



Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace
July, 2015

Nuclear deal with Iran



Yesterday, June 30th was to be the last day to hammer out a nuclear deal between the Security Council nations, Germany and Iran. Negotiations are on-going with a new deadline set for July 7.

It is time to pray with wild abandon!

If a deal cannot be reached, Iran would be able to resume its path to building a nuclear weapon and Israel and the hawks in the U.S. would see justification for another war in the already volatile Middle East. Earth and its people cannot afford another war.

If and when a deal is finalized, the U.S. congress will have to vote on accepting the plan. In the days before the vote, well-healed lobbyists will be spreading mis-information about whether or not the deal will adequately protect the world from potential Iranian nuclear assaults. For some, this answer has already been decided, "No." It will be important to

thoroughly check out the authors of claims about the deal's weaknesses and accept or reject those claims based on neutral party observations.

Consider as votes near later this month contacting your legislators asking for their support for a peace plan if one is negotiated.

UK Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT)



The UK Campaign Against the Arms Trade is active this month protesting the arms dealers show in London.

The following is from their email asking for sign-ons asking Church House to end its relationship with the arms conference:

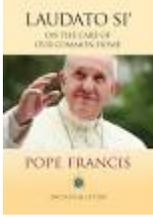
Today, Church House, home to the administrative headquarters of the Church of England, is [hosting a military conference sponsored by some of the world's largest arms companies.](#) It is due to host another on 14-15 July.

UK-made arms have been used in conflicts and to support repression all over the world. The arms companies know they need public support to continue with this deadly trade - and one way they seek to normalise their work is to be associated with prestigious or 'respectable' locations.

We have already persuaded numerous venues not to host arms dealers, including the National Gallery, the Natural History Museum and two Cathedrals - and by doing so we are denying the arms industry the legitimacy it seeks.

On 6 July, CAAT plan to blockade a factory in Shenstone owned by an Israeli arms dealer that makes weapons used against the Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank. Check out their [webpage](#) for more details.

Follow-up on Laudato Si



The Pope's encyclical has been released and read by many already. If you want a study guide, you may want to consider the one prepared by the Jesuit, Rev. Thomas Reese, SJ. Fr. Reese is former editor of America magazine and currently writes for the National Catholic Reporter. You can find the study guide [here](#).

A "Map" for the encyclical consisting of page long summaries of each chapter and an outline of the entire document can be found [here](#) in the UK or [here](#) in the U.S.

Racial Tension and Actions for Healing

Could it be that the time to heal racial tensions in the United States has finally come? Can we sit and discuss the reality and meaning of white privilege? Can we begin to understand that the persistent presence of poverty in predominantly black communities is not an accident but a product of a series of biases and systemically unjust systems? If we are to be at real peace, we need to be part of the dialogue that leads to livable solutions. Constitution # 11.

In a conversation with Srs. Janet and Rosalie in Florida, They suggested many of us--and I add especially those of us living in predominantly white communities in the U.S.--should consider joining the local NAACP or other organizations that support the dignity and equality of African American and other minorities. We can join as allies to listen and learn from that part of our community what their needs are and how they see oppression and injustice.

President Obama [eulogized Rev. Clementa Pinckney](#) and the others killed in the shooting at Emmanuel AME Church in Charleston South Carolina. Whether or not you live in the US, you may be interested in hearing the President's description of church that occurs relatively early in the nearly 40 minute speech.

New Bishop in Nottingham



Msgr. Patrick McKinney will be consecrated as the tenth Bishop of Nottingham on Friday, 3 July at 11:30 AM. The 61 year-old Irish born priest of the Diocese of Birmingham was named to the post by Pope Francis on 14 May 2015. He previously served as professor of ecclesiology and served on an ecumenical commission as well as serving in parish work and as Episcopal Vicar of the north of the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

Bishop Bagsahwe who was instrumental in the founding of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace was the third Archbishop of Nottingham.

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.

