



Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

NewsNotes

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Gaza: Catholics Call for Nonviolence as Famine Looms.....	1
Haiti: Kenyan Forces Arrive	2
Not forgetting the imprisoned in El Salvador.....	4
The Threat of Deep-Sea Mining	5
UN Climate Conference Ends with Impasse	6
Freeing Fishers from Modern Slavery at Sea.....	7
President Biden Limits Asylum.....	8
UN: Maryknoll at the Indigenous Peoples Forum	9
New York Legislature Weighs Sovereign Debt Laws.....	10
House Passes Military Spending Bill with Little Debate	11
Sudan: Act Now to Stop Another Genocide.....	12
Farm Bill Stalled in House	12
Resources.....	13

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Gaza: Catholics Call for Nonviolence as Famine Looms

Thousands of U.S. Catholics have signed an open letter to Pres. Biden calling for a comprehensive ceasefire in Gaza as threats of starvation grow in the Palestinian enclave.

More than 5,000 Catholic bishops, priests, women religious, academics, laypeople and Catholic groups have called for a ceasefire in Gaza in an open letter to President Joe Biden.

“We continue to plead for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza and adherence to international law by all parties,” they wrote, citing the calls of Pope Francis and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for a ceasefire in the region as well.

While the United States continues to support Israel in the war in Gaza, the death toll continues to rise, and the humanitarian crisis is deepening precipitously. A UN Hunger Hotspots report released in May warns, “Between mid-March and mid-July, half of the population of the Gaza Strip (1.1 million people) is expected to face catastrophic conditions (IPC Phase 5), and the entire population of the Gaza Strip is expected to face Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) levels of acute food insecurity.” The IPC is the Integrated Food Security Classification scale for Acute Food Insecurity – an internationally recognized five-phase scale, with Phase 5 being the most severe form of insecurity, acute famine.

Meanwhile, Israeli attacks, often using bombs from the United States, continue to kill civilians. The United States continues to send arm to Israel, only halting transfer of 2,000-lb. bombs due to concerns about an Israeli operation in the southern Gaza city of Rafah, where more than a million Palestinians were sheltering.

Various Christian groups have been actively seeking peace with justice throughout the conflict. To those Christians who have not been active, the Rev. Munther Isaac of the Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church in Bethlehem had this to say while speaking on June 11 at a Communal Call to Lament and Repentance at the First Baptist Church of the City of Washington, DC: “The silent church is too loud.”

“Where would we be,” he asked, “if Jesus had come to avoid controversy?” He called on the church to repent of the sins of racism, Zionism settler colonialism, and apathy.

For a theological reflection on and systemic analysis of the reality lived by Palestinians, read *Decolonizing Palestine* by Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb (Orbis Books, 2023).

Many Catholics have expressed dismay and frustration with President Biden as a fellow Catholic, for continuing to

support Israel’s war effort despite its devastating impact on civilians. The open letter from U.S. Catholics, organized by the Catholic Advisory Council of Churches for Middle East Peace, MOGC, Pax Christi USA, and the Franciscan Action Network and published in May, gave voice to that frustration, calling on Biden “and other U.S. and international leaders, to do everything possible to ensure a permanent end to hostilities, including halting additional shipments of U.S.-funded offensive weapons to Israel, a return of all hostages, and the immediate distribution of robust humanitarian aid to Gaza.”

The letter notes that “71% of U.S. Catholics support a Gaza ceasefire, echoing the position of Pope Francis, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Society of Jesus, and other U.S. Catholic organizations and leaders.” Pointing to the death toll in Gaza – over 34,000 Palestinians as of the time of publication – injuries, impending famine, the displacement of the majority of Gazans and destruction of 70% of their homes, the letter recognizes the United States’ role in perpetuating the current violence and the ongoing, historic injustice in Israel-Palestine, and expresses a commitment to do more to address the root causes of the current violence.

Two of the organizers of the letter, Julie Schumacher Cohen and Jordan Denari Duffner, published a piece in *America* magazine referencing the letter, and explaining how Catholic Social Teaching (CST) can guide Catholics in responding to the ongoing violence. They highlight activists guided by the CST principle of solidarity: “they are holding prayer vigils, contacting their government officials, protesting and engaging in civil disobedience, and participating in boycotts.” They also outline the kinds of actions that may flow from the CST principle of subsidiarity, making changes in one’s own community: “hosting talks or teach-ins at our school or parish, holding a fundraiser and donating to aid groups, organizing vigils or public demonstrations, proactively addressing bigotry, or making sure that, when we go on pilgrimage to the Holy Land, we don’t focus solely on the spiritual while ignoring the historical and present-day political injustices.” §

Faith in action: Read Schumacher Cohen and Denari Duffner’s article and sign the letter from U.S. Catholics.

<https://mogc.info/CeasefireSignOn>

Haiti: Kenyan Forces Arrive

Jake Johnston offers analysis of the launch of the Multinational Security Support mission in Haiti in this article published on the Center for Economic and Policy Research website on June 26, 2024.

On Tuesday, June 25, the first contingent of Kenyan security forces, the initial deployment of the much-discussed and long-delayed Multinational Security Support mission (MSS), touched down on the tarmac in Port-au-Prince. Its arrival comes 20 months after former prime minister Ariel Henry first requested a foreign security intervention amid nationwide protests calling for his resignation.

The deployment formally begins the third major security intervention in Haiti in the last 30 years. The last, a UN peacekeeping operation that followed the 2004 ouster of Haiti's president, lasted 13 years and cost nearly \$10 billion, leaving a legacy of abuse, impunity and political interference.

Although the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) authorized the Kenya-led mission in late 2023, it is not actually taking place under the auspices of the UN. Furthermore, while Kenyan officers are formally in the lead and at least six other countries have pledged to contribute troops, the US has largely been in control of the mission and will contribute the vast majority of the funding.

In recent months, the Pentagon has flown over 90 flights to Port-au-Prince, transporting many tons of equipment and civilian contractors. It has reportedly now finished constructing facilities for the expected 2,500 personnel who will constitute the MSS. In addition to Kenya, at least seven other countries have offered to contribute troops, namely, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Chad, and Jamaica.

However, even as the first boots hit the ground, key questions remain unanswered, and the possibility for even greater violence and civilian harm remains.

