

NEWS

✓ [Card. Peter K. A. Turkson at the High-Level Segment \(COP 21\) \[ENG\]](#)

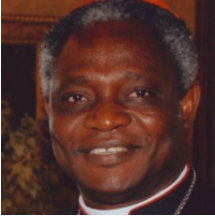
✓ [Dr. Flaminia Giovanelli on *Supporting the Victims of Crime through Restorative Dialogue* \[ENG\]](#)

✓ [International Seminar "Beyond sustainable development: integral ecology" \(Milan, 10 September, 2015\) \[ITA\]](#)

✓ [Laudato si' and the Vocation of Agriculture: FAO \(Rome 26 October 2015\) \[ENG\]](#)

✓ [Laudato si' y ecología integral: Cardenal Peter K. A. Turkson al Foro Internacional "El cuidado de la casa común" - Querétaro, México \[ESP\]](#)

JUSTPAX



From the President

Dear friends,

Yes, the year 2015 has seen many difficult, sad and even disgusting moments. But in his *Message for the World Day of Peace* (1 January, 2016), Pope Francis recalls some events that should inspire us not to lose hope in our human ability, with the help of God's grace, to overcome evil. They encourage us to combat resignation and indifference. These events include:

* Fifty years ago, Vatican II published *Gaudium et Spes*. The Pastoral Constitution most eloquently expresses the Church's sense of solidarity with the world: the joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the people of our time, especially of those who are poor or afflicted, are the joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the followers of Christ as well (§1). The Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace celebrated the anniversary here in Rome (see article in bulletin).

* The United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in September, aims at ensuring a more dignified level of living for everyone, especially the poor, by the year 2030. As you'll read in the bulletin, we must eradicate the scourge of hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition and sustainable agriculture (Goal 2).

* The Encyclical *Laudato si'* has certainly given rise to much reflection on climate change and care for the wellbeing of the earth, our common home, and of all its people, particularly the poor. It surely influenced the COP21 meeting of world leaders in Paris in December. The Holy See Delegation participated as an Observer State; both Cardinal Parolin (Secretary of State) and I had occasion to address two major sessions. The day after COP21 concluded, the Holy Father said at the Angelus that the Paris Agreement "will require everyone's generous dedication and coordinated effort. May special attention be devoted to the more vulnerable populations. I exhort the entire international community to pursue the road ahead with solicitude, expressing an ever more effective solidarity" (*Angelus*, 13 December, 2015).

* The *Jubilee of Mercy*, officially opened on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, 8 December 2015, invites everyone to develop "a humble and compassionate heart." The Holy Father hopes that all of us "will learn to forgive and to give, to open up to those living on the outermost fringes of society – fringes which modern society itself creates." Let us not succumb to "humiliating indifference or a monotonous routine which prevents us from discovering what is new! Let us ward off destructive cynicism!" (*Misericordiae Vultus*, 14-15). The *Jubilee of Mercy* will conclude on the Feast of Christ the King, 20 November 2016.

For the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, this is also a year of preparation for our own 50th anniversary (6 January, 1966-2016). In thanksgiving for our opportunity to serve for fifty years, we will be asking: what does it mean to promote the justice of the Kingdom and to build the peace of Christ during the 21st century? Please join us in this reflection! In the next bulletin, we hope to formulate some questions so that you can join Justice and Peace in crossing the threshold into a second half-century with a renewed sense of mission.

Let us join the Holy Father with real vigour, entrusting all our efforts "to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Mother, who cares for the needs of our human family, that she may obtain from her Son Jesus, the Prince of Peace, the granting of our prayers and the blessing of our daily efforts for a fraternal and solidary world" (*Message for the World Day of Peace 2016*, § 8). Let us indeed overcome indifference and win peace!

Card. Peter K.A. Turkson
President



MESSAGE FOR THE 49° WORLD DAY OF PEACE 2016

15 December 2015, at 11.30:

In the *Aula Giovanni Paolo II* of the Press Office of the Holy See, the Message of the Holy Father Francis for the 49^a World Day of Peace (1° January 2016) on the theme **Overcome Indifference and win Peace** has been presented.

Fr. Federico Lombardi, Director of the Holy See Press Office introduced the speakers:

Card. Peter Kodwo Appiah Turkson, President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace

Dr. Flaminia Giovanelli, Undersecretary of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace

Mr. Vittorio V. Alberti, Official of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace

Written testimony by **H. Exc. Msgr. Michele Pennisi**, Archbishop of Monreale, Member of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and by **Don Luigi Ciotti**, founder of *Gruppo Abele and Associazione Libera*, not present in the Conference, were also read.

