



# JP Alert

Conference of Major Superiors of Men

*Below you'll find samples of linking JP in the Lectionary for upcoming Sundays and Holidays, our yearly summary of CMSM's JP Accomplishments, Pope Francis' World Day of Peace Message, and a short video etc.*

## Linking Justice and Peace in the Lectionary

The following samples are provided by various members of our CMSM community and others with particular insights to share, such as Fr. John Donahue S.J., Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA, and Marie Dennis. Merry Christmas everyone! [Christmas Night, Dec. 24th](#) [Christmas Day, Dec. 25th](#) [Sunday Dec. 27th](#) [New Years Day, Friday Jan. 1](#) [Sunday Jan. 3](#)

## Accomplishments this Year

Below are some of the accomplishments your advocacy through CMSM and other coalition partners have enjoyed this past year. **Thank you all for your participation, especially Bro. Brian McLaughlin's (SVD) volunteer work at CMSM and Fr. Neil Pezzulo's (Glenmary) leadership as chair of CMSM's Justice and Peace Committee!**

1. **Care for Creation:** CMSM overwhelmingly (close to 90% support) passed a resolution called "Cherish All of Creation" and has been facilitating the implementation of the resolution. CMSM produced a statement on Laudato Si' and helped mobilize activity to build up to the recent international agreement on climate change. CMSM also organized an



immersion trip to Appalachia to encounter both environmental and economic justice issues.

2. **Economic Justice:** CMSM helped to increase funding for domestic human needs and poverty focused foreign assistance aid in the U.S. budget; to raise the issue of money in politics in our religious and public discourse; and to organize a workshop on pentagon spending at the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering.

3. **Immigration and Refugees:** CMSM advocacy and mobilization helped prevent the restrictions on

Syrian refugees, as well as a number of unhealthy immigration bills throughout the year.

4. **Middle East:** CMSM helped mobilize and secure support for the historic nuclear deal with Iran likely preventing war and ushering in a new phase of relations. CMSM has taken a lead with some other partners in the faith community to advocate for better, more effective, healthier, and humanizing ways to engage ISIS with alternatives to violence. For instance, in coalition we helped to move the US Government to engage diplomatic negotiations in Syria

without the pre-condition that Assad must go at the beginning. The efforts on ISIS also included a presentation at the Ignatian Solidarity Network Teach-In. We visited Israel and Palestine to meet with many religious leaders and engage research on “good practices” of unarmed civilian protection organizations.

5. **Restorative Justice and Criminal Justice:** CMSM has worked with interfaith partners to develop and move forward criminal justice reform, including with a CMSM statement. CMSM helped mobilize for the Truth-Telling project in Ferguson as a restorative justice initiative. See and share the video of their "[Truth Commission](#)" [here](#) (then scroll down).

6. **Unarmed Civilian Protection:** CMSM successfully helped advocate the UN to include UCP as a recommendation in their Peace Operations Review.

7. **Pope Francis Visit:** CMSM mobilized for this visit, advocated Congress on his key themes, and provided key information about the visit to CMSM members, such as encouraging attention to the figures he lifted up as guides—Dorothy Day, Thomas Merton, Martin Luther King.

8. **JPIC Initiatives:** CMSM also held a meeting with JPIC’s and provincials in Region 5. One of the outcomes was an initiative to provide Sunday samples of linking the lectionary to peace and justice issues. We thank Mark Peters and Steve Herro for organizing this. We continue to have quarterly calls with JPIC’s.



## Pope Francis: World Day of Peace Message

*“Overcome Indifference and Win Peace”*

Vatican City, 15 December 2015 (VIS) - “Overcome indifference and win peace” is the title of the Holy Father’s Message to celebrate the 49th World Day of Peace, to be held on 1 January 2016.

*Excerpt:* “With this in mind, I would like to make a threefold appeal to the leaders of nations: to refrain from drawing other peoples into conflicts or wars which destroy not only their material, cultural and social legacy, but also – and in the long term – their moral and spiritual integrity...” [Read the full text here](#)



## VIDEO: Christmas, Santa Claus, and War Toys

As we celebrate the Prince of Peace please take a look at and share this [brief video](#) (12 min.) by Fr. Emmanuel McCarthy about Christmas, Santa Claus, and war toys.

**The Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) supports and offers resources for U.S. leaders of Catholic men’s religious institutes. CMSM promotes dialogue and collaboration on issues of religious life as well as peace and justice issues with major groups in church and society. There are about 17,000 religious priests and brothers in the United States.**