Opinion



Pope Francis arrives in procession to celebrate Mass at Las Palmas Air Base in Lima, Peru, Jan. 21. The pope is on his way back to Rome. Visit NCRonline.org later this morning to read an account of his on-plane press conference. (CNS/Paul Haring)

by Dennis Coday

View Author Profile

dcoday@ncronline.org
Follow on Twitter at @dcoday

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This is the third day of a government shutdown. Negotiations continue.

- **Senate to vote at noon on whether to end government shutdown**
- **Fractious House Republicans rally behind Ryan on shutdown**
- Editorial: **Government shutdown a sign that Congress has truly given up**

Republicans are receiving a spate of good news in the wake of their tax-cut bill becoming law. **GOP revels in fast start for Trump tax law**

A year into the presidency of Donald Trump, Catholic sisters working at the international level say **they have grown frustrated, weary and even angry with the direction Trump's administration is taking** the United States in its relations with the rest of the world.

Vice President Mike Pence Pence, in Jerusalem says **he's honoured to be in 'Israel's capital'**

NCR reporters were in Chicago and New York City on Saturday. They found **2nd annual Women's March renews demands for equality, justice**

A new report from St. Mary's Press and CARA on young adults who no longer identify as Catholic is attempting to understand why so many have "disaffiliated" from the faith they were born into. **Study asks: Why are young Catholics going, going, gone?**

Michael Sean Winters notes that on the 45th anniversary of the *Roe* v. *Wade* decision, **Debate continues amid surprises, stagnation**

A bit of background to one part of Winter's commentary: **Bishop did not attend March for Life in Little Rock** to protest state attorney general's support of the death penalty.

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This news came over the weekend: Boston Cardinal O'Malley: **Pope caused 'great pain' for abuse survivors in Chile** Pope Francis wound up his trip to Chile and Peru Sunday. He's expected to land in Rome later this morning. Visit NCRonline.org for reports of his in air press conference.

Bishop Philip Egan of Portsmouth, England, has launched a stinging attack **on the "utter hypocrisy" of churches that lock their doors during the day**. (You can read part of this story, but to read the full thing you must register.)

Dallas, Texas -- **Church groups join immigrants in a big push for citizenship**. A former law enforcement officer and a former teacher have set a goal of getting 1,000 people in a year to become U.S. citizens. With the blessing of the Catholic Diocese of Dallas.

Add these two articles to your must-read list:

- The Department of Health and Human Services announced that its Office of Civil Rights now has a division whose job is **to protect the conscience rights of healthcare workers and hospitals**.
- Commentary: **Refusal (Conscience) Clauses -- A Physician's Perspective**

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Start your day inspired with daily scripture reflections. Join NCR's sister publication, Celebration, for **Daily Bread**, a series of short reflections written by four authors who meet regularly to share the readings.

Pencil Preaching.jpg

Or reflect on **Pencil Preaching by Pat Marrin**. Every morning Pat Marrin breaks open the Word with a pencil sketch and a short meditation.
