in the progress humans have made in bringing the encyclical to life," Cebu Archdiocese said on Facebook.

(25-5-22) Bishop Stephen Lee of **Macau** has called on Catholics and people of other faiths **to promote a culture of life and love to tackle abortion** in the former Portuguese colony.

### **Road dedicated to Catholic war hero in Pakistan**

(25-5-22) In 2014, the Pakistan Air Force finally joined the family of Catholic air force veteran Cecil Chaudhry and Catholic leaders to unveil a plaque dedicating a street corner to the memory of the beloved war hero. Chaudhry was a winner of top bravery medals for his services during wars with India in 1965 and 1971. Lahore authorities decided to rename a section of Lawrence Road next to Sacred Heart Cathedral and two Catholic schools after the war hero's death in 2012. However, his family had to file a court petition for the implementation of the government directive.

26-5-22

### **Indian priest arrested over resort owner's suicide**

(26-5-22) Police in northeast India's Assam state have arrested a Catholic priest for allegedly abetting the suicide of a resort owner.

George Bordoloi, a Guwahati-based entrepreneur who owned Georgie's Retreat Eco Camp, committed suicide in the early hours of May 23. In his purported suicide note, he accused Father Stephen Mavelly, vice-chancellor of Assam Don Bosco University, of abetting his suicide.

"The university was established in 2008 and from that year onwards there was a land dispute between the university and the owner of the adjacent land. The case is going on in court, hence we

have no clue about his committing suicide,” Archbishop John Moolachira of Guwahati told UCA News on May 26.

“There was no pressure or harassment from Father Mavelly and the university that led to the suicide of George Bordoloi. Both parties in the case were waiting for the judgment but before that this news comes, which is very unfortunate. Father Mavelly is now in judicial custody. There was a court hearing yesterday and we are hopeful that we will be able to get bail for him soon. The university is run by the Salesians of Don Bosco and there were no such problems in the past. We hope that the court will soon give its judgment regarding the land dispute.” Police said they found a handwritten note at his home in Hatimura in Guwahati that mentioned Father Mavelly. The university has denied the allegations against the priest.

### **Sri Lankan religious leaders want curbs on presidential powers**

(26-5-22) Religious leaders in Sri Lanka have urged the government to pass a constitutional amendment to curb the unlimited powers bestowed on President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

The powerful Rajapaksa family gave itself unlimited powers by amending the constitution after a massive victory in the general election of August 2020.

Protesters want the amendment that made the president all-powerful repealed as the island nation faces its worst economic crisis since independence.

### **Punishment for selling Christian books devastates Chinese couple**

(26-5-22) A Chinese Christian couple are penniless and their children are struggling for survival following their seven-year jail sentences and heavy fines for printing and selling Christian books without permission. A court in Xi’an in Shaanxi province of northwest China handed jail terms and fines of 250,000 yuan (US\$37,240) each to Chang Yuchun, 53, and Li Chenhu, 44, in August last year. They lost an appeal against the verdict in November. The couple ran Guang Yi Ai Sheng Printing Co. that they set up in 2015. They printed and sold Christian books including the Bible until local authorities shut it down in 2020, ChinaAid reported on May 25.

During a joint raid on July 21 last year, Xi’an Municipal Culture Law Enforcement Department and Xi’an Municipal National Security Department confiscated about 210,000 books stored in a warehouse and workshop. Officials reportedly identified 24 books that were “unauthorized for publication.”



27-5-22

### **Ukrainian Orthodox break with Moscow, condemn war**

(27-5-22) The leaders of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church who had been allied with the Patriarchate of Moscow have condemned the war on Ukraine, repudiated the support of Moscow’s Patriarch Kirill, and stated their desire for independence from the Russian Orthodox Church.

After weeks of tension, heightened by the Russian Orthodox Church’s support for the war, the Council of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church approved a measure to amend the body’s statutes, looking toward “full independence.” The statement stopped just short of calling for autocephaly—a move that has already been made by the rival Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

“The Council condemns war as a violation of God’s commandment, ‘Thou shalt not kill,’” the group announced. “We disagree with the position of Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia on the war in Ukraine.”

