

NewsNotes

a bi-monthly newsletter on international justice and peace issues



Maryknoll Office
for Global Concerns

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50 years

Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

Peace, Social Justice, and Integrity of Creation

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<http://thomas.loc.gov>

Churches For Middle East Peace Welcomes Ceasefire

The statement below, published June 24, 2025, addresses the ceasefire between Iran and Israel and U.S. use of force. Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns is a CMEP member.

CHURCHES FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE (CMEP) welcomes the announcement of a ceasefire between Iran and Israel, and we urge all parties to uphold this fragile but essential step toward de-escalation. We commend efforts by regional and international actors who helped broker this cessation of hostilities and strongly encourage all parties, including the United States, to ensure the ceasefire holds. Any further provocations or violations risk reigniting a dangerous new round of violence that could engulf the region in war.

The United States must now act as a responsible stakeholder and diplomatic leader by using its influence to reinforce the ceasefire and prevent either side from breaking it. This moment must not be wasted as it is a critical opportunity to step back from the brink of full-scale war and pursue long-term diplomatic solutions to the root causes of conflict in the region.

While we are grateful for the ceasefire, the United States should not have attacked Iranian nuclear facilities to start with. These actions were not only reckless and deeply destabilizing but also in violation of international law. This escalation nearly ignited a regional conflict with

consequences that could have reverberated across the Middle East and the world for generations.

The threat of war with Iran has also dangerously diverted global attention from the ongoing atrocities in Gaza and the West Bank. While headlines shifted to Tehran, Palestinians in Gaza have continued to be killed, often while seeking humanitarian aid at distribution centers run by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation. Starvation, displacement, and mass civilian casualties persist.

We urge the U.S. and the international community to immediately refocus their attention on ending the war on Gaza. The ceasefire between Iran and Israel must now be matched with a comprehensive and permanent ceasefire in Gaza. Justice, security, and peace cannot be selectively applied. The lives of Palestinians matter, and the ongoing devastation in Gaza must not be normalized or ignored.

We call on the Trump Administration to take bold steps to preserve peace, uphold international law, and support diplomatic efforts. Another way forward is possible, a path rooted in justice, accountability, human dignity, and peace. ✝

Sudan: War Crisis Continues

Civilians in Sudan face unprecedented hunger and displacement as the United States cuts humanitarian assistance.

ON JUNE 21, FORTY PEOPLE were killed in an attack on Al-Mujlad Hospital in West Kordofan state, Sudan. The paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) accused the Sudanese army of attacking the hospital; the Sudanese army has not responded to accusations.

The Sudan Doctors Network, along with the Emergency Lawyers group, blamed the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) for the attack. According to the World Health Organization, many of the victims were children and medical personnel. The Al-Mujlad Hospital was the only functioning healthcare facility in the area and had a strong focus on civilian care, the Sudan Doctors Network said.

A total of 24.6 million people in Sudan (around half the population) are acutely food insecure, the World Health Organization has said, while 637,000 (the highest anywhere in the world) face catastrophic levels of hunger. The conditions for children continue to worsen, with 1 in 3 children facing acute malnutrition – above the 20 percent

threshold constituting famine.

The recent cuts to foreign aid by the United States have only heightened scarcity and uncertainty – not just in Sudan but in neighboring countries that host Sudanese refugees. The World Food Programme on June 30 warned that millions of Sudanese refugees who have fled to neighboring countries face deeper hunger and malnutrition as critical funding shortages force drastic cuts to food assistance.

On June 27, Sudan's military announced it has agreed to a UN proposal for a weeklong ceasefire in El Fasher, the capital city of North Darfur in the southwestern part of the country, to facilitate UN aid efforts to the area. At the time of publication of this article, it is unknown whether the RSF would agree and comply with the temporary ceasefire. ✝

FAITH IN ACTION: Take three actions for Sudan

<https://mogc.me/act-sudan/>

U.S. Strikes on Iran Condemned by Church, Others

Peace and international affairs experts criticized President Trump's decision to bomb Iran in support of Israel's war.

As soon as Israel began its war with Iran on June 13, in violation of international law, faith voices, foreign policy experts, and political figures across the political spectrum urged U.S. President Donald Trump to resist Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's calls for the United States to bomb key Iranian nuclear sites. On June 21, President Trump ordered U.S. air strikes on Iran – an illegal move under both international law and the U.S. Constitution. Neither Israel nor the United States, both nuclear powers, provided any evidence that Iran posed an imminent threat.

A truce was soon declared between Israel and Iran which has held as of this writing, but tensions remain high and the ultimate outcome remains uncertain. While the Trump Administration and Israel insist the strikes destroyed Iran's nuclear program, other intelligence reports suggest the program was only set back a few months, and experts fear the war may only strengthen Iran's resolve to develop nuclear weapons.

Early efforts within Congress to reassert its constitutional war powers failed June 26 when the Senate voted largely along party lines to reject a War Powers Resolution introduced by Senator Tim Kaine of Virginia.

Pope Leo XIV had warned against bombing Iran, saying on June 18 that “the temptation to have recourse to powerful and sophisticated weapons needs to be rejected.” The morning after the U.S. strikes, he responded to the “alarming news” by connecting the attacks on Iran with those on Gaza, and pleading that “Every member of the international community has a moral responsibility to stop the tragedy of war before it becomes an irreparable chasm. There are no ‘distant’ conflicts when human dignity is at stake.”

The Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns joined multiple efforts for peace. In a letter organized by Churches for Middle East Peace, MOGC joined 17 ecumenical partners in urging Congress to reclaim its war powers. “No president should unilaterally decide to take the nation to war,” the letter reads. “We believe diplomacy — not unauthorized and dangerous military escalation — offers the most straightforward path to lasting peace and security in the Middle East.”

MOGC was one of 75 organizations including Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, Catholic and Protestant groups, peace, human rights, foreign policy, and Iranian American organizations to sign a joint statement calling the U.S. strikes

“illegal, unconstitutional, and unproductive,” and putting them in their wider historical context: “Let’s be clear how we got here: President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from the Iran Deal (JCPOA) in 2018 which was working and limiting Iran’s nuclear program peacefully. The recent diplomatic efforts between the U.S. and Iran were making major progress and could have resolved Iran’s nuclear program effectively, transparently, and peacefully.”

