

## Products

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### NCR's 50th Anniversary Issue



Our special Anniversary Issue commemorates 50 years of publishing the finest independent

Catholic news and analysis. This 60-page keepsake issue provides a summary of news from each year of NCR's existence, packaged as the newspaper looked at the time. [Learn more](#) [1].

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### National Catholic Reporter at Fifty: The Story of the Pioneering Paper and Its Editors

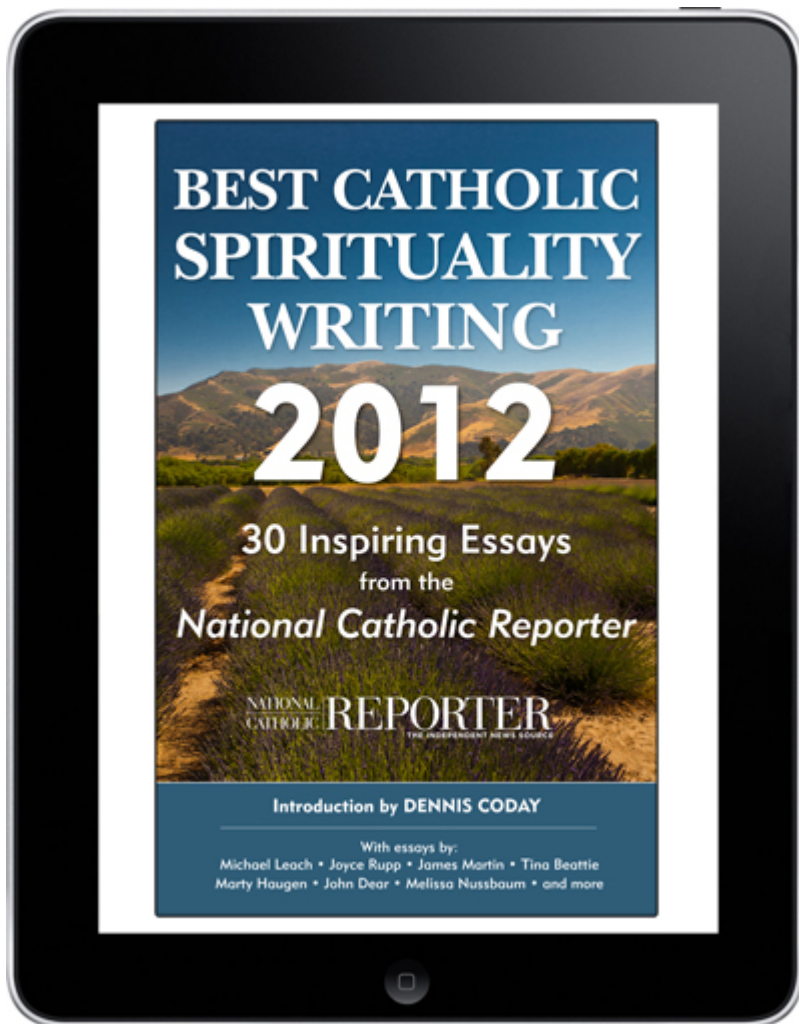


This new book by former NCR editor Arthur Jones focuses on editors and key

themes in the paper's history, leading up to its 50th anniversary in October 2014. [Learn more](#) [2].

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## NCR eBooks

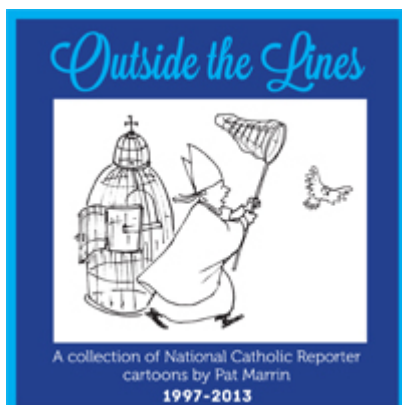


Our collection of eBooks features previously-

published content from our newspaper and website. Available from the Apple iBooks store, Kindle, Nook and more. [Browse titles](#) [3]

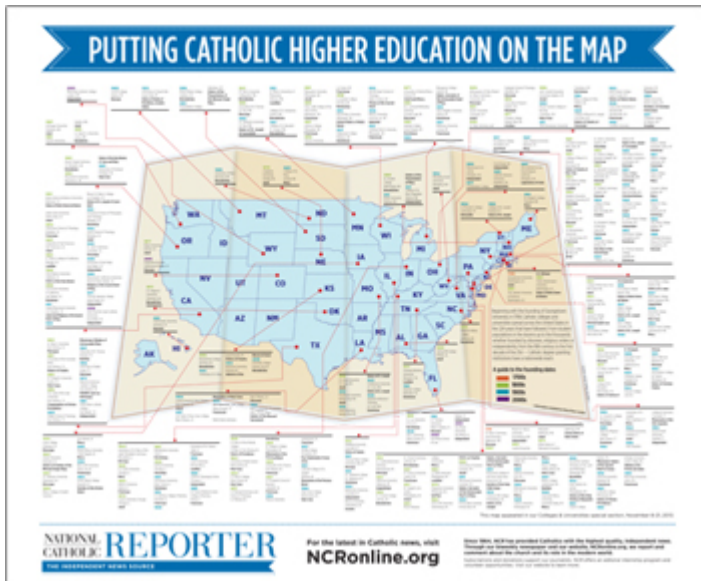
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## Outside the Lines: A collection of National Catholic Reporter cartoons by Pat Marrin SOLD OUT



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## Poster: Putting Catholic Higher Education on the Map



This poster-sized map displays all 242 Catholic degree-

granting institutions, adapted from our November 8, 2013, Colleges & Universities special section. [Learn more](#) [4].