The loss of the Ukrainian Orthodox parishes that have remained loyal to Moscow patriarchate would have an enormous effect on the Russian Orthodox Church. The Orthodox faith is vigorous in Ukraine, and the number of worshippers actually attending services there may approach—or even surpass—the number of active members of Russian parishes.

### **Pope Francis: World needs a new Christian model of economy**

(27-5-22) “We cannot live with an economic pattern that comes from the liberals and the Enlightenment” Pope Francis said in extemporaneous remarks to the directors of the Global Solidarity Fund. “Nor can we live with an economic pattern that comes from Communism. We need a Christian economy, let’s put it this way.”

The Pope also praised the work of economist Mariana Mazzucato after he said that “we need to move from the liberal economy to an economy shared by the people, to a communitarian economy.”

### **‘Every war goes against principles of the UN,’ Pope tells Italy’s Civil Protection service**

(27-5-22) Italy’s Civil Protection Department is responsible for emergency prevention and management.

During a recent address to members of the service, Pope Francis said that “the first form of protection we need is that which preserves us from social isolation ... The second protection to promote is that against environmental disasters ... The third form of protection comes through prevention.”

“Every war marks a surrender of the human capacity to protect,” the Pope added. “A denial of what is written in the solemn commitments of the United Nations. This is why St. Paul VI, speaking before the UN, proclaimed, ‘Never again war!’ We repeat this today, in the face of what is happening in Ukraine, and we protect the dream of peace among people, the sacred right of peoples to peace.”

### **Bulgarian leader, Pope discuss corruption**

(27-5-22) Pope Francis received Prime Minister Kiril Petkov of Bulgaria in a 15-minute private audience on May 23. The Southeast European nation of 6.9 million is 83% Christian (79% Orthodox) and 14% Muslim; the Pope made an apostolic journey there in 2019.

“I was honoured to meet His Holiness Pope Francis,” Petkov tweeted. “I was grateful to receive his blessing for the direction taken. We agreed that corruption is a disease that needs constant efforts.”



### **‘When biodiversity flourishes, human life flourishes,’ Vatican official says**

(27-5-22) Warning that the world is at “the brink of an unprecedented biodiversity collapse,” Sister Alessandra Smerilli, FMA, the Secretary of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, said at a Laudato Si’ Week conference that “when biodiversity flourishes, human life flourishes.” She added, “We are at an inflection point with life-altering consequences.”

### **Papal telegram following deadly Canadian storm**

(27-5-22) Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Holy See’s Secretary of State, has sent a telegram of condolence in the Pope’s name to the president of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops following a deadly derecho (destructive thunderstorm cluster) in Ontario and Quebec.

### **Latin Patriarch encourages ‘new narrative’ for Jerusalem**

(27-5-22) “Usually we talk, here in the Middle East, especially in [the] Holy Land, about the need to defend ourselves, our borders – identity borders, physical borders, political borders and so on,” said Patriarch Pierbattista Pizzaballa.

“In our Christian tradition, the role of Jerusalem is to be open and the gates are there to ‘define’ the identities but not to ‘defend’ from the others,” he continued. “This is a completely different perspective. We have to let people know that we want to be inclusive without ‘cancelling’ different identities.”

### **Russia - The Catholic community will pray the Rosary for peace with the Pope**

(27-5-22) “I invite all the faithful to pray together, here in the Cathedral, the Rosary in communion with Pope Francis, at the end of the month of May on Tuesday, May 31, which as we know, is dedicated to

the Holy Virgin Mary. We join the Pope and, through him, the universal Church, to implore the gift of peace in Ukraine and in every part of the world where conflicts are taking place that are often forgotten". Thus spoke Archbishop Paolo Pezzi of Moscow, at the end of the celebration for the solemnity of the Ascension on May 26.

### **Burkina Faso - More than 50 killed in the east by a jihadist assault**

(27-5-22) More than 50 people have been killed near Madjoari, a village in eastern Burkina Faso. The massacre took place on May 25, but it was not known until May 26.

