



COMBONI PRESS NETWORK

The News Service Of The Comboni Missionaries

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Comboni Press Network (CPN) newsletter provides access to information on global issues from church and mission-related sources. Our focus is on justice and peace issues, and the effect U.S. policies have on Third World countries. Please share your suggestions and ideas with us—we're only a fax or e-mail away!

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GLOBAL CONNECTIONS:

From CPN ***FOR RICHER AND POORER: FORGING A NEW CLIMATE CHANGE ACCORD:*** The *United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP15)*, taking place at the Bella Center in Copenhagen, Denmark, has gathered more than 15,000 people from 192 nations to make it the biggest climate meeting in history. The job at hand is urgent—to curb greenhouse gas emissions and figure out the financing for the developing countries in terms of aid and clean technology, that is—“the mitigation and adaptation to climate change.” One major point is that as the world’s richest countries in the North demand billions of dollars annually in debt repayment from the world’s poorest, these same countries lead the production of emissions that have caused the climate changes and damaged the fragile environments in the South.

√ **British Prime Minister Gordon Brown** conveyed the urgency of a politically binding deal within six months, saying that if all fails, “it will be an indictment of our generation that our children will not forgive.”

√ **Leo Atakpu**, Deputy Executive Director of the *African Network for Environment & Economic Justice* in Benin City, Nigeria, said “the World Bank’s new program to give loans (and not grants) for adaptation to climate change is a mere action to satisfy the desires of the drivers of neo-liberalism. It is immoral for developed countries that are largely responsible for carbon emissions not to...provide grants to developing countries.”

Visit www.jubileeusa.org/climate to learn more about debt and climate change, and read the ongoing blog at www.jubileeusa.typepad.com.

For more information, contact: <http://en.cop15.dk>; www.ecoseed.org; www.unfccc.int; and *PaxChristi International’s Climate Change: An Appeal* at <http://storage.paxchristi.net/2009-0789-en-gl-HS.pdf>. Visit *SustainUS* youth delegate Liz Trombley’s blog at litzocopenhagen.wordpress.com/.

From AFJN ***PRACTICAL IDEAS RISE FROM THE SECOND AFRICAN SYNOD:*** The **Second Special Assembly of Bishops for Africa**, held in Rome during October, was attended by one cardinal, 187 archbishops and bishops, eight representatives of Union of Superiors General, 25 Vatican Department heads, 36 special delegates, 20 collaborators and experts, 49 auditors and 35 women. Twelve working groups produced an initial 282 propositions that were narrowed down to 57. Topics included resource exploitation, family, trade imbalance, debt, climate change, role of women, conflicts and poor governance. Read the *Final Message* and *Propositions* at www.vatican.va and www.zenit.org/article-27314?l=english.

√ **Fr. Rocco Puopolo**, director of the **Africa Faith & Justice Network (AFJN)**, kept a blog throughout the Synod at www.afjn.org or www.yesafricamatters.org. Several post-Synod action steps were suggested, including: (1) preparing an *Action Study Guide* for religious communities, parishes and dioceses; (2) developing powerpoint presentations for parishes or at regional Africa Summits held in the U.S.; (3) writing of op-eds; (4) pitching articles to NCR; (5) creating a webinar or conference; (6) holding a brainstorming session on getting more press on Africa, and (7) the strengthening of networks working for Africa, like AFJN.

DID YOU KNOW? A **National Day of Action on Immigration Reform** took place in November. This issue will finally top the President Obama’s agenda in 2010. Visit www.usccb.org/mrs/nmw/index.shtml; www.jrs.net; www.reformimmigrationFORamerica.org; www.immigrationforum.org and www.refugees.org.

CONGRATULATIONS: U.S. President Obama, recipient of the **2009 Nobel Peace Prize** in Oslo, Norway.

Attention teachers and others interested in the Congo: The Comboni Missionaries and Sisters of Charity are offering their **Congo: Shattering the Silence Photographic Exhibit** and/or powerpoint program free-of-charge for classrooms. Educational packets, complete with CDs, are \$15 that include postage. **Contact:** Cindy Browne at (513) 474-4997/E-mail: combonipn@combonimissionaries.org.

