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A note is seen at a memorial Nov. 7 near the site of the shooting at the First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs, Texas. (CNS/Reuters/Jonathan Bachman)



by Michael Sean Winters

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In the wake of the mass shooting in Sutherland Springs, [John Culhane at Politico](#) argues that the victims' families should sue the federal government for personal injury and wrongful death.

And, responding to the same tragedy, Chicago Cardinal Blase Cupich [issues a strong statement](#) that goes way beyond the typical call for thought and prayers.

At First Things, Fr. Robert Imbelli [looks at some of the philosophical presuppositions](#) Pope Francis brings to his work. I am not sure I agree with Imbelli in every particular, and there is the occasional swipe at the pope. But, this kind of article is different from the puerile attacks launched by some of Francis' critics.

At the Washington Post, Dana Milbank [on the election results](#) in Virginia Nov. 7. He is right that President Donald Trump was on the ballot, and he lost. But, Milbank underrates the value of the Democrats selecting a gubernatorial candidate, Ralph Northam, who fit the state. It is vital that in 2018 the Democrats stop with the litmus tests and select candidates who fit the districts in which they are running.

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

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