

Carib groups start journey to World Youth Day

The first group of sixty-seven young Jamaican Catholics accompanied by three priests fly out from the region next week headed for the World Youth Day (WYD) experience due to begin in Madrid, Spain on August 15. They are part of a total of more than 600 young people, 13 priests, nine sisters and three bishops from around the Caribbean who will be attending the event.

World Youth Day is a weeklong Catholic meeting of youth and young adults from almost every country on the planet gathered around the Pope who called them together for the experience. It is an evangelical endeavor in which the universal Church manifests its constant concern for youth. It is held every 2-3 years in different cities around the globe. Organisers of this year's event say over 450,000 Catholic youths and around 20,000 priests are expected to attend.

The largest Caribbean contingent will be from the Port of Spain diocese which will be sending over 100 young people. The Curacao delegation of 80 people is the second largest. They are followed by Suriname, Barbados and St Lucia sending groups of 60, 57 and 56 respectively.

The 102-strong T&T contingent of pilgrims to World Youth Day 2011 in Spain have been urged to "be counted as Catholic".

"You don't have to look like a Catholic, you have to be a Catholic," Fr Cornelius Philip FMI told them last Sunday, as they gathered with other young people from across the T&T Archdiocese at San Fernando Hill for Viva Católica, according to a report in the Catholic News of Trinidad and Tobago. During the rally, the youth pilgrims received a blessing from Archbishop Gilbert as they were officially commissioned to represent T&T in Spain.

For several months the young people from the Caribbean have been going through in their home territories, various spiritual routines individually and as a group to prepare them for the encounter and to make it a lasting experience.

A number of international funding agencies provided assistance to youths who wanted to be part of the experience but who did not have the financial resources.

WYD not only demonstrates the Church's presence in the world, but also

a sign of communion among its young members. The meetings, - which are essentially meetings of prayer, charity, solidarity, and respect - highlight the heart of the Church's existence as a praying, pilgrim Church while at the same time emphasizing its catholicity and universality. The goal is to fill the heart of each participant with a personal conversion and encounter with Jesus Christ.

Deacon Godfrey back home



Recently ordained Jesuit Deacon Godfrey Veersammy returned home earlier this month after successfully completing studies in Theology at the University of London in the United Kingdom.

He is expected to spend about one year gaining pastoral experience in Guyana prior to his ordination to the priesthood which is likely to be around the middle of next year. He will be based at Arrupe House in Queenstown.

Godfrey, a Guyanese who hails from Enmore village was one of four Jesuit candidates who were ordained to the Diaconate by Archbishop Peter Smith at Corpus Christi Church, Brixton Hill, UK on April 30.

He entered the novitiate of the Society of Jesus in Jamaica in 1998, and took his first vows as a Jesuit in August 2000 at the Sacred Heart Church, Main Street.

Outspoken Archbishop new Vatican Ambassador

Guyana will soon welcome Reverend Nicola Girasol as the new Apostolic Nuncio of the Holy See to Guyana. According to a release from the Government Information Agency Reverend Girasoli is a career diplomat. Archbishop Girasoli he was appointed Papal Nuncio to Zambia and Malawi 24 Jan 2006 a position he still holds.

In an Easter Message in April as Zambia was preparing for general elections the Archbishop expressed hope for peaceful elections and said those who are in power and public institutions should not abuse or challenge the peaceful hearts of Zambian citizens.

"We all know that violence and repression produce no winners in resolving problems. Those who are in power and all public institutions are called not to abuse or to challenge the peaceful hearts of the citizens of Zambia, especially because the democratic awareness has tremendously grown in the recent years in Zambia. Avoid

repression, promote dialogue. Repression is a strategy of power, dialogue is the way to achieve peace. We are all called to address and solve issues," he is reported as saying.

Archbishop Girasoli said bipartisanship and compromise as a process of settlement of differences especially in the present situation in the country where the gap of the electoral consensus seems as it appeared in 2008 elections to be sharply in favour of one or another political party could genuinely help to strengthen unity and peace.