# Special Report: The Francis Interview

NATIONAL CATHOLIC REPORTER OCTOBER 11, 2013 SPECIAL REPORT: THE FRANCIS INTERVIEW 7

## Forthright talk

*'This church ... is the home of all, not a small chapel'*

*Continued from Page 1*



used to discuss social reform. Media headlines described Francis' interview with the *Jesuit* publication as "unusually blunt language," "unusually frank," "unapologetic" and "open to many sides."

Francis expressed the need of his interviewees with leaders, which were conducted in Italian, before it was translated and published.

In the interview, Francis directly questioned, but without questions such as "how many" or "how often," not breaking with traditional doctrine, but trying to shift the church's emphasis from condemnation to mercy.

"The church, sometimes, has looked itself up in small things, in ritualistic rules," Francis said. "Millions of the church must be taken into account, not only an inner circle and the use of missiologic methods."

Francis said he was not speaking much about these things, and was surprised that, but when he spoke about these issues, he had to talk about them in a certain way. The teaching of the church, he said, is clear and I am a son of the church, but it is not necessary to talk about these issues all the time.

Francis said the church has no right to "be before" anything in the lives of poor and families, especially on his own terms. "The only right is to be there," he said, "to be there for the people, especially during his office press conference following his trip to Brazil."

At the archdiocese of Buenos Aires, Francis said, he received letters from men and women who said they were "unusually moved" because they felt the church condemned them.

"The church does not want to be like," he said.

"This church ... is the home of all, not a small chapel that can hold only a small group of selected people. We must not reduce the home of the universal church to a sort of protective cocoon," he said.

Francis was forthright speaking with his audience, he said. "The most serious of the evils that affect the world these days are poverty, inequality and the loneliness of the old. The old need care and companionship, the young need work and hope but have neither one nor the other, and the problem is they don't even look for these answers. They have been crushed by the ground. You tell me: Can you lie crushed under the weight of the ground? Without a memory of the past and without the desire to look ahead to the future by building something, a future, a hope?" Can you go on like that? This, to me, is the most urgent problem that the church is facing."

*Continued on Page 8*

### Mercy for the spiritually poor essential for reform

By MARK WELLS

Pope Francis shows courage not only in his brave appearance in the fields of Rio de Janeiro, but also in entering into an open dialogue with critical commentators. He has written an open letter to leading human rights activists, including Amnesty International, and he has written an open letter to leading human rights activists. These are not just political statements, but a broadly professed of principles on equal levels.

Among the 12 questions from Scott, the fourth seems to be of particular importance for a church leadership ready for reform: How, precisely, do you intend to change the things that are broken, and to God the things that are good? — But the Catholic church, according to Scott, all too often defaults to the temptation of worldliness and ignores the spiritual dimensions of the church in favor of

worldliness. Scott's question: "Does Pope Francis represent either all the priority of a poor and pastoral church over an institutional and worldly church?"

Let's look at the facts:

- From the beginning, Francis has expressed with great clarity and clarity and respect in direct contact with people.
- In his words and gestures, he has presented himself not as the spiritual lord of lords, but rather as the "servant of the servants of God" (Matthew 23:11).
- Facing massive financial scandals and the misuse of church funds, he has initiated decisive reforms of the Vatican bank and the papal apartments and called for transparent financial policies.
- By establishing a commission of eight cardinals from the different nations, he has combined the need for moral reform and collegiality with the bishops.
- He has not yet passed the decision of his will to reform. It is in doubt whether and how far a Latin American-led pope will go in the reform of the papal system, but the fact that other groups of people in other countries suffer from other kinds of poverty, and that people can support each other directly, that he can listen to the laity, for whom many organizations and sectors in pastoral are primarily responsible.

The simple Gospel has always had a broader notion of poverty. In the Gospel of Luke, the hundreds of the poor refer to a debt to the earthly poor in a material sense. But in Matthew's Gospel, this includes refers to the "poor in spirit" — the spiritual poor who, no longer by their own God, are aware of their spiritual poverty. Thus, in line with the other beatitudes, it includes not just the poor and hungry, but also those who cry who are left out, marginalized, neglected, excluded, exploited, despised, those who lack the opportunity and have been in a situation of extreme affliction, misery and those in a situation of their distress (Matthew 23:11), all those who are weak and humbled, including those humbled by guilt.

