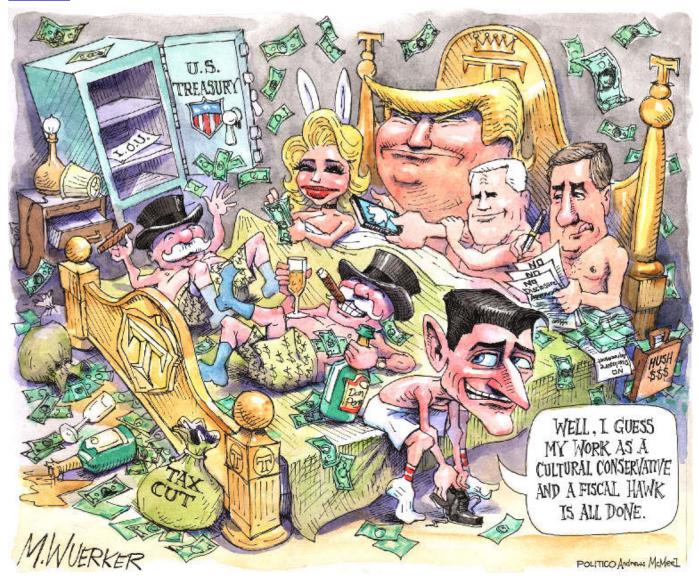
Opinion





by Dennis Coday

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LITTLETON, Colo. -- Colorado gun control activists rallied near Columbine High School, calling for an end to gun violence and marking the 19th anniversary of the massacre there and a planned nationwide student walkout.

- Inspired by this generation: <u>Catholic students 'ignited' to help organize</u> <u>locally</u>
- Inspired by this generation: Catholic schools a faithful presence at Cleveland march
- Inspired by this generation: Editorial: Single-mindedness needed on guns

On Monday, I told you this was a developing story: In February the Diocese of La Crosse, Wisconsin, announced <u>it was ending pension payments with lump-sum payouts.</u> The rest of the story came yesterday: <u>Wisconsin diocese calls off plan</u> to rescind employee's pensions.

As <u>Puerto Rico wrestles with blackouts across the island</u>, Jubilee USA Network is warning that Congress's oversight board for Puerto Rico could pass a fiscal debt plan that is worse than the fiscal plan in place before Hurricanes Maria and Irma struck the island. Puerto Rico's Archbishop Gonzalez testified to the oversight board yesterday: <u>Human lives must be focus of Puerto Rico fiscal plan</u>.

NAACP joins environmental groups in calling for EPA chief Scott Pruitt's ouster

<u>Church crackdown intensifies in China's Henan province</u> An official notice posted outside a church in Henan says: "Religion must not interfere with life and social order."

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Chicago -- San Diego Bishop Robert McElroy delivered an important talk at Loyola University Chicago. Here are two takes:

- McElroy blasts 'sickness of the soul' in US politics, calls for a moral solution
- McElroy: Politics should pursue common good, not special interests

For the first time since 1959, Cuba has a president not named Castro. Who is Miguel Díaz-Canel, Cuba's handpicked president?

NCR and Global Sisters Report published this week a series of stories about Cuba and the church. Read them here:

- Cubans, US exiles connect to help rebuild Cuba's Catholic Church
- Encuentro Eclesial event unites Cuban Catholics, bridges US-Cuba division
- Where Cuban government can't provide, sisters and Catholic organizations fill the gaps

Sunday is Earth Day. How you mark it? Find some inspiration in these stories:

- Pope Francis' encyclical inspires the Laudato Si' Project in Wisconsin
- Environmental vulnerabilities are linked to every other problem in Haiti
- Access to clean water is a life issue that the church must defend

Did you ever consider a good road, a convenient bus line and rural access to the internet might help eradicate hunger? **US infrastructure investment key to better jobs, less hunger, Bread for the World recommends**

If Pope Francis' exhortation <u>Gaudete et Exsultate ("Rejoice and Be Glad")</u> has inspired you to join <u>the journey of 'small holiness'</u>, NCR and Celebration have the resources to help you:

- Start your day inspired with daily Scripture reflections. Join NCR's sister
 publication, Celebration, for <u>Daily Bread</u>, a series of short reflections written
 by four authors who meet regularly to share the readings.
- Or reflect on **Pencil Preaching by Pat Marrin**. Every morning Pat Marrin breaks open the Word with a pencil sketch and a short meditation.