"One Zambia, One Nation, respecting the diversity of our cultures and the equality of all citizens before the law is the way and the spirit to follow for the coming elections. We pray that the peace of our risen Lord Jesus Christ can be with all the citizen of Zambia, regardless of their religious affiliation," Archbishop Girasoli reportedly said.

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19th WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

BISHOP'S ENGAGEMENTS

Sun 7th August: 08:00 hrs Mass at St. Teresa
Sun 14th August 06:00 hrs Mass at Cathedral
07:30 hrs Mass at Cathedral

+ Francis Alleyne, OSB

Real-life heroes

The recent revelations of Arnold Schwarzenegger's infidelity to his wife, Maria Shriver,

and his fathering a child with a member of the couple's household staff near the midpoint of their 25-year marriage subjects the mind and heart to multivalent forces.

For those offended by his narcissistic beginnings, his movies and his politics, Schwarzenegger's fall is vindication. The body builder, terminator and governor was, in fact, only a fictional hero all along.

Older Catholics are reminded by these sordid revelations that the Shriver name is associated with a mythical golden era often referred to as Camelot.

For those appalled by the culture of celebrity, the affair is simply the latest in a long line of "true lies." The glitterati, after all, make their livings by giving the appearance that they really do have it all, ~~marriages~~ marriages including successful marriages. Regardless of past thoughts or feelings about this celebrity couple, the termination

of their marriage breaks a spell in which it might have been imagined that a celebrity hero upheld enduring, real-life values and lived a genuinely heroic life amid the sham of stardom.

Lifting the veil on the Terminator's infidelity has so many reference points to shallowness, vanity and self-absorption that it tempts us to view the demise of Schwarzenegger's reputation as yet another form of entertainment similar to the real-action-hero movies that made him a Hollywood icon.

On the other hand, it might be an occasion for distracting us, if

only momentarily, from fictional heroines and heroes and to marvel again at the real-life superheroes who authentically model the values we cherish. The glitter of stardom and the center stage of sports or political achievement elude these everyday champions, but their lives bring true light to the world around us. To name only a few:

-- Military personnel, law enforcement officers and firefighters, alive and dead, who stand in the breach for our defense and protection.

-- Catholic clergy who faithfully honor their vows and vocations, especially those today who valiantly persevere in the face of scandal.

-- Those among the baptized who devote themselves to the care and protection of the widow, the orphan, the unborn, the poor, the stranger and the elderly.

-- Husbands and wives living committed, faithful, Christian marriages despite a constant cultural media barrage that sacrifices the life-giving value of marital fidelity on the altar of self-indulgence and self-determination.

-- Parents, married and single, who daily sacrifice their lives in big ways and small for their children's welfare.

-- Catholic educators dedicated not only to delivering academic excellence, but to teaching Gospel values to students in Catholic schools throughout the world.

Fictional Hollywood heroes, like those who portray them, may provide amusement on Saturday

afternoons, but contemplating the real-life action heroes all around us is apt to bring more peace to mind and heart.

May the Lord bless them and keep them.

By Greg Magnan, the Catholic Northwest Progress, newspaper

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PURPOSE OF LIFE

It is not unusual for our thoughts to wander in search of ideas, dreams and influences which impact on our lives. We often try to examine the past while reviewing subject matters which were not dealt with clearly, the purpose of which may still remain clouded in uncertainty. As we look to the future we may think of the many pitfalls, constraints and uncertainties which may encompass us. We then wonder whether we should drift with the wind into the unexpected, or charter a course with defined intentions.

That brings me to the question of life's purpose.

Fred Barks contended that "Finding your Life Purpose and your deepest Life intentions can help you to move with greater focus and clarity everyday of your Life." There are many ways to do so.

He suggested that you can start to find and develop your own purpose and intentions by stopping for a moment and asking yourself two (2) questions:

1. What is most important to me in my life?
2. What are my deepest values and beliefs?

He further suggested that you must consider inviting divine guidance and use your own inner wisdom to help you. Also that you must give yourself time to explore these questions and notice what comes up that touches and inspires you most deeply. Once you have some answers to these questions use the answers to develop your life purpose and intentions.

