

[Opinion](#)

[News](#)

[Culture](#)



by Dennis Coday

[View Author Profile](#)

dcoday@ncronline.org

Follow on Twitter at [@dcoday](#)

[**Join the Conversation**](#)

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

July 9, 2018

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

President Donald Trump is to unveil his second Supreme Court pick tonight "with the prime-time flourish of a reality show star," says Stephen Collinson at CNN Politics:

[**Trump to unveil Supreme Court pick for the ages**](#)

NCR's Heidi Schlumpf reported on one of his candidates: [**Prospective Supreme Court nominee \(Judge Amy Coney Barrett\) puts spotlight on People of Praise**](#)

The Washington Post followed with this story: [**The story behind potential Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett's little-known Catholic group, People of Praise**](#)

As whomver the nominee is moves through the confirmation process, Michael Sean Winters makes this observation: [**Abortion and the Supreme Court: how the debate has changed**](#)

Another piece from the Washington Post: [**Catholics on the court: The historical struggle between canon and constitutional law**](#)

A record number of women have declared their candidacy in 2018, including progressive Catholic women whose campaigns have been informed and inspired by Catholic Social Teaching but Heidi Schlumpf tells us [**they aren't running as "Catholic candidates."**](#)

Advertisement

Have you read Pope Francis' exhortation [**Gaudete et Exultate \("Rejoice and Be Glad"\)**](#)? NCR and Celebration have the resources to help you on your [**journey of 'small holiness'**](#).

- 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.

Manila, Philippines -- Philippine Catholic bishops on Monday called for fasting and prayers after President Rodrigo Duterte called God "stupid" and questioned God's existence in profane remarks [**that set the foul-mouthed leader on a collision course with Asia's largest Catholic church.**](#)

Trouble brewing in Pennsylvania: A statewide grand jury was empaneled in 2016 to investigate allegations of clergy sex abuse across six Roman Catholic dioceses. The findings are widely expected to expose decades-old abuse of children at the hands of priests in the dioceses of Harrisburg, Pittsburg, Allentown, Scranton, Erie and Greensburg. In late June, the high court [**issued a stay on its release**](#). Last week [**priests named in the investigation tried to discredit media efforts to release sex abuse report**](#) and we learned that they engaged some high-powered, high priced lawyers, which prompted the question: [**Where does a priest get the money to retain an expensive lawyer?**](#)

Kansas City Star columnist Mary Sanchez believes the [**Catholic Church is delivering on longstanding promises about clerical abuse.**](#)

I hope you saw this from late last week: Msgr. Arturo J. Bañuelas, pastor of St. Mark's Parish, El Paso, Texas, sent [**a dispatch from a parish on the El Paso-Juárez border**](#)

Our editorial on the subject: [**Return compassion to migration debate**](#)

The Diocese of Memphis was the subject of a three-day visitation in June by a two-member archbishop team who will report [**to Pope Francis on the state of the church in western Tennessee**](#). The visitors were Archbishop Wilton Gregory of Atlanta and Archbishop Bernard Hebda of St. Paul-Minneapolis.

Catholics in Australia are preparing for a plenary council in 2020. Here are some things to expect and suggestions (if you're Australian) on what to do: [**What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?**](#)