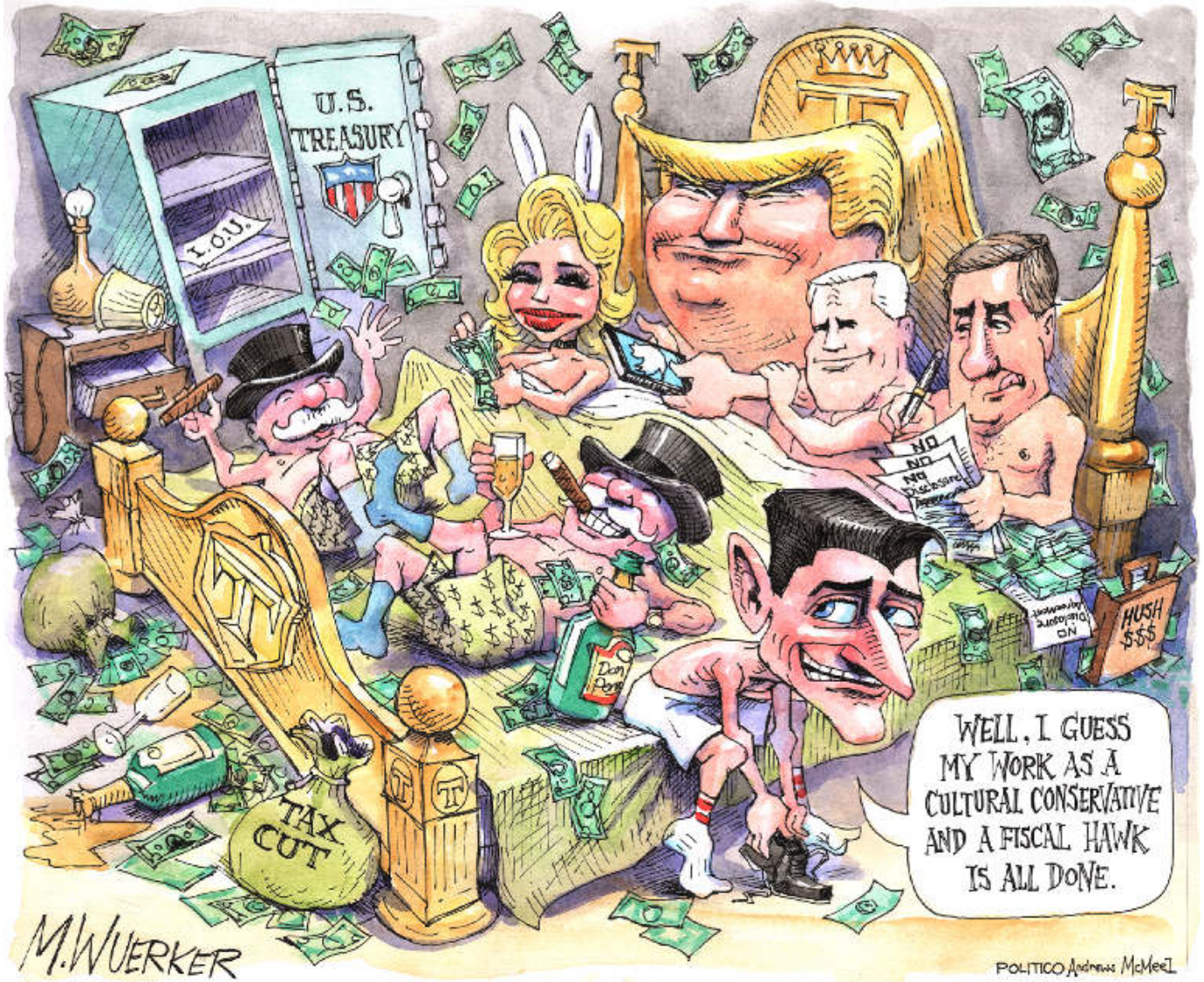


[Opinion](#)



by Dennis Coday

[View Author Profile](#)

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

Follow on Twitter at [@dcoday](#)



- Inspired by this generation: [Catholic schools a faithful presence at Cleveland march](#)
- Inspired by this generation: [Editorial: Single-mindedness needed on guns](#)

On Monday, I told you this was a developing story: In February the Diocese of La Crosse, Wisconsin, announced [it was ending pension payments with lump-sum payouts](#). The rest of the story came yesterday: [Wisconsin diocese calls off plan to rescind employee's pensions](#).

As [Puerto Rico wrestles with blackouts across the island](#), Jubilee USA Network is warning that Congress's oversight board for Puerto Rico could pass a fiscal debt plan that is worse than the fiscal plan in place before Hurricanes Maria and Irma struck the island. Puerto Rico's Archbishop Gonzalez testified to the oversight board yesterday: [Human lives must be focus of Puerto Rico fiscal plan](#).

[NAACP joins environmental groups in calling for EPA chief Scott Pruitt's ouster](#)

[Church crackdown intensifies in China's Henan province](#) An official notice posted outside a church in Henan says: "Religion must not interfere with life and social order."

Advertisement

Chicago -- San Diego Bishop Robert McElroy delivered an important talk at Loyola University Chicago. Here are two takes:

- [McElroy blasts 'sickness of the soul' in US politics, calls for a moral solution](#)
- [McElroy: Politics should pursue common good, not special interests](#)

For the first time since 1959, Cuba has a president not named Castro. [Who is Miguel Díaz-Canel, Cuba's handpicked president?](#)

NCR and Global Sisters Report published this week a series of stories about Cuba and the church. Read them here:

- [Cubans, US exiles connect to help rebuild Cuba's Catholic Church](#)

- [\*\*Encuentro Eclesial event unites Cuban Catholics, bridges US-Cuba division\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Where Cuban government can't provide, sisters and Catholic organizations fill the gaps\*\*](#)

Sunday is Earth Day. How you mark it? Find some inspiration in these stories:

- [\*\*Pope Francis' encyclical inspires the Laudato Si' Project in Wisconsin\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Environmental vulnerabilities are linked to every other problem in Haiti\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Access to clean water is a life issue that the church must defend\*\*](#)

Did you ever consider a good road, a convenient bus line and rural access to the internet might help eradicate hunger? [\*\*US infrastructure investment key to better jobs, less hunger, Bread for the World recommends\*\*](#)

If Pope Francis' exhortation [\*\*Gaudete et Exsultate \("Rejoice and Be Glad"\)\*\*](#) has inspired you to join [\*\*the journey of 'small holiness'\*\*](#), NCR and Celebration have the resources to help you:

- Start your day inspired with daily Scripture reflections. Join NCR's sister publication, Celebration, for [\*\*Daily Bread\*\*](#), a series of short reflections written by four authors who meet regularly to share the readings.
- Or reflect on [\*\*Pencil Preaching by Pat Marrin\*\*](#). Every morning Pat Marrin breaks open the Word with a pencil sketch and a short meditation.