I am sure that in such process you will have interesting answers and many ideas as to what goals in life's purpose, you should strive for. Having identified what is most important to you, you can further develop meaningful life intentions, such intentions and purpose will equip you to navigate your course through the challenges and storms of life.

Going back to the question of what is most important in our lives, I found it difficult to answer and kept modifying my thoughts. As one who believes in creation I started by asking myself why was I created? Blending that thought with my appreciation that I am the only one with my finger prints in a population of six million plus, I concluded that I was special

Viewpoint By Vibert Parvatan

and must have a mission. Wedding all of that to religious training I completed my answer in concluding that I should look at God's purpose for giving me life. With a perceived obligation that life's purpose ought to embrace the pillars of Christian values, it surfaced that I have an obligation to others and that it should embrace love, faith, hope and charity.

In defining a Mission Statement for my life, which may be applicable to you I concluded that I must include - to love and serve my God and embrace moral and religious values in pursuit of the acquisition of knowledge which facilitates optimal contribution to fellow human beings.

I suggest you try writing down the answers that relate to you then you would appreciate the temporary nature of this earthly life, make the most of each day and be unselfish in pursuit of happiness, joy and success.

In an article captioned "Faith is dreaming God's dream" Robert Schuller stated:

What is the purpose of life anyway?

Only to eat, drink, work, play, make love?

Or do you have a brain designed to dream dreams?

Is your mind created to be an architect, drawing plans?

Can you imagine beautiful accomplishments?

Think of this:

The ~~has~~ an being is the only creature in the universe that has the capacity for exercising creative imagination!

This divine quality of dreaming

What you want to be,

Where you want to go,

What you'd love to do,

Projects you hope to achieve,

Goals you'd like to reach -

All of this makes you human

And the most unique creature in all of creation!

You really are "made in the image" of the Creator - God!

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RESTORED CATHEDRAL IN PARAMARIBO

Francis Quamina Farrier in Suriname

From all appearances the christian churches in neighbouring Suriname are pretty strong; but not without challenges. On my last visit to the capital, Paramaribo, about twelve years ago, I entered the large wooden cathedral of Saints Peterus and Paulus and was shocked to see the condition of the building. It was in an advanced state of disrepair and was closed down. That state lasted for almost 22 years. Speaking two weeks ago with the Administrator of the cathedral, Fr Esteban Kross after Mass, he told

New Vatican Envoy

From page 1

The new Nuncio who will reside in Trinidad and Tobago also called on Zambian church leaders to promote and strengthen peace as the gift of peace could be in danger when it was not sustained by concrete gestures of reconciliation and forgiveness. He added that durable peace could only exist when and where human rights were fully-acknowledged. Archbishop Girasoli, replaces Archbishop Thomas Edward Gullickson, who is currently the Papal representative to a number of Caribbean countries including Guyana but who was recently appointed to be the new Nuncio in Ukraine. He said Zambians this year were in an important electoral process and it was important, especially for church leaders, to underline that peace was a priority, so that any kind of political expectation was subordinate to peace.

"Peace is a gift which we cannot take for granted. Peace needs to be built day by day and durable peace is based on dialogue. The first step to build peace starts in our hearts. Many times we do think that it's others who have to change instead of ourselves. At Easter our Lord Jesus teaches us that if I change the others will change, if I grow the others will grow," Archbishop Girasoli said. "True dialogue starts from removing the prejudice that my opponents or those who are not thinking as I do are wrong. Unfortunately this prejudice sustains the culture of repression."

He said it was a known fact that governments come and go. "Of course, our fellow Catholics have to be involved in politics and in Zambia we have Catholics in all political parties. But we as a Church according to the social Catholic doctrine cannot remain silent.

Silence is the strategy of the evil," Archbishop Girasoli reportedly said.

