

## [Opinion](#)



by Heidi Schlumpf

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[Breaking news about Pope Francis' upcoming trip to Myanmar](#): A meeting with the head of the country's armed forces has been added at the last minute. The pope also will meet with a small group of Rohingya in Bangladesh; Rohingya are Muslims, who have been persecuted in Myanmar in what has been called "ethnic cleansing."

In other news about the Nov. 27-Dec. 2 papal trips to Myanmar and Bangladesh:

- [Muslims and Catholics from Myanmar living in the United States](#) are hopeful the pope will bring a message of compassion to their country.
- Columnist [Tom Reese believes the trip is a mistake](#) and, if the pope defends the Rohingya, could lead to increased persecution of Christians in Myanmar.
- Also, right-wing Hindu groups are raising the issue of the [church's missionary and conversion activity](#), ahead of the pope's trip.

After seven years of war, [Russia's military role in Syria may be nearing an end](#), Russian President Vladimir Putin said after a surprise meeting with Syrian leader Bashar Assad.

Twenty-thousand Catholic teens gathered for the [National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis](#) last weekend.

Also meeting this weekend were theologians and religion scholars at the [annual American Academy of Religion meeting in Boston](#). Talk of Trump dominated the meeting, and some scholars, including Catholic ones, signed a declaration opposing his policies.

In Detroit, 60,000 gathered to mark [the beatification of Franciscan Friar Fr. Solanus Casey](#).

Global Sisters Report Editor Gail DeGeorge reports from the [International Union of Superiors General meeting in Manila](#).

NCR has two responses to the news that [Pope Francis condemned even the possession of nuclear weapons by world governments](#), signaling a possible change in the church's previous acceptance of nuclear deterrence. (The comments were made Nov. 10 at a high-profile Vatican conference on nuclear disarmament.)

- Retired Detroit Auxiliary Bishop Thomas [Gumbleton, who helped draft the U.S. bishops' 1983 peace letter, which accepted nuclear deterrence, says it's time to reevaluate that document](#).
- Marie Dennis, co-president of Pax Christi International, believes [we may be on the cutting edge of shift in Catholic dialogue with the world on issues of war and peace](#).

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Phyllis Zagano reminds Americans, as they prepare to feast for Thanksgiving, to [remember the poor and hungry](#).

Michael Sean Winters write that [gratitude can be an antidote to pride](#).

Sr. Lynn Marie Welbig, a Sister of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, shares how her [work as a state lobbyist is the work of the Gospel](#).

And yours truly reviews a book that argues that [adoption can show us a new way of belonging and connecting.](#)