



JP Alert

Conference of Major Superiors of Men

"Blessed are the Peacemakers" (Mt.5)

Support New Peacebuilding Bill!



CMSM has been working with a broad-based coalition to increase the funding and structures for peacebuilding in the U.S. government. We have helped to cultivate this big opportunity to support a newly released bill that signs into law the Atrocities Prevention Board across USG agencies and authorizes the Complex Crisis Fund.

The bill would:

- Authorize the Atrocities Prevention Board, helping to ensure coordination and collaboration among Administrative agencies and increased prioritization on early prevention.
- Authorize the Complex Crises Fund, a critical and unique funding mechanism that has been utilized to support local peacebuilding efforts in Central African Republic, to prevent and deescalate signs of conflict in Jordan which has the highest influx of refugees from Syria, and to prevent the rise of tensions in Guinea during and after the Ebola crisis.
- Require training for foreign services officers, so they are better prepared to prevent and respond to

mass atrocities.

[Contact Senators](#) To Support the Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Bill



Cherish All of Creation

[CMSM Resolution:](#)

“We resolve significantly to change our lifestyle, including our consumption habits, from ways that perpetuate climate change and towards the “sound virtues” of an “ecological citizenship” for a significantly lighter footprint. Recommended examples include community gardens, eating less or no meat, more videoconferencing meetings, etc.”

**Notice the impact on water by not eating meat.*



“We resolve significantly to increase our reliance on green energy in our ministries and buildings, as we also significantly decrease and ultimately “replace without delay” our reliance on fossil fuels in each; and to support these same commitments in any investment decisions.” (CMSM Resolution, Aug. 2015)

Laudato Si' and Socially Responsible Investment Strategy

JOIN US!

Monday Mar. 7th, 3:30-4:30 EST

[RSVP Here](#) (sign in details will be sent to you)

In light of Laudato Si,' this webinar will explore what green investment can look like and describe a religious institutional experience of divesting from fossil fuels.

Are there really viable green investment options? Won't we lose money, especially compared to fossil fuels? Frank Morris, a Catholic, developed and managed a SEC registered global and ecological mutual fund. He will explore the emerging options for green investment and compare the returns to investments in fossil fuels. Why would we divest rather than do shareholder advocacy to change corporate policies? Won't we lose our voice at the table? Phil Chick, Assistant Vice President and Treasurer of Dayton University, which is a Marianist school, will discuss the reasoning and experience of divesting from fossil fuels as an institution. This webinar is great for religious leaders, JPIC's, finance



Bishop: “I’m Sorry”

by Michael O’Loughlin

“If you’ve ever felt unwelcome at Church because of your gender, race, or sexual orientation, a Massachusetts bishop has a message for you: I’m sorry.”

Bishop Mitchell T. Rozanski of Springfield used the occasion of Ash Wednesday to mark Pope Francis’ Jubilee of Mercy by apologizing to and seeking reconciliation with Catholics in Western Massachusetts.” [Full article here](#)



Linking the Lectionary to Justice and Peace

See these great homily resources from wise members of our community:

[Sunday Feb. 28th](#) by Rev. Tom Massaro S.J.

[Sunday Feb. 28th](#) (Scrutiny) by Prof. Dianne Bergant, CSA.

[Sunday Mar. 6th](#) by Rev. Tom Massaro S.J.

[Sunday Mar. 6th](#) (Scrutiny) by Bro. Steve Herro, O.Praem.

[Sunday Mar. 13th](#) by Rev. Tom Massaro S.J.

[Sunday Mar. 13th](#) (Scrutiny) by Fr. Joe Serano, O.Praem.



Catholic Charities, Guns, and Cure Violence

“Catholic Charities of Baltimore will begin operating a new Safe Streets Baltimore program in the Sandtown-Winchester neighborhood of West Baltimore in February, a program designed to reduce shootings and homicides in areas that are disproportionately affected by gun violence. Safe Streets Baltimore employs an evidence-based public health approach to violence prevention and interruption by using data points to identify those at the highest risk for being either a victim or perpetrator of violence, working to mediate disputes and seeking to change the perception that violence is a normal or expected aspect of conflict. An important facet of the program is a focus on alternative means of conflict resolution. The program is funded by a grant from the Baltimore City Health Department, with additional support from the Abell Foundation and the U.S. Department of Justice.” [Full article here](#)

[Evidence of Reducing Shootings and Homicides](#) by **Cure Violence model**.

This is the first time a Catholic organization has formally operated a Cure Violence program in the U.S. and possibly in the world. This is very exciting and something to replicate and develop.

Other News



Economic Justice

Research on Impact of Money in Politics

[Princeton study released in 2014](#)

Two U.S. political scientists conducted a broad empirical study that reveals who actually has the say in public policy. They examined the 1,779 specific policy issues that came to a head for national decision over the two decades between 1981 and 2002. Note: *that period was before the Supreme Court made the Citizens United decision, before the billions released in the current money rush.*

For each issue they determined what the majority of the public wanted and what the economic elite wanted. When those two views differed, the scholars wanted to know whose view prevailed.

What they found was that, when there was a difference, the economic elite almost always prevailed over the majority. Even the mass-based interest groups had little or no independent influence. In the scholars' words,

Militarism: Culture of Life?

"Why is My Kindergartner Being Groomed for the Military at School?" by Sarah Grey

"I thought about giving them (GI Joe toys) to him (baby nephew)," he said. But the pressures of a year in a war zone had strengthened Viges' Christian faith, and he told the Army that "if I loved my enemy I couldn't see killing them, for any reason."

"As a mother, I know what he means. That's why we were shocked this November when, shortly after Veterans Day, our daughter came home from kindergarten with a worksheet that asked the children to decide which branch of the military they would like to join..."

The Department of Defense spends billions each year on video game development. The Army has even developed its own realistic simulation game, "America's Army," and recruiters give kids access to trailers full of video game consoles.

There's also the [\\$10.4 million the military has spent on marketing displays](#) at pro football, baseball, hockey, basketball and soccer games since 2012 - not to mention that "the National Guard spent more than \$56 million each year on sports marketing with NASCAR and IndyCar," [according to The](#)

Ecumenical Advocacy Days

"Lift Every Voice!- Racism, Class, and Power"

Apr. 15-18

Washington DC

Election Year National Gathering and Lobby Day in our nation's capital to address solutions to issues of injustice to communities of color and immigrants, voter suppression, and economic exploitation.

[Brochure Here](#)

[Register](#)

"In the United States, our findings [Washington Post](#).

indicate, the majority does not rule — at least in the causal sense of actually determining policy outcomes." [Full article here](#)

But, there is not enough money to house persons living on the streets, to ensure all children are fed, to provide for our elderly...? We are responsible. We must say Enough!" [Full article here](#)

***Reminder to join in and/or endorse the [Democracy Awakening](#) campaign on money in politics.**

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.

Connect with Us



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