The statement continues: “The American people do not support or want a war with Iran. Only a diplomatic resolution will safeguard U.S. interests, reflect the will of the American people, prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons, and avert a catastrophic and avoidable war.”

Criticism of the strikes came from diverse quarters. After Iran suspended cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency, The Elders, a group of global leaders formed by Nelson Mandela in 2007, warned, “We are extremely concerned about the loss of oversight over Iran’s stockpiles of enriched uranium in light of the US strikes,” saying the U.S. strikes “have undermined nuclear diplomacy and risk fueling a new wave of proliferation of nuclear weapons in the Middle East and globally.”

The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists laid out the complexities of using bombs to stop Iran’s nuclear program, raising doubts about the intelligence used to justify the strikes, the concern that Iran will still produce a bomb, and the specter of a longer war aimed at regime change.

The Back from the Brink nuclear disarmament coalition called for multilateral disarmament beginning with the United States. Robert Kagan, a prominent proponent of the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003, warned that not only would the bombing of Iran be counterproductive, but, taking place within the broader context of the Trump Administration’s defiance of constitutional checks and balances and the rights of migrants and others, he writes, “I can think of nothing more perilous to American democracy right now than going to war.”

As Pope Leo said on June 26, “After centuries of history, how can anyone believe that acts of war bring about peace and not backfire on those who commit them? ... How can we continue to betray the desire of the world’s peoples for peace with propaganda about weapons buildup, as if military supremacy will resolve problems instead of fueling even greater hatred and desire for revenge?” ✠

Pope Leo's Focus on Peace and Nonviolence

From his first public words as pontiff to the recent response to the bombing of Iran, the new pope prioritizes nonviolent peacemaking and resistance to war.

Peace be with you all! - Pope Leo XIV's first greeting to the world from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica on May 8 set the tone for what has become a consistent and prominent theme for the new leader of the Catholic Church. He described the peace he wished to share as "the peace of the risen Christ – an unarmed peace and a disarming peace, humble and persevering."

The pope's words draw an immediate connection between nonviolence and peace, and evoke the Catholic notion of "integral disarmament," introduced by John XIII and repeated often by Pope Francis, by which we must disarm hearts — our own, then others' — of "poison and resentment," the roots of violence and war, in order to achieve lasting military disarmament.

In the following days, Leo echoed this call, speaking to a group of journalists of "disarmed and disarming communication," freed from aggression, "capable of listening and of gathering the voices of the weak who have no voice. Let us disarm words and we will help disarm the world."

Here, we are reminded of another prominent theme for the new pope: that of a synodal church. Synodality is, in large part, a way for the church as an institution to practice that same communication, with an emphasis on deep listening.

Pax Christi, the Catholic peace movement, has explored in depth the ways synodality is an expression of gospel nonviolence. Sister Filo Hirota, who served on the seven-person committee convened by Pope Francis to organize the Synod on Synodality in Rome, and is a member of the steering committee for Pax Christi International's Catholic Nonviolence Initiative (CNI), says she believes the synod "is a journey toward evangelical nonviolence."

Another leader of the CNI, DePaul professor Ken Butigan, writes that by aspiring to become a church where, in Leo's word's, "synodality becomes a mindset, in the heart, in decision-making processes and in ways of acting," our new pope has "sketched a vision of a culture of nonviolence that the Church can nourish concretely in the midst of the challenges and realities of this wounded world."

CNI leadership has been following closely the pope's many public reflections and addresses, and compiling his teachings on peace and nonviolence. In an article entitled "Pope Leo and the Nonviolent Way Forward," Butigan says

that Leo has "made unmistakably clear that peace is at the heart of the Gospel, peace is at the core of the mission of the Church, and peace will be central to his papacy."

Butigan writes, "(H)is call for peace has also, like that of his predecessor, relentlessly denounced the terror of war in Ukraine, Myanmar, Israel, Gaza, Sudan, and other nations... (There are 196 references to war in Pope Leo's addresses and Vatican News reports since his becoming pope.)"

"But Pope Leo is not simply condemning specific wars. He has emphasized that 'we must reject the paradigm of war,' indicating that our task in this time is not simply to hope for peace but to 'prepare institutions of peace' and to build a 'culture of life, dialogue, mutual respect.'"

"In this spirit, he has pointed to nonviolence as key to achieving this alternative paradigm, by emphasizing the need for 'witnesses of a different, nonviolent life style' and 'credible protagonists of nonviolent processes of peacebuilding.'"

"Nonviolence as a method and as a style must distinguish our decisions, our relationships, our actions," the pope has declared."

In an address to some 200 Italian bishops at the Vatican on June 17, Pope Leo invites the whole church, in concrete terms, to live nonviolence: "I hope...that every diocese may promote pathways of education in nonviolence, mediation initiatives in local conflicts, and welcoming projects that transform fear of the other into an opportunity for encounter. May every community become a 'house of peace,' where one learns how to defuse hostility through dialogue, where justice is practiced and forgiveness is cherished."

Butigan concludes, "In the first days of his pontificate, Pope Leo is teaching us anew how nonviolence — defusing violence, dispelling hatred, returning to the foundations of our faith, and living 'unarmed and disarming' — is the way to peace at the heart of the Gospel. Now is the time, His Holiness seems to be saying, to build a culture of nonviolence and peace in the Church and the world." ✠

FAITH IN ACTION: Read the whole article by Ken Butigan, "Pope Leo and the Nonviolent Way Forward," here: <https://mogc.me/Leo-XIV-peace> and Pope Leo's June 26 message to the Eastern Catholic Churches here: <https://mogc.me/Leo-XIV-6-2025>

Maryknoll Missioners Testify to Global Debt Crisis

Burdensome debt payments prevent more than 40 percent of countries in the Global South from responding to social and development needs. Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns Program Associate Fellow Mark Joyce reports.

In 2024, Pope Francis declared the year 2025 a Jubilee year. In Catholic tradition, a Jubilee year is inspired by the biblical tradition laid in Leviticus that calls for Jubilee years in which debts are forgiven, slaves are freed, and the land is allowed to rest. In his announcement, Pope Francis called on Catholics to focus on care for creation and economic justice.

