

## [Opinion](#)



by Heidi Schlumpf

[View Author Profile](#)

[hschlumpf@ncronline.org](mailto:hschlumpf@ncronline.org)

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During his trip to Myanmar, Pope Francis [did not mention the Rohingya by name](#), but he did say religious leaders have a responsibility to promote fair treatment of the different groups in a society. (Follow [NCR Vatican correspondent Joshua McElwee's reporting on this trip](#) as the pope continues on to Bangladesh tomorrow.)

The latest [test missile fired by North Korea has the ability to hit "everywhere in the world basically,"](#) according to U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis.

"Today Show" host [Matt Lauer has been fired after allegations of inappropriate sexual behavior](#) in the workplace. Meanwhile, the church in [India is implementing its first guidelines on sexual harassment](#) in the workplace.

The Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests ([SNAP](#)) [issued an apology for "any false or inaccurate statements" in the case of a St. Louis priest](#), for whom two allegations of improper contact resulted in the charges being dropped. The priest also prevailed in a civil suit that claimed he was discriminated against on racial and religious grounds.

South Texans are captivated by a sensational “cold case” trial of [a former priest for the murder of a young woman 57 years ago](#). He was originally ruled out as a suspect after local Catholic church officials persuaded authorities to end their investigation of him.

A former Salvadoran army colonel will stand trial in the murder of six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter, [now that the U.S. has extradited him to Madrid this week](#).

A [highly critical piece about Chicago Cardinal Blase Cupich](#) has been published by *First Things*. On Twitter, *America* national correspondent Michael O’Loughlin called it “one of those pieces that says much more about the author than the subject.”

Judith Valente, who is a Benedictine Oblate, notes that oblates currently outnumber monks and sisters living in a monastery. She [reports from the Fourth International Oblate Congress in Rome](#).

Here’s something you didn’t know the U.S. bishops cared about: net neutrality. [The chair of the bishops’ Committee on Communication said an open internet is “critical to the nation’s faith communities.”](#)

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### **Opinion:**

Michael Sean Winters analyzes how the [pope’s theme of “the globalization of indifference” seems to be different from what we often hear at Mass on Sunday](#) or pick up from the speeches at a U.S. bishops' conference meeting.

[Our review—by Faruq R.A. Nelson, who is Muslim—of historian Garry Wills’ \*What the Qur'an Meant\*](#) says no one can afford to remain ignorant about one of the world’s largest and fastest-growing religions.

Among the many problems with the House tax reform bill is its inclusion of a repeal of the Johnson Amendment, which prohibits tax-exempt nonprofit organizations from endorsing or opposing political candidates. This columnist argues that, if passed, it will actually [lead to more regulation of churches](#).

Ken Briggs parses [recent data about those who are “spiritual but not religious”](#) and even “religious but not spiritual.”

Finally, news about comments at NCR from Editor Dennis Coday [here](#).