

JUSTPAX



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From the President

Dear friends,

The Holy Father "in this time of great upheavals" shows us many concrete ways on how to live the experience of mercy, to return to experience God as the God of nearness and as the "God with us". Concretely, human beings are capable of being "merciful as the Father" – thanks to the example given by Jesus – and practice the same divine mercy towards their neighbours.

Recently (*Regina Caeli*, April 3, 2016), Pope Francis turned his thoughts "to all people who are thirsty for reconciliation and peace" and launched an appeal for peace in Ukraine and a special collection for this country, in all Catholic churches of Europe, on 24th April. On his way to Lesbos, Greece, on April 16th, Francis has strongly affirmed, along with H.H. Bartholomew and H. B. Ieronymos, that we are called to "make the protection of human lives a priority and, at every level, to support inclusive policies which extend to all religious communities".

In the spirit of the Jubilee of Mercy, the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace welcomes the Holy Father's invitation to "reawaken our conscience, too often grown dull in the face of poverty, and to enter more deeply into the heart of the Gospel where the poor have a special experience of God's mercy" with a series of initiatives to live the experience of mercy. Here are three examples:

Health and Mercy. Millions of people worldwide have difficulty to gain access to conditions of minimal subsistence and indispensable medicines in order to treat serious diseases. It is unacceptable. Two high-level meetings with Representatives of the United Nations, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, pharmaceutical, medical and diagnostic companies, organizations and associations, were held on 14 April and on 16-17 May, to discuss practical possibilities of providing increasing access to life-saving diagnosis and treatment of diseases, and in particular "Fast- Tracking Paediatric HIV Diagnosis and Treatment".

Work and Mercy. From 2-5 May 2016, we co-organized with the International Labour Office (ILO), Caritas Internationalis and German Commission 'Justice and Peace', an International Seminar on "Sustainable Development and Future of Work". The main objective of the seminar was to deepen the knowledge of the Social Doctrine of the Church on the concept of Decent Work, with a view to contributing to poverty eradication and the achievement of other objectives of sustainable development. An invitation to explore possible links between the theology of Mercy and the changing workplace in the global context. In attendance were: Catholic Organisations and Movements of Trade Unions, Cooperatives and Business Leaders.

Poverty and Mercy. On 27-29 June, the Second Conference on Impact Investing is to be held on the theme: "Making the Year of Mercy a Year of Impact for the Poor". This conference, organised with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) has two broad objectives: explore when and how the Catholic Church and other faith-based institutions can employ a market-based model that utilizes private capital and new partnerships to attain and sustain their social mission; and enable these institutions, at an early stage of deliberation and visioning, to interact with and learn from successful social entrepreneurs and impact investors.

Our commitment to Justice and Peace, and the credibility of the Church's message, walks also through the path of mercy: let us, then, work concretely to improve the world around us and to reap the fruits of a culture of mercy.

Card. Peter K.A. Turkson
President

NEWS

✓ [GLOBAL SEMINAR ON "SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE FUTURE OF WORK" Rome, 2-5 May 2016](#)

✓ ["CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME IN THE CONTEXT OF LARGE SCALE INVESTMENTS – MINING AND AGRICULTURE" Lusaka, 25-26 APRIL 2016](#)

✓ [STATEMENT OF THE HOLY SEE AT THE HIGH-LEVEL THEMATIC DEBATE ON ACHIEVING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS UN—New York, 21 APRIL 2016](#)

✓ [A MESSAGE IN MEMORY OF BERTA CACERES 15 MARCH 2016](#)

✓ [HEALTH AND SEXUALITY IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND CATHOLIC CHURCH TEACHING Rome, 8 MARCH 2016](#)

✓ [CARE OF CREATION AS A WORK OF MERCY Philadelphia, 25 FEBRUARY 2016](#)

MESSAGE BY POPE FRANCIS TO THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE NONVIOLENCE AND JUST PEACE, CONTRIBUTING TO THE CATHOLIC UNDERSTANDING OF AND COMMITMENT TO NONVIOLENCE (ROME, 11-13 APRIL 2016)



Pope Francis has sent a Message to the participants in a conference sponsored by *Pax Christi International* and the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, exploring the theme: *Nonviolence and Just Peace: Contributing to the Catholic Understanding of and Commitment to Nonviolence*. Addressed to Cardinal Turkson, the Message renews the Holy Father's call for an end to the use of the death penalty, and calls on all people of good will to recognize what Christians profess as a consequence of faith: only by considering our peers as brothers and sisters, humanity can overcome wars and conflicts.

