



JP Alert

Conference of Major Superiors of Men

Blessings of Christ's Love and the Mercy of his path be with us as we enter into the fall season and national elections.

Criminal Justice Success!



With your help, part of our advocacy efforts for criminal justice over the last year or so has been to pass the Youth Promise Act, which provides grants for local peacebuilding and violence prevention programs in our communities. Last week the House of Representatives passed H.R. 5963, the Supporting Youth Opportunity and Preventing Delinquency Act. The legislation reauthorizes for the first time since 2002 the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP Act) of 1974 to help states

and local communities better serve at-risk youth and juvenile offenders.

The legislation also includes language based on Congressman Scott's Youth PROMISE Act (H.R. 2197) that restructures JJDP's Local Delinquency Prevention Grants to encourage communities to plan and implement evidence-based prevention and intervention programs specifically designed to reduce juvenile delinquency and gang involvement. *Next step:* get the Senate (S.1169) to pass this legislation.

Restorative Healing Circles

This August I had the privilege of facilitating a restorative healing circle with men who live on the streets or in very low income situations through the Fr. McKenna Center, a Jesuit sponsored ministry, here in DC. In the one hour a week over four weeks, we focused on family struggles, personal struggles, workplace or community struggles, and meaning/spiritual struggles. I was so moved by the vulnerability of these men, the care they showed for each other, and the wisdom they offered about their situations and life in general.

If you would like to replicate this process, here is a [brief outline](#). You are welcomed to contact me with further questions.



Pope Francis: "Appeal for Peace"

“Everyone can be an artisan of peace”

Sept. 20, 2016: At the world day of prayer for peace gathering in Assisi last week, Pope Francis offered [these words](#) below:

“This is the spirit that animates us: to bring about encounters through dialogue, and to oppose every form of violence and abuse of religion which seeks to justify war and terrorism...People do not always understand that war harms the world, leaving in its wake a legacy of sorrows and hate. In war, everyone loses, including the victors.”

At the Pope's [morning homily](#) that same day he said: “And God is the God of peace. There is no god of war...it is the devil who wants to kill everyone...If we now shut our ears to the cry of these

people who are suffering under the bombs, who suffer the exploitation of arms dealers, it may be that when it happens to us, we will not be heard,” the Pope reflected. “We cannot turn a deaf ear to the cry of pain of our brothers and sisters who are suffering from war.”



Referring to the *idea of justifying war*, **Cardinal Turkson**, head of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace [explained](#): "In that case, Pope Francis would say: 'You don't stop an aggression by being an aggressor. You don't stop a conflict by inciting another conflict. You don't stop a war by starting another war.'"

"It doesn't stop," said the cardinal. "We've seen it all around us. Trying to stop the aggressor in Iraq has not stopped war. Trying to stop the aggressor in Libya has not stopped war. It's not stopped the war in any place. We do not stop war by starting another war."

Webinar [Recording](#): The first webinar introducing the Rome conference on just peace and nonviolence was packed with attendees and occurred on Sept. 13th. Please consider watching and sharing.

JOIN US for Webinar #2: Experiences of Nonviolence and Jesus' Nonviolence. [Register here](#). Space is limited.



Syrian War

On the International Day of Peace, Sept. 21, CMSM worked with

an interfaith coalition on a [Day of Action and Prayer for Syria](#). This included an interfaith prayer and press conference in NY City, which some local Franciscans participated in. Please consider using the backgrounders for ongoing education.

ACTION: [Contact the President and your Congresspersons](#) here to end all bombing and violence, and instead focus on diplomacy and peacebuilding initiatives.

[Al-Nusra says U.S. is directly and indirectly supporting their armed violence in Syria](#) (click translate to English)

[U.S. Military Now Says ISIS Leader Was Held in Notorious Abu Ghraib Prison](#)

[ISIS and U.S. Weaponry: At Home and Abroad](#)

[10 Facts Mainstream Media won't Tell You about War in Syria](#)



Pope Francis Inspired Election Guide

A Catholic Coalition of national advocacy organizations produced this "Revolution of Tenderness" [election guide](#) oriented by our sense of Pope Francis' vision. Please consider sharing it and reading the platforms of the four major parties below in alphabetical order. Here is the [website](#) of the election guide with more details. Also, please read the platforms of the four major parties (listed in alphabetical order).

[Democratic Party](#); [Green Party](#); [Libertarian Party](#); [Republican Party](#)



Economic Justice

Poverty Report

Recent census data contains a [lot of good news](#)—the overall poverty rate for the country fell 1.2 percentage points to 13.5 percent in 2015 while the median household income for the nation

was up 5.2% to \$56,500 in 2015. The data also show that income supports such as Social Security benefits lifted the income of millions of Americans above the poverty line. Anti-poverty programs help many. Programs such as low-income refundable tax credits, SNAP, free or reduced-price school lunch and child care subsidies have helped lift tens of millions of Americans out of poverty.



However, challenges remain:

- 59 percent of U.S. households with annual incomes below \$20,000 spend more than half of their income on rent alone – and child care accounts for another exorbitant expense.
- Many anti-poverty programs don't reach many who are eligible and other programs would do more good if their benefits were higher or if more people were eligible.
- Women are 35 percent more likely to be poor than men. More than one in eight women was poor in 2015. Women are about two-thirds of the elderly poor. Nearly one in five children were poor – more than half living in families headed by women. And the wage gap between women and men remained wide, with women typically making just 80 cents to a man's dollar.

Human Thread Campaign

Founded by Fr. Mike Crosby, OFM Cap.

ACTION: Between now and Black Friday (Nov. 25), [postcards](#) will be sent to the CEOs of Macy's and Kohl's in support of a living wage at the sites where our clothes are made. We ask for your involvement.

"When we visit a supermarket, we can purchase organic and fair trade items. When we visit an auto dealer, we can buy a hybrid. Some chains build their identity and customer base by offering those options. We know that the hybrid and the organic, fair trade items may cost us a bit more, but we are willing to pay for them for a broader benefit.

Except for a few niche clothing items sold in a few boutiques, as of yet, no major chain sells clothing sourced in other countries that is fair trade. But we know that most of it comes from places we read on our labels: Bangladesh, China, India, Vietnam, Honduras, Mexico. Pope Francis has called the wages paid those workers: 'slave labor.'"

Other News



Linking Justice and Peace in the Lectionary

Below you will find homily resources from CMSM members and other people of wisdom in our community. If you are not giving homilies, please consider sharing with your



Respect Life Month

October is the USCCB's [Respect Life Month](#). We encourage you to consider how you can help scale up respect, reverence, and well-being for all life at all stages of our journey.



Ecumenical Advocacy Days

[Save the Dates](#): Friday April 21-Monday Apr. 24, 2017 in Washington DC.

local priest.

[Sunday Oct. 2](#) by Rhett

Engelking, OFS

[Sunday Oct. 9](#) by Fr.

Michael Kennedy, SJ

[Sunday Oct. 16](#) by Fr. Mark

Pranatitis, C.M.

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



Eli S. McCarthy, PhD
Director of Justice and Peace
8808 Cameron Street
Silver Spring, MD 20910-4152
www.cmsm.org
emccarthy@cmsm.org
301-588-4030
Twitter: @emccarthy3

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