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## **Join the Conversation**

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President Donald Trump is to unveil his second Supreme Court pick tonight "with the prime-time flourish of a reality show star," says Stephen Collinson at CNN Politics:

**[Trump to unveil Supreme Court pick for the ages](#)**

NCR's Heidi Schlumpf reported on one of his candidates: **[Prospective Supreme Court nominee \(Judge Amy Coney Barrett\) puts spotlight on People of Praise](#)**

The Washington Post followed with this story: **[The story behind potential Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett's little-known Catholic group, People of Praise](#)**

As whoemver the nominee is moves through the confirmation process, Michael Sean Winters makes this observation: **[Abortion and the Supreme Court: how the debate has changed](#)**

Another piece from the Washington Post: **[Catholics on the court: The historical struggle between canon and constitutional law](#)**

A record number of women have declared their candidacy in 2018, including progressive Catholic women whose campaigns have been informed and inspired by Catholic Social Teaching but Heidi Schlumpf tells us [they aren't running as "Catholic candidates."](#)

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Have you read Pope Francis' exhortation [Gaudete et Exultate \("Rejoice and Be Glad"\)](#)? NCR and Celebration have the resources to help you on your [journey of 'small holiness'](#).

- 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.

Manila, Philippines -- Philippine Catholic bishops on Monday called for fasting and prayers after President Rodrigo Duterte called God "stupid" and questioned God's existence in profane remarks [that set the foul-mouthed leader on a collision course with Asia's largest Catholic church.](#)

**Trouble brewing in Pennsylvania:** A statewide grand jury was empaneled in 2016 to investigate allegations of clergy sex abuse across six Roman Catholic dioceses. The findings are widely expected to expose decades-old abuse of children at the hands of priests in the dioceses of Harrisburg, Pittsburg, Allentown, Scranton, Erie and Greensburg. In late June, the high court [issued a stay on its release](#). Last week [priests named in the investigation tried to discredit media efforts to release sex abuse report](#) and we learned that they engaged some high-powered, high priced lawyers, which prompted the question: [Where does a priest get the money to retain an expensive lawyer?](#)

Kansas City Star columnist Mary Sanchez believes the [Catholic Church is delivering on longstanding promises about clerical abuse.](#)

I hope you saw this from late last week: Msgr. Arturo J. Bañuelas, pastor of St. Mark's Parish, El Paso, Texas, sent [a dispatch from a parish on the El Paso-Juárez border](#)

Our editorial on the subject: [\*\*Return compassion to migration debate\*\*](#)

The Diocese of Memphis was the subject of a three-day visitation in June by a two-member archbishop team who will report [\*\*to Pope Francis on the state of the church in western Tennessee\*\*](#). The visitors were Archbishop Wilton Gregory of Atlanta and Archbishop Bernard Hebda of St. Paul-Minneapolis.

Catholics in Australia are preparing for a plenary council in 2020. Here are some things to expect and suggestions (if you're Australian) on what to do: [\*\*What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?\*\*](#)