



Archbishop Roberto González of San Juan, Puerto Rico, talks on his cellphone amid debris Oct. 25, more than one month after Hurricane Maria devastated the island. (CNS/Bob Roller)



by Michael Sean Winters

[View Author Profile](#)

Follow on Twitter at [@michaelswinters](#)

[**Join the Conversation**](#)

Send your thoughts to *Letters to the Editor*. [Learn more](#)

October 31, 2017

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

The Washington Post paid a surprisingly large amount of attention to the 500th anniversary of the Reformation this past weekend. The most interesting commentary was by [Stanley Hauerwas](#), who seemed to have trouble explaining why he has not yet become a Catholic. We are waiting for you, Stanley, with open arms.

In that same series, [this commentary](#) by Elizabeth Bruenig does a good job showing the degree to which conservative Catholics have been willing to sideline their faith commitments when it comes to certain political items, although I do not think this had that much to do with any alliance with evangelicals. It would have happened on its own. And Breunig references the [now-famous essay](#) co-written by Jesuit Fr. Antonio Spadaro about the evangelical-Catholic alliance, and then she writes this: "Shortly after its publication, Catholic writer P.J. Smith pointed out that, in calling for a more stern separation between religion and politics, Spadaro's essay contradicted the very vision of political activity that [Pope Francis often advocates](#)." Smith apparently did not understand Spadaro's essay, which most certainly did not contradict the pope's vision.

Advertisement

At RealClearPolitics, [Peter Berkowitz calls out](#) those who tell lies about Israel, both in the academy and in the fourth estate. He is spot-on and only a lingering animus toward Jews can explain this.

[In The Boston Globe](#), Archbishop Roberto González of San Juan, Puerto Rico, calls for the island's debt to be wiped out. A powerful argument and one that has now reached hundreds of thousands of people, and not just subscribers to The Boston Globe. Lin-Manuel Miranda, of "Hamilton" fame, [tweeted it out!](#) Now that is good PR.

[Michael Sean Winters covers the nexus of religion and politics for NCR.]

Editor's note: Don't miss out on Michael Sean Winters' latest! [Sign up to receive free newsletters](#), and we will notify you when he publishes new Distinctly Catholic

columns.