No Timeline and Broad Goals

Formally tasked with providing the Haitian National Police (HNP) with “operational support” in combating armed groups and with helping to build HNP capacity, the mission's ultimate objective is broader and hints at another longer-term intervention. A Concept of Operations document drafted earlier this year states that the mission will continue until there are “credible and effective Haitian authorities with the capacity to maintain security conditions necessary for free and fair elections.”

Haiti's last election was held in 2016, and there are currently no elected officials at any level of government. The

current transitional government has pledged to hold elections and hand over power in early 2026. In this regard, however, little progress has yet been made. The Concept of Operations document also foresees the possibility of the UNSC “adapt[ing] or transform[ing] the MSS into a different type of mission.”

Monica Juma, a security advisor to the Kenyan president who traveled to Haiti with the first contingent of forces, told the press that she believed that the mission would receive support “as long as there is a need for” it but that they did not want the MSS to become a “permanent” presence.

The UNSC provided an initial authorization of one year, with a review set to take place after nine months. It is unclear whether this remains the case given the delays in deployment, but the review may still take place next month. The possibility that the UNSC could opt to not reauthorize the force remains.

Funding remains a concern. The UN basket fund, which is meant to consolidate donations from governments in support of the MSS, remains woefully underfunded, with just \$21 million in its coffers. The total cost of the mission is expected to reach \$600 million annually.

Last week, the Biden administration overrode a Republican hold on approximately \$100 million in additional funding for the MSS, which had been blamed for delaying the mission's deployment. The Miami Herald reported that the funding would go toward additional equipment.

Lack of Information

There has been very little information shared publicly about the MSS, including with the UNSC, which had requested a number of documents be submitted to the council prior to the mission's deployment.

At a closed door UNSC meeting last week, US and Kenyan officials did not even disclose the initial deployment date, nor did they provide information on the rules of engagement, concept of operations, or accountability mechanisms, according to two sources with knowledge of the discussion.

Although framed narrowly as a mission to support the Haitian police that will take its cues from the Haitian state, the structure of the force and lack of UN oversight have raised questions about who is ultimately in control. Haitian, U.S., and Kenyan officials have also offered

seemingly contradictory remarks about how the MSS will operate on the ground, adding to the confusion.

“The absence of a leading interlocutor or spokesperson for the mission, whether American, Kenyan or Haitian, reinforces the impression of opacity that has descended over the operation,” the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime commented in a report last week.

It also remains unclear what the MSS’s actual approach to combating armed groups will be, but there is a fear that direct armed confrontation could result in significant civilian casualties. UNICEF recently reported that up to 50 percent of all members of armed groups are children. A group of US-based NGOs (that receive U.S. government funding) warned that the deployment put “children at significant new risks.”

An approach that focuses solely on armed groups and not the wider networks of support among the political and economic elite will, at best, achieve only short-term gains — and even that could come at a tremendous cost.

Failing to Learn from Past Mistakes

In its authorization, the UNSC had called on the MSS to create an “oversight mechanism to prevent human rights violations or abuses, in particular sexual exploitation and abuse.” Local and international human rights organizations have also repeatedly raised this issue as a concern, especially given the long track record of abuses associated with prior interventions and the difficulty of holding actors accountable.

For example, the UN peacekeeping operation that lasted from 2004 to 2017 was responsible for widespread sexual abuse and exploitation, extrajudicial killings, and the introduction of cholera, which killed more than 10,000. Yet, those abuses were perpetrated with near total impunity.

On June 21, the Haitian and Kenyan governments signed a status of forces agreement, outlining the privileges and immunities conferred to the MSS and its personnel. According to the document, which was obtained by HRRW, MSS personnel will receive near blanket immunity in Haiti. (Ayibopost published the full text of the agreement on June 26).

“All MSSM personnel, including locally recruited staff, enjoy immunity from jurisdiction for all acts performed in the exercise of their official functions,” the document states. If Haitian authorities believe that a crime has been committed, they must notify the MSS commander, who will then determine whether it was part of the official duties of personnel. However, even in such a case, “MSSM personnel are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of their

participating state regarding any criminal offenses they commit in Haiti,” according to the agreement. The accord would allow civil claims to be heard by a local court but only under certain restrictive conditions.

“There were a lot of promises when this mission was authorized that lessons had been learned, Beatrice Lindstrom, a lawyer at Harvard’s International Human Rights Clinic, said. “But there is nothing here to operationalize what now seem like largely empty promises.” As a staff attorney at the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti, Lindstrom led a decade-long legal fight to hold the UN accountable for its introduction of cholera.

“History shows that when [foreign forces] operate with impunity, there will be horrific harms and grave human rights violations, and there is nothing we have seen that would prevent any of those things,” she told HRRW. In fact, she added, what we see now is an “even more opaque, even more discretionary accountability system.”

Long-Term Political Effects

Ultimately, even with robust safeguards, the root causes of Haiti’s insecurity cannot be addressed by a foreign security intervention — in fact, historically, foreign interventions have served to prevent necessary reforms and have reinforced what is an inherently unsustainable status quo. Without profound political change and a new approach taken by the U.S. and others in the international community, there is little reason to see this latest intervention as different from past failures.

For years, Haitian civil society and grassroots organizations have called for systemic change, for a rupture with the past. The question is whether this foreign force will provide the space for Haitians to achieve the change that they desire or whether it will once again be used by international and elite interests to continue business as usual. §

Faith in action: Tell Congress, Stop Flow of Weapons

Haiti is an island nation that does not manufacture guns or ammunition. Yet a UN report estimated that in 2020 there were as many as half a million guns in the country, with privately owned guns outnumbering law enforcement ten to one. The great majority of the guns in Haiti are manufactured in the United States and are smuggled from Florida.

- Tell your representative in the U.S. Congress to pass the ARMAS Act to disrupt arms trafficking and to hold U.S. agencies accountable for enforcing existing laws. <https://mogc.info/ARMAS>
- Join the Stop Illegal Arms to Haiti webinar on **July 30**. Register at <https://mogc.info/SIAH>

Not forgetting the imprisoned in El Salvador

Maryknoll Lay Missioner Bob Cunningham reflects on his recently restarted prison ministry in El Salvador's state of emergency. This article was originally published by the Maryknoll Lay Missioners on May 20, 2024.

