Opinion



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What are you doing for Lent? NCR and its sister publications offer quite a few resources for Lent (and when appropriate, the Easter season):

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.

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

We offer you a chance to enhance your prayer and reflection over these holy days using Sunday commentaries, articles, art and graphics from Celebration as well as from National Catholic Reporter and Global Sister Report. **Visit all the resources on the Celebration page.**

NCR has long advocated for common sense gun laws. Here are some of our more recent editorials:

- **Orlando surfaces issues of moral urgency** June 2016. After Orlando, Columbine, Sandy Hook, San Bernardino, Fort Hood, Virginia Tech, Charleston, to name just some of the better-known shootings.
- **Now is the time for action on guns** October 2017, after a gunman mowed down hundreds of people in Las Vegas.
- **Get behind common-sense agenda on guns** after the mass shooting at Umpqua Community College, Roseburg, Oregon, Oct. 1, 2015.

We've covered the tragedies and tried to make sense of them:

- **But guns make us safer, right?**
- **Effort aims to curb gun deaths** From 1982 until 2011, the United States experienced a deadly public mass shooting about every 200 days, Harvard research shows. In the following three-year period, the average escalated to every 64 days.
- **Congress takes on legislation to loosen access to guns**

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Does it feel like we've turned a corner since Parkland?

- **Catholic students join Florida school walkouts for gun reform**
- **Trump floats pay bonus for teachers who carry guns in class**
- **Trump's plan for teachers to pack guns is crazy, will only cause more violence, educators say**
- **NRA's Wayne LaPierre makes it clear he isn't backing down on guns -- or the culture wars**

Here are a few other things we're trying to keep our eyes on.

The UN Security Council is struggling to pass a resolution seeking a ceasefire in Syria as a rebel-held area has been bombarded for a sixth day. **Syria war: Ghouta pounded as UN tussles over ceasefire**

'Nation of immigrants' no longer: The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services changed its official mission statement late Thursday dropping language that said it is devoted **to securing "America's promise as a nation of immigrants."**

On Monday, the Supreme Court will hear arguments in *Janus* v. *AFSCME*, a case that could weaken unions or reaffirm their importance. Michael Sean Winters has been following the case and has this to say today: **A healthy society requires vibrant intermediate social organizations, like unions**

An important, fascinating story: **The future of mission: Become 'less and less Western'**

Let's conclude with Bishop Tom Gumbleton's homily: **Violence never overcomes violence, find a new way** "Jesus has shown us a different way. It's time that we began to follow him."