According to the Zambian newspaper The Post On Line the soon to be appointed delegate also said on another occasion that police intervention in any unrest should not lead to loss of life. During a media breakfast where he launched the book entitled One Hundred Thoughts of Peace - We can negotiate everything except Human Rights, which is a compilation of extracts from his speeches, homilies and conferences as a gift to the people of Zambia, Archbishop Girasoli advised government to avoid repression.

During the media breakfast, the Vatican envoy said recent events in Africa had shown the world that the culture of repression had definitely failed.

He said people, especially the youths, were becoming more and more aware that democracy was based on participation and respect for diversity.

"We do need dialogue; a true dialogue without prejudices, avoiding useless conversations as an excuse for imposing the opinion of those who are stronger and in power," he said.

Archbishop Girasoli further said the Catholic Church had managed to be in existence for over 2000 years because it had not entered the political arena.

He, however, said the Catholic Church was not interested in any political power but could not be silent on issues that affected the people as it spoke for the voiceless and was interested in issues of human rights.

He said leaders should be convinced that corruption was the main enemy of development and that all its forms had a pernicious effect on society.



me that efforts by the United Nations and funding by the European Union of 2.8 Million Euros, facilitated the restoration of what I am told is the largest wooden Catholic church in South America; it is somewhat larger than our previous Sacred Heart church.

The restoration of the Catholic Cathedral in Paramaribo took five years, Fr Kross told me, and it was re-opened on November 14, 2010. Among those who attended that rededication service, was our own Bishop Francis Alleyne, who described the ceremony as "very impressive".

Fr. Kross who has visited Guyana on many occasions, expressed joy at the restoration of the cathedral and pleasure that it also serves the spiritual needs of Paramaribo-based Guyanese Catholics as well as visitors like myself. He related the hospitality which he has received on his visits to Guyana and extended greetings to Bishop Francis Alleyne, Monsignor Terrence Montrose and Fr. John Persaud.

Prayers for busy people

For Those Who Are Unemployed

God of compassion, we remember those who suffer want and anxiety because they have no work. Guide the people of this land to use our wealth so that all may find fulfilling employment and receive just payment for their labour, through Jesus Christ our Lord... Amen

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FACING THE FUTURE (F+F) LAUNCHES PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

'Facing the Future', a campaign promoted by a coalition of agencies aiming to create a more inclusive future for Guyana is launching a programme of activities to be completed over the coming year. Building on preparatory consultations that engaged people from a wide spectrum of ages, backgrounds and persuasions, the activities seek to generate understanding and support for a more attractive and inclusive future for Guyana.

The Facing the Future (FtF) campaign is taking advantage of the electoral season to encourage citizens to develop proposals to strengthen inclusivity in the society.

A year-long programme of activities by organizations and communities will aim to secure modest improvements in the

electoral system in the run-up to election and, thereby, lay the foundation for substantial electoral reforms in the post-election period. The FtF programme incorporates three activities.

Firstly, promoting a series of reforms inspired by the constitutional provision that 'people should know as closely as possible for whom they are voting'.

Secondly, a Public Lecture Series in which distinguished Caribbean experts will be invited to discuss electoral arrangements in their societies.

Thirdly, a Community Challenge programme aimed at providing young people with opportunities to work towards creating more inclusive communities.

The first activity aims to create a more citizen-oriented, citizen-responsive and citizen-accountable electoral system through a multi-layered signature campaign which all Guyanese will be invited to support. All Guyanese over 16 years of age are being invited to sign either electronically on the FtF web-site, or physically at one of the venues where signature sheets will be available. Thousands of book-marks identifying the aims of the campaign will be distributed in coming weeks by members of young people's organizations associated with the campaign.

The signature campaign seeks five reforms prior to the upcoming elections:

- i. Equal numbers of female and male names on party lists
- ii. Names and photos of candidates on ballot papers
- iii. 'Closed' rather than 'open' party lists providing people with a more reliable idea of who will occupy seats won by the party
- iv. Knowing more about the people we vote for: e.g. the principles to which they ascribe.
- v. Full voluntary disclosure of campaign financing.

