



*Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace*  
*June, 2015*

**Laudato Sii (Praised Be!)**



Rarely has an encyclical letter been so anticipated. Its arrival is awaited not just by the global Catholic audience but by world leaders, environmentalists, the corporate world and climate deniers as well.

#### [Faith in Public Life's](#)

Dan Nejfelt has offered to help Catholic faith leaders-folks like you and me-prepare for the release of the Pope Francis' environmental encyclical, 'Laudato Sii' (Praised Be). The current latest best guess is that it will be released June 15.

This is especially designed to be helpful to: JPIC promoters, communications

personnel, and congregational leadership team members.

**Faith in Public Life invites you to attend an Encyclical Media Training Webinar June 08, 2015 at 2:30 PM EDT**

**Register now!**

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8869767265119913474>

Pope Francis's historic encyclical on the environment will be released in a matter of days, and you can help make sure the media knows that the faithful will put his vision into action.

When the encyclical comes out, the media will cover not only the document itself, but also the world's response to it. We need to be ready to speak out in a way that puts the focus where it needs to be -- on our church's call to care for creation.

## **TPP, TIPP Threaten Jobs and Democracy**

Virtually all faith based organizations are encouraging individuals to contact their members of parliament or congress to put a stop to the TIPP and TPP trade deals that are being negotiated in secret. Likewise in the US the same voices are opposed to fast-track authorization that will eliminate the ability of congress or others to edit the bill once it comes to the floor for approval.

These deals threaten the economy and destroy democracy. Most of the protections are for corporate investment. Recent attempts to include Malasia are being opposed as well. That nations has a record of trafficking women and too few protections opposing trafficking are included in the trade agreement according to opponents.

As people of faith, we are called to ensure that a broad range of voices are present at the negotiating table and that our economic policies reflect the common good. In the words of Pope Francis, "We have forgotten and are still forgetting that over and above business, logic and the parameters of the market is the human being; and that something is men and women in as much as they are human beings by virtue of their profound dignity: to offer them the possibility of living a dignified life and of actively participating in the common good."

**Call your U.S. representative and ask him/her to oppose Fast Track: 1-888-410-0619.**

Here is a sample script: "My name is (NAME). I'm a constituent from (CITY). I'm calling to let you know that trade deals are too important to be negotiated in secret. I urge you to stop fast track. Vote NO on H.1890, the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015."

## **The Girls Count Act**

The following recommendation comes to us from the LCWR.

In the U.S., we expect H.R. 2100:[Girls Count Act](#) of 2015 to be brought to the floor of the House for a vote sometime this week.

Please contact your representative today and ask him or her to vote YEA on the Girls Count Act!

The Girls Count Act would help to protect young children around the world, especially girls, who are particularly vulnerable to human trafficking and child marriage. More specifically, it would support birth registration and other legal documentation of children around the world. The legislation also authorizes the U.S. Agency for International Development to build governments' capacities to increase girls' access to education, property rights, and other means of economic security.

Approximately 230 million children under the age of five don't have a birth certificate. Without a birth certificate, it's nearly impossible to participate fully in society. And yet this is precisely what all children deserve - authentic development: the ability to fully contribute their gifts in their societies and to become the people God intended them to be.

We know that education paves the way for authentic development. Helping children to access education and other necessary support services protects their dignity and reduces their vulnerabilities.

Call **888-562-8232** or [send a message](#) to your representative today and ask him or her to **vote YEA** on the **Girls Count Act!**

## **No Agreement at UN Nuclear Non-Proliferation Talks**

The 2015 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference ended on May 22 without agreement on a final document as key states-parties could not bridge differences over the process for convening a conference on ridding the Middle East of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and clashed over the pace of the nuclear-weapon states' disarmament efforts.

There is great disappointment that the leaders were unable agree to keep the Middle East nuclear free. A final proposal was offered by conference president Taous Feroukhi of Algeria, in the hopes that all sides could agree to a minimum statement that would call for a conference to specifically discuss a nuclear free zone in the Middle East. However, Canada, the UK and the US objected, saying they could not sign the final consensus package offered. "We were prepared to endorse consensus on all the other parts of the draft final document addressing the three pillars of the treaty-disarmament, nonproliferation, and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy," said Rose Gottemoeller, U.S. undersecretary of state for arms control and international security. But the language on the Middle Eastern zone was "incompatible with our long-standing policies," she said. No doubt the nuclear capabilities of Israel were the sticking point.

Despite the failures all nations are still bound by the original treaty. All nations, that is, which signed onto the agreement. Israel, India, and Pakistan have not signed on, and North Korea withdrew.

In related news, the **negotiations with Iran** are continuing although slowed by the injury to Secretary of State Kerry. The two main sticking points remain: 1) the ability of inspectors to visit military installations in Iran; the hard-line leaders of the nation insist that no one will be permitted on Iranian military bases; and 2) and the rapidity of the lessening of sanctions. Iran's leaders want the sanctions lifted immediately and the US congress expects a phasing out of sanctions over time as compliance with a final agreement is verified.

Let us continue to pray for the resolution of this crisis with sustainable terms for both sides.

## Campaign Nonviolence

Mark your calendars. Plans are underway for a Campaign Nonviolence action in Jersey City, on either Sept 19 or 20. This action will focus on climate change and its impact on immigrant communities. Highlights of Papa Francisco's encyclical letter will be included in the messaging. The event will occur just days before the Pontiff is expected to arrive, across the Hudson River, in NYC on Sept 24th. He is scheduled to address the UN on climate change on Sept. 25th.