Seventy-five thousand. That's the approximate number of people who were killed during the civil war in El Salvador (1980-1992). It is also the approximate number of people who have been arrested and imprisoned over the past two years as a result of the Salvadoran government's gang crackdown, referred to as the state of exception.

People in prison are often ignored or forgotten. On the one hand, the state of exception makes it easy to ignore or forget them here because the majority of people on the streets feel safer and there is hope for greater economic opportunity. On the other hand, it's hard to ignore or forget a prison population that has tripled in just two years. El Salvador now has the highest incarceration rate in the world.

Since Liz [Bob's wife] and I arrived here in El Salvador in January 2022, we've been through three phases of everyday life. The first was characterized by widespread gang violence, extortion and control of territories. We walked to work and people would slide a finger against their throats and shake their heads to warn us from going in a certain direction.

The second phase was living under military occupation. The state of emergency suspended constitutional rights and gave broad powers to the police and military to arrest and detain people. Police and soldiers patrolled the streets with machine guns, set up roadblocks, ordered men and boys off buses to search and inspect them for gang-related tattoos, conducted neighborhood sweeps and arrested large numbers of people without making charges.

Now, in the third phase, life on the streets is much calmer. The prisons are full, and there's a new mega-prison that houses 40,000. There are still police and military patrols and gang activity in some areas, and there's still crime, but it's not nearly as widespread or organized as it was before. Unless someone in your family has been arrested, people don't talk about the prison situation.

After I graduated college, I spent a year working as a social worker in a county jail in California. The conditions in the jail were horrendous. Built for 400 men, it held close to 900. It smelled and sounded like a zoo. After I finished my year of service, I never wanted to go back inside a jail ever again, but I couldn't get the smell out of my nose.

Shortly after we arrived in El Salvador, Liz and I started visiting Mariona Prison, one of the larger prisons here, with Maryknoll Father Jack Northrop. We attended Mass, sang in the choir, helped distribute food and socialized with the men. But with the state of emergency, prison volunteer

programs were suspended throughout the country.

In the past year, things have started to open up a bit. Now I am a member of the prison ministry at Our Lady of Peace Parish in nearby Merliot. We visit the juvenile prison in Tonacatepeque weekly. The boys range from 12 to 18 years of age. I understand that most have been or still are affiliated with the country's notorious gangs. Almost none have been baptized, but they come to Mass, some of them perhaps more for the bread and pastries that we hand out afterwards than the spiritual food, but in any case, they come.

On a recent visit to the prison, I gave a reflection on a scripture reading from the First Letter of John. Since my Spanish is limited, I had to boil down the message in simple terms. My reflection was about how Jesus showed us who God is. As John said, "God is love." If you have experienced love—through a mother, a grandmother or a friend—then you have experienced God. And what is love? Love is a commitment to support the growth, i.e., the life, of oneself or another person. We have a lot of prayers and rituals, but when we say what we believe, basically we are saying, we believe...in love.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.... In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him.

As I looked out at a couple of hundred boys seated on the floor in their white shirts and shorts and tried to gauge if they were understanding what I was saying, I caught the eye of one boy who was nodding in agreement. He knew Love; he knew God. What I was saying didn't require good Spanish or sophisticated reasoning. It just needed to be said...with love.

If the end justifies the means, then all is well in El Salvador. Personally, I am deeply troubled by the suspension of constitutional rights, arbitrary arrests and detentions and harsh prison conditions. But if I'm being completely honest, I feel just as troubled, if not more so, by my tacit acceptance of the tradeoff between relative calm on the streets and mass incarceration.

I am living with what's happening here in El Salvador, but I can't get rid of the smell in my nose. The end doesn't justify the means. Where there is love, there is God; and love lives in Tonacatepeque youth prison. So I can't ignore or forget that one boy—or the thousands of other boys and girls, men and women in prison here. I hope none of us can. §

The Threat of Deep-Sea Mining

UN authorities and environmental experts struggle to confront the threats posed by underwater mining.

A United Nations Ocean Conference will be held in July of 2025 dedicated to supporting the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.” In its preparatory document, the ocean is said to be “in a state of emergency as increasing eutrophication, acidification, ocean warming, deoxygenation and plastic pollution worsen its health. In addition, the alarming trend of overfishing persists, leading to over one third of global fish stocks being fished at biologically unsustainable levels.”

The document does not mention deep seabed mining and its potential negative impacts on the oceans. Deep seabed mining, the process of extracting minerals and metals from the ocean floor, is becoming a significant topic of concern as the demand for resources like copper, nickel, cobalt, and rare earth elements increases in the name of clean energy.

The integral ecological impacts of this practice pose serious threats to marine ecosystems and the broader health of our oceans and planet. Yet, a number of nations have already started initial exploration, applying for permits and declaring their desire to open their coastal waters to actual mining.

In the meantime, the UN International Seabed Authority, with 167 member states (The United States is not a member, nor has it ratified the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea), struggles to agree on regulations governing mining in international waters. Yet, it has issued 31 licenses for exploration. It has until July of 2025 to develop the regulations for exploitation.

In the meantime, the U.S., China, Norway, and the tiny island Oceanic country of Nauru are leading the charge to begin exploration and extraction. Others like Germany and Canada, as well as the European Parliament, have called for national and regional moratoria. Interestingly, while Canada as a country has called for a moratorium, it is a Canadian Company that has entered into an exploration agreement with Nauru, Tonga and Kiribati, to begin harvesting nodules off the seabed.

As far back as 1984, the United States began issuing its own licenses through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. At present two remain active both of which are held by Lockheed Martin and will remain active until 2027.

One of the immediate concerns about deep-seabed mining is the physical disruption of the seafloor. Mining

activities can destroy habitats, such as hydrothermal vent communities and deep-sea coral reefs, which have evolved over millions of years. These habitats are home to unique species, many of which are not found anywhere else on earth. The destruction of these environments will lead to the extinction of species that are yet to be studied or even discovered.

The excavation process during deep seabed mining will create sediment plumes that can spread over vast areas of the ocean. These plumes can smother marine life, clogging the gills of fish and other organisms, and reduce the ability of photosynthetic organisms to absorb sunlight. The extraction of minerals and metals can release toxic substances, including heavy metals like mercury and lead, into the ocean. These substances can have detrimental effects on marine life, causing neurological and reproductive issues. Additionally, the release of these toxins can contaminate the water column and sediments, posing long-term risks to the marine environment and human health.