Jubilee years have been connected to debt cancellation since the 2000 Jubilee year, when Pope John Paul II and other faith leaders played a pivotal role in the cancellation of over \$100 billion in debt for 35 low-income countries.

In 2025 as in 2000, faith leaders around the world are campaigning for debt reform. This time around, in addition to debt cancellation, the goal is to create a UN framework to provide oversight on sovereign debt and create a more equitable marketplace.

The current debt crisis, described as a “silent development crisis” by institutions ranging from the UN to the IMF and World Bank, crowds out development spending on health and education for large debt servicing bills. According to the UN report titled *A World of Debt*, 3.3 billion people live in countries that spend more on debt service than on education or healthcare, making the prospect of meeting the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals ever more unlikely.

As frontliners in the fight for human dignity, Maryknoll missioners witness the tough choices demanded by the debt crisis and are involved in initiatives directly impacted by cuts necessitated by inflated debt payments. In South Sudan, Bolivia, the Dominican Republic and Kenya, Maryknoll missioners have seen the human costs bestowed by high debt. Below are their stories.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC - 31% of the national budget spent on debt*

**According to the Development Finance International (DFI) Group, an advocacy, advisory, and research non-profit. The DFI estimates a range of 10-15% spending on debt servicing as sustainable.*

An IMF report in 2024 explains how the Dominican Republic is subject to higher interest rates than those

offered to peer countries. This creates a vicious cycle of increasing debt, further increasing interest rates. Meanwhile the Dominican Republic has been running on a deficit, meaning that their debt is on the rise, feeding into the debt/interest rate loop.

MARYKNOLL LAY MISSIONER SAMI SCOTT, who is serving Haitian immigrants in the Dominican Republic notes how the underfunded public health system is unable to fully respond to the humanitarian crises on the border:

“[One initiative] is to require all patients at the public hospitals to require proof of citizenship in order to receive treatment. [Dominican President Abinader] claims that illegal migrants are overwhelming the healthcare systems, leaving nothing for Dominican citizens. One consequence of this is that pregnant Haitian women and especially those with high-risk pregnancies are afraid to go to the hospital for regular prenatal check-ups because they need to pass immigration officials who will have them deported as soon as they finish their appointment.”

The burden of debt generates dire circumstances, to the point where the Dominican Republic now spends 228 percent more on debt payments a year than it spends on healthcare. This has a direct impact on people in vulnerable situations. Sami saw this firsthand with one young woman she met:

“I recently met a young woman who is 8 months pregnant. She has high blood pressure and last year, lost a baby at 6 months. Not only will she not get the prenatal care she needs, but she will be forced to give birth at home with no trained help. The conditions in the village where she lives are not hygienic at all. I fear for her life and that of her baby.”

BOLIVIA - 26% of the national budget spent on debt

In the aftermath of Covid 19, Bolivia’s debt nearly tripled, and now Bolivia spends 37 percent more on debt than on healthcare. Former **MARYKNOLL LAY MISSIONER LINDSAY DOUCETTE**, who works on health initiatives in Bolivia, has seen the real effects of limited health spending:

“Last month, the Mario Ortiz Suarez Children’s Hospital in La Paz, Bolivia — the country’s largest

public pediatric facility — was forced to suspend surgeries due to a critical shortage of anesthesia machines in the operating rooms. Despite requesting government assistance for over a year, the hospital's urgent needs remain unmet."

President Abinader claims that illegal migrants are overwhelming the healthcare systems, leaving nothing for Dominican citizens.

KENYA - 54% of the national budget spent on debt

In Kenya's case, an Oxfam case study showed that "debt service crowded out social spending" with 70 percent of its revenue and 54 percent of its expenditures going to debt payments last year. This is 2.4 times what Kenya spent on health, education, and social protection. The proportion of debt service in total ordinary revenue grew from 23.97 percent in 2011 to a high of 50 percent pre-pandemic. Similarly, the proportion of debt service in national government spending increased exponentially from 2015 to 2020, remaining high above the proportion of spending on education and health, which depicted a gradual downward trend.

MARYKNOLL FATHER FRANCIS BREEN, who served in Kenya for nearly three decades, described the Kenyan situation as follows:

"The government must raise money to pay its debt service, which is about 50% of the total government budget. It is this high debt service payment that prevents the government from having sufficient funds for educational and health spending."

Insufficient funding for education has directly impacted the government's ability to implement education reform.

Father Breen explains further, "The government does not have sufficient teachers trained to teach these subjects, nor even people trained to be the principals of the schools with this new curriculum. Lack of funds is the main impediment holding back full implementation of this program. They also wanted to build new classrooms for the Junior Secondary Schools, but there was not nearly enough money. Most students will proceed directly to grade seven in their primary schools, not much different from before."

MARYKNOLL SISTER SUSAN NCHUBIRI, a native of Kenya, shares how sovereign debt servicing is being

passed on to Kenyan citizens through higher taxes, even in depressed rural areas.

"A poor family keeping chickens in the Tana Delta region is being pushed to pay taxes to pay the debts our country owes, and their daughter has dropped out of secondary school because they cannot afford the school fees."

An attempt to raise taxes in June 2024 exposed the social fissures among Kenyan citizens. In anger, Generation Z Kenyans took to the streets to protest a tax increase measure that further drains a cash-strapped populace. The civil unrest led to dozens dead and hundreds injured across the country. This highlights the harsh politics that indebted countries can face raising revenue to pay off debts.

SOUTH SUDAN - 27% of the national budget spent on debt

Amnesty International highlights how the South Sudanese government budget currently prioritizes debt servicing over education:

"Seventy percent of children in South Sudan are out of school. This dire situation is exacerbated by systemic deficiencies within the education system itself and overall governance. The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) notes, for example, that the non-payment of salaries for teachers risks many of them quitting. According to the Ministry of General Education, more than half of all teachers are untrained."

MARYKNOLL LAY MISSIONER GABE HURRISH has witnessed these impacts through his participation in a mission school in South Sudan. He writes:

"Due to the lack of trained teachers in South Sudan, many teachers are from other countries — primarily Kenya and Uganda. Tuition costs \$39 per year for one child. If the family cannot pay school fees in cash, then they pay in chickens, sorghum, or firewood. Many students are sponsored by organizations, churches, or individuals."