Ms. Donatella Parisi from Centro Astalli introduced the story of refugees from Kenya, Syria, Somalia and Cote d'Ivoire.

THE MESSAGE FOR THE 49° WORLD DAY OF PEACE IS AVAILABLE ON-LINE HERE

50TH OF GAUDIUM ET SPES (5-6 November 2015)

2015 marks the 50th anniversary of Vatican Council II's adoption of the conciliar document *Gaudium et Spes* of 7 December 1965, and the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace celebrated the document's contribution, generally to the life of the Church, but particularly to the stimulus that it has given to the Church's engagement with society and the social order, organising a **two-days-meeting on 5 and 6 November 2015 on the theme "Young generations at the service of humankind"**.

A Solemn Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of *Gaudium et Spes* was held in the morning of the 5th of November, at the New Synod Hall in the Vatican. This session was introduced by a reflection on the legacy of the Second Vatican Council followed by testimonies of Participants to the Council. The celebrative event was concluded by a gesture of symbolic handover of the Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et Spes* legacy to an invited representation of youth from the different Continents.

The working sessions followed in the afternoon of the 5th and on the 6th of November.

MORE



IV International Course for Catholic Military Chaplains in International Humanitarian Law (26-28 October 2015)



As part of initiatives to respond to commitments undertaken by the Holy See at the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace organized, in collaboration with the Congregation for Bishops and the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, the **IV International Course for Catholic Military Chaplains in International Humanitarian Law**, which was held in the Vatican from 26 to 28 October, 2015.

The course was divided into two parts: a course of formation on "The Protection of Human Dignity in Light of International Law in Non-International Armed Conflicts and 'New Conflicts'" (26-27 October 2015) and an **International Conference on the Responsibility to protect in terms of moral and legal perspectives** (28 October 2015).

ALL AVAILABLE TEXTS

In this Number

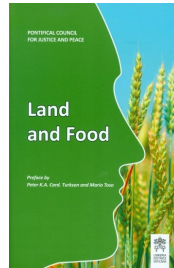
> **Message for the XLIX World Day of Peace 2016**

> **50th Anniversary of Gaudium et Spes**
(Rome, 5-6 November 2015)

> **III Course for Military Chaplains & Conference on "Responsability to protect"** (26-28 October 2015)

> **New books:**

Land and Food
La dimensione sociale della fede oggi



Following the Italian and French editions, the English edition of the bestseller "**Land and Food**" is now available.

This book, conceived to enlighten reflections and guide actions, both now and in the future, around the intertwined issues of land, agriculture and hunger, is enriched by historical points of reference as a demonstration that current problems might have multi-decennial and structural causes, and is inspired by the light of the Gospel, neither being confined to technical-political constraints, nor exploring peculiar spatiotemporal contexts. The purpose of "**Land and Food**" is to offer principles for reflection, criteria for judgment, and practical orientations.

The Spanish translation will be soon available, as well.

[MORE](#)

2014 was a year of many anniversaries for the Social Doctrine of the Church: ten years since the publication of the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*; five since that of the social encyclical *Caritas in Veritate* by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI; the first anniversary of the apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* by Pope Francis.

We were influenced by this concurrence of anniversaries when choosing the theme for our 2014 General Assembly (1-3 October). We hope that this short publication – with the texts delivered in that occasion – may contribute to an update in developments in the social teaching of the past few years.

The English version will be soon published

Our publications could be bought through commerciale@lev.va



JUSTICE & PEACE in the world

Giustizia e Pace
nel Mondo

CELAM (Consejo Episcopal Latinoamericano)

CELAM published its Global Plan for the years 2015-2019 with the title: "**Hacia una Iglesia en salida. Como el Padre me envió, así los envió a ustedes**" (*Jn 20, 21b*)

In its 180 pages, the programme includes a chapter dedicated to the Justice and Solidarity Department, its general objectives and goals to achieve and activities planned for the next 4 years.

You can find the document in PDF [here](#)

Contact: celam@celam.org;

> **A Directory of the Episcopal Commissions for Justice and Peace and Social Pastoral Care in the world is on our website.**

Merry Christmas and blessings for a New Year of Justice and Peace from us all!

Vatican Radio
Message for
Christmas by
Cardinal
Turkson
LISTEN



@IustitiaetPax

A Reflection

The Church's "one treasure" is Christ, and she risks becoming "lukewarm, mediocre and mundane" if she places her security "in other realities". [...] "let us also think about our soul: does our soul seek security in the Lord alone or does it seek other securities that do not please the Lord?". Thus, "in these final days, it will be good for us to repeat that last verse of the Bible: "Come Lord Jesus!".

Pope Francis, Daily meditations at Domus Sanctae Marthae, [ENG] [ITA] [ESP] [POR]