Experts warn that deep seabed mining can alter the chemistry of seawater. The process can increase the concentration of certain chemicals, such as sulfides, which can create dead zones where oxygen levels are too low to support most marine life.

Having said this, the long-term and cumulative impacts of deep seabed mining are not well understood. The deep ocean is a complex and largely unexplored environment, making it difficult to predict the full extent of mining’s impacts. However, from our experience on land, the damage caused by mining activities can be long-lasting and irreversible, highlighting the need for comprehensive environmental assessments and cautious decision-making.

The ocean is a vital component of Earth’s life support system, playing a key role in regulating climate, supporting biodiversity, and providing resources and services that are essential for human well-being. Because of this, the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition recently announced that 27 nations are joining the call for a moratorium, precautionary pause, or ban on deep-sea mining, either in international waters, national waters, or both. The DSCC is calling on all governments to stand with science and support a moratorium. This includes a moratorium on the adoption of regulations for exploitation and the issuing of exploitation and new exploration contracts, unless and until it can be clearly demonstrated that deep seabed mining can be managed in such a way that ensures the effective protection of the marine environment and prevents loss of biodiversity. §

UN Climate Conference Ends with Impasse

The preparatory conference for COP 29, held in Bonn, Germany, stalled over questions of financing.

Representatives from most of the world's nations gathered in Bonn, Germany, in June to prepare for the UN Climate Change Conference COP 29 to be held in Azerbaijan in November.

Already, COP 29 is being called the Finance COP – its focus to be the question of just how the world will finance the actions needed to deter climate change. The Bonn meeting was testimony to that focus and saw a flurry of country negotiators, climate scientists, activists, academics and faith groups working around the clock to shape, argue and hammer out possible solutions.

It is becoming increasingly evident that the global transition away from fossil fuels – an agreement made at COP 28 – will require massive infusions of funds, and fast. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) estimates that the world has only about six years to avoid cataclysmic climate disasters. Just how much money is needed for that transition, where that money will come from and how it will be directed were the burning questions at Bonn.

The new tongue-twisting buzz word at the Bonn conference was the acronym NCQG—the New Collective Quantified Goal, or the global pot of money needed for a just energy transition. A wide division of positions was reflected in the negotiating. Some Global South negotiating blocks named figures between 1 and 1.3 trillion. Climate justice networks called for 5 trillion. Others refused to pin a specific sum. Developed nations stuck to a definition of only “more than \$100 billion” (the previous annual sum that was set in 2009).

“The cost of inaction—if we don't spend those trillions—just far exceeds the seed money we're putting in,” said Michai Robertson, the lead finance negotiator for small island, at a press conference in Bonn. For those wondering if this kind of sum is even possible, he also noted that war and conflict “get trillions already.”

The discussions on the NCQG led to a clear division between developing nations and donor nations. Developing countries—that have done little to contribute to the cause of climate change but suffer its gravest consequences—demanded that the new goal be made up of public grants from the nations whose historic greenhouse gas emissions have created this existential planetary crisis. Currently, much of “climate finance” comes in the form of loans, flipping the flow of global funds from the poor to the rich, forcing poor nations to choose between climate action or addressing basic needs

of their population. Donor countries pushed back. Their rallying call was the expansion of the contributor base to allow for more funds to enter the pot. They argued that the UN categories of “developed” and “developing” countries was far outdated, having been set in 1992. Since then, some “developing” nations (such as China, Saudi Arabia, South Korea) have grown much richer and more polluting and therefore should contribute to climate finance and not receive it.

As is often the case at these global gatherings, new ideas percolate from the sidelines. Several sideline events were focused on uncovering the sources of necessary finance. One of these was an event titled “Why Innovative Sources of Public Finance and Financial System Reform Matter: A Moral Case,” sponsored by the Maryknoll Sisters, Caritas International, CAFOD, CIDSE, and KOO, with an introduction by the lead negotiator of the Holy See delegation.

The panel of experts argued that the money needed for the urgent energy transition simply cannot be reached without unlocking new public sources of funds. These funds must come from the polluting countries and companies that have caused this crisis and profited from the burning of fossil fuels for two centuries. Specifically, these funds could be made available by:

- Fixing the broken global tax architecture,
- Resolving the new global sovereign debt crisis, and
- Reforming International Financial Institutions.

Global momentum is already building on these three fronts in anticipation of COP 29.

The NCQG debate ended with some agreements on access, transparency, and debt sustainability. Dialogue will continue in October in hopes of bringing a concrete proposal to COP 29. What became clear in Bonn is that a real breakthrough in climate finance—the enabler of climate action—must happen if the world is to get on track to meet its 1.5 degrees Celsius target. §



Freeing Fishers from Modern Slavery at Sea

Maryknoll Fr. Joy Tajonera served as the lead organizer and host of the three-day International Conference on Fisher's Welfare in the Chinese city of Taichung this past May.

More than 130 people from around the world participated in the three-day International Conference on Fisher's Welfare, traveling to Taiwan from United Kingdom, Ireland, Scotland, USA, Canada, Italy, South Africa, Mauritius, Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Philippines, Korea, Japan.

To formally open the conference, Maryknoll Fr. Joy Tajonera, Director of Stella Maris-Taiwan, emphasized that this event was organized to create an opportunity for those working to make a difference for the welfare of fishers to listen, share, and to dialogue together. Stella Maris is the Catholic Church's Apostolate of the Sea, which serves people who live, work, or have a connection to the sea, commonly known as fishers.

Cardinal Stephen Brislin, archbishop of Cape Town since 2010, in his address to the conference, characterized the shared mission of the participants as "to see workers at sea not as commodities but rather as individual persons made in the image and likeness of God who strive for agency over their own lives, the means to support their families and themselves with dignity."

A Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative report by The Associated Press in 2016 found that some seafood, caught and processed by trapped and enslaved workers mostly from Myanmar and Cambodia on boats off the coast of Thailand, was shipped to the United States for sale at supermarkets and pet food stores.

The AP report includes details of what workers endure at sea: 18 to 20-hour workdays, seven days a week; hazardous and life-threatening conditions; inadequate food and blatant disregard for their basic medical needs and injuries. Employers routinely beat and torture workers to force compliance. Some workers are held at sea for years on large fishing vessels because of a lack of regulation. On land, women and even children working in the seafood processing and canning facilities are subjected to long hours, unsafe conditions, physical abuse and neglect of injuries.