It is hoped that the campaign will serve to stimulate discussion about elections which go beyond personalities and help people to develop informed opinions about how elections currently serve to divide rather than unite Guyanese.

facingthefuture.com.gy has been secured as the campaign web-site to support the programme of activities and is expected to be up and available within the next few days. Among the sponsoring organizations of Facing the Future are: the Amerindian Peoples Association (APA), Church Women United (CWU), Commonground, Community-Based Rehabilitation -EBD, Guyana Council of Churches (GCC), Guyana Human Rights Association (GHRA), Guyana Society for the Blind, Guyana Workers Union (GWU), Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Rights of Children (ROC), Red Thread, Vilvoorden Women's Organization.

Purpose of life

From page 2

So you are fulfilling your destiny as a child of God in human flesh when you start dreaming the beautiful dreams God Himself is inspiring in your mind.

A radio is designed to pick up the sounds that are here in this room now!

A television is engineered to pick up the moving pictures that are in the air waves around you now.

Your mind was invented and created by God to pick up the messages and mental pictures He is sending your way.

That's exciting!

Faith is dreaming God's dreams!

It is my view that our life's purpose and intentions, though evolving, must become clear as we Journey along the earthly life and focus on our dreams and goals.

Mexican diocese responds to calls to replace bishop

SALTILLO, Mexico, July 19, 2011—The Diocese of Saltillo, Mexico has responded to protests by an unidentified group who recently urged the diocese to replace current Bishop Raul Vera Lopez.

The July 15 statement was signed by Father Gerardo Escareno and titled, "The activity of the Bishop is not outside the bounds of the Gospel or the norms and guidelines of the Church, or the challenges of the society in which we live."

Two weeks ago protest messages were hung on the railing that surrounds the Cathedral of Saltillo. The anonymous banners proclaimed "We want a Catholic Bishop" and claimed that Bishop Vera "promoted and supported a homosexual community" (cf Justice and Peace Desk report carried by last week's Catholic Standard).

Fr. Escareno's statement published on the website of the Mexican bishops' conference says: "The pastoral work of the diocesan bishop, which encompasses a wide variety of areas of the life of the Church and of society, clearly reflects the teachings and pastoral norms of the Church."

The Mexican Episcopal Conference (CEM) has also expressed its support for Bishop Vega following the anonymous threats against him. "Anonymous attacks imply cowardice; those who hide behind anonymous actions do not deserve credibility," Fr. Manuel Corral Martin, Executive Secretary for Institutional Relations of the Mexican Episcopal Conference was quoted as saying by the Mexican daily newspaper La Jornada on July 17.

"The CEM supports Bishop Vega, as it supports and supports his freedom of expression; whether or not we agree with him or not, we cannot allow him to be attacked or intimidated."

The paper also quoted the Saltillo diocesan spokesman Fr. Escareno as saying that the pastoral style of Bishop Vera committed to the most vulnerable in society has upset some sectors of society who feel that he should engage in a more ecclesiastical ministry.

On Wednesday July 20 Bishop Vera headed a pilgrimage from his dioceses to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadeloupe and in an interview afterwards with the Jornada, he spoke of the situation in his northern Mexico diocese faced by the actions of organized crime.

He denounced drug traffickers who have been recruiting children as young as 12 to work as spies and informers, for which they are paid up to US\$100 weekly; he also reported that the Human Rights Office run by the Saltillo Dioceses has documented 185 forced disappearances, and that by newspapers in the state have reported more than 300 executions in the last six months.

Letters to the Editor

Time to make our roads safe

Dear Editor,

To all who have lost loved ones on our roads on behalf of the Alicia Foundation/ Mothers in Black please accept our sincere condolences. We truly feel your pain as most of these crashes causing death and injury are avoidable. They cannot be called accidents.

For over 15 years we have advocated tirelessly to stop this senseless carnage on our roads but our cries are ignored as we continue to shed tears.

Most will agree that one single factor is an unlikely cause of these horrendous crashes. It is a combination of the following.

