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NATIONAL CATHOLIC

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Pope Francis greets the Cardinal of the National Camerillo before meeting with the National, 19th and 20th cardinals, July 25 at the Vatican, Africa.

Gay woman wins battle against US bishops to become foster parent

By BRIAN FRAGA
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Ruby Baker was in legal battle to become a foster parent to welcome children. But Easter still feels like she's "in limbo."

"I don't know what to make of it," Baker said of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' opposition earlier this year that "is unfortunately" causing one of the fundraising agencies in 2021 to deny her application to become a foster parent because she is gay.

Baker and one of her sisters told NCR that they expect to find out how that mislabeling happened. They also arranged to learn if the bishops' opposition would mean to write her sister, Lisa, if Baker, who is single, begins dating or marries a woman.

"We never did get answers to those questions," said Kenneth Upton, an attorney with Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, Americans United and Lambda Legal, a civil rights organization that supports the LGBTQ community represented Baker. Continued on Page 8



Pope Francis made an historic speech during a week-long trip to Canada in late July, saying he was "deeply sorry" for the Catholic Church's "catastrophic" involvement in running abusive residential schools for Indigenous children.

"I humbly beg forgiveness for the evil committed by western Christians against the Indigenous peoples," Francis said on July 22 during a solemn meeting with Indigenous representatives, while visiting the former residential school site.

Pope apologizes to Canada's Indigenous

By CHRISTOPHER WHITE
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...one of the largest residential schools in the country on July 22. The pope's message — his first of his first visit to the country on July 22 — fulfilled a demand from the Canadian Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which since 2012 has called on the pope to formally issue an apology on Canadian soil for the "spiritual, cultural, emotional, physical and sexual abuse of First Nations, Inuit and Métis children in Catholic-run residential schools."

"I am sorry," said Francis. "I ask forgiveness, in particular, for the ... Continued on Page 8



Health workers led by nurses take part in a demonstration over shortages of pharmaceuticals at a hospital in Harare, Zimbabwe, June 2. A strike by health workers has left the country's major hospitals under strain. Catholic hospitals are trying to pick up the slack, but are also struggling with the workload and the nation's worsening economic conditions.

Catholic hospitals struggle to aid collapsing Zimbabwe system

By THANDWA KAROVEDO
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Health workers led by nurses take part in a demonstration over shortages of pharmaceuticals at a hospital in Harare, Zimbabwe, June 2. A strike by health workers has left the country's major hospitals under strain. Catholic hospitals are trying to pick up the slack, but are also struggling with the workload and the nation's worsening economic conditions.

Dr. Thebe Sibilo, a physician at the Catholic-run St. Anne's Mission Hospital in Zimbabwe's southeast, has been treated in all kinds of life-saving medical practices. But lately because of more frequent electricity outages, he has had to adapt to providing aid under candle or kerosene light. "We are struggling," Sibilo told NCR of the staff at his hospital. "It ... Continued on Page 8



Black Catholics gathered for a meeting in San Francisco, Calif., July 22. The meeting was part of the National Black Sisters' Conference's annual gathering, which also called for Black sisters, priests, deacons and seminarians to stand with lay as a witness that Black lives do matter.

Black Catholic groups gather for in-person meeting

By DAN STOOKMAN
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Black Catholics gathered for a meeting in San Francisco, Calif., July 22. The meeting was part of the National Black Sisters' Conference's annual gathering, which also called for Black sisters, priests, deacons and seminarians to stand with lay as a witness that Black lives do matter.

Dr. Adèle Lorraine Walker of the Sacred Society of Most Holy Mary was elected to lead the 26-year-old conference at the group's annual meeting with three other Black Catholic groups and also presided over the conference's Sacred Tabernacle Award, which honors inspirational leaders.

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Voters in Marietta, Georgia, line up to cast ballots in the U.S. Senate runoff election on July 20, 2022.

Climate-concerned voters ready to bring faith to midterm polls

By BRIAN ROEWE
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More than 100 days until the midterm elections, a national network of state-based environmental faith groups is gearing up for a final push to register their communities to vote and their own faith with voting the election for the environment, climate change and democracy.

"The reality is that in order to create this world that is built on our values, we have to vote," said Rev. Susan Strickerhoff, president of Interfaith Power & Light. "Voting is a way that we can create the world that we want to live in, and a world in which we're voting for our neighbors and voting for the environment, climate change and democracy."

Interfaith Power & Light has mobilized its state chapters to engage their local congregations through its Faith Climate Justice Voter campaign. The effort seeks to increase the number of registered voters and to educate congregations of all religions traditions about the importance of voting and what's at stake in the coming elections for the environment, climate change and democracy.

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Participants at the Napa Institute conference for banning abortion nationwide.

Napa Institute conference focuses on banning abortion nationwide

By BRIAN FRAGA
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On the evening of July 18, former U.S. Attorney General William Barr addressed a friendly audience that once three days at the Napa Institute's annual summit on the future of the United States. The summit, which had more than 100 attendees at the speaker's table, was held at the Napa Institute in Napa, California, and was the first in a series of events.

