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*Our team of copy editors reads and posts most of what you see on the websites for National Catholic Reporter and Global Sisters Report (the NCR project focusing on women religious). The Copy Desk Daily highlights recommended news and opinion articles that have crossed our desks on their way to you.*

### **Australian court upholds Cardinal Pell's conviction on abuse charges:**

Vatican correspondent Joshua McElwee covered late-breaking news last evening, that Australian judges upheld the conviction of Cardinal George Pell for sexually assaulting two choirboys in the 1990s. As he reports, Pell is "the first Vatican official charged by authorities on abuse allegations, the first convicted, and the first sentenced to jail. He is now also the first to lose on appeal."

Michael Sean Winters will be responding to the Pell verdict in today's Distinctly Catholic column. It will be posted soon [and available here.](#)

### **Ministerial exception often protects church employers from lawsuits over firings:**

NCR news editor Peter Feuerherd writes about a legal doctrine that essentially offers church employers "a legal way out of liability" to church workers who feel they have been unjustly dismissed from their positions.

**Dennis McDaniel reviews** *Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth*. For the current election cycle, McDaniel advises, "Democrats would be wise to heed Sarah Smarsh's analysis in her memoir" of the white working poor.

Meanwhile, Faith Seeking Understanding columnist Daniel Horan provides a look at another memoir: **Sr. Helen Prejean's 'River of Fire' a wellspring of wisdom for all Christians.**

New today at Global Sisters Report: [Painting icons, the light of Christ.](#)

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