

## [Opinion](#)



by Dennis Coday

[View Author Profile](#)

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

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The U.S. bishops are wrapping up their meeting in Baltimore today. **[USCCB Fall 2017](#)**.) Some of the highlights:

- **[Bishops' discussion of marriage document, pastoral plan strikes traditionalist tone](#)**
- Commentary from Michael Sean Winters: **[US bishops, electing Naumann to lead pro-life committee, break tradition](#)**
- **[Catholic Church sometimes has been part of racism problem, says bishop](#)**

You've probably read about (or experienced first hand) parish closings and mergers in the USA. Read about what European churches are doing: **[Europe's church creatively rethinks as numbers plummet](#)**

A related story, a case study in how a diocese plans for and implements restructuring: **[Healing conflicts amid closures and consolidations,](#)**

You may have seen Attorney Jeff Sessions suggest his office might investigate. [\*\*Fox News anchor destroys conspiracy theory about Hillary Clinton and Uranium One\*\*](#)

Pope Francis is headed to Myanmar and Bangladesh at the end of this month. [\*\*Myanmar reaps the benefit of abandoned Rohingya land\*\*](#) Forced to flee for their lives, refugee farmers are furious that the authorities are harvesting their crops

[\*\*Cards Against Humanity buying plot of land on border to try to stop Trump's wall\*\*](#) What is [Cards Against Humanity](#)? It is a card-based party game that my sister won't let us play when the family gets together at Thanksgiving.

Speaking of tax plans, check out what is happening in Kansas: Americans for Prosperity, the anti-tax, Koch Brothers-funded political group, is carpet-bombing Kansas mailboxes with campaign-style fliers to discredit lawmakers who voted for tax increases this year. The Kansas City Star says: [\*\*"The conservative organization has it wrong. The lawmakers in their sights — about 60 across the state — are heroes."\*\*](#)

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New York -- [\*\*College of New Rochelle faces second lawsuit over layoffs\*\*](#) The school founded by Ursuline sisters in 1904 is in financial trouble.

Canada -- Almost every month for a year, lawsuits have been filed against the Catholic Church in New Brunswick by alleged victims seeking compensation for sexual abuse by priests. [\*\*The number of lawsuits filed has reached 56.\*\*](#) The allegations come after an extensive, two-year reconciliation process headed by a former judge that saw the Archdiocese of Moncton pay out \$10.6 million for victims and the Diocese of Bathurst \$5.5 million.

The scandal-marred Legion of Christ Roman Catholic religious order acknowledged Tuesday it had offshore companies in Caribbean tax havens in the past, [\*\*but said they had been closed and that none was used for illegal activities.\*\*](#)

NCR Editorial: [\*\*To stop gun violence, get organized and get vocal\*\*](#)

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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.

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