He also sees how investment in education can be a source of hope for the future of South Sudan:

"One thing I learned is that the children are now pressuring their parents to send them to school because they want to learn. Change is occurring in the mission parish, even as it takes time. Slowly people are seeing the benefits of education. With education comes a wider view of life and hopefully that leads to positive change and improved living conditions. *The children are the agents of change. They have tasted knowledge. They are hungry for more.*" ✠

People's Forum to G7: Turn Debt Into Hope

Advocates met in Calgary, Canada, ahead of the G7 summit to discuss the 2025 Jubilee debt relief campaign.

Ahead of the G7 meeting for its 2025 Summit at the scenic resort town of Kananaskis, Canada, a parallel gathering was held at St. Ambrose University, Calgary, thirty miles away. The People's Forum, June 12-15, was the product of collaboration between the Calgary Interfaith Council, KAIROS Canada, Peace and Development of Caritas, and many others. Its theme was the message of the 2025 Jubilee Year: "Turn Debt Into Hope!"

Representatives from First Nations, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, Bahá'í, Buddhist, Unitarian, and Christian communities spoke to the need for a global jubilee — the cancellation of unjust burdensome debt for the world's most impoverished countries. Hundreds gathered around that common theme to discuss the urgent need for a jubilee and to strategize for a better world.

Opening the weekend conference was a keynote from Cardinal Pedro Barreto of Peru. Cardinal Barreto has served as the head of the Justice and Peace Section of the Latin American Bishops' Conference (CELAM) and was vice president of the Pan-Amazonian Ecclesial Network (REPAM). He was also a member of the organizing committee for the Pan-Amazon Synod of Bishops.

As a spiritual leader presiding over a part of the world's largest rainforest, Cardinal Barreto brought a message about the ecological debt owed by developed nations to underdeveloped nations. The growth of wealthy countries since the industrial era has caused a climate and ecological crisis that the whole world must now face. Countries that contributed the least greenhouse gases to the atmosphere are the most likely to suffer from global warming. The imbalance raises moral questions of which nations ought to be indebted and which ought to be credited. Jubilee is not a matter of charity, but rather a matter of justice.

Another speaker, Salome Owuonda of Kenya, spoke of how her country's outsized debts have crippled the nation's economy and burdened Kenya's youth. The tension on the nation's youth boiled over in 2024 when a proposal to raise taxes in parliament was met with civil unrest that left dozens dead and hundreds wounded. Owuonda is the Executive Director of the Africa Centre for Sustainable and Inclusive Development (Africa CSID), based in Kenya.

Dean Dettloff, Research and Advocacy Officer for Development and Peace — Caritas Canada, spoke in clear terms about the economic justification for debt cancellation and challenged an unfair but popularly held notion: In conversations about a nation's debt burden, the problem is

often couched in terms of the borrowing nation's irresponsibility. In fact, creditors are being irresponsible when they lend funds recklessly and at onerous interest rates. When creditors decide to lend to an authoritarian leader, who saddles a nation with debt and disappears, those creditors should not profit from their poor decision — especially not at the expense of the mortgaged nation's future. Predatory lenders and investors who buy such debt, known as Vulture Funds, dismantle nations' wealth in an arrangement likened to internationally sanctioned pillaging.

In recent decades, and since the Jubilee 2000 campaign cancelled over \$100 billion in sovereign debt, privately owned sovereign debt has been on the rise and now accounts for more than half of all outstanding sovereign debt. To prevent a resurgence of a new debt crisis, and to reign in the excesses of predatory private lending to nations, it is not enough to cancel debt. Instead, Dettloff explains, a new global framework for sovereign debt is needed, setting out rules for lending and borrowing and creating pathways for remediation.

This conclusion matches that of a recently published report commissioned by the late Pope Francis. The Jubilee Report, the product of a collaboration between the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences and Columbia University, explains: "When debt is owed to private creditors, the absence of an international mechanism for sovereign debt restructuring turns crisis resolution into a power struggle — often resolved in ways that are inefficient, unjust, and harmful to the people most in need of protection. Private creditors use fear of the consequences of default to extract terms that protect their profits while forcing debtor countries into further hardship."

To intervene between private creditors and national governments, the pontifical Jubilee report explains, an international framework is needed. "The international financial architecture must be redesigned to create sustained access to the financing needed for inclusive growth, climate, and structural transformations, as well as to enable just and efficient debt resolutions."

The conference concluded with participants collecting signatures for the "Turn Debt into Hope" petition after Sunday services across the city, and a march for debt cancellation culminating at Calgary's city hall. ✂

FAITH IN ACTION: Sign the Turn Debt Into Hope petition from Caritas Internationalis.
<https://turndebtintohope.caritas.org/>

DRC and Rwanda Sign Peace Deal

The U.S.-Qatari negotiated peace accord swaps war for resource mining.

The presidents of Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo signed a peace agreement at the White House on June 27, an agreement that aims to end the thirty years of conflict. It calls for real efforts to integrate the disparate rebel forces into the Congolese Army and for a joint security mechanism to prevent future flare-ups.

The agreement also anticipates billions of dollars of western investment in mining and transport of the DRC's mineral riches.

The DRC is rich in valuable minerals, with over 60% of the world's supply of cobalt and coltan. Combined with copper and dozens of other precious metals, the total value of the intact underground reserves of minerals is estimated to be worth \$24 trillion. These essential minerals are needed for the clean energy transition, as they are used in electronic equipment and batteries for electric

“Stop choking Africa: It is not a mine to be stripped or a terrain to be plundered” - Pope Francis

vehicles, as well as 5G technology. At the White House signing of the peace agreement, President Trump touted that the agreement gave the U.S. “a lot of the mineral rights” from Congo.

The U.S involvement in the peace negotiations mirrors a similar Trump Administration diplomatic initiative focused on mineral access in Ukraine. These agreements reflect President Trump's transactional approach to foreign policy.

In the past, the presence of rare minerals in the DRC has been fuel for the conflict, with forces clashing over the wealth, and using proceeds from mineral sales to fund conflict. Attempts to forge a peace agreement in the past have not succeeded in the long term, despite efforts by other nations, and groups such as the East African Community, Angola and Qatar. The United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) from South Africa both withdrew their forces from the region over the past year.