- Ease of obtaining a licence
- Lack of professional driver training
- Lack of knowledge of the highway code.
- Lack of vehicle maintenance due to costs
- Second hand or worn tyres and substitute parts.
- Age of vehicles
- Irrelevance of the annual vehicles fitness test
- Overloading of public transportation to maximize revenue.
- Lack of sleeping policemen to prevent speeding
- Consumption of alcohol and/ or drugs
- Speeding

In many cases those persons driving our public transportation are underage, do not have a licence or have bought their licence as they are unable to read or write. Generally, inexperienced drivers learn to drive in a compound and not on our roads and coached by existing drivers who ensure that their own bad habits are replicated in the novice driver.

Some years ago the Jamaican government along with the Jamaican National Road Safety Council took drastic measures to suspend all maxi-taxis traversing their roads for a maximum of two years to enforce a legal requirement for all mini-bus drivers to participate in and pass an advanced driving instruction test. In addition all drivers, owners and conductors received further education in customer care to raise their awareness of the need for courtesy towards their customers, the mini-bus commuters.

After satisfactory completion of this special, safe-driving education programme the mini-bus drivers and conductors were then granted a mini-bus licence and ID with photograph included. A mandate of wearing a uniform was also enforced. Bus stops were constructed using funds from paid advertising on the outside of the bus stops that included road safety warnings.

The out-come of this exercise reduced road-fatalities and injuries in Jamaica by 50%.

The above factors may initially be a huge expense and may inconvenience many. But in the long term less it will be less expensive than the cost of human tragedy, vehicle replacement and medical expenses.

Pedestrians and commuters should take some responsibility. Why remain inside a speeding vehicle or enter a vehicle when the driver is or has been drinking? Road users are being abused by mini-bus and taxi drivers yet they say or do nothing.

Road deaths have become endemic in our country. When we loose our loved ones so abruptly they call it an accident but for us it is a lifelong pain that we have to live with.

It is time to make our roads safe.

DENISE DIAS

The Alicia Foundation/ Mothers in Black

Freedom of Info Bill an insult to intelligence

Dear Editor,

I agree entirely with the Guyana Human Rights Association (GHRA) analysis of the Freedom of Information Bill the PPP Government wants to foist on us. It is an insult to the intelligence.

If the government were genuinely interested, they would have started public consultations long ago, and taken our contributions seriously.

Let us take comfort in the words of Jesus:

Do not be afraid of them therefore. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear [Matt 10:26].

ALFRED BHULAI

Service to the poor

Dear Editor,

One does not have to enter the novitiate⁴ to serve God's people. Those who dedicated their lives to the service of God's people and community like Sister Beatrice Fernandes, serve so many needs of society that would go unnoticed, unattended had it not been for them.

There are so many other avenues of service with the disabled, the street vagrants, persons who live in homes but yet uncared for by the very ones they cared for. Society disintegrates when we fail to do our christian duty to humanity!

Civilisation is a classification of those from a higher order who must know and do better, as opposed to the uncivilised whose beastly acts take so many lives by road carnage domestic violence etc.

I urge all to reflect on the words of Archbishop Desmond Tutu who embraces the efforts of UNICEF to reduce the incidences of violence against women and children. He said, "We cannot embrace justice, love and peace if we fail to speak out to condemn violence against women. I will continue fighting for the right of women and girls to live a life free from violence and abuse to become a reality until the end of my days."

We must pray for discernment--Lord help us to realise, recognise and help make a difference rather than criticise!

ROSEMARIE CHOO-SHEE-NAM

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'Young Swiss Guards' To Greet Pope For World Youth Day

(CNA) Sixty children dressed in the uniform of the Swiss Guards will welcome Pope Benedict XVI during World Youth Day this August in Madrid.

The director of the group, nicknamed the "Young Swiss Guards," said that the group was born out of affection for the Pope after John Paul II's first visit to Spain in 1982.

St. John Paul II visited the country again in 1993 and 2003, always accompanied by the young Swiss Guards. Unlike their young imitators, the Pontifical Swiss Guards number 110 and are responsible for the Pope's safety. They guard his home and assist him during important ceremonies celebrated in the Vatican. The guard marked its 505th anniversary in January. On Jan. 22, 1506, 150 Swiss soldiers entered the Vatican at the request of Pope Julius II. It is the oldest standing army in the world.