NOT-TO-BE-MISSED RESOURCES AND ORGANIZATIONS:

√ *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* is the new book by Pulitzer Prize winners Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl Wa Dunn. It lays out an agenda for the world's women and three major abuses: sex trafficking and forced prostitution; gender-based violence including honor killings and mass rape; and maternal mortality, which needlessly claims one woman a minute. The book encourages us to participate in this movement to emancipate women and fight global poverty by unlocking women's power as economic catalysts. **Get involved** in the *Care Action Network (CAN)* at www.care.org.

√ *The Moral Dimension of Health Reform* by *Center for American Progress's* Ellen-Marie Whelan and Marta Cook, examines how the health reform bills in Congress measure up to Catholic social teachings. The Catholic Church has been a long-standing advocate for reform in the U.S. and led the effort for nearly a century, valuing stewardship over wasteful spending. **Get the article**, showing how the bills compare, at www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/12/pdf/catholic_health.pdf.

√ *The Sabbath Economics Collaborative (SEC)* at www.sabbatheconomics.org is a national network that encourages cooperation and communication among theologians, economists and activists working with contemporary issues of faith and economic justice. Take the 20-question *Social Justice Quiz* by Bill Quigley. Other resources for popular education in economics are www.epinet.org, www.ufenet.org and www.populareconomics.org.

√ *Stones into Schools; Promoting Peace with Books, Not Bombs, in Afghanistan and Pakistan*, newly released by Greg Mortenson, updates his best-selling *Three Cups of Tea* and the continuing work of his non-profit, *Central Asia Institute (CAI)*. Its mission is to promote peace through education and it has established more than 130 schools, mostly for girls, in the remote regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Hundreds of communities and universities, as well as several branches of the U.S. military, have used the first book, *Three Cups of Tea*, as their "common read." **Get involved** at www.ikat.org and www.stonesintoschools.org.

√ *What are we doing here?* is a controversial and inspiring new documentary by the four Klein brothers who went to Africa to investigate why, after 50 years of Western involvement, billions of dollars in foreign assistance and countless promises, *Africa is still so poor*. Filled with poignant stories, it has already been shown at 20 film festivals. \$25, 84 minutes. **Get it** from <http://store.whatarewedoinghere.net>.

NOTABLE BOOKMARKS:

◆ www.afcast.org.zw is the compelling site of *The African Forum for Catholic Social Teachings*, a diverse group of Catholics who study the inter-relationship of Catholic Social Teachings, the African Church and the peoples of Eastern and Southern Africa. Includes pastoral letters, publications, archives and events.

FUTURE DATES FOR FUTURE THINKERS AND PLANNERS:

- **December 7-18, 2009 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP15)** in Copenhagen, Denmark will gather 1000s from over 190 countries to debate the newest research on climate change. Find out why it may be 10 times more difficult than the Kyoto climate negotiation. **Follow** the convention at <http://en.cop15.dk>.
- **December 10, 2009: Human Rights Day.**
- **January 3-9, 2010: 2010 National Migration Week: *Renewing Hope, Seeking Justice*** marks over 25 years of this observance that was started by the U.S. bishops to encourage reflection on the wide diversity of the Church and its ministries. **To obtain the materials for this week, contact:** 1-800-235-8722 or visit www.usccbpublishing.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=1425.
- **January 18, 2010: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.** Learn about the *MLK Coalition's* work and the *2009-2010 MLK Community Service Challenge* at www.mlkcoalition.org.

COMBONILINE: ◆ In October, the **Comboni Missionaries** elected their new General Administration in Rome. **Congratulations** to **Superior General Fr. Enrique Sanchez** and his four councilors, **Fr. Jose Odelir** (Vicar), **Fr. Alberto Pelucchi**, **Fr. Tadesse Tesfaye** and **Br. Daniele Giusti**. **Congratulations** to ◆ **Mons. Giuseppe Filippi**, now the Bishop of Kotido/Uganda, and **Fr. Giuseppe Sandri**, who will become the Bishop of Witbank, South Africa on January 31; and to ◆ **Fr. Archimede Fornasari**, upon his retirement from CTU in Chicago, after more than 30 years of dedicated teaching.