[THE MESSAGE BY POPE FRANCIS](#)

[PHOTOS](#)

«CHILDREN, WAKE UP!» 20 YEARS OF FIGHT: 20° DAY FOR CHILDREN VICTIMS (1ST MAY 2016)

XX DAY FOR CHILDREN VICTIMS
of violence, exploitation and indifference - against pedophilia

20 years of fight
to serve and protect children
INDIFFERENCE makes you guilty



WAKE UP
CHILDREN, WAKE UP!

May 1st, 2016

Regina Coeli - Saint Peter's Square - Rome

800 455 270



"Children, wake up!" 20 years of fight. This is the theme for the 20th Day for children victims of violence, exploitation and indifference against pedophilia, organised by the Italian Association METER Onlus, founded by Fr. Fortunato Di Noto. The Celebration ended on the 1st of May with the participation in the Prayer of *Regina Caeli* in St. Peter's Square with Pope Francis. The Days for Children were

initiated in 1995 and this appointment has been a forerunner in Italy and around the world in the efforts to protect children against child abuses. [READ MORE](#)

THE HOLY FATHER said to participants: "I greet the 'Meter' Association, who for many years has been fighting against all forms of abuse of minors. This is a tragedy! We must not tolerate the abuse of minors! We must protect minors and we must severely punish their abusers. Thank you for your commitment and continue with courage in this work!"

DEFENDING THE RIGHTS TO THE LAND, TERRITORY, AND FORESTS (MEXICO, 13 FEBRUARY 2016)

Encuentro Latinoamericano:
Con la Encíclica "Laudato Si'" defendemos los derechos a la tierra, el territorio y los bosques.



13 y 14 febrero, Chiapas, México



The visit of Pope Francis in Mexico (February 13-14, 2016) was greeted by a meeting of Latin

American Indigenous local communities in San Cristobal de las Casas to affirm the message of *Laudato si'* to protect the right to land, forests and territory.

[READ Card. Turkson's message to participants](#)

EXPO 2017: SIGNING HOLY SEE PARTICIPATION (29 April 2016)

During a work visit to the Vatican, the EXPO 2017-Astana Commissioner, Mr. Rapol Zhoshybayev, met Cardinal Peter Turkson, who has been appointed as the Commissioner of the Holy See at the Exhibition in Astana.

On 12th May, His Eminence traveled to Kazakstan to present the vision of the Holy See on Future Energy.



THE GLORY OF GOD IS PEACE AND JUSTICE ON EARTH (OOM, 6 FEBRUARY 2016)

Cardinal Peter Turkson attended a conference on the role of revealed religions in Justice and Peace at the *Centre for the Study of Jurisprudence* of Aemer Athar in the holy city of Qom, Iran.



"Lord, make us builders of the city of man which deserves the name *salaam/shalom/pax*" [...] human dignity, justice, unity and brotherhood of the human family, common good and the universal destination of the goods of the earth. These five principles, which promote righteous and peaceful conduct in the world, are distilled from what the revealed Word of God in the Bible teaches about God, the creator of the world". [READ MORE](#)

LAUDATO SI' AND OTHER TEACHINGS OF POPE FRANCIS: AN ETHICAL BASIS FOR EFFORTS TO "FAST TRACK" A MORE EFFECTIVE GLOBAL AIDS RESPONSE (14 APRIL, 2016)

H. Em. Card. Peter Turkson hosted and opened the "High Level Dialogue among Leaders of Pharmaceutical and Diagnostic Equip-



ment Industries, with special attention to the need for early diagnosis and treatment of pandemics and other serious illnesses" that took place on April 14th and continued on 16th May, 2016.

The invitation is to listen to the situation of the human family with the intelligence of the heart.