Thus the number of poor who would support multiple times more than support in particular from the people who can help more than others, due to his office, happen from him as the representative of the ecclesial institution and tradition means more than just numbers and percentages. In words, it means deeds of mercy and charity. Indeed, these large groups of people come to mind who are "poor" in the Catholic church.

First, the divorced. From many countries and around the world, many are excluded from the sacraments of the church for their whole life because they have remarried. Today's global social mobility, flexibility and diversity as well as a noticeable larger

*Continued on Page 8*

[5]

The National Catholic Reporter October 11, 2013, edition includes a special section featuring reactions to Pope Francis' interview. Contributors include Richard Rohr, Hans Küng, Michelle Gonzalez, Richard Gaillardetz and Chris Lowney, as well as analysis from NCR staff. [Learn more](#) [5].

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## March 1 Papal Resignation special feature



Subscribers will receive this special papal resignation section along with the March 1

edition. Content includes analysis of top papal contenders, analysis of the legacy of Pope Benedict XVI and more. Additional copies of this 16-page section are available for purchase for \$1 each which includes postage.

[Learn more](#) [6].

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## A Church Reborn: The Second Vatican Council 50th Anniversary Issue



This special edition gathers leading Catholic scholars to reflect on the revolutionary Second

Vatican Council, fifty years after its opening. Topics range from collegiality to women's congregations, human sexuality to theology, and on across the spectrum of essential subjects in a dynamic and changing church.

Subscribers to the newspaper will receive a copy of this keepsake issue.

Additional copies are available to purchase while supplies last. [Learn more](#) [7].



People fill the pews and side aisles during inauguration ceremonies for the Basilica of St. Patrick's Old Cathedral in New York Dec. 5, 2010.

# Persistence and change

Survey offers portrait of US Catholics in the second decade of the 21st century

By WILLIAM V. D'ANTONIO

**O**ur research team has now carried out the fifth survey of American Catholics. The first survey, done just after Easter in 1987 and in anticipation of Pope John Paul II's second visit to the United States, was designed with the hope that our findings and the pope would find value in a demographic profile of American Catholics as well as a sketch of their beliefs, practices and attitudes. The fifth survey, also completed in the weeks after Easter, and now six years into the reign of Pope Benedict XVI, provides a portrait showing both persistence and change in the beliefs, practices and attitudes of Catholics as they head into the second decade of the 21st century.

This fifth survey took place in a time of continuing challenges facing the institutional church, with the sex abuse scandals still the subject of headlines nationally and worldwide, abortion and gender politics causing ripples on several levels, the priest shortage, ordination and the role of women prompting rethinking of the structure of the priesthood, and a privileged, academic, mission posing new pressures onto the church's teachings on "a preferential option for the poor," immigration and the rights of workers to organize. The Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life reported in 2008 that one in 10 Americans are former Catholics and that about one in three of those former Catholics have left the church. At the same time, a 2008 Pew Forum report indicated a net loss of 2.4 percent in the number of Americans who were born Catholic but who are no longer Catholic (compared to a net loss of 3.1 percent for Baptists, the largest Protestant denominational family). As is true across all denominations, the departures appear to be especially heavy among the younger generations. Nonetheless, Catholics' share of the American population has remained stable at 16 percent, largely as a result of Hispanic immigration. In the wake of this finding, no one knows the impact that the growing number of Hispanic Catholics will have on present trends.

We designed the fifth survey to continue tracking trends among generations, across gender lines and among differing levels of commitment and Catholic identity. The continued growth in the Hispanic portion of the Catholic population, and the importance of the youngest generation (the millennials, those born 1979-95), led us to enlarge the size of the survey sample to enable more detailed analysis controlling for ethnicity within and across generations. And we added new questions to probe the issues sketched out above.

Catholic identity, no longer a matter of simply knowing the Baltimore Catechism and having particular beliefs, has become part of the national dia-

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NCR published the fifth annual Catholics in America

survey in our October 28-November 10, 2011 issue. Additional copies are available to purchase while supplies last. To purchase, call NCR customer service at 1-800-333-7373.

- 1-4 copies: \$3 per copy
- 5-9 copies: \$2.75 per copy
- 10-24 copies: \$2.50 per copy
- 25-49 copies: \$2.25 per copy
- 50 or more: \$2 per copy

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## Celebration Magazine



Sister publication to the *National Catholic Reporter*, *Celebration* is a

comprehensive liturgical planning resource.

[Learn more](#) [8].

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## Jesus 2000



To celebrate the new millenium, the National Catholic Reporter invited

people to submit original artwork to answer the question, "What would Jesus Christ look like in the year 2000?" Jesus 2000 is the full-color special supplement to the newspaper which includes the top 60 entries from the contest. [Learn more](#) [8].

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- [1] <http://ncronline.org/ncr-s-50th-anniversary-issue>
- [2] <http://ncronline.org/national-catholic-reporter-fifty-story-pioneering-paper-and-its-editors>
- [3] <http://ncronline.org/ebooks>
- [4] <http://ncronline.org/catholic-colleges-and-universities-map>
- [5] <http://ncronline.org/special-report-francis-interview>
- [6] <http://ncronline.org/march-1-papal-resignation-special-feature>
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