

[Opinion](#)



by Heidi Schlumpf

[View Author Profile](#)

Follow on Twitter at [@heidischlumpf](#)

[Join the Conversation](#)

October 4, 2017

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

News:

Happy feast day of St. Francis. The saint's hometown is honoring him [by joining other Catholic groups in divesting from fossil fuel companies](#).

We have two previews of this week's by-invitation-only conference on *Amoris Laetitia*, Pope Francis' controversial apostolic exhortation on family life. [Michael Sean Winters gives some history](#), while [Joshua McElwee explains the conference](#). Only a handful of press have been invited to report on the proceedings, including NCR so look for more coverage later in the week.

The House of Representatives [passed a bill that would ban abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy](#). The "Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act" has the support of the White House and [the U.S. bishops](#).

In the [aftermath of the shooting in Las Vegas, the local bishop is calling for hate not to have the last word](#). Is this shooting terrorism? The answer brings up the [divisive issues of race, religion and politics](#), experts say.

On the accountability beat, the Archdiocese of Agana on [Guam is facing lawsuits from more than 100 men and women alleging abuse by priests](#) between

the 1950s and 1980.

The U.S. Supreme Court is in session. The [new Catholic justice got “slapped” by Ruth Bader Ginsburg](#) for his comments during discussion of the [gerrymandering case](#). All eyes are on the upcoming “cake case,” that pits a Christian baker’s religious liberty rights against the rights of LGBT folks not to face discrimination. Good background [here](#). (Michael Sean Winters gives [his two cents on the cake case](#).)

Advertisement

Opinion:

ICYMI: Three [Catholic lesbian/queer women call for a new conversation on LGBT issues](#) — one that involves listening to LGBT people’s experiences, rather than clergy talking about them.

Jesuit Fr. Pierre [Teilhard de Chardin should be named a doctor of the church](#), this sister argues. There’s a link to a petition to Pope Francis if you agree.

The tables have turned, with liberal Catholics becoming defenders of the pope, and more traditionalist Catholics saying dissent is OK. “[Welcome to the cafeteria,](#)” says [Jesuit Fr. Tom Reese](#).

I’ve seen lots of folks leave Facebook in the last few weeks. But a [new book says that virtual connectivity can help alleviate suffering](#).