

[Opinion](#)

[News](#)

[Spirituality](#)



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Heidi Schlumpf

[View Author Profile](#)

[hschlumpf@ncronline.org](mailto:hschlumpf@ncronline.org)

Follow on Twitter at [@heidischlumpf](https://twitter.com/heidischlumpf)



Daniel P. Horan

[View Author Profile](#)



David Dault

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**Editor's note:** *NCR executive editor Heidi Schlumpf has joined "The Francis Effect" for its seventh season as a co-host with Franciscan Fr. Dan Horan and David Dault. The podcast airs every other Wednesday and will be available on NCR's site as well as on various podcast apps.*

NCR executive editor Heidi Schlumpf has joined Season 7 of "The Francis Effect" podcast. She joins co-hosts Franciscan Fr. Dan Horan (columnist for NCR's "[Faith](#)

[Seeking Understanding](#)") and David Dault, executive producer and host of "Things Not Seen: Conversations about Culture and Faith."

In this episode, Dault, Horan and Schlumpf discuss some last-minute surprises from the U.S. bishops, the grassroots nature of sainthood, and why this year it might be OK to put up your tree as early as you want.

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