The First Congo War began two years after the Rwandan Genocide in 1994. Since the First Congo War, conflict in the DRC has claimed six million lives and

displaced many more millions.

In the final months of 2024, more than 2.7 million people had been displaced in North Kivu province, 138 killed, and hundreds kidnapped. In early January of this year, serious fighting erupted between government forces and M23 rebels in and around the city of Goma, the largest city in eastern Congo, causing more than 100,000 to flee after five days of fighting. As of the end of January, M23 was in control of the cities of Goma and Bukavu and was even setting up a semblance of civic authority. During and following the conflict, thousands were killed and hundreds of thousands had to flee from their homes.

The rebel group M23 is the latest ethnic Tutsi-led insurgency to take up arms against Congolese forces. The group takes its name from the March 23 accord of 2009 that ended a previous Tutsi-led revolt in eastern Congo. It launched its rebellion in 2022, accusing the government of Congo of not living up to the peace deal and failing to fully integrate Congolese Tutsis into the army and administration. It also vows to defend Tutsi interests, particularly against ethnic Hutu militias such as the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), founded by Hutus who participated in the Rwandan genocide.

The DRC government accused Rwanda of supporting M23 and supplying it with heavy artillery, and Rwanda accused the DRC of supporting the FDLR rebels. Human Rights Watch reports that the Congolese army fought alongside the FDLR against M23. The UN, France, and the United States have stated that Rwanda was directly assisting M23 and at times even fighting alongside M23 forces, as a proxy war to gain control of the valuable mineral reserves in eastern Congo. Complicating matters was the sudden emergence of former president Joseph Kabila in Goma at the end of May, on the side of the M23 rebels. He is wanted for war crimes and overseeing a massacre of civilians.

Resource exploitation by foreign powers is a historically fraught topic in the DRC. During his 2023 trip to the country, Pope Francis insisted foreign countries should “Stop choking Africa: It is not a mine to be stripped or a terrain to be plundered.”

The U.S involvement in the peace accord tied to access to valuable minerals has been criticized within the DRC, with one resident of Goma telling the AP, “The commitments to the United States must not jeopardize the future of our people.” ✝

Faith Groups Affirm Commitment to Paris Climate Agreement

As the U.S. federal government exits the Paris Agreement, faith organizations in the United States affirm their commitment to the 2014 international climate change treaty.

Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns joined over 45 national, state, and local faith organizations in a statement affirming commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement. Executive Director Dan Misleh of the Catholic Climate Covenant explained:

“People of faith know that God asks us to care for our common home. As a Catholic Christian, I know that current and future generations are demanding that we live fully our faith which includes a mandate to be much better stewards of this beautiful gift, the only home we know. In addition, those who suffer most from our negligence are the poorest and most vulnerable people at home and abroad. This is why Pope Francis implored us to ‘hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.’”

Following is the statement in full:

Our faith-based organizations collectively believe that humanity has an ethical and spiritual responsibility to be caretakers of Divine creation, including one another.

For us, action on climate change is not just a scientific or political necessity — it is a moral imperative. Our faith traditions teach the interconnectedness of all life and the sacred duty to care for creation and for our neighbors, both near and far. The communities least responsible for climate change are suffering the most from its impacts — hurricanes, wildfires, droughts, flooding, and more — that lead to displacement, hunger, and hardship. We accept the scientific consensus on climate change and the urgency of a transformational response: the window to avoid the worst impacts of climate change is rapidly closing. We reaffirm the essential role of America’s faith communities in opening hearts, raising awareness, and taking meaningful action to address climate change by reducing emissions and investing in adaptation. This moment demands that nations, communities, and faiths work together with urgency and resolve. To that end, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change — including the landmark 2015 Paris Agreement — remains vital and necessary for channeling and driving global ambition and action.

As the world’s largest historical emitter of greenhouse gases, the U.S. has a moral and strategic responsibility to lead on climate solutions. Global cooperation is essential, and the Paris Agreement represents a unified effort by

nearly 200 nations to collectively combat climate change. The U.S.’ withdrawal undermines this spirit of global solidarity and imperils our own future along with that of everyone else. We are saddened and disappointed by the United States’ short-sighted stance to withdraw from these concerted efforts, and strongly encourage the Administration to change course and remain in the Paris Agreement.

As faith organizations, we continue to uphold the Paris Agreement as an important international mechanism to promote environmental stewardship, equity and shared responsibility. In line with our conscience and teachings, we will continue to pursue Paris-aligned emissions reductions and adaptation measures in our own communities because that is what our faiths require of us.

If we fail to act now, the consequences will fall hardest on future generations, on the poor and vulnerable, and on Creation as a whole. Thus, we remain steadfast in our commitment to protect our common home.

Our communities — representing tens of millions of Americans — support the goals of the Paris Agreement and are taking concrete steps to fulfill them. We urge all people of faith and conscience to join us in:

- reducing our carbon footprint by investing in clean, renewable energy for our houses of worship and organizations, as well as our homes
- greening our buildings and grounds, weaning off of plastic and other petro-chemical products wherever possible, and measuring and addressing our environmental impacts in ever more sophisticated ways
- educating our congregations on our faiths’ deep-rooted call to care for Creation and for one another; and preaching from our sacred texts that love of Creator and of Creation go hand-in hand
- joining hands with one another — across faiths, politics, geography, race, class, and other potential lines of division — to pursue climate justice together.

We respectfully urge the Administration to reverse its decision, uphold previous U.S. commitments and reaffirm the Paris Agreement. We collectively affirm that Faiths Are Still In. And with unwavering devotion and increasing ambition, we pledge to work to protect our common home and create a more just and sustainable future for all. ✠

One Big Beautiful Bill's Impact on Immigration

The U.S. budget proposal passed by the House of Representatives includes anti-immigrant policies. Immigration Advocacy Intern Rehema Klueg reports.

On May 22, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 1, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, a “budget reconciliation” megabill, at President Trump’s behest. On July 1, the Senate passed a modified version of the 1,018-page legislation, which was being returned to the House at press time.

The bill, with its wide-ranging scope, is largely unpopular since it encompasses sweeping cuts to social spending and environmental policy while cutting taxes for some wealthy households and companies. Beyond domestic spending, the bill contains immigration provisions with the capacity to inflict harm on migrants and refugees.

