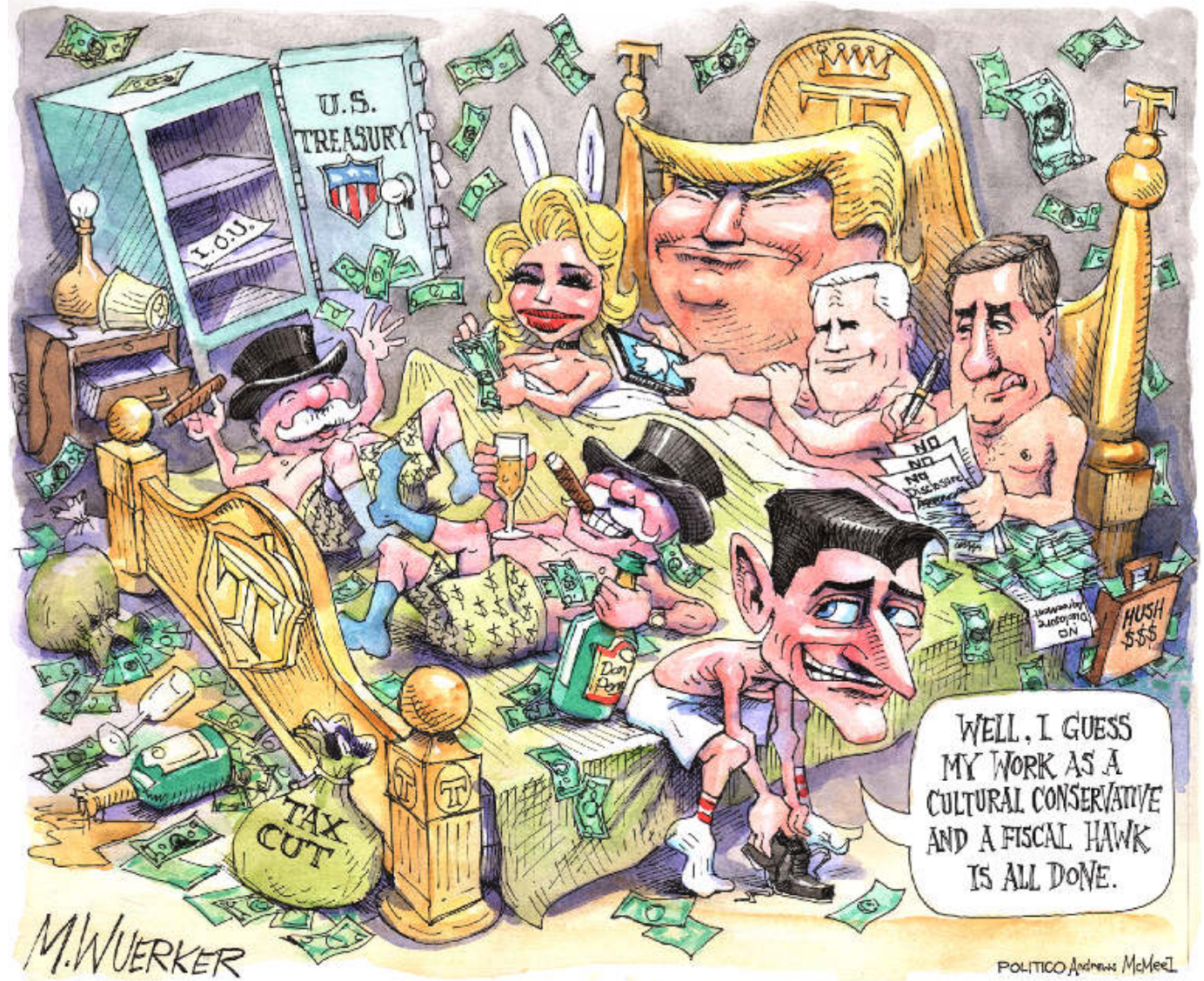


[Opinion](#)



by Dennis Coday

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

As [**Puerto Rico wrestles with blackouts across the island**](#), 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: [**Human lives must be focus of Puerto Rico fiscal plan.**](#)

[**NAACP joins environmental groups in calling for EPA chief Scott Pruitt's ouster**](#)

[**Church crackdown intensifies in China's Henan province**](#) 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 [**Gaudete et Exsultate \("Rejoice and Be Glad"\)**](#) has inspired you to join [**the journey of 'small holiness'**](#), NCR and Celebration have the resources to help you:

- Start your day inspired with daily Scripture reflections. Join NCR's sister publication, Celebration, for [**Daily Bread**](#), 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.