[READ MORE](#)

[The Holy Father, Pope Francis, sent a Message of Greeting to the Participants. READ IT](#)

NEXT IN AGENDA

9-10 June: J&P Commissions Meeting
"Towards the 50th Anniversary"

22-29 June : 2nd Conference on Impact Investing
"Making the Year of Mercy a Year of Impact for the Poor"

1st September: Celebration of the
2nd World Day of prayer for the Care of Creation

TOOLS for study and research

- www.index.gain.org : University of Notre Dame, Indiana, USA, developed the ND-GAIN Global Adaptation Index, a world's leading Index showing which countries are best prepared to deal with global changes brought about by overcrowding, resource-constraints and climate disruption. It is a useful tool for highlighting various threats to integral human development.
- www.interfaithsustain.com : Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development (ICSD) unveiled a searchable on-line faith and ecology syllabi collection, which makes scores of syllabi on faith and ecology easily accessible for instructors and administrators.

JUSTICE & PEACE in the world

Giustizia e Pace
nel Mondo



The **Zambia Episcopal Conference (ZEC)**, through Caritas Zambia and the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR) hosted a National Conference on the theme '**Care for Our Common Home in the Context of Large Scale Investments – Mining and Agriculture**' (Lusaka, 25-26 April 2016).

Participants in the Conference—Catholic Bishops, AMECEA Justice and Peace Department, the Episcopal Conference of Malawi, Mining companies representatives, Government Officials, Zambian Civil Society Organisation (CSOs), Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP), Catholic Commission for Development (CCD) in Zambia, the clergy, the Religious, Business Executives, academicians, and the lay faithful from Catholic dioceses in Zambia— encouraged by the presence of H. Em. Card. Peter Turkson, released a Communiqué at the end of the meeting.

[READ THE COMMUNIQUÉ](#)

[> A Directory of the Episcopal Commissions for Justice and Peace and Social Pastoral Care in the world is on our website](#)

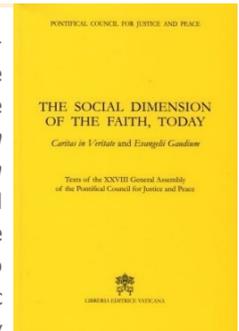
NEW BOOK

2014 was a year of many anniversaries for the Social Doctrine of the Church. Ten years had passed since the publication of the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* and five since that of the social encyclical *Caritas in Veritate* by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. It was also the first anniversary of the apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* by Pope Francis, the fourth chapter of which has enriched papal social teaching.

The *Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace* was influenced by this concurrence of anniversaries in the choice of theme for the 2014 General Assembly (1-3 October). In this short publication, readers will find texts delivered on that occasion.

The Pontifical Council sincerely hopes that they may contribute to an update in developments in the social teaching of the past few years.

The volume is available in *Libreria Editrice Vaticana* corner shops, in Catholic bookstores, and can easily be found in online stores. You can also purchase it by e-mail writing to: pcjustpax@justpeace.va



NEWLY APPOINTED MEMBER



His Holiness Pope Francis appointed **His Excellency Monsignor Silvano Maria Tomasi**, Titular Archbishop of Asolo, Apostolic Nuncio, as a **new Member of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace**, and Cardinal Turkson has delegated to Archbishop Tomasi the functions of **Secretary**.

Congratulations and warm welcome!

A Reflection

Thus, Francis explained, "the Lord's mercy is in doing". Such that to "those who knock at the door and say: 'But Lord, remember that I said...'", he responds: "I do not know you!". Instead, to those "who do", he says: your sins are "like scarlet, you shall be white as snow". This is how "the Lord's mercy goes to meet those who have the courage to face him, but to face him on the truth, on the things that I do and those I do not do, in order to correct me". And "this is the great love of the Lord, in this dialectic between talk and action".

Therefore, the Pope continued, "being Christian means acting: doing the will of God". And on "the last day — because we will all have one — what will the Lord ask us? Will he ask us: 'What have you said about me?'. No! He will ask about the things we have done". He will ask us about "practical things: 'I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was sick and you visited me; I was in prison and you came to me'". Because "this is Christian life". On the other hand, "talk by itself leads us to vanity, to the pretence of being Christian. No, one is not Christian like this!".

Pope Francis, Daily meditations, 23 Feb. 2016, [ENG] [ESP] [FRA] [ITA] [POR]