

[Opinion](#)



by Joshua J. McElwee

[View Author Profile](#)

[Join the Conversation](#)

Rome — July 12, 2018

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

With much of Rome in suspended animation for the traditional summer slow-down, today we will highlight some of what's been in the wider international news.

But first, some recent reporting from NCR:

Chilean clergy abuse survivor **Juan Carlos Cruz revealed new details about his recent meeting with Pope Francis**. Cruz said he thought [Francis was "very sincere" in apologizing for his defense of a bishop](#) accused of covering up an abuser.

National correspondent Heidi Schlumpf examines **U.S. Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh**: [He is pro-life, but is he 'whole life'? ask Catholic commentators](#).

President Trump was in Brussels yesterday for a NATO summit meeting, [where he insulted longtime U.S. ally Germany](#), making false assertions about the amount of energy it imports from Russia.

In response, **both houses of Congress approved nonbinding resolutions** reaffirming U.S. support for the transatlantic alliance. [House Speaker Paul Ryan told reporters](#): "NATO is indispensable. It is as important today as it ever has been."

Trump heads today to England, [where he will meet with embattled Prime Minister Theresa May](#). Two of May's highest-profile ministers, Boris Johnson and Davis, [resigned their posts days ago](#) as part of the continuing row inside the Conservative Party over what deal to seek with the European Union as Britain leaves

the 28-member bloc.

In another blow to the Kingdom, **John Cleese**, he of Monty Python fame, announced July 11 that [he is planning to leave the UK for the Caribbean as a result of the "awful" Brexit debate.](#)

Meanwhile, **Italy's new populist coalition government has intensified its stance against migrants** seeking refuge [by refusing to allow an Italian merchant ship that rescued 66 migrants at sea permission to dock.](#)

Matteo Salvini, Italy's new interior minister, has said he [wants to close the country's ports even to rescue operations coordinated by the EU](#), of which Italy is a member. The New York Times profiled [one Italian town that once welcomed migrants, but has now become a symbol for the right-wing.](#)

National Catholic Reporter's sister publication, **Global Sisters Report, is running a special in-depth series reporting on the difficult journey of refugees** and how Catholic sisters are helping. Here's the link to the series: <http://globalsistersreport.org/series/seeking-refuge>

[Joshua J. McElwee is NCR Vatican correspondent. His email address is jmcelwee@ncronline.org. Follow him on Twitter: [@joshjmac](https://twitter.com/joshjmac).]

Advertisement