Madjoari village is located between those to the north and east blocked by jihadists who have cut off roads to the rest of the country. The army barely manages to deliver convoys with food and basic necessities. The besieged villagers try to flee, risking being intercepted and killed by the jihadist groups. This is what allegedly happened to the victims of the May 25 massacre. Before this episode, there had been several more recently in Madjoari against soldiers and civilians.

### **India - The Church to young people: energy, talent and dynamism at the service of the Kingdom of God**

(27-5-22) Living youth to the full, putting energy, talent and dynamism at the service of the Kingdom of God: this is the spirit that pervaded the third National Youth Conference, organized by "Young Catholic Students Movement" and "Young Students Movement" (YCS/YSM) in Bangalore 22-26 May.

Archbishop Peter Machado of Bangalore urged the more than 220 students, delegates from different parts of the country, to give their precious contribution of ideas, creativity, enthusiasm to evangelization and the promotion of the common good in India.



### **Holy Land - In Jerusalem, the liturgical feast of the Ascension of Christ is also celebrated in a mosque**

(27-5-22) It only happens in Jerusalem: it is there that one day a year, on the top of the Mount of Olives, Eucharistic liturgies are celebrated in the Roman rite even in a mosque. It happens on Thursday, on the day on which the Church of Rome celebrates the liturgical Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ. The sacred place where this tradition is repeated every year, yet another singularity experienced by Christians in the Holy Land, is the small Chapel of the Ascension, a building of Crusader origin which according to tradition contains the last trace of Christ, shortly before his ascension to Heaven. The place of worship was built as an octagonal chapel in 1152, and in 1198 it was transformed into a mosque by Sultan Salah al Din (Saladin), architect of the Islamic reconquest of Jerusalem. Today, the chapel is still part of the so-called Mosque of the Ascension of Jesus, whom Muslims recognize and celebrate as the Prophet ʿĪsā.

The ancient Christian place of worship is open to visitors and pilgrims throughout the year, and on the Feast of the Ascension, by special concession of ancient tradition, the Franciscans of the Custody of the Holy Land celebrate Eucharistic liturgies there, attended by groups of native Christians and pilgrims.

### **Australia - Education as the key to proclaiming the Gospel in Ethiopia**

(27-5-22) "We believe, as Catholic Church, that education is the key to transforming society, in the process of proposing the proclamation of the Gospel". This is what was expressed by Ethiopian Cardinal Berhaneyesus Demerew Souraphiel, who was invited at the Australian Catholic University, on the North Sydney campus, to share the path undertaken with the help of "Catholic Mission", Directorate of the Pontifical Mission Societies in Australia.

### **Bangladesh Catholic bishops' conference marks 50 years**

(27-5-22) Catholic bishops in Bangladesh kicked off the 50th founding anniversary celebrations of the bishops' conference with an inaugural program and seminar in capital Dhaka, stressing the importance of a participatory church in light of ongoing synodal talks.

Cardinal Patrick D'Rozario, Oblate Archbishop Bejoy N. D'Cruze of Dhaka and all Bangladesh's bishops attended the event at the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Bangladesh (CBCB) centre in central Dhaka on May 27.

The conference marked 50 years in 2021 but celebrations were withheld due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

### **Catholics stand with fellow Sri Lankans hit by economic crisis**



(27-5-22) The present economic crisis, the worst since the country's independence in 1948, began to cripple Sri Lanka in March, the result of a series of poor political decisions related to import-export policies that adversely affected the agricultural sector and depleted the government's foreign exchange. The inflation caused by the Ukraine war complicated the crisis. The country was already reeling under the impact of the pandemic, which halted the tourism sector, considered the backbone of Sri Lanka's economy. The collapse of the tourism industry put some 200,000 people out of work in 2020 and most of

2021.

For its part, the Catholic Church stood with the protesters early on. White-robed priests and nuns are conspicuous at the site of the protests in Colombo, and they frequently address the gatherings. "People are lining up and unable to get essential goods and services," said Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith, archbishop of Colombo. "The church stands with those who are suffering." Caritas is behind them as a pillar of support.

