

## [Opinion](#)



Callista Gingrich is pictured during a U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee confirmation hearing in Washington July 18 after being nominated by President Donald Trump to be the U.S. ambassador to the Vatican. (CNS/Jonathan Ernst, Reuters)



by Heidi Schlumpf

[View Author Profile](#)

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

Follow on Twitter at [@heidischlumpf](https://twitter.com/heidischlumpf)

## [Join the Conversation](#)

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

October 17, 2017

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

### **News:**

[Callista Gingrich, wife of former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, has been confirmed as the U.S. ambassador to the Holy See.](#)

The U.S. Supreme Court decided to let stand a lower court's decision that a [Ten Commandments monument on the lawn outside city hall in Bloomfield, New Mexico be removed.](#)

The former [president of the Vatican-owned pediatric hospital was found guilty of abuse of office](#) in a case that involved former Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, whose apartment was refurbished with donations meant for the hospital foundation.

Catholic advocates for comprehensive health care weigh in: President Donald [Trump's latest moves against the Affordable Care Act](#) will drive up premiums for middle-income and increase federal deficits.

The Catholic Archbishop of Sydney, Australia, urged a "no" vote on the question of same-sex marriage, ironically using the argument that the government should "[keep out of the friendship business and out of the bedroom.](#)"

In a new book, [Pope Francis explains why he takes the "pastoral risk" of being direct and open in interviews and press conferences.](#)

The [pope also named 35 new saints Sunday](#), nearly all of them martyrs from Mexico and Brazil.

Despite what gossip columnists may say, [Cardinal Blase Cupich of Chicago is unlikely to be moving to the Vatican anytime soon.](#)

Chicago-area megachurch Willow Creek has announced two co-pastors to succeed Bill Hybels, making it the only major evangelical megachurch with male-female lead pastors who aren't married, and one [of the largest churches in America with a woman in the lead pastor position](#).

Stay on top of justice news with NCR's latest "[Justice Action Bulletin](#)."

Advertisement

### **Opinion:**

A "hipster sister" talks about the importance of authenticity for evangelization on social media in this Q & A: "[People want a personal connection with something good, attractive, beautiful and meaningful](#)."

Despite some Christians' belief that academia promotes anti-religious values, Martin E. Marty says that [religious values neither decrease nor increase because of students' experience with professors](#).

Tim Muldoon shares his experience of witnessing [devotion to the brown-skinned Lady of Juquila](#) in Salinas, California, where the virgin is a source of strength to Mexican migrants facing violence, poverty and deportation.

Read these inspiring [first-person stories from sisters in Uganda](#).