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From June 20 – 23, the Catholic Peacebuilding Network (CPN), the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies of the Keough School of Global Affairs, the Vatican’s Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, and 25 other institutions co-sponsored a major virtual conference, "Catholic Peacebuilding in Times of Crisis: Hope for a Wounded World." This conference convened more than 80 of the world's most important peacebuilders – Church leaders, scholars, and peacebuilding specialists – from more than 30 countries addressing topics from the Church's role in facilitating peace and truth and reconciliation processes to environmental peacebuilding and the ethics and spirituality of peacebuilding. The conference allowed the speakers and 1000 registrants to learn from their rich and diverse experiences in confronting challenges to peace around the world and discern new and creative ways to respond to the historic challenges to peace that we now face. Recordings of all sessions are available on CPN's YouTube channel.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiHFxFdaVXm4CiRQeIW-Dg

Speakers included: Cardinal Charles Bo of Myanmar; Sr. Alessandra Smerilli, secretary of the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development; Archbishop Gabriele Caccia, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the UN; Amb (ret.) Susan Page, former U.S. Ambassador to South Sudan; Scott Appleby, Dean, Notre Dame's Keough School of Global Affairs; Major General (ret.) Robert Latiff, Notre Dame's Reilly Center for Science, Technology, and Values; Aloysius John, secretary general, Caritas Internationalis; Tetiana Stawnychy, Director, Caritas Ukraine; Lisa Cahill, Boston College; Myla Leguro, CRS Philippines.

Overall, the conference was a substantive and inspiring course on the current state and future of Catholic peacebuilding, illustrating how the Catholic community is, indeed, a peacebuilding church but can do more to fulfill its full potential.