

[Opinion](#)



A handwritten sign with prayers for Pope Francis' recovery is seen among candles and flowers at the base of a statue of St. John Paul II outside Rome's Gemelli hospital Feb. 27, 2025. The pope has been hospitalized there since Feb. 14. (CNS/Lola Gomez)



Heidi Schlumpf

[View Author Profile](#)

hschlumpf@ncronline.org

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



Daniel P. Horan

[View Author Profile](#)



David Dault

[View Author Profile](#)

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

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

February 28, 2025

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

National Catholic Reporter senior correspondent Heidi Schlumpf, columnist Daniel Horan and David Dault continue Season 16 of "The Francis Effect."

Daniel, Heidi, and David look at the Republicans' recent attacks on Medicaid, and join their prayers with the world on behalf of the health of Pope Francis. Heidi interviews NCR's [Shannon Evans](#) about Lenten spirituality.

Advertisement

How do I listen?

Click the "play" button at the top of the page to start the show. Make sure to keep the window open on your browser if you're doing other things, or the audio will stop.

From your mobile device:

You can listen and subscribe to "The Francis Effect" from any podcast app. If you're reading this from an iPhone or other Apple mobile device, tap [this link](#) to listen in Apple Podcasts. If you're on an Android, tap [this link](#) to listen in Google Podcasts.

If you prefer another podcast app, you can find "The Francis Effect" there. (Here's the [RSS feed](#).)

From a desktop or laptop:

You can visit [The Francis Effect website here](#) for more information on the show.

You can also find the podcast on Twitter: [@FrancisFXPod](#).

This story appears in the [Pope Francis' health crisis](#) and [Lent 2025](#) feature series.