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New York Cardinal Timothy Dolan and Jesuit Fr. James Martin, editor at large of America magazine, share a laugh during a break at the assembly of the Synod of Bishops in the Vatican's Paul VI Audience Hall Oct. 11. (CNS/Vatican Media)



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NCR senior correspondent [Heidi Schlumpf](#) is part of the new season of "The Francis Effect" podcast, joining co-hosts Franciscan Fr. Daniel Horan ([columnist for NCR](#)) and [David Dault](#), executive producer and host of "Things Not Seen: Conversations About Culture and Faith."

Heidi, Father Daniel and David look at the recent testimony of former President Donald Trump, and the recent election of Mike Johnson as speaker of the House, and discuss what this might mean for our democratic institutions. And Heidi talks with Jesuit Fr. [James Martin](#) about the [recent synod](#).

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