

[Opinion](#)



by Heidi Schlumpf

[View Author Profile](#)

hschlumpf@ncronline.org

Follow on Twitter at [@heidischlumpf](#)

[Join the Conversation](#)

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

September 12, 2018

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

This morning's news is all about who will meet with Pope Francis on sex abuse:

- For the first time, a pope has summoned all the presidents of the world's various conferences of Catholic bishops to Rome. The topic of the February meeting will be sx abuse.
- [Cardinal Wuerl also announced, in a letter to Washington priests, that he will travel to Rome soon](#) to discuss his possible resignation with the pope.
- And, ICYMI: the president and vice president of the U.S. bishops have gotten their requested [meeting with Pope Francis](#) to talk about McCarrick and other abuse scandals. It will be tomorrow, Sept. 13.

Some anonymous Chicago seminarians, after spending a retreat day with Cardinal Blase Cupich before Labor Day, [leaked some of the cardinal's comments to the Chicago Sun-Times](#). The paper also reported that a [Chicago auxiliary bishop, now 90, who has admitted that he moved abusive priests while working under Cardinals Bernardin and George, is living in the "cardinal's mansion."](#) (Cupich does not live there.) An editorial in the paper yesterday said the archdiocese is sending "[mixed signals](#)" on the issue of abuse.

In other news related to sex abuse:

- [Church reform groups in Philadelphia and other cities protested outside cathedrals](#) last weekend, demanding accountability and a bigger role for lay people.
- [In Chile, the church is responding with practical measures](#), such as trainings and workshops that help prevent and address not only clergy sexual abuse, but domestic and other kinds of abuse.
- A new church in the Baltimore Archdiocese that was to be named for former Archbishop William Keeler will now be named [after the founder of the Oblate Sisters of Providence](#).

Meanwhile, residents of the Carolinas and Virginia are evacuating [in advance of Hurricane Florence, but some prisoners, guards and staff will be left behind](#).

The director of Fordham University's Center for Religion and Culture received [a surprising letter, from Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI](#), who praised an upcoming conference on the centenary of Cardinal Avery Dulles' birth. More info on the Sept. 24 conference [here](#).

The "nones" may have left organized religion, but they're still looking for meaning. One place they're finding it: at the gym. Read about it in "[CrossFit is my church](#)."

Religion reporters from around the country will gather in Columbus later this week for this year's [Religion News Association conference](#). NCR will have three representatives there.

Lots of religion podcasts are starting up again after their summer hiatus, [including NCR in Conversation](#), which launched Season 3 last Friday. One that that didn't take a summer vacation is "Things Not Seen" with Chicago's David Dault. In August, he talked with [Steven Millies of Catholic Theological Union](#), and over Labor Day posted a rebroadcast with [Timone Davis of Loyola University](#)

Advertisement