At the conference in May, labor union leaders from Indonesia spoke about their efforts to protect fishers' human rights and labor rights in that country. In addition, a seafood campaign organizer with the organization Global Labor Justice described his work to protect fishers' right to access Wifi and health care while at sea. An active fisher named Hadi, described his personal experience of a boss withholding access to Wifi, essentially cutting off the fishers' communication with the outside world, and blocking

the fishers' access to medical care when sick or injured, in an attempt to extort more work from them in return for access to these essential services.

The impact of environmental destruction and climate change on fishers was also addressed during a presentation by Dr. Jessica Sparks of Tufts University. Stress from a changing ocean can decrease fish stock productivity, which is the number of fish that are born and survive to adulthood in a population. Reduced productivity can cause ripple effects in the ecosystem and lower the number of fish that can be caught, forcing fishers to work longer hours and travel further out to sea.

Tim Hill, CEO of Stella Maris UK, describes efforts by members in the UK to support migrant fishers against exploitation and trafficking that happens practically out in the open in the UK. Country presentations from the Philippines, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, and Korea showcased regional initiatives. The conference presenters made clear the depth of the suffering of fishers, often exploited and trapped on fishing vessels long past regulation limits, as well as the breath of the problem, as the fishing industry crosses international borders, spanning the globe.

The final day featured presentations on various critical topics, including ministering to people of the sea in an interreligious and intercultural environment by Dr. Jason Zuidema of the International Christian Maritime Association. Fr. Peter-John Pearson, Director of the Catholic Parliamentary Liaison Office, emphasized the moral imperatives against human trafficking. Kevin Hyland of the Santa Marta Group introduced a new alliance to combat trafficking and forced labor in fisheries. Colm Noonan of the Irish National Police discussed financial investigations and sanctions related to human trafficking, and Martin Foley, CEO of Arise Foundation, spoke on building frontline capacity against modern slavery.

As the largest importer in the world, the United States is in a unique position to demand information on the production of goods we use every day. As Catholics, we believe in the dignity of every human life and vehemently oppose human trafficking and modern-day slavery as it violates basic human dignity. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops leads a coalition that works with the U.S. State Department to end labor trafficking at sea. §

Faith in action: Learn more about the USCCB Coalition of Organizations and Ministries Promoting the Abolition of Slavery at Sea. <https://mogc.info/COMPASS>

President Biden Limits Asylum

An executive order effectively closes the U.S. southern border to people seeking asylum.

On June 4, President Joe Biden issued a proclamation that restricts asylum seekers from entering the United States at the southern border once the average number of encounters reaches 2,500 between ports of entry. In the month of May, the average number of encounters was 5,700 a day.

The proclamation, which went into effect the beginning of the very next day, June 5, closes the border to all would-be asylum seekers until two weeks after the seven-day average of border encounters drops below 1,500 encounters a day. The order is the most restrictive border policy instituted by Pres. Biden, effectively limiting asylum to only those who have already obtained visas.

On the campaign trail in 2020, Pres. Biden stressed his objections to similar efforts by former Pres. Donald Trump to cut off immigration and vowed to undo them while in office. In a town hall hosted by MSNBC in May of 2020, he explained, “I promise you, it’s a gigantic objective of mine to see... that we have an immigration system that’s consistent with our values and who we say we are, and it does not now. Donald Trump is absolutely violating every basic value we have.”

Critics of Pres. Biden’s new proclamation note its similarity to Title 42, a Trump-era restriction on asylum purportedly issued to contain the Covid-19 pandemic.

In his live address announcing his proclamation, Pres. Biden stressed his differences from the former President Trump, promising to never separate children from their parents or refer to immigrants as “poisoning the blood of our country.”

Still, condemnation from faith groups and immigrant-focused social organizations was swift.

Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns joined forty-six other advocacy organizations in rebuking the executive action:

“Maryknoll missionaries are on the U.S. southern border welcoming and assisting asylum-seekers in their pursuit for safety and a life with dignity,” said Susan Gunn, director of the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns.

“We firmly believe that President Biden’s order does not live up to the United States’ values and legal obligations to people seeking asylum. The return of those seeking asylum to a place where their life or freedom is threatened is not only inhumane, but also violates our country’s legal obligations under the Refugee Convention. We strongly urge the President to reverse the Presidential Proclamation and adopt solutions that uphold human life and dignity and benefit the common good, in particular by expanding access to legal immigration pathways and parole.”

In a separate press release, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops shared a statement by Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso, chairman of the Committee on Migration:

“We are deeply disturbed by this disregard for fundamental humanitarian protections and U.S. asylum law.

“There is a crisis of conscience at the U.S.-Mexico border. When vulnerable families seeking safety and the means for a dignified life are labeled ‘invaders’ or ‘illegals,’ terms that mask their humanity, we have strayed from the path of righteousness, succumbed to our fear of the ‘other,’ and forsaken the values upon which our nation was founded.

...

“Mindful of challenges faced by American communities and consistent with our longstanding and repeated calls for bipartisan reform of our broken immigration system, we strongly urge the President to reverse course and recommit his administration to policies that respect the human life and dignity of migrants, both within and beyond our borders.”

Two weeks after limiting access to asylum, President Biden announced a proclamation fast-tracking visa applications for Dreamers and immigrant college students and allowing eligible spouses to apply for lawful permanent residence without leaving the country. §

Faith in action: Tell President Biden to reverse course on his immigration stance <https://mogc.info/SaveAsylum>



UN: Maryknoll at the Indigenous Peoples Forum

Maryknoll missionaries joined Indigenous people at the UN calling for greater attention to their self-determination, needs of Indigenous youth, and financing opportunities.

Indigenous peoples from around the world raised the urgent need to protect their human rights at the 23rd Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) in New York in April. In the words of the Maryknoll Sisters' observer to the UN, Sister Margaret Lacson, "among all the conferences I've attended at the UN so far, this was the most colorful and most attended. Never have I seen Conference Room 4 full and overflowing and colorful with the varied expressions of Indigenous dresses."

This session, themed "Enhancing Indigenous Peoples' right to self-determination in the context of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples," showcased a diverse array of Indigenous cultures and drew significant international attention and participation.

