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President Joe Biden leaves with first lady Jill Biden after his inauguration at the U.S. Capitol Jan. 20, 2021. (CNS/Reuters pool/Jonathan Ernst)



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NCR executive editor Heidi Schlumpf is part of Season 7 of "The Francis Effect" podcast, joining co-hosts Franciscan Fr. Dan Horan (columnist for NCR's "[Faith Seeking Understanding](#)") and David Dault, executive producer and host of "Things Not Seen: Conversations about Culture and Faith."

In this episode, they explore the subtle Catholicism of the Biden inauguration, the [back-and-forth](#) between president of the U.S. bishops' conference, Los Angeles Archbishop José Gomez and Chicago Cardinal Blase Cupich, and the brief but ominous life of the 1776 Report.

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**Editor's note:** *"The Francis Effect" is in its seventh season, with co-hosts Franciscan Fr. Dan Horan and David Dault plus NCR executive editor Heidi Schlumpf. The podcast airs every other Wednesday and is available here on NCR's site as well as on various podcast apps.*

This story appears in the **The Francis Effect Podcast** feature series. [View the full series](#).