

**NEWS**

**SURVEY**  
Fictional Catholic support declines after 10 years  
**PAGE 3**

**SPECIAL SECTION**

**FALL & WINTER LISTINGS**  
Diocese, parishes, networks and more  
**PAGES 7-8**

**COMMENTARY**

**EUCARIST**  
A statement of both unity and division  
**PAGE 18**

---

**NATIONAL CATHOLIC**

# REPORTER

THE INDEPENDENT NEWS SOURCE

McGraw-Hill

August 8-16, 2022

Vol. 50, No. 22 \$2.00

---



Pope Francis greets the Cardinals of the National Camerillo before meeting with the Cardinals, Patriarchs and all cardinals on July 25 at the Vatican, Vatican.

## Gay woman wins battle against US bishops to become foster parent

**By BRIAN FRAGA**  
bfraga@ncronline.org

Ruby Baker was in legal battle to become a foster parent to welcome children. But Baker still feels like she's "on trial."

"I don't know what to make of it," Baker said of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' opposition earlier this year that "is unrepresentative" of the views of the educating agencies in 2021 to deny her application to become a foster parent because she is gay.

Baker and one of her sisters told NCR that they expect to find out how that mischaracterizing happened. They also arranged to learn if the bishops' opposition would mean to write her sister, Lisa, if Baker, who is single, begins dating or marries a woman.

"We never did get answers to those questions," said Kenneth Upton, an attorney with Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, Americans United and Lambda Legal, a civil rights organization that supports the LGBTQ community represented Baker.

"I am sorry," said Francis. "I am sorry for the bishops." *Continued on Page 8*

---



Pope Francis greets the Cardinals of the National Camerillo before meeting with the Cardinals, Patriarchs and all cardinals on July 25 at the Vatican, Vatican.

## Pope apologizes to Canada's Indigenous

**By CHRISTOPHER WHITE**  
cwhite@ncronline.org

Pope Francis made an historic speech during a week-long trip to Canada in late July, apologizing to Indigenous peoples.

"I am sorry," said Francis. "I am sorry for the bishops." *Continued on Page 8*

---



Health workers led by nurses take part in a demonstration over shortages at a Zimbabwean hospital in Harare, Zimbabwe, June 21. A strike by health workers has left the country's major hospitals undermanned. Catholic hospitals are trying to pick up the slack, but are also struggling with the workload and the nation's worsening economic conditions.

## Catholic hospitals struggle to aid collapsing Zimbabwe system

**By THANDWA KAROVEDO**

Public hospitals in Zimbabwe have experienced significant labor shortages in recent months, with staff at many hospitals going on strike to protest pay cuts in a country where the rate of currency inflation has reached 100%.

Staff at Catholic hospitals in the southern African nation are trying to pick up the slack, but are also struggling with the workload and the nation's worsening economic conditions.

Dr. Thebe Sibilo, a physician at the Catholic-run St. Anne's Mission Hospital in Zimbabwe's southeast, has been trained in all kinds of life-saving medical practices. But lately because of more frequent electricity outages, he has had to adapt to providing aid under candle or kerosene light.

"We are struggling," Sibilo told NCR of the staff at his hospital. "We have to keep going to work even when the conditions are very difficult to keep working."

In June, Sibilo's colleague and others at government-run health centers embedded on a strike-ravaged mission in U.S. dollars. *Continued on Page 10*

---



Voters in Marietta, Georgia, line up to cast ballots in the U.S. Senate runoff election on July 5, 2022.

## Climate-concerned voters ready to bring faith to midterm polls

**By BRIAN ROEWE**

With less than 90 days until the midterm elections, a national network of state-based environmental faith groups is gearing up for a final push to register their communities to vote and their own faith with voting the crucial final weekend.

Since the spring, Interfaith Power & Light has mobilized its state chapters to engage their local congregations through its Faith Climate Justice Voter campaign. The effort seeks to increase the number of registered voters and to educate communities of all religions traditions about the importance of voting and what's at stake in the coming elections for the environment, climate change and democracy.

"The reality is that in order to create the world that we built on our values, we have to vote," said Rev. Susan Strickerhoff, president of Interfaith Power & Light. "Voting is a way that we can create the world that we want to live in, and a world in which we're voting for our neighbors and voting for the environment, climate change and democracy."