The session commenced with the election of Hindou Ibrahim, a 40-year-old Indigenous rights activist from Chad, as the Chair of the Permanent Forum. Ibrahim's election was celebrated in a ceremony where Indigenous women placed scarves on Ibrahim, symbolizing acceptance and unity.

The conference concluded with a full, 25-page report. Sister Margaret Lacson, MM, shared some key takeaways:

- **Self-Determination and Autonomy:** Central to the discussions was the right to self-determination and autonomy for Indigenous Peoples. It recommended that member states review and revise their constitutions and legal frameworks to fully recognize the rights of Indigenous Peoples, including the right to self-determination.
- **Youth Engagement:** The forum highlighted the urgent need to address the high rates of suicide among Indigenous youth and urged the UN to facilitate their engagement in decision-making processes across all UN platforms. This call to action aims to empower Indigenous youth and ensure their voices are heard in shaping policies that affect their futures.
- **Financial Support:** Sustainable financing for initiatives supporting Indigenous women and youth was a critical topic. The forum recommended that international financial institutions, like the World Bank, create strategic opportunities to amplify Indigenous Peoples' priorities and concerns.
- **Indigenous Women:** Recognizing the pivotal role of Indigenous women in transmitting cultural values and traditions, the forum called for their full and effective participation in decision-making at both national and

international levels. The widespread discrimination and violence faced by Indigenous women were also addressed, with calls for stronger protections and support systems.

The report also considered some of the most pressing obstacles faced by Indigenous peoples:

- **Protection of Indigenous Lands:** The forum expressed grave concerns about the dispossession and destruction of Indigenous lands due to extractive industries and green energy projects. It called for high-integrity projects that ensure accountability for environmental impacts and provide measurable benefits to Indigenous communities. The plight of the Maasai people in Tanzania was specifically highlighted, with a call for the cessation of their forced evictions from the Ngorongoro Conservation Area.
- **Human Rights Violations:** The alarming increase in the criminalization, attacks, and arbitrary detention of Indigenous leaders and human rights defenders was another critical issue. The forum demanded immediate action to protect these individuals and ensure their safety as they continue to advocate for their communities.
- **Peacebuilding:** The forum emphasized the role of Indigenous peoples as peacebuilders and urged member states to focus on achieving peace by utilizing Indigenous knowledge and practices.

Another Maryknoll contribution to the conference was the coordination of a visit to the forum by a delegation from the Amazon, convened by the Pan-Amazonian Ecclesial Network (REPAM). Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Sisters, and Lay Missioners all have a presence in countries connected to the Amazon rainforest, giving the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns a strong solidarity with REPAM. At the UN Forum, the delegation shared harrowing stories of land usurpation by mining and logging industries and industrial agriculture. The Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Francisco Cali Tzay, committed to visiting these communities in Brazil to document their experiences and advocate for their rights at an international level.

The 23rd session of the UNPFII highlighted the urgent need for international cooperation and support to protect Indigenous rights, cultures, and lands. The forum's recommendations, if implemented, could significantly enhance the self-determination and autonomy of Indigenous communities worldwide. §

New York Legislature Weighs Sovereign Debt Laws

Legislation in the state of New York has the potential to ease the international sovereign debt crisis for countries around the world, including Kenya.

The world is facing a historic global debt crisis driven by the Covid-19 pandemic, geopolitical conflicts and climate change. More than a third of the world's countries are in or at risk of debt distress, with the UN estimating that some 3.3 billion people currently live in countries that spend more on debt servicing than on education or health.

No where is this more evident than in Kenya, where rioters protesting the president's efforts to raise taxes on June 18, broke into Parliament in Nairobi, setting fire to a section of it before facing live fire from security forces which resulted in the deaths of at least 23 people and hundreds injured. The Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) reported that at least 39 deaths have occurred in June relating to the protests country-wide.

Kenya spends 61 cents of every tax dollar on repaying its foreign debt, according to the BBC, straining the African country known for having the youngest population on Earth.

As a global financial center, New York State has a unique responsibility in this sovereign debt crisis. Its laws govern over half of international sovereign debt bonds and enable litigation by vulture creditors who refuse to participate in international debt restructuring in order to maximize profits at the expense of the well-being of billions of people.

In the past two decades almost half of sovereign defaults have been accompanied by litigation. This pushes indebted sovereigns further into financial distress, and into the arms of multilateral development banks. The banks offer loans – financed by the nation's taxpayers – that are intended to be directed towards infrastructure, healthcare, education, and climate adaptation, but instead are diverted to making debt payments while litigation drags on.

In the recent session of New York's State Legislature, three different bills were introduced in an effort to correct this situation and deter the abuse of vulture funds.

While the two stronger pieces of legislation did not pass, a third less ambitious bill, the Senate bill (S5623) aimed at curbing predatory hedge fund behavior did pass the New York Senate. Although it did not advance to the State Assembly, the Senate victory gave momentum to the movement. It is likely that supporters will regroup and

present a stronger piece of legislation to the 2025 session.

The Executive Director of Jubilee USA Eric LeCompte said, "This legislation is a step in the right direction. The legislature will need to take more comprehensive action to deal with all of the negative ways that New York's debt laws harm developing countries."

Other activists were more skeptical. According to Ben Grossman-Cohen, Director of Campaigns for Oxfam America, wrote on the subject, "The new text of this sovereign debt bill makes modest progress that will benefit people facing dire poverty around the world, but ultimately offers only a band-aid where critical care is needed. Its passage may help stop vulture funds from the most egregious and indefensible abuse of New York's laws, but leaves open the option for holdout creditors to use New York's courts as leverage to put the screws to low- and middle-income countries by stripping out any obligation for creditors to participate in good faith to restructure unsustainable debts. ... Legislators should pass this bill and continue their work to enact reforms such as the Sovereign Debt Stability Act to ensure that all private creditors governed under New York laws operate responsibly."