But it wasn't just a group of pro-life activists that gathered. Barr's remarks, praising the resilience of conservative Catholics and Catholic business leaders to defend our freedoms by getting and staying in the State House, that Barr said in his address.

"If I had known earlier that I think Lafayette Park would have been a lot easier," Barr said with a smile as he referenced his addressing federal law enforcement officers in June 2020's clear walk across the street to pose with a Bible at St. John's Episcopal Church. "The audience at the Napa Institute and the Napa Institute, I think, is a lot more than just a group of pro-life activists."

Barr's comments regarding the mid-term elections were met with a mix of reactions. "I think it's a good sign that we're seeing a lot of people who are not just pro-life, but also pro-faith," said one attendee. "It's a good sign that we're seeing a lot of people who are not just pro-life, but also pro-faith."

The front pages of two recent issues of the National Catholic Reporter (NCR graphic)



by Bill Mitchell

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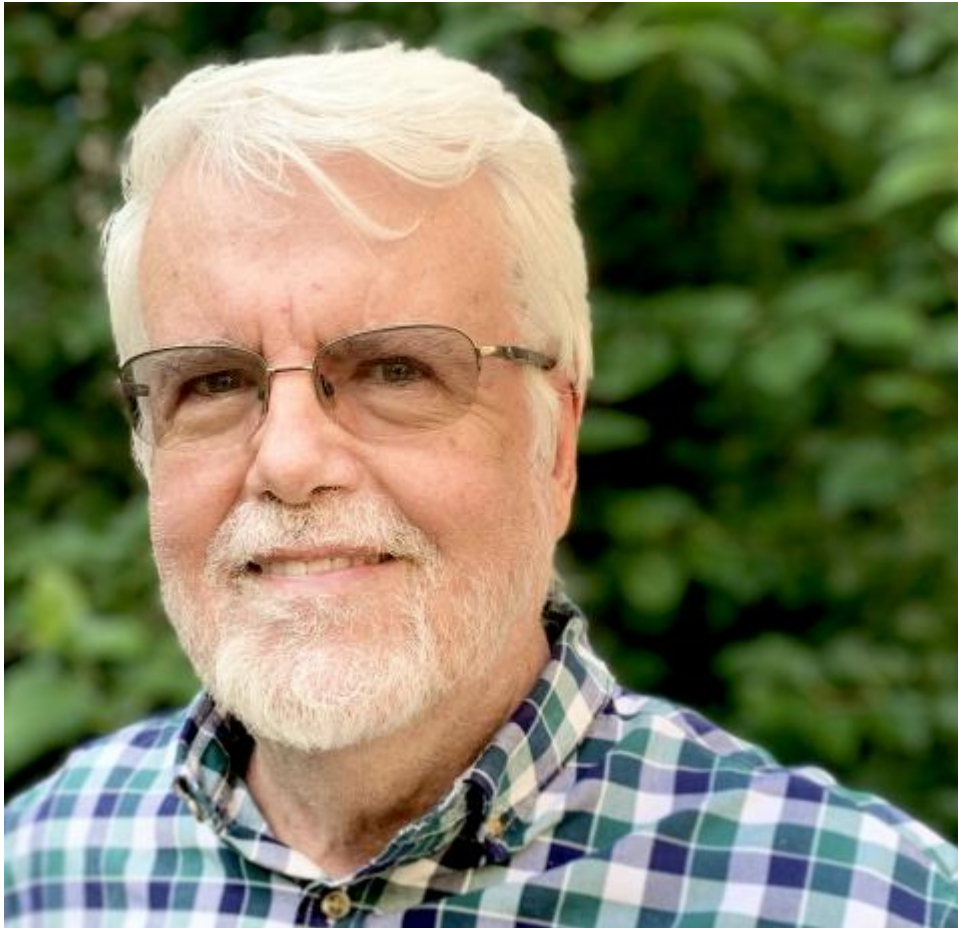
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August 26, 2022

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When I wrote my first story for the National Catholic Reporter as a college freshman in 1967, I certainly had no idea I'd end up as its publisher and CEO a half century later.



Bill Mitchell

When I accepted the position two years ago, I told the board I would serve until my 75th birthday, with the goal of helping the board identify a longer-term publisher to lead NCR into the second half of its first century. Although my 75th birthday is a year off, NCR is on a positive trajectory and now is the time to begin the search for that next leader.

I spent the vast majority of my career in secular journalism, but the mission is fundamentally the same as what we do at NCR: to probe the issues that matter most to the communities we serve and to rely on our independence to hold the powerful

accountable.

As readers and donors tell me every week, though, NCR does something more. It provides an inspirational vision of a church rooted in the Gospels and committed to values of faith and justice.

If you know of someone you believe would be the right fit, please direct them to ncr.media/pubjob for the job description and instructions on how to apply.

As ever, I thank you for your support and look forward to hearing from you.

All the best,

Bill Mitchell

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