"The reality is that in order to create the world that we built on our values, we have to vote," said Rev. Susan Strickerhoff, president of Interfaith Power & Light. "Voting is a way that we can create the world that we want to live in, and a world in which we're voting for our neighbors and voting for the environment, climate change and democracy."

*Continued on Page 8*

---



Dr. Adelle Lorraine Walker of the School Sisters of Notre Dame speaking at the National Black Sisters' Conference on July 27 at the National Black Sisters' Conference at the University of Notre Dame.

## Black Catholic groups gather for in-person meeting

**By DAN STOOKMAN**  
dstookman@ncronline.org

**WINE AND BREAD** - The new president of the National Black Sisters' Conference closed the group's annual gathering with a message, praising all call for Black sisters, congregations and organizations to stand with her as a witness that Black lives do matter.

Dr. Adelle Lorraine Walker of the School Sisters of Notre Dame was elected to lead the 26-year-old conference at the group's annual meeting with three other Black Catholic groups and also presided the conference's Sacred Tables Award, which honors inspirational leaders.

In her remarks accepting the award on the gathering's final evening July 27, she returned repeatedly to one of the conference's themes: "Solidarity." "Solidarity means we are all in this together," she said. "We are all in this together, then I accept this award," she said. *Continued on Page 8*

**COMMENTARY**

**GERMAN REFORM**  
Is this threat of reform real?  
**PAGE 11**

**SPECIAL SECTION**

**RELIGIOUS LIFE**  
Our need for spirituality, liberation of Irish women religious  
**PAGES 1-7**

**APPRECIATION**

**CARL KAHAT**  
Priest and author, member of the Society of the Sacred Mission  
**PAGE 12**

---

**NATIONAL CATHOLIC**

# REPORTER


THE INDEPENDENT NEWS SOURCE

McGraw-Hill

August 16-September 1, 2022

Vol. 50, No. 23 \$2.00

---



Voters in Marietta, Georgia, line up to cast ballots in the U.S. Senate runoff election on July 5, 2022.

## Climate-concerned voters ready to bring faith to midterm polls

**By BRIAN ROEWE**

With less than 90 days until the midterm elections, a national network of state-based environmental faith groups is gearing up for a final push to register their communities to vote and their own faith with voting the crucial final weekend.

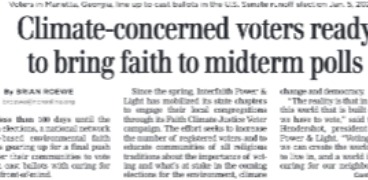
Since the spring, Interfaith Power & Light has mobilized its state chapters to engage their local congregations through its Faith Climate Justice Voter campaign. The effort seeks to increase the number of registered voters and to educate communities of all religions traditions about the importance of voting and what's at stake in the coming elections for the environment, climate change and democracy.

"The reality is that in order to create the world that we built on our values, we have to vote," said Rev. Susan Strickerhoff, president of Interfaith Power & Light. "Voting is a way that we can create the world that we want to live in, and a world in which we're voting for our neighbors and voting for the environment, climate change and democracy."

"The reality is that in order to create the world that we built on our values, we have to vote," said Rev. Susan Strickerhoff, president of Interfaith Power & Light. "Voting is a way that we can create the world that we want to live in, and a world in which we're voting for our neighbors and voting for the environment, climate change and democracy."

*Continued on Page 8*

---



Napa Institute conference focuses on banning abortion nationwide

## Napa Institute conference focuses on banning abortion nationwide

**By BRIAN FRAGA**  
bfraga@ncronline.org

On the evening of July 16, former U.S. Attorney General William Barr addressed a friendly audience that once three days at the Napa Institute's annual retreat. The event had more than 100 attendees at the speaker's table and more than 100 attendees at the speaker's table and more than 100 attendees at the speaker's table.

But it wasn't just a group of pro-life activists that gathered for the conference. The audience included members of the Napa Institute's board of directors, including the Napa Institute's president, Dr. Susan Strickerhoff.

"I had known about that. I think that the Napa Institute would have been a lot more than just a group of pro-life activists that gathered for the conference. The audience included members of the Napa Institute's board of directors, including the Napa Institute's president, Dr. Susan Strickerhoff."