A collation of supporters of the bill, including the New York State Council of Churches, Jubilee USA Network, Oxfam and Partners in Health, issued a statement saying the bill "represents progress in limiting some of the worst, predatory behavior of the 'vulture hedge' funds" but "it does not deal with the greater concern for New Yorkers and developing countries of dealing with bad faith actors and hold-out behavior." The coalition expressed its disappointment over the removal of a good faith provision. "The removed language would have ensured that all private creditors would be required to cooperate in qualified restructurings in good faith." "While we celebrate progress and this victory with the Senate passage, the coalition said, "New York legislators must continue their work to enact further comprehensive reforms such as those included in the Sovereign Debt Stability Act (S5542A/A2970) to ensure that all private creditors governed under New York laws operate responsibly." §

Faith in action: Read more about the Vatican's focus of debt relief in the 2025 Jubilee year. <https://mogc.info/jubilee2025>

House Passes Military Spending Bill with Little Debate

The House passed the National Defense Authorization Act in short order, largely along party lines, despite calls from faith groups and others to divert spending to human needs.

The US House of Representatives voted (217-199) on final passage of the FY25 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), authorizing \$883 billion for the Department of Defense, bringing the total discretionary defense topline up to \$895 billion annually. The Rules Committee limited debate to only a handful of the hundreds of proposed amendments to the bill before calling for a floor vote. The amendments included several “culture war” additions, such as returning a Confederate statue to Arlington and blocking climate action, resulting in the usually-bipartisan bill being passed largely along party lines.

MOGC worked with a coalition of faith-based and secular groups called People Over Pentagon to champion various amendments calling for greater accountability in military spending and diverting funds to address human needs. Most of these amendments were never considered. “Preposterously,” said Robert Weissman, president of coalition member organization Public Citizen, “the Republican-controlled Rules Committee refused to permit a vote on amendments that would have enabled an actual debate about spending levels for a bill that authorizes half the country’s discretionary budget.” Public Citizen is a non-profit consumer advocacy organization focused on promoting what Catholics define as the common good.

“A functioning Congress would demand accountability, slash the Pentagon budget, and devote hundreds of billions in savings to priority human needs,” Weissman said, naming social concerns like addressing child poverty, transition to clean energy, and expanding Medicare. “Instead, a Congress indentured to the military-industrial complex rubberstamps a nearly \$900 billion Pentagon budget, fast on its way to hitting \$1 trillion.”

Representatives Mark Pocan (D-WI) and Barbara Lee (D-CA) offered an amendment to the bill that would have cut \$100 billion from the already bloated Pentagon to free up funding for underfunded human needs priorities. However, the Rules Committee denied a floor vote on this amendment, stripping House Members of one of their primary annual avenues for standing against wasteful military spending and communicating their support for spending that could directly improve their constituents’ lives instead.

The Pentagon failed its sixth audit in 2023. It has never successfully accounted for the money it is given—a failure in accountability by the largest agency in the U.S. government.

In the last five years alone, the already bloated Pentagon topline has skyrocketed by more than \$100 billion while other priority needs have gone un- or under-addressed.

According to the National Priorities Project, \$100 billion could power every household in the United States with solar energy, hire one million elementary school teachers amid a worsening teacher shortage, or provide free tuition for 2 out of 3 public college students in the U.S. There is broad public support for investing in programs to help everyday people rather than the military-industrial complex.

Faith groups have long called for such a shift in national priorities, and in how we envision security – from an armed, national security model to an integral human security that seeks to strengthen diplomatic relations, disarm, meet the challenges posed by climate change, and provide health-care, food, dignified work, housing, education, equity, and human rights both domestically and around the world.

In May, participants in Ecumenical Advocacy Days’ Spring Summit in Washington held a procession and vigil in front of the Pentagon, organized by MOGC and featuring a speech by Joyce Ajlouny, general secretary of the American Friends Service Committee. Ajlouny, a Palestinian American, spoke about the particular horrors of the ongoing war in Gaza as an example of the danger of militarization and addressing violence with more violence.

“Investing in peace actually works,” Ajlouny said. “This is money that could instead go to health care, housing, climate change, job programs and poverty elimination... Instead of investing in a community-centered future, the U.S. government continues to militarize the police and the world, no matter who is in the White House.”

Speaking to the astronomical Pentagon budget, Ajlouny pointed to the wider military-industrial complex: “Much of that money goes to weapons manufacturers” and to private development of technology “used for war and oppression.”

The NDAA will now have to pass the Senate, where the Democratic majority is unlikely to accept the most controversial amendments in the House bill. There is little sign that debate on accountability and topline spending amount will be more rigorous than it was in the lower chamber. §

Faith in Action: Read about People Over Pentagon and the ongoing movement to shift spending priorities to nonviolent, integral human security. <https://peopleoverpentagon.org/>

Sudan: Act Now to Stop Another Genocide

A highly regarded human rights organization warns that world power intervention may be needed for truce.

The International Crisis Group reported on June 24 that a “showdown” is unfolding in Sudan’s North Darfur region, where the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has attacked the town of El Fasher. More than a year into Sudan’s civil war between the army and RSF, an estimated eight million people are displaced and 750 thousand are on the brink of famine.

The independent research organization recommends that the UN and United States work urgently to mediate a de-escalation and local truce. “All should support a UN-led initiative to negotiate evacuation corridors for the suffering population in El Fasher and the surrounding camps for the displaced – and insist on immediate cross-border access for UN aid agencies into all areas of Sudan to stave off famine.”

The capital Khartoum and surrounding areas were the first to sink into violence in April 2023 which has expanded into the Darfur region. The El Fasher area of Darfur is home to more than one million civilians, many of whom are already displaced by the conflict and struggling to survive. An escalating battle for the city could lead to mass slaughter and other atrocities. “All sides appear to be either

targeting civilians they deem supportive of the enemy or showing scant regard for these people,” said the ICG. Comboni Missionary Sister Elana Balatti is in South Sudan providing humanitarian aid to refugees fleeing Sudan. She says “They share depressing testimonies about their near-death experiences in Sudan,” and adds, “Others share that they had to leave when living conditions became unbearable and they couldn’t get the basics for survival. Food has become scarce in the market. There is no schooling for their children.”

The ICG also calls for influential Arab and African leaders to press both sides in the conflict to stand down. “All should insist on safe corridors for fleeing civilians, immediate aid access to Darfur’s starving people and a return to national talks,” said the ICG. “With millions of Darfuris edging toward starvation, world powers must act soon,” the ICG said. §

Faith in action: Tell Pres. Biden to work for a truce in Sudan and expansion of corridors for humanitarian aid and safe passage for civilians to evacuate Darfur. <https://mogc.info/Sudan-Action>

Farm Bill Stalled in House

Political maneuvering over the five-year-long bill may result in a deferred renewal.