### **Caritas India launches mobile app for migrant workers**

(27-5-22) Caritas India, the social service arm of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India, has launched a mobile application for the safe and smooth movement of migrant workers in the country. The app, Pravasi Bandhu (literally the migrant's brother), was jointly launched by Archbishop Peter Machado of Bangalore and Manjunath Gangadhara, additional labour commissioner of Bengaluru, on May 25. The app can be downloaded from Play Store through an Android mobile phone and will help migrant workers access information about their rights and the procedure for registering to gain access to social security and health benefits.

### **Vietnam Catholics told to become communicators of truth**

(27-5-22) Bishops in Vietnam have said that truth is the primary aim of communication and without it people were being duped and exploited by fake news and lurid headlines

Bishop Joseph Nguyen Tan Tuoc, head of the social communication commission of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Vietnam (CBCV), said real communication must be based on some standards and should proclaim the Good News.

### **Timor-Leste hit by 6.1-magnitude earthquake**

(27-5-22) A 6.1-magnitude earthquake struck off the coast of Timor-Leste today, the US Geological Survey said, with tremors felt as far away as the Australian city of Darwin, although there were no immediate reports of damage or casualties.

The USGS said the quake hit at a depth of 51 kilometers off the eastern tip of Timor island, which is split between Timor-Leste and Indonesia. Tsunami advisory group said the quake 'may be capable of generating a tsunami affecting the Indian Ocean region'

### **Cambodian Catholics want church based on Khmer culture**

(27-5-22) The first generation of Catholics in Cambodia, who emerged after the genocidal regime of Pol Pot, have suggested creating a Christian identity based on Cambodian culture in building up the local church.

The suggestion was part of a series of recommendations made during the Phnom Penh diocesan synod, in preparation for the upcoming Synod of Bishops at the Vatican in October 2023 and attended by 200 people including laity, clergy and religious.

### **Chinese Christians denied passports amid pandemic**

(27-5-22) Christians in eastern China who wish to travel abroad for various reasons including emigration and studies are facing hard times as authorities have denied them passports, citing travel restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Christians from several families in Zhejiang and Jiangsu provinces said immigration officials questioned the purpose of their passport applications and later rejected the applications after they discovered their religious adherence, Radio Free Asia (RFA) reported on May 26.



28-5-22

### **Italy - Long-term sustainable solutions are urgently needed: World Hunger Day**

(28-5-22) "To avert the imminent risk of an unprecedented global food crisis, there is an urgent need for long-term sustainable solutions and political will and determination, addressing the roots of our unjust food system that triggers hunger", says the Secretary General of Caritas Internationalis, Aloysius John, on the occasion of World Hunger Day which is celebrated today May 28, 2022. The impact of COVID-19, conflicts, climate crisis, the war in Ukraine are having terrible consequences all over the world, especially as regards to food insecurity. Hence the appeal of the Caritas Confederation that calls on governments and the main stakeholders to commit themselves at all levels and to urge the implementation of sustainable recovery strategies based on addressing the impacts of climate change and conflicts. "A world without hunger is possible if people are motivated and encouraged to become active players in food production", said Aloysius John.

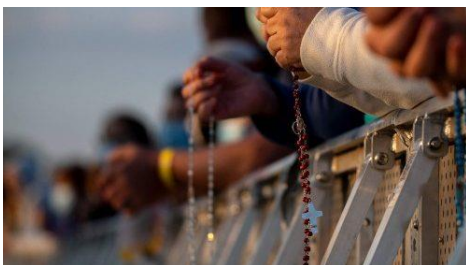
29-5-22

### **Pope at Regina Coeli: True love never stifles but leaves us free to love**

(29-5-22) On Ascension Sunday, Pope Francis prayed the Eastertide Marian prayer of the Regina Coeli, and reflected on the day's Gospel (Lk 24:46-53).

Pope Francis said Jesus was not abandoning humanity as He goes to the Father. Rather, He promises to send the Holy Spirit, who "will accompany them, guide them, support them in their mission, defend them in spiritual battles." The Pope said Jesus' ascension allows Him to become close to all humanity in the Holy Spirit, instead of remaining beside only a few people.

The second action Jesus does before His ascension is to "bless the apostles," which the Pope said is a "priestly gesture". Pope Francis added that Jesus also goes to prepare a place for us with God the Father in Heaven. Our response to Jesus' blessing, said the Pope, should be to be witnesses of the Gospel and to love others with the same kind of love we receive from God.



