



Bottles of opioid-based medication are seen at a pharmacy in Portsmouth, Ohio.
(CNS/Reuters/Bryan Woolston)

by NCR Staff

[View Author Profile](#)

[Join the Conversation](#)

November 9, 2018

[Share on Bluesky](#)[Share on Facebook](#)[Share on Twitter](#)[Email to a friend](#)[Print](#)
[Soundcloud](#)

The opioid epidemic has swept through America, leaving devastation in its wake, affecting union halls and congregations alike. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that in 2017, more than 72,000 people died from drug

overdoses, about 68 percent of those deaths a result of opioid use.

On the show today:

- Elizabeth Eisenstadt-Evans, contributor to NCR and Global Sisters Report and religion columnist for Lancaster Newspapers, Inc.

Background reading:

- In response to destruction caused by opioid addiction in the U.S., [faith-based groups have partnered with labor union pension funds](#) and other fund managers to improve accountability and corporate culture in pain pill manufacturers and distributors.
- For Global Sisters Report, Eisenstadt-Evans [reported on two Catholic sisters](#) working in the gritty depths of the strip-mining South and in a university town in the Midwest to create a future in which opioid addicts have options beyond the next fix. They don't know each other — but, from the way their friends and coworkers describe them, they share one strikingly similar trait: They don't give up easy.
- From 2017: Bishop Edward Malesic of Greensburg in a pastoral letter [called the opioid crisis in this country a scourge](#) and urged the people of his diocese to take action against it.

How do I listen?

We can let you know when new podcast episodes are published. [Sign up for emails here](#).

From your iPhone or iPad: Open the preloaded app called "Podcasts." It has a purple icon. If you're reading this from your phone, [tap this link](#), which will take you straight there. (You can also use the magnifying glass icon to search; type "NCR in Conversation.") Once you're on the series page, you can tap on an episode title to play it. Tap on the "subscribe" button to have new episodes sent to your phone. If you prefer another podcast player, you can find "NCR in Conversation" there. (Here's the [RSS feed](#).)

From your Android phone or tablet: You can listen and subscribe using the preloaded Google Play app. If you're reading this from your phone, [tap this link](#) to play the latest episode and learn more about the app.

From your desktop or laptop: You can also simply press the play button above to listen on this page. Make sure to keep this window open on your browser, or the audio will stop. You can always find the latest episode of NCR in Conversation at NCRonline.org/podcast.

Advertisement