*Continued on Page 12*

The front pages of two recent issues of the National Catholic Reporter (NCR graphic)



by Bill Mitchell

[View Author Profile](#)

[bmitchell@ncronline.org](mailto:bmitchell@ncronline.org)

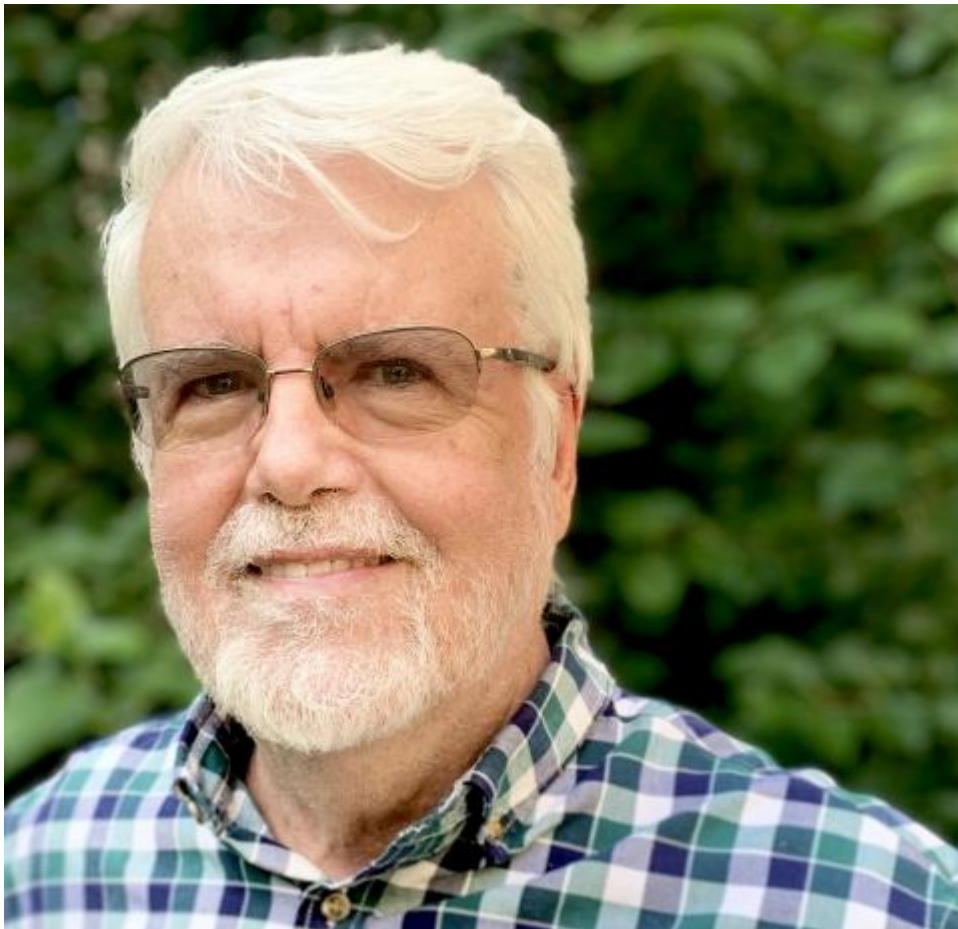
Follow on Twitter at [@bmitch](#)

[Join the Conversation](#)

August 26, 2022

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

When I wrote my first story for the National Catholic Reporter as a college freshman in 1967, I certainly had no idea I'd end up as its publisher and CEO a half century later.



Bill Mitchell

When I accepted the position two years ago, I told the board I would serve until my 75th birthday, with the goal of helping the board identify a longer-term publisher to lead NCR into the second half of its first century. Although my 75th birthday is a year off, NCR is on a positive trajectory and now is the time to begin the search for that next leader.

I spent the vast majority of my career in secular journalism, but the mission is fundamentally the same as what we do at NCR: to probe the issues that matter most to the communities we serve and to rely on our independence to hold the powerful accountable.

As readers and donors tell me every week, though, NCR does something more. It provides an inspirational vision of a church rooted in the Gospels and committed to values of faith and justice.

If you know of someone you believe would be the right fit, please direct them to [ncr.media/pubjob](https://ncr.media/pubjob) for the job description and instructions on how to apply.

As ever, I thank you for your support and look forward to hearing from you.

All the best,

Bill Mitchell

816-968-2259

[bmitchell@ncronline.org](mailto:bmitchell@ncronline.org)

Advertisement

A version of this story appeared in the **Sept 2-15, 2022** print issue.