

## [Opinion](#)



by Heidi Schlumpf

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Today is Ash Wednesday; it's also Valentine's Day. Without a dispensation from fasting, Catholics will have to move their romantic dinner plans to another day. But [Bishop Thomas Tobin of Providence, Rhode Island sees similarities in the two holidays](#), as does [Global Sisters Report columnist Sr. Nancy Sylvester](#). And Ken Briggs has suggestions on [how to cope](#) with this once-every-73-years coincidence.

Another commemoration this week: the 50th anniversary of the historic strike by sanitation workers in Memphis, which was marked nationwide with rallies meant to [revive Dr. King's Poor People's Campaign](#).

The Winter Olympics continue in Pyeongchang, South Korea, where a [South Korean nun is coordinating 14,000 volunteers at centers to help sexual assault victims](#) during the games.

The archbishop from Guam who is facing allegations that he sexually abused several boys in the 1970s [attended one of Pope Francis' weekly general audiences](#) in February.

Immigration issues continue to dominate national politics this week. [Catholic advocates want to make sure any deal for "Dreamers" won't harm other immigrants.](#) And [Salvadorans in the U.S. are distressed over the loss of temporary protected status](#) that will separate families.

In a [Q&A with Global Sisters Report](#), the CEO of Catholic Charities USA discusses how the current political contentiousness affects the organization's work.

A lawsuit to preserve a homeless camp in California is part of this week's [Justice Action Bulletin](#).

ICYMI: [Cooperation among institutions was a theme](#) at the annual meeting of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities.

Attention Kmart shoppers: [An old Kmart store in a Chicago suburb has been transformed into a new Cristo Rey Catholic high school](#), which uses a work-study model.

### **Opinion:**

Michael Sean Winters is reviewing Rafael Luciani's new book, *Pope Francis and the Theology of the People*. [Part 2 of his review](#) is up today; Part I is [here](#).

If spiritual reading is one of your Lent practices, we have [reviews of three faith-related books](#), including novelist Amy Tan's new memoir.

Don't have a Lenten plan yet? Try an [online Lent retreat](#) or a modern version of an [ancient prayer wheel](#).

### **Listen up!**

To mark the beginning of Lent, [BackStory, a podcast about American history, is looking at how what it means to be Catholic has changed over time.](#)

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