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*Our team of copy editors reads and posts most of what you see on the websites for National Catholic Reporter and Global Sisters Report (the NCR project focusing on women religious). The Copy Desk Daily provides insight on recommended news and opinion articles that have crossed our desks on their way to you.*

It may sound obvious to some, but now it's in writing: Out of a Boston College seminar with a dozen religious educators, theologians and church ministers, a new report argues that seminarians need skills in forming communities and working with all the baptized faithful, particularly women. The report provides a shift in emphasis from a Vatican study of U.S. seminaries released in 2008 that argued that seminarians should be trained largely by priests.

**Read:** [New report warns against priests placing themselves above laity](#)

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Religious persecution is real in many parts of the world, and it has nothing to do with birth control coverage or baking cakes. Using an example out of the Philippines, Daniel P. Horan argues that "it is always better to be late than to never do the right thing."

**Read:** [Speaking out on drug war, Philippine bishops model contrition, courage](#)

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Today is the United Nations' designated International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation; it's a topic that isn't necessarily main stream — and it can be difficult to talk about — but it's one that Global Sisters Report has drawn attention to. We invite you to share this 2016 story today to help destigmatize the issue and promote the work of sisters and others against the practice. (Learn more at the U.N. site [here](#).)

**Read:** [One girl in Kenya finds a safe haven from FGM, and a future](#)

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Someone you don't hear about often — Archbishop St. Óscar Romero's brother. The author of this story first met him in 2007 and talks about Gaspar's call for the Salvadoran government to prosecute Óscar's murder.

**Read:** [In memoriam — Gaspar Romero, brother of St. Oscar Romero](#)

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In case you missed it: Pope Francis has admitted that the Vatican must do more to prevent the physical and sexual abuse of nuns and sisters by Catholic priests. In a press conference aboard the papal flight back to Rome after a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates, the pope said mistreatment of women religious is something the Vatican has been working to address "for some time."

**Read:** [Francis admits Vatican must do more to prevent abuse of Catholic sisters](#)

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