Church Will Never Violate Seal Of Confession, says Vatican Official

(CNA/EWTN News) The regent of the apostolic penitentiary, Archbishop Gianfranco Girotti, firmly stated that the Catholic Church will never divulge the confession of a penitent. "Ireland can pass whatever laws it wants, but it must know that the Church will never submit to forcing confessors to inform civil officials," said Archbishop Girotti in July 27 statements to *Il Foglio*.

The proposed law contradicts Canon Law, which defends the inviolability of the seal of confession and prohibits confessors from breaking it. Archbishop Girotti said confessors "have the duty to absolve sins, assuming that there is sincere repentance," and that informing civil officials, prison sentences or sanctions established by the laws of the state are another matter.

Abuse Report Will Not Delay Irish Eucharistic Congress

(CNA) Ireland's 2012 International Eucharistic Congress will continue as planned, from June 10-17, despite calls to postpone the event following the recently released Cloyne Report on clerical abuse.

"It is especially important for people in times of challenge or crisis that they can gather in solidarity and rediscover their essential truths," said Father Kevin Doran, secretary general of the Eucharistic Congress, on July 29.

The controversial Association of Catholic Priests, which calls for a "re-structuring of the governing system of the Church" and a "redesigning of ministry in the Church," has backed the idea of postponement. But Fr. Doran said there was "substantial enthusiasm for the Congress," both locally and internationally, and noted that the Church had been planning the event since June 2008.

Pope Makes Plea For Drought-stricken Africa

(CNA/EWTN News)

Last Sunday, Pope Benedict XVI's Angelus address highlighted the plight of those affected by drought and famine in the Horn of Africa.

"One thinks of the many brothers and sisters these days, in the Horn of Africa, who suffer the dramatic consequences of famine, exacerbated by war and the lack of strong institutions," the Pope told pilgrims gathered in the courtyard of his summer residence at Castel Gandolfo, 15 miles to the south of Rome.



Justice & Peace Desk

The Pope said Sunday's Gospel "reminds us that it is forbidden to be indifferent to the tragedy of hunger and thirst! It encourages us to give them food to eat, and share our bread with the needy. Following Christ we must be sensitive to the poverty of nations."

Pope Benedict said that Jesus Christ wants to take care of both our physical and spiritual needs.

Church at Mexico-US Border Organizes Prayer Day

(Zenit) A 24-hour prayer event in the Mexican Diocese of Matamoros, on the border with Texas, was set to respond to the situation of violence and insecurity that is plaguing the region because of the war on drugs.

The 24-hour period stretched across Tuesday and Wednesday, marking the first month anniversary of the death of Father Marco Durán, who was caught in the crossfire of two rival drug trafficking gangs.

Matamoros borders with the southern tip of Texas, across from Brownsville.

The cathedral community, the priests of Matamoros, the community of St. Robert Bellarmine (where Father Durán was parish priest), and other parish groups were among the organizers.

The Blessed Sacrament was exposed on the altar of the cathedral throughout the day.

Nicaragua Lacks Rule Of Law, Distrust Growing Among Populace: Bishop

(CNA) The announcement that President Daniel Ortega will seek reelection is a sign that there is no rule of law in the nation and that the people are losing confidence, said a bishop in Nicaragua.

"These institutions have even made decisions that go against the Constitution itself, and thus the rule of law does not exist. This has cultivated distrust among the people," said Bishop Socrates Rene Sandigo Giron.

"There is a lot of talk about the common good, but the reality is quite different, because if we were truly seeking the common good, we would not be denying people jobs because they do not support the government's vision or belong to the ruling party. In Nicaragua, this is happening. Government workers are obliged to be card-carrying members of the ruling party, and if they refuse, they are denied employment," Bishop Sandigo Giron said.

St. Alphonsus Liguori, Founder Of The Redemptorists, Celebrated August 1

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