### **Pope promotes Rosary for peace, urges Christians to listen more**

(29-5-22) As the Marian month of May draws to a close and wars wage around the world, Pope Francis is inviting the faithful to join him in praying the Rosary for peace. The prayer vigil takes place



on Tuesday, 31 May, and will be broadcast live from the Basilica of St. Mary Major, beginning at 6 PM Rome time.

Speaking after the prayer of the Regina Coeli on Sunday, the Pope appealed for shrines across the world to join him in imploring the Queen of Peace for the gift of peace.

As the Church marks World Communications Day on Sunday, Pope Francis urged everyone to listen more attentively to one another. His message for Communications Day 2022, released in late January, goes under the theme: "Listening with the ear of the heart." On Sunday, the Pope expressed his hope that we might all learn to listen with our hearts.

Pope Francis also noted a pair of events taking place in Italy over the weekend.

He recalled **the beatification in Modena on Saturday of Fr. Luigi Lenzini, a martyr of the faith** killed in 1945 for embracing Christian values in a time of hatred and conflict.

As Italy celebrates the National Care Day, the Pope recalled that a person with an illness is always more important than their disease.

### **Pope announces 21 new Cardinals from around the world**

(29-5-22) At the conclusion of the Regina Coeli on Sunday, Pope Francis said that on Saturday, 27 August, he will hold a Consistory for the creation of new cardinals.

He also said that he will meet during the next two days - on Monday and Tuesday, 29-30 August - all the cardinals to reflect on the new Apostolic Constitution *Praedicate evangelium*.

The College of Cardinals currently consists of 208

members, of whom 117 are electors and 91 non-electors. As of 27 August, the number will grow to 229 Cardinals, of whom 131 will be electors.

Eight of the newly named Cardinals are from Europe, six from Asia (of whom 2 are from India, one is from Singapore), two from Africa, one from North America, and four from Central and Latin America.

*Here are the names of all 21 new cardinals:*

1. Archbishop Arthur Roche - Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments
2. Archbishop Lazzaro You Heung sik – Prefect of the Congregation for the Clergy
3. Archbishop Fernando Vérgez Alzaga, L.C. – President of the Pontifical Commission for Vatican City State and President of the Governorate for Vatican City State
4. Archbishop Jean-Marc Aveline - Metropolitan Archbishop of Marseille (France)
5. Bishop Peter Okpaleke - Bishop of Ekwulobia (Nigeria)
6. Archbishop Leonardo Ulrich Steiner, O.F.M. - Metropolitan Archbishop of Manaus (Brazil)
7. Archbishop Filipe Neri António Sebastião di Rosário Ferrão - Archbishop of Goa and Damão (India)
8. Bishop Robert Walter McElroy – Bishop of San Diego (U.S.A)
9. Archbishop Virgilio Do Carmo Da Silva, S.D.B. – Archbishop of Dili (East Timor)
10. Bishop Oscar Cantoni - Bishop of Como (Italy)
11. Archbishop Anthony Poola - Archbishop di Hyderabad (India).
12. Archbishop Paulo Cezar Costa - Metropolitan Archbishop of Brasília (Brazil)
13. Bishop Richard Kuuia Baawobr, M. Africa - Bishop of Wa (Ghana)
14. Archbishop William Goh Seng Chye - Archbishop of Singapore (Singapore)
15. Archbishop Adalberto Martínez Flores - Metropolitan Archbishop of Asunción (Paraguay)
16. Archbishop Giorgio Marengo, I.M.C. – Apostolic Prefect of Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia)
17. Archbishop Jorge Enrique Jiménez Carvajal - Archbishop Emeritus of Cartagena (Colombia)
18. Bishop Lucas Van Looy, S.D.B. - Bishop Emeritus of Gent (Belgium)
19. Archbishop Arrigo Miglio - Archbishop Emeritus of Cagliari (Italy)
20. Fr. Gianfranco Ghirlanda, S.J. – Professor di Theology
21. Msgr. Fortunato Frezza – Canon of Saint Peter's Basilica

