

by Teresa Malcolm

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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 highlights recommended news and opinion articles that have crossed our desks on their way to you.*

Back in 1969, the Vatican held a conference to address atheism — "among the most serious matters of our time," said Pope Paul VI — and to hold a dialogue with nonbelievers. The idea is back: **Fifty years later, Catholic Church reckons again with unbelief**. The 2019 conference, planned for May in Rome, will talk about a recent research project on "Understanding Unbelief."

**Women of Courage honoree Sr. Orla Treacy is a beacon of light in South Sudan**, writes Callista Gingrich, ambassador to the Holy See. Gingrich nominated the Irish Loreto sister for the State Department award, which was given to 10 women from around the world in a ceremony yesterday in Washington, D.C. Stay tuned for GSR reporting from the event.

Sr. Susan Rose Francois began Lent this year without a Lenten intention. But something came to her while in prayer on Ash Wednesday, a focus on **finding beauty amid life's mess**.

**The words of the Mass do matter**, and they often bring NCR contributor Amy Morris-Young to tears.

Coverage of the clerical sexual abuse crisis continues, and NCR readers have things to say: **Your thoughts on turning to the Pietà, Jason Berry's reporting**.

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