The rewriting of the Farm Bill, a significant agriculture legislation, may result in a failure to renew the five-year long bill by the time the current iteration expires.

The Farm Bill establishes the program for hundreds of billions of dollars in agricultural subsidies, can incentivize climate change conscious farming practices, and authorizes key international U.S. food aid programs, including those that address both emergency and nonemergency hunger and nutrition needs. It needs to be renewed every five years, with the current form of the Farm Bill expiring at the end of the 2024.

On May 23, the Republican-controlled House Committee on Agriculture released the first working draft of the Farm Bill renewal. The new price tag on the new bill is \$1.5 trillion dollars. While the bill has support from U.S. business leaders, faith leaders are concerned that it lacks climate priorities such as funding for methane emissions reduction, carbon soil storage practices, and soil conservation research. In some cases, the bill diverts climate funding to other business interests. It also fails to take into account the power of the Farm Bill to address global hunger.

Opposition to the new version of the Farm Bill is

solidifying along party lines in a House with razor thin voting margins. Now, 60 percent of Congressional staffers believe that a five-year farm bill reauthorization is unlikely to pass during this Congress.

Meanwhile, the urgency of a forward-thinking agricultural program remains. As Interfaith Power and Light, an interfaith climate advocacy organization explains, “We need a Farm Bill that prioritizes sustainable farming practices, nutrition programs and dignified treatment for those who work the land.

“Despite overwhelming demand from farmers, this Farm Bill removes the climate “guardrails” that ensure farmers seeking USDA assistance to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or build soil carbon receive USDA support. Because of insufficient funding, most farmers continue to be turned away when they seek assistance for climate-smart practices. “We urgently need a Farm Bill that not only supports climate-smart solutions, but also champions equity and justice for those who work the land and those who are hungry.” §

Faith in action: Tell your members of Congress to pass a Farm Bill for people and planet. <https://mogc.info/farmbill>

Resources

1. **Webinar: Nuclear Weapons: What you don't know can hurt you**, hosted by the Franciscan Action Network on **July 17 at 4pm ET**. <https://mogc.info/NW-wydkchy>
2. **Webinar: "Stop Illegal Arms to Haiti"** hosted by Justice Coalition of Religious, Sisters of Mercy, Quixote Center, Maryknoll, and others, on **July 30 at 4pm ET**, about current legislation in U.S. Congress and plans for advocacy day in Washington, DC in September 2024. Register: <https://mogc.info/SIAH>
3. **Conference: "Challenging Religious Extremism" in Bethlehem and Jerusalem** hosted by Sabeel, an ecumenical grassroots liberation theology movement among Palestinian Christians. Register for the conference to be held **Nov. 17-21** and pre-conference tours **Nov. 11-16**. <https://mogc.info/CRE-Sabeel>
4. **Article: "Q&A with Sr. Miriam Francis Perlewitz, who helped formed priests in Bangladesh"** in the Global Sisters Report, June 18, 2024. <https://mogc.info/q-a-Sr-Perlewitz>
5. **Voter guides: 2024 Equally Sacred Checklist** to learn how Catholic teaching is at the heart of the freedoms at stake this election year. Also check out **"Vote Our Future,"** a 2024 U.S. election education campaign by NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Teaching. <https://mogc.info/voterchecklist> and <https://mogc.info/VOF2024>
6. **Statement: "Pursue What Leads to Peace": A Christian Response to Rising Threats of Political and Ideological Violence,** by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) released on June 18, 2024. <https://mogc.info/USCCB-PWLP>
7. **Report: "Hunger Hotspots report: Famine looms in Gaza while risk of starvation persists in Sudan, Haiti, Mali, and South Sudan"** by the United Nations, on June 5. In Gaza, it says "Over one million people – half the population of Gaza – are expected to face death and starvation (IPC Phase 5) by mid-July." <https://mogc.info/WFP-IPC5>
8. **Article: "This Will Finish Us"** from the May issue of The Atlantic Monthly about Maasai in Tanzania defending their right to their land and their human rights: <https://mogc.info/Atlantic-TWU>
9. **Webinar Recording: "Raising Indigenous Youth Voices in Pursuit of Self Determination"** by NGO Mining Working Group at the UN. <https://mogc.info/UN-Mining-RIYVPSD>
10. **Statement: on Pres. Biden's new program for undocumented spouses of U.S. citizens** by the USCCB. <https://mogc.info/USCCB-Immig>
11. **Film: "Teilhard: Visionary Scientist"** on the PBS website: <https://mogc.info/Teilhard>
12. **Study review: Environmental attitudes of U.S. Catholics** by the Catholic Climate Covenant on the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University. <https://mogc.info/CCC-CARA>
13. **Report: "Capitalizing on Chaos: Thomson Safaris Tightens its Stranglehold Over Indigenous Lands in Tanzania"** by the Oakland Institute uncovers how the Boston-based luxury tourism company capitalizes on the Tanzanian government's violent repression of Indigenous communities. <https://mogc.info/OaklandCC>
14. **Report: "We have values that are needed: Faith Actors and their role in Civic Space"** by Dr Elisabeth Le Roux, cobranded by DanChurchAid, ACT Alliance, and the World Council of Churches. <https://mogc.info/DCA-ACT-WCC-FaithValues>
15. **Maryknoll Lay Missioners Webinars:** Join us on **July 16, 2PM ET** to learn about Maryknoll Lay Missioners and discern if mission is right for you. <https://mogc.info/MKLM-Webinars>
16. **Maryknoll Sisters Mission Institute:** offering educational ministry programs including classes "Become all Flame: The Transformative Power of Contemplation" with Sr. Nancy Sylvester, IHM, MA, on **July 14-19**, and "Dorothy Day: Revolution of the Heart," with Robert Ellsberg, MA, on **July 28–August 2**. Read more and register: <https://www.maryknollsisters.org/mission-institute/>
17. **Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers Webinars:** See upcoming and past webinars. In the most recent recorded webinar, Fr. Stephen Judd, MM, shares of his years at the Language Institute in Cochabamba, Bolivia and recalls his experience of sharing life with the indigenous peoples of Peru, Bolivia, and other places in Latin America: <https://www.maryknoll.us/Resources/webinars>