

## [Opinion](#)



by Heidi Schlumpf

[View Author Profile](#)

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

Follow on Twitter at [@heidischlumpf](#)

## [Join the Conversation](#)

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

January 17, 2018

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

On his second day in Chile, [Pope Francis told Chile's indigenous people](#) who have struggled with the government over control of their native lands that violence is not the answer. Earlier, the pope urged clergy to [ask forgiveness from those who were abused by priests](#). With two reporters on the ground, we have coverage the pope's [Mass in Santiago](#) and [more from this papal trip to Chile and Peru](#).

Remember when Bishop Fabian Bruskewitz excommunicated all members of Call to Action in the Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska? Now, the [current bishop, James Conley, is offering a way for them to return to full communion in the church](#).

An interfaith retreat center run by the Immaculate Heart Community lost most of its buildings in the [mudslides in Southern California](#) that also killed at least 20 people last week.

Bishops from North America, Europe and South Africa visiting Gaza said [the 130 Catholic parishioners left in Gaza are heroes](#), for sacrificing to keep family and Christian life alive in the Palestinian territory.

Protests, past and present, are the news in this week's [Justice Action Bulletin](#).

A [survey of U.S Catholic women](#) commissioned by America magazine had some similar findings to [NCR's report last week about our fifth survey of U.S Catholics](#), but it also noted that [Catholic women's answers about voting tend to favor Democrats](#).

A [new president has been named for the LDS \(Mormon\) Church](#); don't expect any changes in that church's stance toward women or LGBT folks anytime soon.

A second German bishop has [suspended Confirmation for four years](#) while he works toward finding a new model.

Advertisement

### **Opinion:**

Michael Sean Winters is [more concerned about the Salvadoran, Honduran and Haitian families about to be torn apart by deportation](#) than he is about the president's vulgar words.

For Mary Ann Pajakowski, [walking the "Notre Dame Trail"](#) in Indiana helped her reflect on all the refugees, migrants and other people on the move in the world today.

ICYMI: Bishops who deny funerals to gay spouses are more likely to be causing scandal than the funerals themselves would, say [two theologians from Creighton University](#).

Dan Stockman of Global Sisters Report finds spiritual inspiration in the [remastering of a Beatles song](#).

It's a little early to be planning your Lenten sacrifices, but Cristina L.H. Traina fasts from the Eucharist during Lent and Advent. [Here's why](#).

### **Listen up!**

NCR Books Editor Jamie Manson will present a teleconference on "Religious Life for the Next Generation" at 8 p.m. ET tonight. The [free event](#) is sponsored by FutureChurch; many of their previous presentations in the "Emerging Models" series are also [available as podcasts](#).