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## Join the Conversation



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NCR staff writer Brian Roewe was with the U.S. bishops' conference in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, this week. Some highlights from that meeting:

Some bishops had called for a completely fresh re-write of their quadrennial guide to participation in the political process, to better reflect the current political climate.

Most declined that challenge voting instead [supplement rather than redraft and](#)



[reissue Faithful Citizenship guide](#). (This article is a total update from the story we posted yesterday, so check it out. You might say that -- unlike Faithful Citizenship -- our story has been revised and reissued. ;)

The bishops began their spring assembly decrying Trump administration's immigration policies [US bishops condemn separating families at border](#)

They also made incremental changes to the Dallas Charter, their guiding document on addressing sexual abuse of minors by clergy: [Expanded background checks among changes to child protection charter](#)

Michael Sean Winters wasn't physically in Florida, but he had his finger on the pulse of the meeting:

- [On immigration and 'faithful citizenship,' US bishops avoid the challenge](#)
- [US bishops need to be shepherds amid deportations, demonizations](#)
- [Democracy's state demands that bishops update 'Faithful Citizenship' document](#)

NCR has been following the immigration issue closely since before Donald Trump came to office. Here's a round of our most recent reporting: [Families Separated at the Border](#)

Brownsville, Texas -- [Inside Casa Padre, the converted Walmart where the U.S. is holding nearly 1,500 immigrant children](#)

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Archbishop Luis Ladaria, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, stirred up some water when he wrote in L'Osservatore Romano last month [reaffirming the Catholic Church's ban on the ordination of women as priests](#), writing in a new article that the teaching has a "definitive character" and "is a truth belonging to the deposit of faith." Reactions were swift to come, [Advocates dismayed by reaffirming ban on women priests](#), with a great many finding Ladaria's arguments not only unconvincing but frankly repetitive of views refuted many times over.

I dug into the NCR archives, and found a couple of gems from the U.S. bishops' conference meeting, which I wrote about here: [\*\*Ban on women priests didn't seem settled teaching in 1992\*\*](#) Sr. Christine Schenk went a lot deeper than I did, digging into ancient texts and archeology. She found Vatican statements on women and ordination [\*\*ahistorical and biblically naive. It is embarrassing.\*\*](#) We've got more to come on this topic next week, so stay tuned.

Roman Catholic Woman Priest celebrates 10 years of ministry in Winona, Minnesota. [\*\*"It's really humbling when I think of the good things that have happened in these 10 years. It's just a blessing."\*\*](#)

Dr. Gwen L. DuBois, president of Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility, says that [\*\*North Korea shouldn't have nukes — and neither should we\*\*](#)

An interesting piece from Smithsonian magazine: [\*\*The History of Black Catholics in America\*\*](#) The Black Catholic Movement reinvigorated the church, with liturgical innovation, new preaching styles and activist scholarship.

### [\*\*Chilean Police Raid Offices Of Catholic Church In Sex Abuse Scandal\*\*](#)

Is this true? [\*\*The bishops want more control over your health care?\*\*](#)

Have you been inspired by Pope Francis' exhortation [\*\*Gaudete et Exsultate \("Rejoice and Be Glad"\)\*\*](#) to join [\*\*the journey of 'small holiness'\*\*](#), NCR and Celebration have the resources to help:

- 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.