President Joe Biden addresses a joint session of Congress in Washington, D.C., April 28, 2021, with Vice President Kamala Harris and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., on the dais behind him. (CNS/Reuters pool/Melina Mara)

Heidi Schlumpf

View Author Profile

Follow on Twitter at @heidischlumpf

Daniel P. Horan

[View Author Profile](#)

David Dault

[View Author Profile](#)

[Join the Conversation](#)

May 5, 2021

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

NCR executive editor Heidi Schlumpf is part this season of "The Francis Effect" podcast, joining co-hosts Franciscan Fr. Daniel Horan (columnist for NCR's "[Faith Seeking Understanding](#)"), and David Dault, executive producer and host of "Things Not Seen: Conversations about Culture and Faith."

In this week's episode, the final one of Season 8, Heidi, Father Daniel and David talk about President Joe Biden's address to the joint session of Congress and the U.S. bishops' opinions on whether or not Biden should receive Communion. They also look at factors influencing some Catholics to leave the church. (And they share their plans for the summer vacation — and conference — season.)

How do I listen?

Click the "play" button at the top of the page to start the show. Make sure to keep the window open on your browser if you're doing other things, or the audio will stop.

From your mobile device:

You can listen and subscribe to "The Francis Effect" from any podcast app. If you're reading this from an iPhone or other Apple mobile device, tap this link to listen in Apple Podcasts. If you're on an Android, tap this link to listen in Google Podcasts.

If you prefer another podcast app, you can find "The Francis Effect" there. (Here's the RSS feed.)

From a desktop or laptop:

You can visit The Francis Effect website here for more information on the show.

This story appears in the **The Francis Effect Podcast** feature series. View the full series.