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Of course the top news of the day is: [US cardinal asserts unity with pope after former doctrine chief questions Francis](#). "Of course, we're loyal," US bishops' conference president asserts.

A Nation Under Trump: This week NCR takes a closer look:

- [Trump has put anti-immigrant campaign promises into action](#)
- The international community learns to do without U.S. leadership: [The Trump presidency and Europe's dilemma](#)
- Michael Sean Winters asks [What has the GOP learned since Trump's election?](#)

Read the full series here: [A Nation Under Trump](#)

[Jesuit alumni serving in Congress called to protect Dreamers](#)

John Gehring on the Virginia governor's race: [A Campaign of Fear & Division in Virginia](#) Ed Gillespie Needs to Remember His Catholic Roots

Contraception: The Topic that Won't Go Away.

- Under the Golden Dome: [**Notre Dame takes advantage of Trump rule, drops birth control coverage**](#)
- [**Lawsuit targets Trump's rollback of birth-control rule**](#)
- Did you see this story from NCR: [**Contraception mandate: women's health or religious liberty issue?**](#)
- Some commentary: [**Expanding exemptions on contraception mandate nothing to celebrate**](#)
- More Commentary: [**Ending birth control coverage, Notre Dame abandons its progressive legacy on women's rights**](#)

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The latest news on active nonviolence includes a demand to improve hygiene resources in Los Angeles' skid row, and faith communities' prayer, action and sanctuary for immigrants. [**Read NCR's Justice Action Bulletin.**](#)

[**Pope Francis admits he falls asleep sometimes while praying**](#) "There is Psalm 129 ... that says that I am before God like a child in the arms of his father," he said. "This is one of the many ways in which the name of God becomes sanctified — feeling like a child in his arms."

Cardinal DiNardo has unruly theologians to worry about, but at least he can celebrate: [**Houston Astros win the first World Series championship in franchise history by romping past the Los Angeles Dodgers 5-1 in Game 7.**](#)

Start your day inspired with daily scripture reflections. Join *NCR's* sister publication, *Celebration*, for [**Daily Bread**](#), a series of short reflections written by four authors who meet regularly to share the readings.

Or reflect on [**Pencil Preaching by Pat Marrin**](#). Every morning Pat Marrin breaks open the Word with a pencil sketch and a short meditation.