Below is a noncomprehensive list of immigration policies in the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act” as passed by the House that stand to harm migrants, as analyzed by the National Immigration Forum, National Immigration Law Center, and U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops:

FUNDING

■ **NEW FEES ON APPLICATIONS:** The bill establishes an extensive new fee structure for immigration processes, eliminating fee waivers, with significant fees for work permits and immigrants seeking humanitarian protections.

- \$1000 fee for all asylum requests (currently, there is no fee for asylum applications). The Parliamentarian struck this provision from the Senate bill on June 27.
- \$550 initial work authorization application fee for those with pending asylum claims and renewal every six months (instead of five years). This high hurdle could make many vulnerable people prime targets for labor exploitation.
- \$250 “visa integrity fee” — on top of the fees already paid — for every person who receives a nonimmigrant visa, such as religious workers. The Senate Parliamentarian also struck this provision.

■ **PUBLIC PROGRAMS:** This bill will strip away key federal programs that lawfully eligible immigrants have been able to access in the past, including Medicaid, the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), ACA health coverage subsidies, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs (SNAP), Medicare, and Federal Student Aid under the Higher Education Act.

■ **CHILD TAX CREDIT:** The reconciliation bill requires that the child and both parents have a social security number in order to claim the child tax credit, potentially excluding 1 million children without Social Security numbers, as well as approximately 2.2 million children who have at least one parent without a Social Security Number. The Senate version of the bill provides that at least one parent must have a social security number to claim the Child Tax Credit.

■ **UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND FAMILIES:** The bill would impose prohibitive fees for families seeking to reunite with an unaccompanied child, charging them \$8,500, including a “reimbursement” fee of \$3,500 and a \$5,000 bond, which creates a significant barrier to reunification. It would also provide \$100 million to facilitate the expedited removal of unaccompanied children without any access to legal counsel. The Senate Parliamentarian struck this provision as well.

Republican leadership set a deadline for themselves to have the One Big Beautiful Bill Act signed into law by July 4. It remains to be seen if Congress is able to meet that deadline and if the bill can survive the heavy criticism.

Archbishop Timothy Broglio, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, released a statement on June 26 in opposition to immigration policy as outlined in H.R. 1. In an earlier statement he explained his reasoning:

We cannot abide injustice, and we stress that national self-interest does not justify policies with consequences that are contrary to the moral law. The use of sweeping generalizations to denigrate any group, such as describing all undocumented immigrants as ‘criminals’ or ‘invaders,’ to deprive them of protection under the law, is an affront to God, who has created each of us in his own image. ✠

FAITH IN ACTION: Urge your Representative to protect human life and dignity and promote the common good by rejecting the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act.”
<https://mogc.me/stop-obbbba>

UN: Third Oceans Conference Convenes

World leaders met in Nice, France, from June 9-13, to discuss sustainability of the world's oceans. Maryknoll Sister Margaret Lacson and Maryknoll Father John Sivalon report back.

Five years remain until the deadline to the 15-year timeframe the UN set to implement its Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). For the furtherance of goal number 14, "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources," the third UN Oceans Conference (UNOC3) met in Nice, France in early in June to discuss the issues affecting the biome that makes up 80 percent of Earth's surface.

There are four major interrelated oceans stressors: global warming, fossil fuel emissions, waste nutrients, and plastics.

In the last 40 years, half of all coral reefs have fallen victim to coral bleaching and infectious diseases associated with climate change. It is estimated that with an average global temperature increase of 1.5 degrees centigrade, the loss could reach between 70 to 90 percent. As the ocean absorbs about 30 percent of the carbon dioxide produced by burning fossil fuels, the water becomes acidic, further contributing to coral reef loss and negatively impacting marine life.

The loss of ocean oxygen levels along coastal areas creates "dead zones" where species cannot survive. There are more than four hundred of these dead zones throughout the oceans at various depths, forming an area roughly the size of the United Kingdom. The main cause of these dead zones, especially along the coasts, is the runoff of nutrients from fertilizers and wastewater contamination, either directly into the ocean or in rivers and streams that run into it.

As another stressor, humanity produces 430 million tons of plastic waste each year, of which only 9 percent is recycled. The rest ends up in landfills, incinerated or leaked. About eight million tons are transported directly to the ocean. Most of this comes from single-use plastics and lost or discarded fishing gear.

At issue is not just the plastic we can see. Microplastics, nanoscopic particles of plastic, and plastics' chemical additives, affect marine life at all depths and in all areas of the ocean including Antarctica.

Now, a new artificial threat to the oceans has emerged: deep seabed mining.

Maryknoll co-sponsored a side event on this topic, titled "Disturbance in the Deep: A Rights-Based and Values-Based Approach to Deep Sea Conservation." Most speakers called for at least a moratorium on

seabed exploitation until more research could be done. The president of the EU Council said that "it is a risk the world cannot afford and does not need to take." Among civil society organizations, the demand was overwhelmingly for an outright ban. So far, thirty-seven member states have declared their support for a moratorium or ban. Even the new secretary general of the International Seabed Authority has sounded a call for caution and voiced her dismay with the United States for its unilateral decision to consider authorizing contracts to begin exploitation in international waters.

During the conference, major negotiations were proceeding among member states on oceans treaties. The most often mentioned was Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), which covers the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in international waters. This agreement requires sixty states to ratify it to become binding. At the beginning of the conference, around thirty countries had ratified it. By the end of the conference, fifty countries had.

The other contested treaty dealt with plastics. The discussions around this treaty were more contentious, but the executive director of the UN Environmental Programme was optimistic that the negotiations would lead to an agreement. Even without a treaty, though, individuals and institutions can consciously reduce consumption of single use plastics.

