

## [Opinion](#)

by Mick Forgey

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**[Four factors driving pace, scale of climate action in U.S. dioceses](#)**: Both Pope Francis' environmental encyclical *Laudato Si'* and the Paris Agreement turn five in 2020. Catholics have taken much action. In a race against time, there are four elements at play.

**[Mary Gautier, retiring from CARA, knows nostalgia is no match for data](#)**: "My whole career has been about the long view and looking at trends," said Gautier.

"Ugh," Michael Sean Winters laments. "**[The 'wafer wars' are back.](#)**"

**[Pastor's denial of Eucharist to Biden stirs up recurring debate](#)**: On Oct. 27 a South Carolina pastor [refused the Eucharist to former Vice President Joe Biden](#). Mainstream media extensively covered the event, while Catholics sounded off on social media. NCR spoke to experts for reaction.

**[Over 250 conservative activists sign statement opposing death penalty](#)**: Politically active conservatives from 44 states collectively state, "We have come to the conclusion that the death penalty does not work and can't be made to work, not in spite of our conservative principles, but because of them."

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