



# Where Justice and Truth Meet

December 2017

***“As Dominican women, we claim our power to nurture mutual relationships that offer healing and courage to a broken world.” — Together Birthing Anew, Chapter 2014***

## Dominican Month for Peace



Fr. Bruno Cadoré, OP, Master of the worldwide Dominican Order, calls all members of the Dominican family to

celebrate a [“Month for Peace”](#) to coincide with the season of Advent 2017. He reminds us that we are to be “advocates of peace (like Dominic) in a world torn apart by many forms of violence and war.”

The Month for Peace will be held each December as, in Advent, “we are all waiting for the incarnation of the Prince of Peace.” During this month, in a special way, Dominicans around the world are called to pray for peace, and invited into solidarity for a particular project for peace. The focus for Advent 2017 will be on Colombia, where for several decades, Dominican brothers and sisters have been involved in the accompaniment of communities affected by conflict in various parts of the country and now are supporting the historic Peace Accord signed in 2016 between the government and the oldest and largest guerrilla group in the region, the FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia).

Dominican groups are asked to pray for peace and organize communal prayer vigils and offer Eucharist for peace and reconciliation in Colombia. All are invited to incorporate this focus in our Advent preaching and living. Dominican artists are encouraged to produce artworks that will raise awareness of the local and global need for peace and reconciliation. Solidarity may

also be expressed through financial support to establish a network of peacemakers (“pacificultores”) in Catatumbo, Colombia where Dominicans have accompanied the people for many years. A [pamphlet](#) with background information on Colombia and the Dominicans’ work for peace there offers more details on solidarity projects for 2017.



In keeping with our 2012 corporate stance on [Global Climate Change](#), Dominican Sisters

of Springfield are one of 213 (and counting) faith groups that have joined 9 states, more than 250 cities and counties, nearly 1800 business and more than 330 colleges and universities in declaring [“We are still in”](#) the Paris Climate Agreement. Members of the movement pledge our support to continue to help the U.S. achieve its greenhouse gas emissions promised in the Paris Agreement.

Leaders from state and local government, the private business sector and academia were present in the U.S. Climate Action Center, a first of its kind pavilion for American cities, states and businesses, during the two weeks of negotiations of COP23 in Bonn, Germany from November 6-17, 2017.

The [“I am still in”](#) effort also delivered more than one million signatures to the United Nations meeting in Bonn from Americans pledging their support for the Paris Agreement.



## USCCB Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism



The United States Catholic Conference of Bishops recognizes "the sin of racism in our society, and even in our Church, and the urgent

need to come together as a society to find solutions." These prophetic words were spoken by Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, President of the USCCB, in announcing their establishment of an [Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism](#). "Recent events have exposed the extent to which the sin of racism continues to afflict our nation. The establishment of this new ad hoc committee will be wholly dedicated to engaging the Church and our society to work together in unity to challenge the sin of racism, to listen to persons who are suffering under this sin, and to come together in the love of Christ to know one another as brothers and sisters," said Cardinal DiNardo.

Bishop George V. Murry, SJ of Youngstown, Ohio has been appointed as chairman of the committee. In response to the announcement, he called upon all people of goodwill to join the group's efforts to address the "need for our national and personal healing and conversation" around what he called "the evil of racism."



The terminology of "sin" has been repeated by many bishops and other church leaders in the wake of the violence that erupted during white nationalist protests in Charlottesville, Virginia. [Cardinal Blase Cupich](#), writing in Chicago's archdiocesan newspaper, referred to racism as "our country's original sin."

"There can be no equivocating," Cupich wrote. "Racism is a sin. White supremacy is a sin. Neo-Nazism is a sin. We know this."

To address the sin of racism, Catholics must remember that all are made in God's image, Cupich said. "Believing that has consequences," he wrote. "It means know that together we all form one human family. And that we owe each other what all members of the same family deserve: love."

**RACISM IS NOT A  
SKIN ISSUE - IT'S  
A SIN ISSUE.**

RICK WARREN

To encourage and support the bishops' conference in their desire to do the work of anti-racism in the church, the Springfield Dominican Anti-Racism Team (SDART) steering committee has sent a [congratulatory letter](#) to the new committee's chair, Bishop George Murray, to share about our work and highlight the need for systemic work on this issue. The letter was copied to Cardinal Cupich and the bishops and archbishops in dioceses where we serve.

### News from the Vatican

Nuclear disarmament is now "a moral imperative." Speaking during a Vatican [symposium on disarmament](#), Pope Francis condemns not only use but also "the very [possession of nuclear weapons](#)".



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Beginning in 2018, [tobacco will no longer be sold](#) in the Vatican. "The Holy See cannot contribute to an activity that clearly damages the health of people," said Vatican spokesperson Greg Burke. The Vatican banned smoking in buildings in 2002, under Pope St. John Paul II.