As the conference emphasized, the ocean is a single global biome. It has no sections that can be dealt with in isolation. It demands that the UN take a holistic approach, instead of the present patchwork of disconnected treaties, conventions, and conferences. It was this level of oneness in mind that led Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers and Maryknoll Sisters to join other faith leaders in developing "The Faith in the Ocean Declaration," launched at UNOC3 in Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Nice. The declaration has well over 550 signatories calling for a radical new consciousness of our relationship to the ocean, and through it our relationship to climate change and biodiversity loss. ✞

FAITH IN ACTION: Read and sign the Faith in the Ocean Declaration <https://mogc.me/fjo>

See the full recording of the webinar co-sponsored by Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers and Maryknoll Sisters <https://mogc.me/dsm-sideevent>

Salvadoran Bishops Call for End to State of Exception

On May 29, the Catholic bishops of El Salvador released a pastoral letter urging, among other things, an end to the state of exception that suspends civil liberties and an end to the detention of migrants from other countries.

In a 28-page pastoral letter, titled *A Voice Cries Out From the Desert*, the Catholic bishops of El Salvador addressed their concerns to their government, including calling for an end to the state of exception — the emergency declaration that suspends the right to a fair trial.

The suspension of civil rights known as the state of exception was imposed in 2022 to combat gang activity. It provided the Bukele Administration with the authority to imprison over 80,000 suspected gang members in high security prisons without due process. The emergency measure has been renewed on a monthly basis for over three years now.

The bishops, in the clearest call to date, urged an end to the extraordinary measure:

“While the state of exception may have once been justified as a necessary measure to address violence, that time has passed. Continuing under such a regime is no longer warranted. It is time to restore full freedoms and allow the population to live without fear or pressure. People must be free to do good, follow the law, and contribute to society not because they are coerced, but because they freely choose to do so. Doing good out of fear is coercion; doing it under threat is repression.”

The letter acknowledges and commends the Salvadoran government’s successes in reducing violence in El Salvador but raises concerns about its methods. Firstly, the bishops note that a positive vision is needed for young people as an alternative to gang violence. The bishops call for initiatives that foster child and adolescent development, naming sports, the arts, and vocational schools as possible options. As they write, “Access to education and vocational training is essential to ensure that the tragic history of violence does not repeat itself.”

Secondly, the bishops raise concerns over the treatment of the incarcerated. They urge full and objective reviews of each prisoner’s case so that the innocent among them may be released.

Furthermore, the bishops object to El Salvador’s cooperation with the United States on immigration. “Our country cannot become complicit in the repressive immigration policies of powerful nations,” they write. “Migration is a human right.”

The bishops refer to the March transfer of 200 migrant prisoners, accused of gang ties by the Trump

Administration without evidence, to El Salvador’s maximum-security prison, CECOT, in defiance of U.S. federal court orders. The move was part of a broader program of “mass deportation” by the Trump Administration.

The bishops’ conference goes on to remind the Salvadoran government why collaboration on repressive policies is unwise:

“We must remember the profound teachings of Pope Francis and other pontiffs on this subject. Migration should always be a matter of free choice. But today, in many cases, it is not. People are driven to migrate by war, natural disasters, or the simple fact that they cannot live with dignity and prosperity in their homeland. As early as 2003, St. John Paul II declared that ‘creating concrete conditions of peace for migrants and refugees means committing seriously to defending, above all, the right not to emigrate — that is, the right to live in peace and dignity in one’s own country.’

“For this reason, we affirm that migrants are not criminals or delinquents. They are human beings seeking better lives. They are our brothers and sisters.

“We therefore call on the authorities not to offer our nation’s prisons as holding grounds for those targeted by anti-immigration policies abroad. Instead, we should adopt a humane and welcoming approach — one that embraces open borders and integrates migrants into the economy as valued members of the labor force.

“After all, many Salvadorans are themselves migrants, and we would not wish to see our own compatriots imprisoned in foreign lands.”

The bishops also speak out about arrests of human rights advocates in El Salvador: “Human rights defenders must never be persecuted for fulfilling their calling. If there are individuals in prison solely for their peaceful advocacy of human rights, their cases must be reviewed and they must be released without delay.”

One prominent prisoner is Ruth Eleonora López, a human rights lawyer and the head of the anti-corruption unit at Cristosal. López was arrested May 18, and will be held in jail for the six months leading up to her trial.

The bishops’ statement concludes, “May the Risen Lord enlighten and guide each of your decisions.” ✠

Korea Peace Advocates Meet with U.S. Legislators

OVER 150 PEOPLE FROM 28 states and the District of Columbia participated in the tenth annual Korea Peace Advocacy Week June 9 – 13, urging their Members of Congress to support the Peace on the Korean Peninsula Act. The Advocacy Week was organized by the Korea Peace Network, including Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns together with Women Cross DMZ, Korea Peace Now, the United Methodist Church's Global Ministries, Mennonite Central Committee, and American Friends Service Committee.

June 25 marked the 75th anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War. Though fighting stopped with an armistice 72 years ago, on July 27, 1953, a formal peace agreement was not signed, and the war never officially ended. Tensions and division on the Korean Peninsula have endured, heightened by the threat of nuclear war.

The Peace on the Korean Peninsula Act would call for diplomacy and negotiations with North Korea in pursuit of a binding peace agreement to formally end the Korean War, requiring the Secretary of State to report on a roadmap for achieving permanent peace.

It would also require review of the current ban on travel to North Korea, and the establishment of criteria for exceptions, including for family visits and humanitarian aid. Advocates urged members of the House of Representatives to co-sponsor and pass the bill, H.R. 1841, and called on Senators to introduce a companion bill.

Participants in Advocacy Week also asked legislators to speak publicly in favor of ending the war on the July 27 anniversary of the armistice.

The House bill currently has 40 bipartisan co-sponsors. Pressure on Republican congressional offices is key to gathering the needed support for legislation in both chambers. In a press release, MOGC Director Susan Gunn said, "Walking with the Korean people for over a century, Maryknoll missionaries have felt first-hand the pain of war and separation on the Korean Peninsula. Demilitarization, reduction of nuclear risk, delivery of humanitarian aid, reuniting separated families — everything that constitutes just and enduring peace for all Koreans begins with negotiating a peace agreement to officially end the Korean War." ✂

Haiti: Trump Administration Ends TPS

THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCED IT will end Temporary Protected Status (TPS) early for about 500,000 Haitians living in the United States, exposing them to deportation as soon as Sept. 2. This comes three months after the Trump Administration revoked legal protections for thousands of Haitians who arrived legally in the country under a humanitarian parole program.

Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Kristi Noem announced the decision on June 27, three days after the U.S. Embassy in Haiti renewed a warning urging U.S. citizens to depart Haiti as soon as possible. Earlier in June, UN Human Rights Chief Volker Türk warned that the human rights crisis in Haiti had plummeted to a new low, with gang violence expanding past the city centers and displacing a record number of people.

"Alarming as they are, numbers cannot express the horrors Haitians are being forced to endure on a daily basis," said Türk. "At this time of untold suffering and fear, I reiterate my call to all States not to forcibly return anyone to Haiti, and to ensure that Haitians who have fled their country are protected against any kind of discrimination and stigmatization," he added.

Efforts to combat gang violence on the island nation

have so far failed in their objective. June 25 marked the one-year anniversary of the arrival of a contingent of Kenyan security forces as part of a Multinational Security Support Mission (MSSM) authorized by the UN Security Council. The mission has met with serious opposition as the security forces find themselves outnumbered and outgunned. A 2020 UN report estimated that the country has up to 500,000 small arms, the vast majority in the hands of civilians. Many of these trace back to the United States. Haiti is approximately 600 miles away from Miami, and the United States is the largest gun manufacturer in the world. There is no domestic manufacture of guns or ammunition in Haiti.

To address this discrepancy, members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee reintroduced H.R. 2643, the Haiti Criminal Collusion Transparency Act. The bill would require the Secretary of State to submit an annual report to Congress regarding the ties between criminal gangs and political and economic elites in Haiti and impose sanctions on political and economic elites involved in such criminal activities.

A federal judge blocked the order ending TPS for Haitians on Jul. 1, restoring the Feb. 3, 2026 deadline. ✂

Resources

1. **POLICY PAPER: CLIMATE FINANCE IN THE JUBILEE YEAR** on why debt relief is more important than ever for climate and nature justice, published by CIDSE <https://mogc.me/CIDSE-JUBILEE>
2. **WEBINAR RECORDING: "FAMILIES LIVING IN FEAR: THE CURRENT REALITY OF MIGRANTS LIVING IN THE U.S."** by the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers <https://mogc.me/mkwebinars>
3. Join free online presentations on care for the Earth, migration, and nonviolence at the **MARYKNOLL MONARCH INITIATIVE** <https://www.maryknollmonarch.org/>
4. **WEBINAR RECORDING: "NEW UNDOCUMENTED POPULATION REPORT: FACT-BASED DEMOGRAPHY AND JUST POLICIES IN CHALLENGING TIMES."** by the Center for Migration Studies <https://mogc.me/nupr>
5. **ARTICLE: "PROTECTED, YET UNDOCUMENTED: THE U.S. CASE OF GROWING LIMINAL IMMIGRATION STATUS AND THE THEORETICAL, ADVOCACY, AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS FOR THE U.S. AND BEYOND"** by Phillip Connor <https://mogc.me/pyu>
6. **WEBINAR RECORDING: "DISTURBANCE IN THE DEEP"** A Rights-Based and Values-Based Approach to Deep Sea Conservation <https://mogc.me/disturbance-deep>
7. **ZOOM MEETING: "TIDES OF TRANSFORMATION: ALIGNING SDG14 ACTIONS FROM NICE TO NEW YORK"** by NGO Mining Working Group on **JULY 9** at **10AM ET**. <https://mogc.me/nice-newyork>
8. **POLICY PAPER: CHILDREN AND THE UN CLIMATE COPS - A PRIMARY CONSIDERATION FOR THEIR FUTURE IN THE PRESENT** by Alana Institute. <https://mogc.me/UNCCOP>
9. **STATEMENT: A CALL FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE AND THE COMMON HOME** - a message from the Catholic episcopal conferences and councils of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean on the occasion of COP30 <https://mogc.me/gs-cop30>
10. **ARTICLE: POPE LEO AND THE NONVIOLENT WAY FORWARD** by Ken Butigan, Senior Advisor to the Catholic Institute for Nonviolence, published by Pax Christi International about the centrality of peace and nonviolence in Pope Leo's early statements. <https://mogc.me/nonviolence>
11. **ZOOM MEETING: CIDSE SYSTEMIC CHANGE DIALOGUE TOWARDS COP30**
 - Reclaiming futures beyond extractive addiction and false solutions on **JUL 9** from **9-11AM ET** <https://mogc.me/COP30>
 - Ecological and climate debt: rooted in responsibility on **SEPT 17** from **6-8AM ET** <https://mogc.me/CIDSE>
12. **THE JUBILEE REPORT: A Blueprint for Tackling the Debt and Development Crises and Creating the Financial Foundations for a Sustainable People-Centered Global Economy** <https://mogc.me/jr-blueprint>
13. **WEBINAR RECORDING: HOW TO SHINE YOUR LIGHT** from the National Religious Campaign Against Torture <https://mogc.me/htsyl>
14. **IMF BLOG: POOREST COUNTRIES AND FRAGILE STATES ARE INCREASINGLY FALLING BEHIND** <https://mogc.me/pcfs>
15. **VIDEO RECAP: PASCALE'S BRIEFING ON HAITI** - Featuring the Policy Framework at UN CRSV panel <https://mogc.me/pboh>
16. **REPORT: THE WAR IN UKRAINE AND THE URGENT NEED FOR DIPLOMATIC SOLUTIONS** written by Ellie Kline published by the Friends' Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) <https://mogc.me/fcnl-ukraine>
17. **FAITH IN THE OCEANS: AN INTERNATIONAL MULTI-FAITH DECLARATION** <https://mogc.me/fjo>
18. **ZOOM MEETING: JUBILEE 2025** - Visioning a Liberatory Climate Future by Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers on **JULY 9** AT **1PM ET** <https://mogc.me/idjej>
19. **CATHOLIC CLIMATE COVENANT: SHARE YOUR MESSAGE WITH POPE LEO XIV** - submit replies by **JULY 31** <https://mogc.me/plxiv>
20. **REPORT: EXPORTING INSTABILITY IMPORTING EXPLOITATION** on the Impacts of U.S. Trade Policy on Migration in Latin America by Iza Camarillo <https://mogc.me/iutpmla>
21. **SUMMARY REPORT: FEMINIST FORUM ON MIGRATION AND DISPLACEMENT IN THAILAND** by WIMN <https://mogc.me/forum>